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INSPIRATIONS

Tracy Williams: Building Homes That Stand the Test of Time

If you've visited the new developments of Parkwoods at Crosswoods West or Chelsea at Rose Gate, you have seen the skill and enthusiasm of Tracy Williams for designing homes with livable plans and eco-friendly features, situated in desirable locations. For almost 28 years, she has built her skill set on the foundation derived from her parents' example: engage sincerely, converse easily, listen with your heart.



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THE SEASON OF RENEWAL

As we created this issue of focus on home, gardens and weddings, I couldn't help but reflect on the journey of buying a house and upgrading it to fit our family's needs. In 2008, my husband and I set out to buy our first home. As a newly married couple, finding the right place seemed to be a very daunting task! So, we set out to find a local realtor (shout out to Ryan Sherman!) who ended up being absolutely amazing! After scoping out some different options, we went home to assess which of the places we liked the most. Since buying a house is such a big decision, we were a bit overwhelmed. Nothing seemed to fit us. But then, we got a call from Ryan. He told us, "I found your house!" We immediately set up an appointment to check it out. The next day, we met in front of the home in a quaint little family neighborhood just south of Lodi High School. When we walked through the door, it just felt right. Ryan was right, this was home! Sure, the home needed some updates, but the previous owner took such good care of the house that the bones of the house were strong and would offer a good start to making this house our home.

Over the years, we have painted, laid new flooring, installed dual-paned windows and painted even more! We were true weekend warriors. But, as our family grew, we knew that there were some big changes that needed to be made. Walls needed to be removed.



Bathrooms needed remodeling. It was going to be a bigger job than a weekend would allow. Every remodel has elements to the project that prove to play out smoothly, whereas other parts seem to take forever and require a second glass of wine to bring you back from totally losing it!

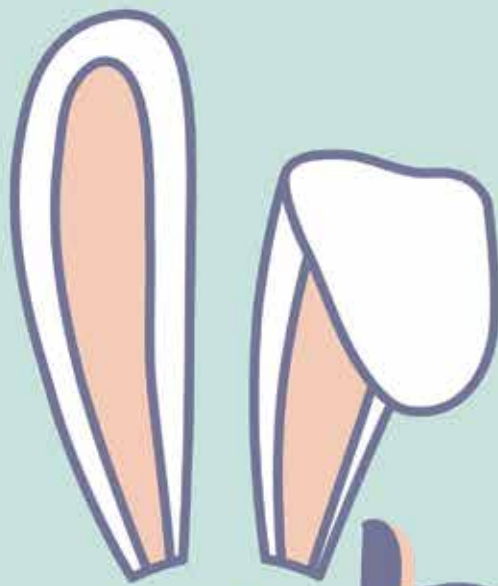
A part of home updating that I didn't foresee was how much design plays a part in creating a welcoming and loving home. I do not have a designer's eye, so leaning on family, friends and local businesses for input was crucial! Take Deitra Kenoly of Inside Out, for example; she notes that the addition of a well-placed lighting fixture can change the whole ambiance

of a room. Take a walk through her store for some inspiration. Jason Meyers of Doors Plus has the ability to connect with customers and truly listen to what they need and want from a space. Then there's Kathleen Jennison of KTJ Designs, who is currently in a home remodel herself! She is so talented with designing and creating a space that is customized for her customers.

With spring coming very soon, I am reminded of the refresh that it brings. It's a time for a new coat of paint, modern hardware in the bathroom, new plants for the front porch or maybe starting on that remodel you've been putting off for the past few years. Wherever spring takes you, breathe in the fresh air and look around for an opportunity to check off a few things on that to-do list.

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Tracy Williams

BUILDING HOMES THAT STAND THE TEST OF TIME

BY ANDREA BEAR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
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It's not uncommon to find Tracy Williams lugging paint swatches, light fixtures and cabinet samples around in the back of her car. As the vice president of sales and marketing for FCB Homes, Tracy visits many of the developments she helps design and always asks the most important question:

"Would I want this to be my home?"



