



MT. SAN ANTONIO
GARDENS

Special Edition

The New Leaf

May 2019



Lee and Duane Jackman and their Poodle, Tache, relax together in their well-appointed cottage living room at the Gardens. See their story on pages 6 and 7.

Making Your Home Your Own

Promoting the health and well-being of Gardens residents through creative customization of their homes...

When walking on the Mt. San Antonio Gardens campus, it's easy to see how the meticulous and mature landscaping reflects the community's commitment to an environment that conveys a sense of calm and beauty. The concept of "power of place" or "an extraordinary place that evokes a sense of well-being" has been a value at the Gardens since it was founded in 1961. What is not apparent from the outdoor experience, however, is how the Gardens' commitment to creativity and well-being plays out inside the residents' homes.

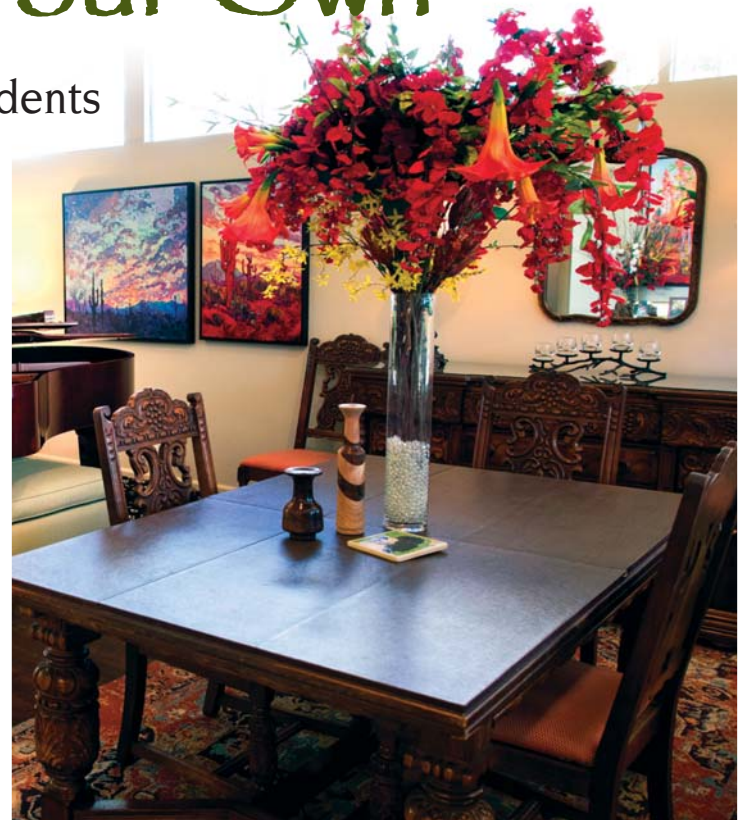
Research indicates that while the space in one's home cannot, on its own, create happiness, the home environment certainly can be molded and designed in a way that promotes a person's health and well-being.

"At the Gardens, residents may customize their homes to reflect their unique lifestyles and personalities," says **Ana Blaiklock**, Director of Admissions & Resident Services. "Whether their home is large or small, residents can collaborate with a cadre of supportive staff to make their home their own."

Before transitioning to the Gardens, residents tour their new home with Ana and choose which, if any, aspects of the home they would like to modify. Following the initial tour, a second meeting is set up with **Will Levitt**, Director of Facilities & Grounds, to discuss in greater detail the resident's desired changes, determine which are possible, and decide how to proceed. From that point forward, the Gardens coordinates with contractors and vendors to try to make the resident's vision a reality.

"It is all about mutual collaboration between residents and the Gardens. We work together to figure out if and how we can bring residents' creative ideas to life," says Will.

Ana and Will are long-standing, experienced staff members at the Gardens. Ana has worked at the Gardens for 20 years; Will for 30. In 2018 alone, Ana and Will worked with 22 incoming residents and eight current



The Jackmans' thoughtfully adorned dining table features a large floral arrangement designed and created by Lee.

residents to help them create a comfortable environment and settle into their homes.

