

California style

In-ground pool, lush landscaping and large windows enhance contemporary home

BY TANYA J. TYLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If the house on Old Dobbins Road in Shadeland could talk, it would have an intriguing tale to tell.

It was once the home of Jimmy Lambert, a local nightclub owner who figured prominently in the so-called Bluegrass Conspiracy in the early 1980s. It was the site of many a party and was, for a time, under close FBI surveillance.

In fact, it was well-known even before then because it was one of the first "California" houses built in Lexington.

"At that time, back in the 1960s, it was so unusual to come into Lexington and build this kind of California-style home," said current owner Linda Morgan, who bought the home with Charlotte Cooksey four years ago.

Indeed, it does look like a place a Hollywood movie star would love. One can easily imagine an elegant party being held at the spectacular pool at the rear of the house.

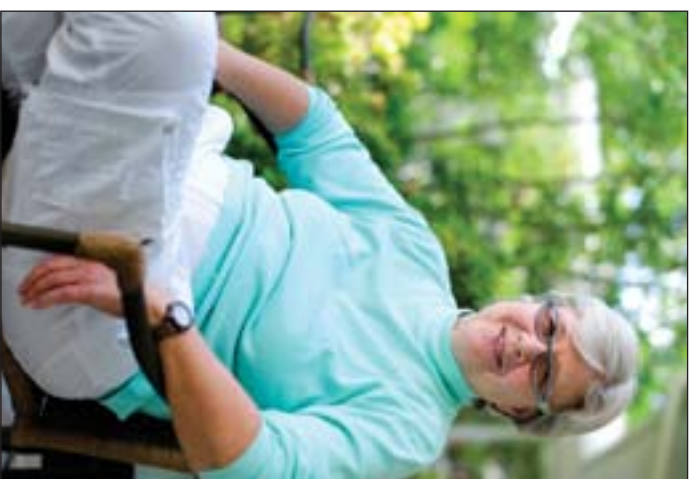
"It was something that was so unusual at that time for here," Linda said. It even garnered a photo spread in the newspaper at the time it was built.

BACK IN STYLE

The house originally had four bedrooms but now has three (one was converted into an office), in addition to four full baths and one half bath. It is on a partially finished full basement that has a catering kitchen, a bedroom and a family room with glass blocks in the wall to give the illusion of light pouring in through a window.

While the owners made numerous improvements to the house, some aspects of it were left intact.

"I wanted to keep some of the original things because I thought it was important for the house, and I know a number of these things are back in style," Linda said.



TOP The 4,700-square-foot ranch-style home on Old Dobbins Road features three bedrooms and 4½ baths.

ABOVE Linda Morgan

RIGHT The living room is flanked by windows, providing spectacular views of both the front and the back yards. PHOTOS BY JOSEPH REV AU



ABOVE A large patio and in-ground saltwater lap pool are surrounded by lush landscaping and brick privacy fence.

One bathroom upstairs was redone with aqua tile, a Jacuzzi tub and a shower with glass block, but another bathroom's retro-style cabinets and fixtures were retained.

Bricks in a herringbone pattern line the front hallway. The same brick is in the back hall, which was once the patio area. Previous owners glassed it in to make the house more open.

"They just opened the whole thing up, which I like much better," Linda said. "The house has a really nice flow, which is what I like, and you get a lot of light. Seems like everyone who comes in here is making improvements and enhancing it, which is nice."

Some of the changes Linda and Charlotte made to the house included bookshelves in the den and mantels on the two main level fireplaces. (There is a third fireplace in the lower-level family room.) They converted a second living room into a dining room.

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