Tracy Williams looks at each property she builds as if it were her own and her philosophy has always been that a house must feel like a home. “Would we be happy with that dishwasher? Does that product stand the test of time? Are those light switches in the right spot?” she said, thinking about all the details that go into design. A regular on new sites, Tracy drives through the FCB Homes communities and takes an active role to ensure quality meets longevity. While images of cabinet designs and architectural layouts regularly loom in her mind, she also imagines each house as a place where a family gathers for holidays, where kids do their homework, and the home becomes the cornerstone of where memories are created. “Everything we do is with the end customer in mind,” she affirmed proudly.

Tracy’s passion is not solely hers; FCB Homes shares this vision. “I would say that we are a marketing-driven company and not a production-driven company, meaning that we strive for the highest level of design.” This shared philosophy in homebuilding is the basis of what makes FCB one of the most sought-after local homebuilders, and Tracy has been proud to serve the company for the past 27 years.

SETTING THE FOUNDATION

Ironically, Tracy's start in the homebuilding world was not part of her initial plans, but rather an influence through her family. "I had gone to school to be an accountant," she reminisced, thinking back to her start at the young age of 19. But her ability to sell and market seemed to be a family trait. Her mother and older sister were both involved in real estate; her mother, Evelyn Tatum, worked for Doctor and Doctor Realty, and her older sister, Rhonda Eagal, worked for a new home builder. Her father, Chuck Tatum, was a well-known businessman and general manager for a car dealership in the Stockton community. Tracy acquired a real estate license but never thought much about a full-time venture in selling.

But midway through her college classes, she returned home one summer break and was looking to make a little extra cash. Little did she realize that summer would prove to be life changing. Her sister, Rhonda, was working for Florsheim Homes and wanted Tracy to assist her at a new subdivision in Ripon. "I was happy to earn some money to pay for school, so I gladly signed up," recalled Tracy. Applying their family traits in sales, she and Rhonda found a knack for marketing the homes. "Growing up with parents who were in sales, you learn a lot from them. First is how to engage with people and how to strike up conversation. My parents each had their strength. My dad was a great storyteller, and my mom was thoughtful and a great listener. I recall going out to dinner with my parents and they would work the room, if you will. They





always seemed to know people and it would take 20 minutes to get to our table.” she recalled fondly.

Tracy and Rhonda applied that same sincere engagement of their parents to the Florsheim properties and, to their surprise, they were quite successful. “We ended up selling 60 homes in 45 days,” she remarked. Her success in sales gained the attention of the developers. “Bob Florsheim offered me a full-time position and allowed me the days off to commute to school,” Tracy said. She returned to school and changed her major from accounting to business with a concentration in marketing. From that point forward, she knew she would continue in sales and later began to learn more on-the-job skills in homebuilding, growing and learning everything from project management to home design.

CREATING A COMMUNITY

In her 27 years with FCB Homes, Tracy has had the pleasure of building in both San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties. She recognizes her years in homebuilding have been more than just marketing and sales, but creating neighborhoods that thrive and create longevity. “We are mindful about the product,” she stated. “Homes have a long life span. What we build is going to impact communities and the value of those communities. What will that home look like in 20 years? Will those features stand the test of time?” she noted. “We think about

❖

“We are mindful about the product,” she stated. “Homes have a long life span. What we build is going to impact communities and the value of those communities. What will that home look like in 20 years? Will those features stand the test of time?” she noted. “We think about that in our designs and our products.”

that in our designs and our products.”

Tracy knows their designs create value and community. Because of this, she sees to every project from start to finish to ensure that each development is left with a positive legacy for the town and its surroundings, even if sometimes the project must be reimagined. She recalled one project in which the landscape designs for the common areas, which are the parks and pathways surrounding the homes, didn’t fit to her standards, even after some of the work had been completed. “I saw some landscaping after six months. I didn’t like how it was

maturing,” she said. For that project, Tracy and her design team went back to the plans and modified and restructured most of the original design. “We honestly do care how things mature and look years down the road.”

It’s because of this type of care and attention that Tracy seeks out the best designers. “We work with the best architects and designers in the country, many of whom are based in Orange County,” she said, acknowledging that most design trends originate from that region. “It is the Silicon Valley of architecture.” While she acknowledges outsourcing supports the design process, she is also mindful about her community. Since homebuilding has shifted over the years to large national builders, there’s beauty in what local builders offer. “We understand our customers because we live here.”