"Moving to the Gardens is a life-changing experience for our residents," says Ana. "When we help them make their home their own, the adjustment is much easier for them."

In her office, Ana has a display of the Gardens' standard options that residents may browse, including a variety of flooring, window covering, paint, cabinets, and countertops. If a resident is interested in selections beyond the Gardens' options, they are granted an allowance equivalent to the standard options and are responsible for any cost exceeding that allowance.

Continued on Page 2



Making Your Home Your Own

Continued from Page 1

From unique structural modifications to furnishings, artwork and other decorations, residents have been able to customize their space to ensure that they feel at home. **Sharon Hightower** removed a wall to open her living space; **Arthur Bode** decorated his apartment with artwork to remind him of his previous home in Laguna Beach; **Ada Gates** and **Mary Lindsey**, respectively, chose to express themselves with cherished heirlooms and contemporary furniture; and **Lee and Duane Jackman** had clear, frameless shower doors installed to open up their bathroom space.

Ana Blaiklock, Director of Admissions & Resident Services, displays some of the options that residents may browse through as they customize their homes.

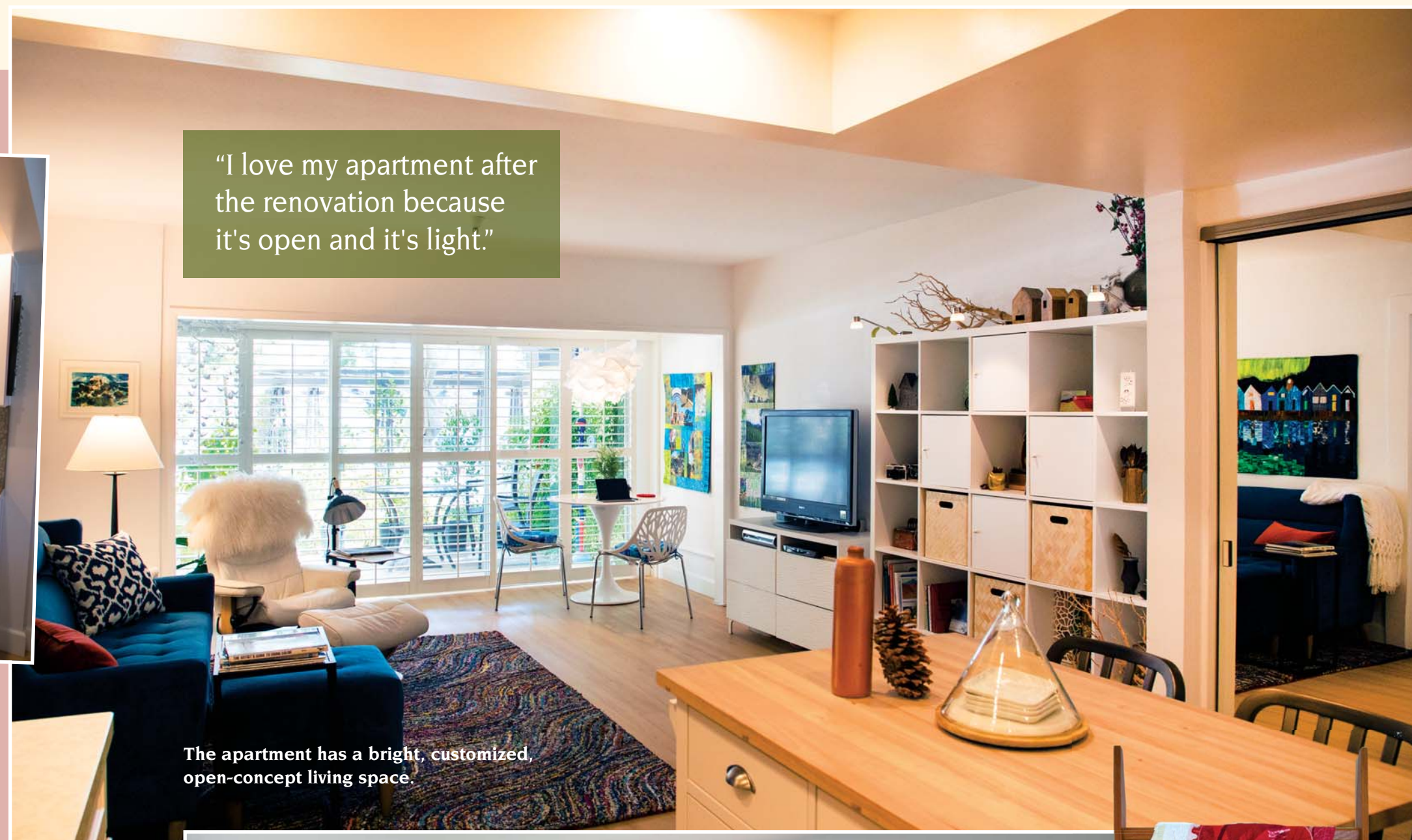


Residents team with Will Levitt, the Gardens' Director of Facilities & Grounds, and his staff to make the desired changes they want to their homes.

"It is all about mutual collaboration between residents and the Gardens. We work together to figure out if and how we can bring residents' creative ideas to life."



In collaboration with the Gardens staff, a wall was removed and a kitchen island was added for large projects.



"I love my apartment after the renovation because it's open and it's light."

The apartment has a bright, customized, open-concept living space.

Sharon Hightower



An artwork and quilt making space is perfectly placed.

Sharon Hightower moved from the Claremont hillside to a Gardens' efficiency apartment for ten months before a larger unit was available. Driven by her 25-year love of quilting, she began the remodel of her one-bedroom apartment in the kitchen, where she removed two walls in order to accommodate a freestanding island on which she can lay out projects. With selections of ultra-white paint and light-colored

