

HOME

FROM PAGE C1

restoration and renovation projects have been done there since Whitehead moved into it in 1994. She estimates that the house is now between 3,500 and 3,600 square feet; it was originally about 2,000 square feet. The residents took care to reproduce the original house, using old moldings, hardware and doors, or replicas. But they have also put their own personality on it.

"I've had a lot of fun doing it," Whitehead said.

The furnishings she has brought to the house — antiques, flea market finds and new pieces — range in age from the 1800s to the present. The look, elegant and exotic, has been described as "French Quarter meets Key West."

Animal prints and figures, and floral patterns and forms, blend with brocade and ornate

designs and shapes.

In the dining room, the upholstery on the chairs around the table features animal stripes; the chandelier and a mirror on one wall have exquisite scrolls and curves.

In the living room, pillows on a sofa bear animal spots; the carpet features a lush, flowery pattern and an open iron screen stands behind the sofa.

A stairway is covered in leopard carpeting; and an iron vine winds around the railing. "I like to pick things that are from nature in fabrics and color," Whitehead said.

In front, the added verandah porch is reminiscent of the era of the house. Over the garage, the new carriage house holds a conference area for Whitehead's business and a guest suite. In back is a five-hole putting green and a courtyard.

Maple floors run throughout the house. The walls are covered with art, including works



JERRY JOHNSON/ART

Above, a view from the living room shows how the first floor of Phyllis Whitehead's house is open. A door from a janitor's closet and an iron screen are among the furnishings. Below, a bird figure is one of the animal forms in the house.

by contemporary artists and large, colorful vintage posters.

Architectural elements add distinctive touches — such as white columns from an old Roma Hall, a labeled door from a janitor's closet, and a door of bronze, copper and steel scrollwork.

The kitchen features towering stands on a countertop, and floor-to-ceiling cabinets on one wall. Majolica pottery, antique glassware and china are displayed.

Adjacent to the kitchen is a bar — formerly the dining room — that contains a vintage French chandelier Whitehead found in New Orleans.

The first floor is open, great for entertaining.

"You can stand in the



kitchen and talk to anybody (anywhere)," Whitehead said.

Whitehead refers to a sun porch as a garden room. With all the windows, it gives you the feeling of being in the gar-

den, she says.

"This is my room," Whitehead said.

"It's a nice place to sit."

The room features lamps made from garden statues; a

DESIGNER HOMES ON TOUR

What: A tour of six interior designers' homes in the Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and Lathrup Village area, presented by the International Furnishings and Design Association Michigan Chapter.

Proceeds benefit the Michigan Chapter scholarship fund.

When: Noon to 5 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 22.

Cost: Tickets are \$20, and may be bought in advance at Antiques Centre of Troy, (248) 649-4399; Hagopian World of Rugs in Birmingham, (248) 646-7847; and Novi, (248) 449-7847; Beaver Tile and Stone in Farmington Hills, (248) 476-2333, and Rochester, (248) 299-8100; Michael's Lamp Shop in Lathrup Village, (248) 557-8828; and Center Street Design in Northville, (248) 380-6045. Information: Call (248) 348-3437.

moose head mounted between framed floral prints; and animal patterns on a furniture covering and pillows.

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