FCB Homes has been based in Stockton for 33 years and is one of only a few local builders remaining in the county. In addition, they contract and provide local jobs. Larger corporations bring in out-of-town contractors that are based elsewhere. As such, they are not always familiar with the unique character of the various towns in San Joaquin and Stanislaus communities. “It’s been a national builder game,” she says. Since FCB Homes is a local developer, many FCB employees are residents, familiar with what makes the community unique.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As more developments continue to expand in the Riverbank and Lodi areas, Tracy has no plans for retirement or slowing down. She and her husband, Roger, also enjoy renovating homes as a hobby, so she’s able to try out new styles of appliances and features on her personal properties before suggesting them in homebuilding. Tracy also loves seeing the younger faces in FCB Homes who are building their careers, and she tries to serve as a mentor. Reflecting on her own experiences, she hopes to make the path easier for those who come after her. “You see the full circle, because you’re on the other side now.” As she reflects on her career and the fruits of her hard work, she knows all of it was possible because of her own strong foundation. And like any home, a strong foundation is key. ♦



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LUISA RENWICK

BY HERLIFE STAFF

Luisa Renwick, a real estate agent in the greater Stockton area, sat down with *HERLIFE Magazine* recently to share her dedication to family and community.

HLM: How long have you lived here? What do you love most?

LR: I'm from beautiful Oaxaca, Mexico, but I have lived in Stockton for 31 years. I love so many things about Stockton; the one thing that stands out is the diversity of people, including the different cultures, religions and backgrounds. After 31 years here, I still learn new things about the people and always seem to find new friends. Stockton has been my home since I came to the United States and of course I love everything it has to offer from the gorgeous Delta to the beautiful Lincoln Shopping Center. This city never bores me and I have adopted it as my home town.

HLM: How is your heart inspired to serve the community?

LR: I am inspired to help motivate and educate young women looking for guidance on a path to success and happiness. Everyone has their own journey, but sometimes just having that one supportive and approachable woman can make all the difference in showing them how to succeed.

HLM: What sparks joy for you?

LR: This answer is easy! My family is my joy from beginning to end. I am blessed to have four children, two biological and two by marriage. Each child brings me a different type of joy that fills my heart and beyond. But, when they are all busy and my husband and I can enjoy each other, we enjoy nice dinners and a glass of wine just the two of us or with our vast variety of friends.

HLM: Top three bucket list goals?

LR: Run a full marathon; a vacation to Greece with my best friend, my hubby; help more with children in need.

HLM: What accomplishment are you most proud of?

LR: I am very proud to have become a real estate agent 20 years ago.

HLM: Can you describe a key event that had an impact on your life?

LR: I was a victim of real estate fraud when I attempted to buy my first house. That is when I committed to getting my license so that I can help people obtain the dream of homeownership, and to protect them at the same time. I wanted to help people in my similar circumstance, to make sure that they are not taken advantage of just because of a language barrier.

HLM: How is your time best spent outside work?

LR: I am either running on Sundays or doing CrossFit Monday through Saturday. I very rarely take a day off from my ritual of fitness. I use fitness as an escape from the day-to-day stresses and for therapy to allow myself time to manifest my next move, and of course spending quality time with my two rescues, Kiki and Coco, my adorable dogs.

HLM: Do you have a favorite quote?

LR: "There is always room for improvement."
~Luisa H. Renwick

HLM: What are you currently reading?

LR: *The Mountain is You: Transforming Self-Sabotage into Self-Mastery* by Brianna Wiest.

HLM: Favorite food or dessert?

LR: Seafood, pasta, sushi; crème brûlée, cannoli. ♦

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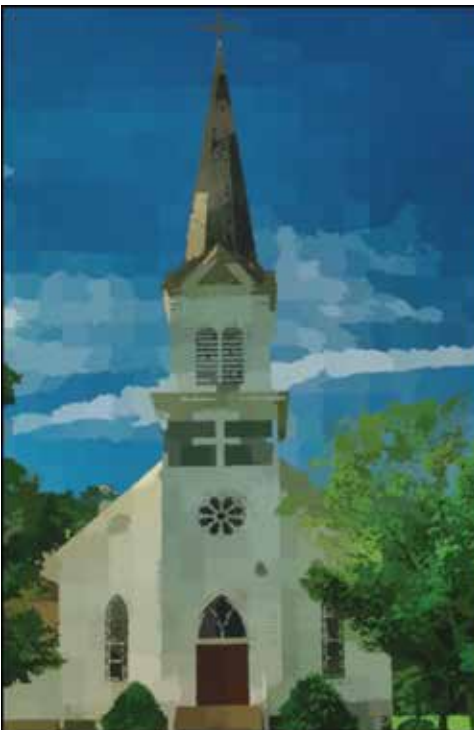
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SHANNON MARIE STALLINGS

BY HERLIFE STAFF

Shannon Marie Stallings, a Realtor and transformational coach, sat down with HERLIFE Magazine recently to share her dedication to family and community

HLM: How long have you lived here? What do you love most?