laminated flooring, Sharon created a contemporary home with a Scandinavian feel and bright, open space. "I love my apartment after the renovation because it's open and it's light," she says.

Sharon's apartment is filled with bright, fabric details from a colorful rag rug on the floor to an asymmetrical, contemporary hanging light fixture. Her own work on display includes a Claremont quilt, made from a series of local photographs that she printed on fabric, and a birch tree quilt on the bed, among other pieces. Her bedroom and living room are separated by a barn-style door. An extended part of the bedroom doubles as a quilt studio where she has several high-end sewing machines and a rainbow-colored "fabric stash" that adds additional color, softness and texture to the room.

Her strategic approach to maximizing and personalizing her environment is rooted in both her recent downsizing experience and her 40-year career in urban planning. Sharon also served on the Claremont Planning Commission and chaired the Claremont General Plan Update Committee.

To prospective residents, she offers the following advice: "Everyone needs to have a plan."



The bedroom is contemporary and open, accented with bright, colorful details on her hand-made quilt and wall decorations. The space doubles as a quilt studio.





"You want to walk into a room and feel uplifted and at peace at the same time and not really know why."

Ada's living and sleeping spaces are carefully positioned to ensure visitors see the living area first upon entering. Inset: A dressing table is a cherished heirloom that belonged to her grandmother. The bathroom features a unique color pallet and artwork she loves.



Every inch of Ada's 19-foot custom cabinet is designed for a specific purpose.

Ada Gates

When Ada Gates started viewing homes at the Gardens, she knew that she wanted a space that resembled the high ceilings and south-facing light of the French-style home on Long Island, New York, where she grew up. With that in mind, she moved into a studio with southern light exposure in June 2018.

Like so many residents, she faced the challenge of downsizing from 1,750 square feet of furniture and paintings that had been in her family for more than 100 years. Luckily, Ada inherited a sense of style and space from her architect father and fashion designer mother. She worked with interior designers, space planners, colorists and high-end installers to create an intentional environment of color, objects and order.

