

SPARE TIME

ART, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN
COME TOGETHER WITH PASSIONATE
PRECISION IN THE DALLAS HOME
OF CATHERINE AND WILL ROSE.
BY DAVID D'ARCY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY THOMAS



The 1982 house, designed by Edward Larrabee Barnes, offers exceptional views of the outdoors from the living room, where a Josef Frank cabinet, a Pierre Chapo daybed and a Carlo Mollino lamp bring European modernism to Texas.



OND TO SOMETHING THAT HAS A SCULPTURAL ELEMENT," SAYS ROSE.



Rose, the granddaughter of famed retailer Stanley Marcus, who was "thoroughly modern" in his tastes, carries on that tradition today in her own way. Each piece in this well-informed collector's living room reflects a highly cultivated aesthetic, from the Poul Kjærholm table in the foreground to Peter Coffin's *Untitled (Rainbow)* (2005) in the distance. Opposite: Coffin's *Rainbow*, made up of thirty seemingly continuous images in a dynamic spiral.



PHOTOGRAPH, TOP RIGHT: COURTESY TONY FEHER AND D'AMELIO TERRAS, NEW YORK

at a time when it wasn't popular to be that way," she notes. "He had a real discriminating eye for great design, in anything—paper products, ties, briefcases, furniture, textiles. He loved Jack Lenor Larsen textiles. His library had four of the same Arne Jacobsen egg chairs, in the same leather, that I have in my library here."

The library is one in a series of luminous spaces arranged in an enfilade: from there you take a few steps up to the gallery, then into the living room and dining room. A remodeled kitchen off the dining room leads to a staircase and an elevator that ascend into private guest quarters in one of Barnes's three towers; the other two towers hold the master suite and the children's area.

"What kids wouldn't want to have their own house in a little 'village' like this?" says Svend Fruit, of Bodron & Fruit, the Dallas firm

In the dining room (above), a branch centerpiece on the Finn Juhl table and the faintly visible Fred Sandback sculpture *Untitled (Sculptural Study, Four Part Corner Construction)* (1976/2004) reflect Rose's love of the unexpected. Opposite, clockwise from top left: The streamlined bathroom; Tony Feher's *Untitled (Angular Gyros)* (2006), composed of potato-chip bags; the cleanly designed lawn, breezeway and pool.

the Roses hired to make a few subtle renovations before they moved in. His partner, Mil Bodron, also worked with Catherine Rose on the resolutely spare furniture plan, the fabrics and the custom carpets. Interior designer Emily Summers helped her buy some additional pieces, including a rare Finn Juhl chair for the master bedroom and a pair of Swedish chairs for the living area. "My interests have been with Scandinavian work for a long time—also historical modernism, 20th-century modernism and then the contemporary expression of it all," Rose says.

A ground-floor gallery is lined mostly with photographs, including ten from Lee Friedlander's American Monument series from 1969 to 1975. These are favorites of Rose's. "They are pictorial and on the outside not very abstract, but once you look at how they're constructed as photographs, they're really abstract works," she says. "You're always looking through layers of the subject matter that he picks for you."

Although there is much to look at inside, the rooms are not overcrowded with art, and what you see has clearly not been plucked from any art consultant's year-end must-have list. These are personal choices.

One artist whose work Rose and her husband acquired quite recently is Tony Feher, a New Mexico-born, New York-