SS: I was born and raised in Lodi. I love Lodi for its family feel and the location two hours from the beach and two hours from the snow. I was recently reminded at a birthday party that there are so many kind and loving people in Lodi and so many new relationships to be made. We are here to serve, love and to create everlasting relationships with fond memories. Life is short and we should take each day and be blessed in all we do. I remind myself every day the blessings God has given me and continue to choose joy, love, kindness and forgiveness. If there is one thing that I will continue to bring to Lodi, it's my passion to help others in all I do.

HLM: How is your heart inspired to serve the community?

SS: Where there is a need, I will always try to help. I give back to many local organizations and this year I adopted a family of six to provide them a Christmas.

HLM: What sparks joy for you?

SS: I have so much passion in my real estate business to help others become successful in real estate, working with first-time homebuyers or sellers looking to take advantage of their equity, or simply working with my investors. Being a Realtor brings me so much joy that I can be a part of one's life to help them live a life by design and better their life through real estate investing. I also

recently opened a wellness center where I can help guide and coach women who suffer from past experiences that leave them in a stuck state or feeling so lost and alone. I stepped away and did five years of training so I could bring empowerment, love and light into our community and help these women in need.

HLM: Top three bucket list goals?

SS: My wellness center to transform as many women as I can; more investment properties outside of California; travel the world and learn all the different cultures; serve on a mission.

HLM: What accomplishment are you most proud of?

SS: Being a local Realtor is one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever accomplished. Then adding Wellness at the Ranch was a dream of mine that has recently come true, healing and empowering women from all over. Most important is having my husband and best friend by my side.

HLM: Can you describe a key event that had an impact on your life?

SS: Making Gary Keller's Top 100 in Real Estate is a huge accomplishment and being in the top 1 percent. Completing all of my certification as a Transformational Coach has also been so rewarding.

HLM: How is your time best spent outside work?

SS: With family and friends. I am always looking for the best opportunity in investing in real estate and always learning in personal growth and development. I strive to better myself to be the best leader, wife, mother and friend I can be. I want to make a difference in every person I meet.

HLM: Do you have a favorite quote?

SS: Each day is a gift to be opened with prayer. For with God, nothing shall be impossible. Luke 1:37.

HLM: What are you currently reading?

SS: NIV Woman's Study Bible; *The Breakthrough Experience* by Dr. John F. Demartini.

HLM: Favorite food or dessert?

SS: I love to eat very clean! I love lots of veggies, Thai food and love a great grassfed steak. Ice cream is my weakness! ♦



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INSIDE OUT LIGHTING AND DÉCOR

Great Lighting and Design Benefit Everyone

Beautiful lighting and stylish furnishings are great ways for both homeowners and renters to enhance their living spaces. In just three years, the owner of Inside Out Lighting and Decor, Deitra Kenoly, has made helping them her specialty.

BY MARY RAFFETTO | PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEFFI R PHOTOGRAPHY

A Stockton native, Deitra observed several years ago that the few lighting stores in her city had closed. Inspired by her love of interior design, she realized she could meet that need by opening a store of her own and, well, shining some light on the community. The only lighting store between Stockton and Sacramento, she recognized that Inside Out had become a genuine shopping destination, with many customers traveling great distances to buy from her impressive selection. To con-

tinue meeting customers' needs, she recently expanded the store by 1,200 square feet to accommodate an even larger inventory of lighting and now has 2,400 square feet of retail space.

THE PERFECT CHOICES

Deitra uses her expertise to help homeowners, renters, interior designers and home staging specialists select just the right lighting, furnishings and accessories to improve their homes. "I'm very happy

doing what I love, and that is helping people design beautiful spaces which improve their lives,” she elaborated. “Our surroundings affect us more than we realize and good design creates a mood that brings out the best of our emotions. To walk into a newly updated room is such a happy feeling and more often than not, it is exactly what is needed.”