"It's very important to have balance in your physical life. People don't typically think about that," says Ada. "You want to walk into a room and feel uplifted and at peace at the same time and not really know why."

In a new space of 470 square feet, a floor plan was essential. Every square inch had to count, almost like living on a boat. She wanted to be surrounded by what she loved, but she didn't want clutter. A mix of cherished heirlooms



and bright contemporary pieces live side by side. Her grandmother's four-poster bed and dressing table came from the New York bedroom of 1910. Smaller chairs and a love seat were rebuilt and reupholstered in a bright coral and pale green abstract fabric, and it all flows. Opposite the bed and living area, Ada installed 19 feet of custom cabinets, bookshelves, drawers and workspace with a purpose and function for new writing projects. Ada finished out with lamps, paintings and photographs that carry significant meaning in her family.

"I've always felt very responsible for the beautiful things that were given to me by my ancestors, grandparents and parents. I wanted to make sure that I could place all key items nicely in my new home," says Ada. "I'm very grateful for the flexibility of the Gardens. They gave me the freedom to choose my own colors, carpeting, wallpaper and much more. The cooperation, cheerfulness and efficiency of this entire staff truly helped me ensure my studio was perfectly furnished and decorated with the things I love and that remind me of the people I love."



Arthur Bode

When Arthur Bode moved from Laguna Beach to the Gardens, he left a hilltop house with views of Catalina Island, Pacific sunsets and sounds of crashing surf and barking seals.

"It was a dramatic change," he says. "I moved into my apartment with an 'all in' attitude, and it's been the easiest transition and the best experience."

In its place, Arthur embraced an apartment lighted by natural wood

details and a high ceiling which is accented by artwork that brings the seaside to the Inland Empire. A metal sculpture of a graceful crane, installed on the patio, and wooden pelicans and seals perched on interior surfaces, are complemented by paintings of boats and harbors, and other coastal elements.

"The pelican and seal I bought 20 years apart, at the same gallery in Oregon," Arthur explains, "and several of my friends from Laguna painted the harbor scene and various portraits."

Along with his artwork, Arthur brought with him something old – a large console that used to be in his parents' home – and from the Gardens on-site shop, he purchased something new – two craftsman lamps. To provide shade for one of his tall windows, Arthur created a one-of-a-kind cover by hand-crafting a frame in the Gardens' wood shop.

Of his transition to the Gardens, Arthur says, "I've gained a community in which I feel comfortable."



"I moved into my apartment with an 'all in' attitude, and it's been the easiest transition and the best experience."

Arthur's living space is furnished with natural wood and treasured pieces of art. Far left, is a life-sized, solid mahogany sculpture of an Eastern European woman holding a bundle of hops, a piece that Arthur suspects was originally commissioned by a brewery to tell the story of how beer is made.



"I really wanted to live in a small footprint, ...so every single inch has to count."

Mary and her Labradoodle, Penny, relax in their living room area. The space includes reflective elements that help cultivate an airy, open feeling.



A fountain trickles on the outdoor patio.



Wall-length cabinets installed along the dining and living space wall house Mary's extensive ballroom dancing wardrobe.



A mini-kitchenette counter flows from the inside to the outside.

An artfully hidden hydraulic wall bed was inspired by photos of small homes in Japan and Paris.

