

A GUIDE TO THE BEST RESTAURANTS & ENTERTAINMENT

OKLAHOMA

MAGAZINE

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9th Annual *Oklahoma Wedding*

52 Pages to Plan Your Big Day

Gowns

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the OKLAHOMA
Wedding
SHOW
Saturday, January 7
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
DoubleTree Hotel Warren Place
61st and Yale

Plus

2006 Social Datebook

The Power of Giving

A Tale of Two Downtowns

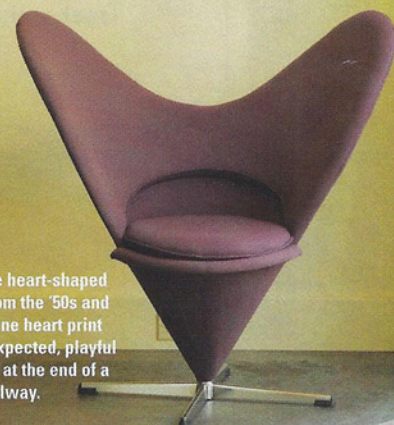
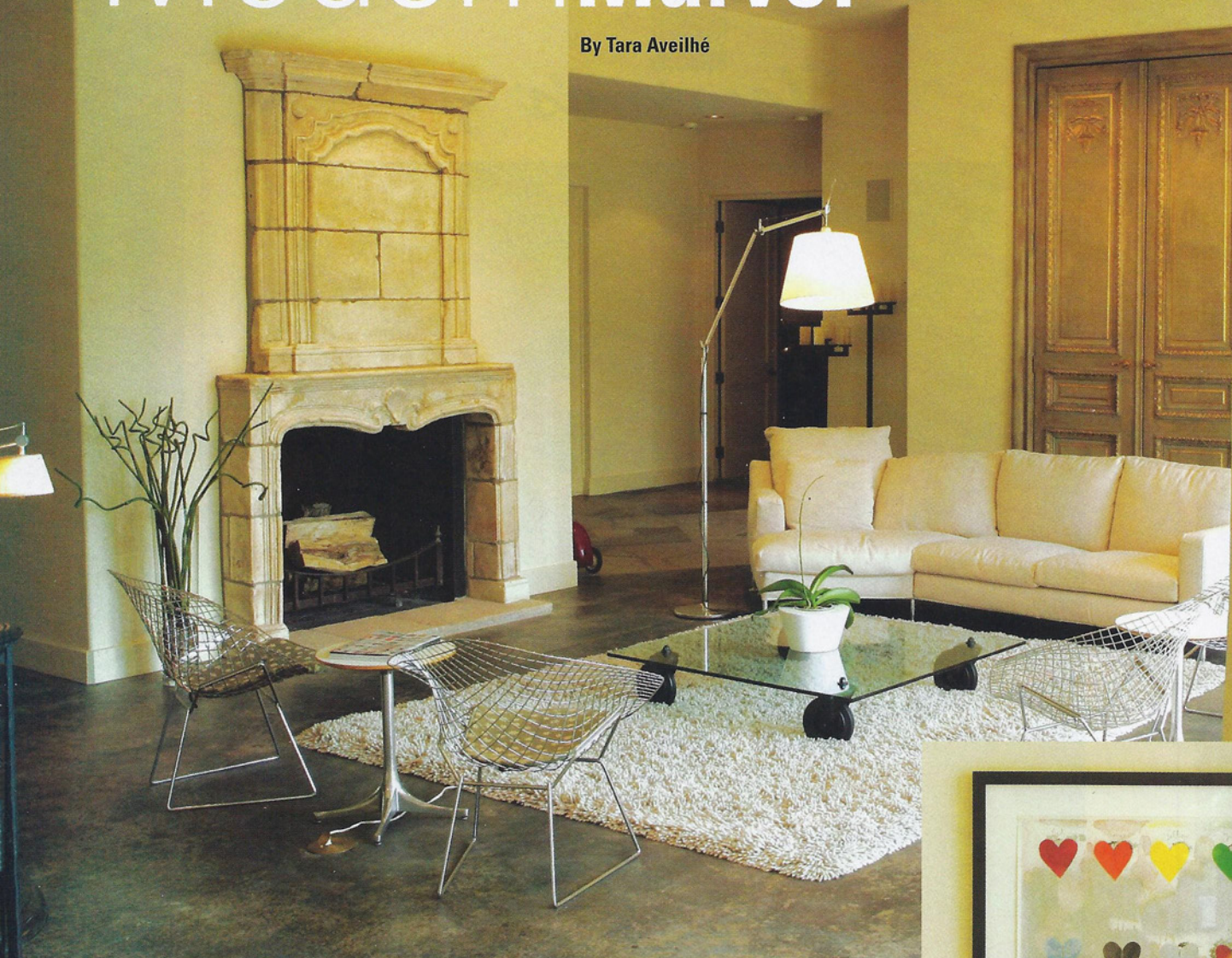
New Year's Diet and
Exercise Programs