Despite having no formal training, Deitra has always had an eye and an appreciation for design. From a very early age when she discovered modern, chic design magazines, she found them irresistible and studied every detail. One example of today’s modern equivalent is Architectural Digest’s Open Door: Inside Celebrity Homes on YouTube. She finds her creativity fueled by seeing the various ways different design styles are manifested in each room.

Having recently attended Lightovation 2024, the Dallas International Lighting Show where manufacturers introduce their newest products, Deitra is as excited as her clientele to see all the new merchandise she ordered as it is delivered to her store. Inside Out is tucked away behind US Bank on Pacific Avenue; nonetheless, this almost-hidden gem of a store has a steady stream of shoppers. Deitra laughed, “I think sometimes they’re very surprised to find that we are here!” But once they find her store, they keep coming back, and with good reason.

A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Deitra says she tries to bring in special items, including large-scale canvas art, while keeping a price point to fit most budgets. Surrounded by so many lighting fixtures and furnishings in remarkable shapes, textures and finishes, visitors can’t help but come away with a multitude of fresh ideas. An extra service that customers are happy to discover is that Inside Out also offers lamp repair.

When it comes to lighting and design, people often don’t know where to start. Deitra encourages them to “start with that one piece you truly love and build your design around it,” saying, “Keep an



open mind; design evolves through communication. You might come in with one idea of what you want and leave with a completely different option.”

While there is no one style that’s right for everybody, Deitra finds that natural materials are almost universally appealing. She said, “There is an appreciation for teak, bamboo, jute, rattan, different wood styles and sizes. Bold-colored glass and a variety of metal finishes are also customer favorites. Lighting is the jewelry for your home and with so many options, creating the perfect room has never been more fun.” ♦

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Doors Plus

WINDOWS & DESIGN



DOING A+ WORK IN HOME IMPROVEMENT

BY MARY RAFFETTO | PHOTOS COURTESY OF DOORS PLUS

“Today’s homeowners, even the brand-new ones, are very aware of the value and impact that windows and doors have on their homes, both aesthetically and in resale value,” said Doors Plus owner Jason Meyers.

Jason and his father, Nick, have owned Doors Plus for 15 years after spending decades in the construction business. Their expertise and commitment to service have made them a go-to resource for “a majority of the big-name builders, architects and interior designers. We do new construction, remodels and large commercial jobs,” Jason noted. “We have a longtime reputation in the business and, truly, no job is too big or too small.”

NEW EXPANSION

That strong background equipped Jason and Nick to take on a recent project of their own—a stunning 5,500-square-foot office space, three quarters of which is devoted to showcasing their products. “For 35 years, Doors Plus had been in the same location, a very old building, with only a tiny showroom,” Jason elaborated., “Now, right next door, we’ve got this extra-large showroom and our new offices. From a construction standpoint, we really went all out to make it appealing and very attractive to customers. It’s a very cool space where people can touch and see all the products in person.” On display are not only windows and doors, but also trim, wall paneling, shiplap, beams and hardware.

Doors Plus has seen the industry grow immensely over the years, especially in home renovation. “Fixing up your home seems to be growing in popularity, in part due to social media showing many ways to elevate the visual appeal of a space,” Jason explained. “Doors and windows can increase the energy efficiency of a home while allowing more light into a room and making a big difference aesthetically. Aesthetic appeal is something more and more people are very aware of.”

SEE WHAT'S NEW!

Helping those people achieve their improvement goals is a point of pride for the Doors Plus team. “Part of our appeal is our ability to customize the doors; that’s not something that is usually available through other suppliers. Our service is definitely something that sets us apart,” Jason said. “We are a very service-oriented team of industry experts devoted to helping with the selection of materials and installing them properly. We are here to make sure things are done right.”

Too often, people wait many years before finally making improvements in preparation to sell their homes. When the work is done, they see and feel the positive impact and wish they had taken action long ago. Jason encourages homeowners to visit the showroom, learn what is available and get some fresh ideas for maximizing their own enjoyment as well as the value of their home. ♦

Visit Doors Plus, 304 N. Main Street, Lodi, California. To learn more, call 209-369-5866 or visit doorspluslodi.com.