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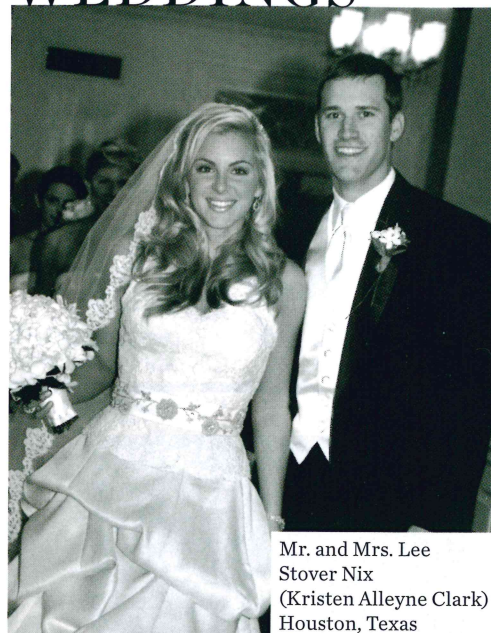
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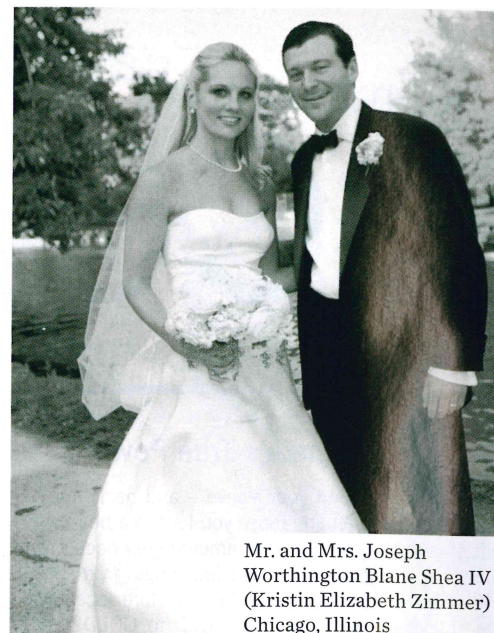
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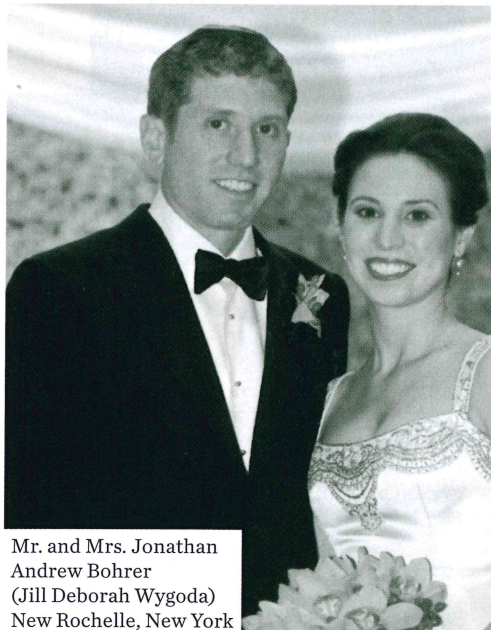
WEDDINGS



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(Kristen Alleyne Clark)
Houston, Texas



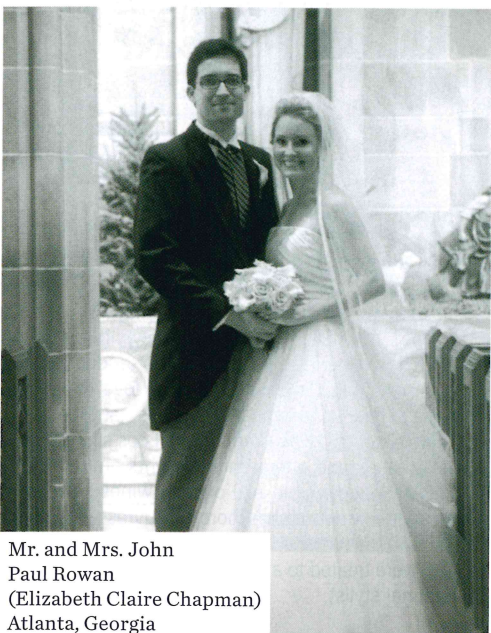
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Worthington Blane Shea IV
(Kristin Elizabeth Zimmer)
Chicago, Illinois



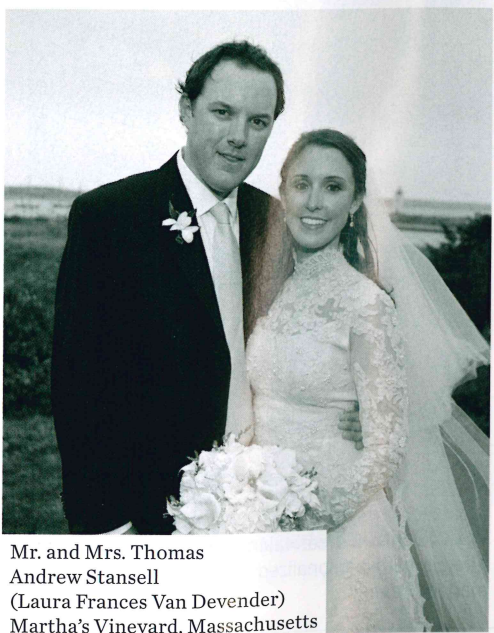
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Andrew Bohrer
(Jill Deborah Wygoda)
New Rochelle, New York