Tulsa 66ers

ModernMarvel

By Tara Aveilhé

Classical columns and an antique stone fireplace are successfully combined with monochromatic modern furnishings in the formal living area.



A purple heart-shaped chair from the '50s and a Jim Dine heart print are unexpected, playful touches at the end of a long hallway.

A hidden gem in midtown Tulsa features stylish, contemporary architecture and houses an impressive collection of pop art and mid-century modern furniture.

Homeowners Jill and Scott Ramsey spent 10 months looking for the perfect house.

"We are architecture aficionados, so the design of a home is important to us," says Jill Ramsey. "The majority of homes in Tulsa are more traditional, and we wanted something different."

They eventually stumbled upon a unique house designed by architect Brian Freese.

"The drama and openness really drew us," says Ramsey. "The biggest selling point



Bold touches of color and stainless steel appliances create a contemporary kitchen space.

was the outdoor space — the way the design makes you feel one with nature."

Freese collaborated with the former homeowners to create a modern space that integrated the interior with the exterior.

"My inclination is toward contemporary design," says Freese. "Clean lines and simple proportions are important aspects of this house."

Tall, jointed glass and a floor plan that surrounds an outdoor courtyard and backyard living area give the house an airy, enchanted feel and forego the expected distinction

between the indoors and outdoors. The large interior volume, by way of 12-foot ceilings and lack of moldings or architectural embellishments, provides opportunities for viewing the space without distraction.

The use of glass throughout is balanced by large areas of wall space, perfectly suited for displaying art. Wall space is important for the Ramseys, who are avid collectors.

"The design of the home is perfect for showcasing our collections — it almost has a museum feel," says Ramsey.



A Chuck Close self-portrait and sculptural metal chairs add museum-quality touches, but are balanced out by an inviting, oversized sofa and plush shag rug.

The mostly monochromatic walls and furnishings are accented with bright pop art paintings, establishing playful points of interest. An oversized self-portrait by painter Chuck Close — famous for his labor-intensive grid paintings — peers out over the living area from the base of the spiral staircase.

“One of my favorite pieces in the house is the Chuck Close self-portrait,” says Ramsey. “He is just such an incredible talent.”

In the bedroom, two black and white Robert Longo lithographs frame the white stone fireplace and bring curvilinear movement to the space, effectively contrasting with the dramatic vaulted ceiling.

In addition to fine art, the Ramseys are also passionate about mid-century modern furniture.

“My husband bought me the white chaise lounge in the bedroom for our one year anniversary,” says Ramsey. “That chair is really special — it was designed by Eames in 1948, but it wasn’t mass produced or sold until 1996.”



An antique chandelier and theatrical vaulted ceiling boldly contrast with black and white prints by artist Robert Longo.



An outdoor living space reflects the modern, yet classical design of the entire home.



The vibrant spirals of a pop art tapestry imitate the movement of the dramatic spiral staircase.

In the sitting room off the kitchen, a black Eames chair and footstool sit under a colorful cartoon interior painting by Roy Lichtenstein. The sofa and furnishings in the room seem to mimic the interior scene within the painting, creating a feeling of *deja-vu*.

Ironically, the Ramsey's design preferences are vastly different than those of the original homeowners. The house has several old-world elements that the original owners had incorporated into the design.

"My husband had some reservations at first, but it ended up working well," says Ramsey. "Our newer items in combination with the classical aspects of the house create an interesting juxtaposition."

The previous owners, who were avid travelers, collected antique architectural materials from Europe. The living room fireplace is made of limestone from a structure in France. Massive wood doors used to create a built-in entertainment center were sent over from England and France, and a stone arch connecting the master bedroom and bathroom came from an old stone structure and was reassembled inside the home.

"The style of the home is simple, but with ancient embellishments," says Freese. "The great thing about simple interiors is that it transfers well to different styles. It looks great with the Ramsey's modern furnishings." ■