Mary Lindsey

Mary Lindsey's carefully crafted studio is the result of extensive research on small space living, from the hydraulic wall bed to the mini-kitchenette, which includes a refrigerator, microwave, toaster and coffee maker. "I really wanted to live in a small footprint," she says, "so every single inch has to count." Mary also maximizes her space with a welcoming outdoor patio, complete with a gently trickling fountain, a custom gate and wood flooring. "I use this every day, except when it's below 50 degrees," she says, "but otherwise, in the morning, I have my coffee out there reading digital news on my iPad, while Penny, my Labradoodle, sits by the gate people-watching." A ballroom dancer, Mary owns a unique collection of floor-length gowns

and costumes in addition to her regular work and casual attire. Her motivation for the beautiful, custom built-in cabinets and shelving was simple: "I needed more closet space." The wall-length cabinets also serve as home to a wall-mounted glass electric fireplace with LED flames, enhanced with a crackling sound effect. Penny benefits from pet-friendly features such as a sliding drawer that houses her food and water bowls. The studio also is outfitted with an Amazon Echo that can turn the lights on and off via voice commands such as "I'm home" and "Good night." "I love being here," Mary says.



A colorful garden ornament

The Jackmans Lee & Duane

Lee and Duane Jackman – and their standard Parti Poodle, Tache – arrived at the Gardens in October 2016 and moved into a two-bedroom, two-bath cottage. With spacious patios in the front and back yards, the cottage was the preferred plan for Lee and Duane, who love entertaining family and friends in their home. When they first accepted their home, the cottage was empty and undecorated, but after teaming up with Will Levitt and his staff to make the changes they wanted, it quickly became a space entirely their own.

"The cottage was a blank slate, and since we had remodeled our previous homes, we felt very comfortable coming into the space and creating something of our own," says Lee. "We had plenty of ideas on how to make it feel like home to us."

From the start, Lee and Duane knew which aspects of the cottage they wanted to customize. They added LED light strips under the kitchen cabinets and pot lights in the kitchen and hallway. Duane added LED light strips in a soffit near the ceiling to bring more ambient light to their dining and living rooms.

"Will worked hand in glove with us to make note of what we wanted to change and add to our home," says Lee. "He secured waterproof

flooring that we used throughout the house, including the kitchen and bathrooms. We talked via email almost every day during the process and



The kitchen features custom wall tile and ambient lighting.

developed a great working relationship. We were a great team," she notes.

In their kitchen, Lee and Duane worked with the cabinet maker to add drawers to their pantry and to the hallway closet where the pair could easily access all items. They also arranged for the Gardens to renovate the shower with frameless glass doors, an element which helped create a more open design.

Lee and Duane brought cherished items from their previous home that made their cottage feel like home. Duane has enjoyed woodworking for many years and has made good use of the extensive Gardens woodworking shop. A number of his beautiful wooden art objects are displayed throughout their home. Lee is an avid pianist and her 25-year-old grand piano – the one item she absolutely had to have in her new home – is located between the living room and dining room, serving as the perfect room divider.

"I love being in my home. I love everything about it," says Lee.

Lee and Duane brought cherished items from their previous home that made their cottage feel like home.



Lee's 25-year-old beautiful grand piano doubles as a tasteful separation between the living room and dining room. Custom-installed soffit lighting above the window enhances the ample natural light from the clerestory windows.

customize



Making Your Home Your Own

personalize



Special Edition

The New Leaf



May 2019

PO Box 697
Claremont, CA
91711



Making Your Home Your Own

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Claremont, CA
Permit No. 382

The New Leaf

Mt. San Antonio Gardens is a nationally accredited Life Care senior community in Claremont and Pomona, California.

The New Leaf is a newsletter for friends and family of residents, board and staff, as well as individuals who have inquired about life at the Gardens.

Katherine Juhl Griffiths & Karen Villasenor, Tripepi Smith, Writing
Sioux Bally-Maloof, Heartstone Arts
Art Direction and Photography



(909) 624-5061
www.msagardens.org



State Licensed RCFE 191500496 COA #078

For frequent updates
"Like" Mt. San Antonio
Gardens on Facebook



Please join us as we explore the paths available to us as we age...

Thursday, June 20, 2019

11:00 a.m. through the lunch hour at Mt. San Antonio Gardens. Seating is limited. Reservations are required.

Please call (909) 399-1279 to provide the names of attendees, phone number and mailing address.

A confirmation will be mailed.

You're invited to lunch and a look at... The Road Ahead