

Space, light, imagination

Luckenbach's involvement with natural materials, light and space brings out the beauty of this home. The ax marks on the beams in the kitchen, the exposed brick chimney column in the kitchen, the shaft of light that trails the wooden stairway, all link the house to its past and maintain its integrity.

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

BMINOR Luckenbach said she took her new, old house to the "edge of sanity." A professional designer — interior as well as exterior — she has been working with a team of friends and professionals to refurbish an historic home in Birmingham with 1,300 square feet of living space for more than a year.

She approached that "edge of sanity" as she strove to maintain the integrity of the charming, historic, farmhouse while incorporating a dazzling collection of modern paintings and sculpture. With these, she integrates antiques, handmade baskets and textiles for a completely eclectic environment which crosses periods and countries to make a clear statement of Luckenbach's taste and personality.

The exterior of the two-story frame house is a soft taupe with white trim and black accents. The walks to the house and along the north side are red brick as is a new patio area in back.

MARIAH FINICUM, landscape architect, did the brick work and a number of friends, including Steve Ballard and Paul Michaels, helped with planting and landscaping projects.

"Everybody's kind of pitched in somewhere along the line," Luckenbach said.

On the south side of the house where there is a close neighbor, a new arbor with latticed and slatted side panels filters the light leaving dramatic shadows on the patio's stone surface.

In a corner of the arbor is a large hibiscus with brilliant red blossoms and on a stone ledge are large clay pots of red geraniums.

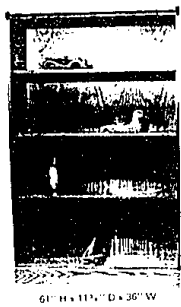
Next year, Luckenbach promises the arbor "will be dripping with white wisteria."

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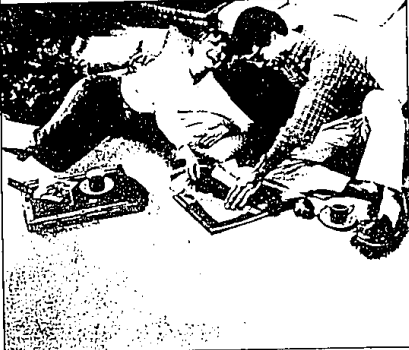
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B. Minor Luckenbach and sculptor William McKee, part of the ex-officio team that helped with the remodeling, enjoy a quiet moment on the new patio. Her environmental design projects have been featured in national

magazines. Her former home on Puritan in Birmingham won Burlington Industries "Best Remodeled House" award in 1974.

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