Mr. Tom Lee and Ms. Sheila Chun
Los Cabos, Mexico

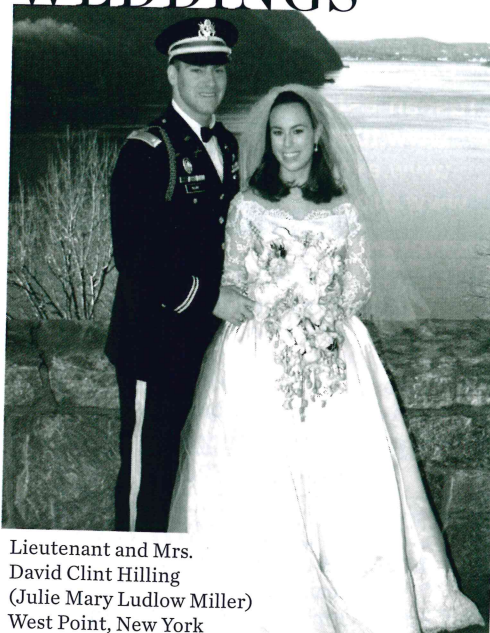


Mr. and Mrs. John Paul Rowan
(Elizabeth Claire Chapman)
Atlanta, Georgia

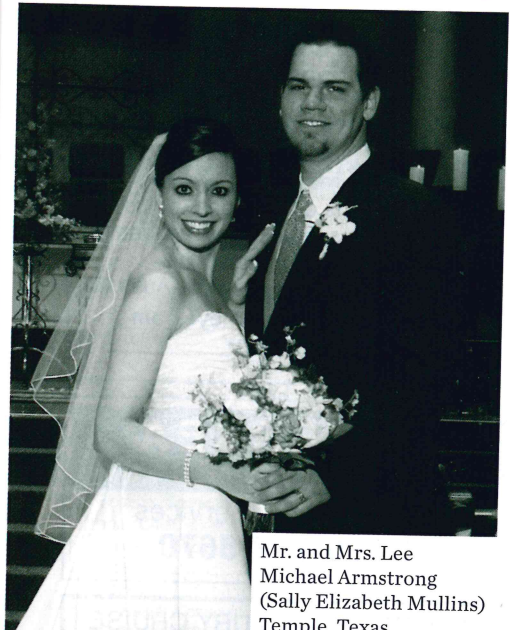


Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Andrew Stansell
(Laura Frances Van Devender)
Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts

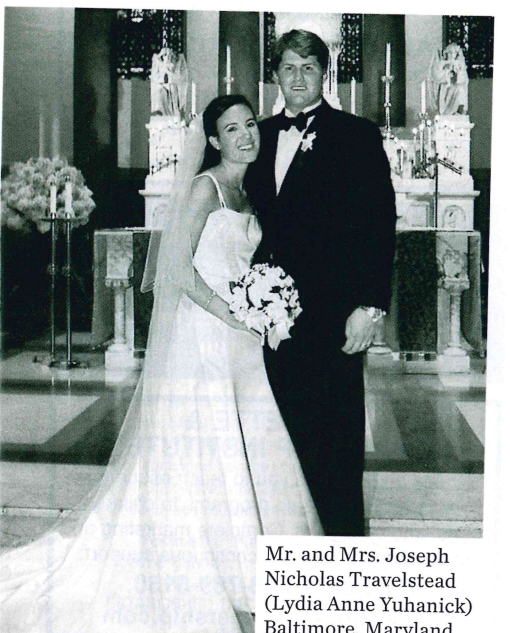
WEDDINGS



Lieutenant and Mrs. David Clint Hilling
(Julie Mary Ludlow Miller)
West Point, New York



Mr. and Mrs. Lee Michael Armstrong
(Sally Elizabeth Mullins)
Temple, Texas



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nicholas Travelstead
(Lydia Anne Yuhanic)
Baltimore, Maryland

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based sculptor who makes assemblages from unlikely materials. *Untitled (Angular Gyros)*, hanging in a hallway, is a Gehry-esque conglomeration of shapes formed by fusing potato-chip bags. Another Feher creation is a delicate swirl of tubes in which shiny transparent orbs seem to hover weightlessly. The orbs turn out to be glass baby-food jars.

Rose confesses to a weakness for objets trouvés or for things that look like them. A branch is spread out on the dining table like an ancient offering; in front of the fireplace a gray hornet's nest on a cinder-gray tree limb could be a house gift from Joseph Beuys—except that it's real. "My florist knows that I'm the client who likes dead things," she jokes, without apology.

Not much figurative art is on display. Again, no apology: "I'm sure that if I found something I loved, I'd try to buy it if I could afford it," says Rose. "What I respond to most is something that has an architectural element, a very sculptural element, and also has an abstract quality."

"Architectural" doesn't quite describe the wild garden behind the house, but it might, once the couple have their way. "It used to be like a Thomas Struth Paradise photograph, lush and overgrown, all the way up to the edge of the deck," Rose explains as she surveys the underbrush. "We cut everything down the summer before last, and it's already growing back."

Plans are under way for landscaping by the Boston-based firm Reed Hilderbrand. As preliminary work began in the summer of 2007, the site revealed another secret. "The workers found a wildflower that is almost extinct in Dallas County, on our little area of native blackland prairie," Rose says with pride, referring to the virgin grasslands that once extended across north-central Texas. "It's like finding buried treasure in your backyard."

Nature rediscovered in a Dallas backyard: like Barnes's house, which seems to have been destined for Catherine and Will Rose all along, it's an exquisitely simple pleasure. ❖

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