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2024 Interior Design Trends

A Look into What's In and What's Out

As we enter a new decade, the world of interior design continues to evolve and surprise us with new trends. From natural stone countertops to statement ventilation hoods, there are plenty of exciting changes happening in the world of home decor. Let's take a closer look at some of the interior design trends that are expected to make a big splash in 2024.

BY KATHLEEN JENNISON | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAROLINE'S PHOTOGRAPHY

SUSTAINABLE AND ETHICAL PRODUCTS TAKE CENTER STAGE

In recent years, there has been a growing awareness about sustainability and ethical practices in the world of interior design. Homeowners are now more conscious than ever about the materials used in their homes, and this trend is only expected to continue in 2024. One of the main areas where we'll see this trend is in natural stone countertops.

Marble, granite and quartzite are among the top choices for homeowners who are looking for sustainable, healthy and ethical products. These stones not only add a touch of elegance to any

kitchen or bathroom but also have a much lower environmental impact compared to other materials. However, it's not just about sustainability and ethics; there is also a significant health concern that needs to be addressed.

New research has found that workers who fabricate products made with quartz are at risk of developing a potentially deadly lung disease. According to a study published in JAMA Internal Medicine, July 2023, working with quartz poses a risk of silicosis caused by the inhalation of silica dust. While this poses no risk to homeowners who have quartz in their homes, it is crucial for us as designers to ensure that workers are not harmed during fabrication.



STATEMENT VENTILATION HOODS: FUNCTION MEETS AESTHETICS

When it comes to kitchen design, one trend that's on its way out is the use of microwaves above stoves. In 2024, we can expect to see a significant shift toward statement ventilation hoods that not only serve their function but also add an aesthetic touch to the kitchen.

Gone are the days of bulky and unattractive ventilation systems. Instead, we'll be seeing beautiful wood, steel and plaster hoods with ventilation liners that blend seamlessly into the overall design. These statement hoods not only help improve air quality in the kitchen but also add a touch of elegance and sophistication to the space.



These tiles are not only visually appealing but also durable and long-lasting.

ARTISAN TILES: A POP OF COLOR AND HISTORY

In recent years, white subway tiles have dominated backsplashes and floors, but that is about to change in 2024. We can expect to see a shift toward artisan tiles that come in a range of interesting historical patterns, bright colors and unique shapes. These tiles not only add character to any space but also make



Before becoming an interior designer, Kathleen Jennison worked as certified public accountant for a national firm. A near-fatal car accident changed her career path and life forever. She suffered serious brain injuries, and her doctors suggested she take art classes to help with her rehabilitation. With her newfound love for design, she studied at the Art Institute in Sacramento, obtaining her bachelor's degree in interior design. She is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers and has served as the director of marketing for the National Association of Remodelers for the Greater Sacramento area. In 2009, she started KTJ Design Company.

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a statement.

When it comes to choosing the right artisan tiles for your home, sustainability and health are once again key factors to consider. Look for options made from stone, ceramic or porcelain, all of which are sustainable materials that contribute to a healthy home. These tiles are not only visually appealing but also durable and long-lasting, making them an excellent investment for any homeowner.



COLORFUL CABINETRY: A BOLD MOVE

When it comes to cabinetry, one trend that's on its way out is the use of white or grey. In 2024, we'll be seeing more fun and bold colors taking center stage. Slate blues, pine green and creamy whites are just some of the options that will be popular among homeowners.

Incorporating color into cabinetry adds a touch of personality and playfulness to any space, making it more than just a functional element in the room. We can also expect to see more use of medium stains on rift white oak, creating a subtle wood grain that adds warmth and texture to the space.

As we look forward to 2024, these are just some of the interior design trends that we can expect to see making an impact in homes across the globe. From sustainability and ethics to bold colors and artisanal elements, the world of home decor is constantly evolving, and it's exciting to see what the future holds. So, buckle up and get ready for a new wave of creativity and innovation in interior design! ♦

WALK FOR WELLNESS

More than 500 people were present and participating on January 27 at the St. Joseph's Foundation's 15th annual FUN/RUN Walk for Wellness. Presented by Pacific Homecare Services, the event was held on the grounds of University Park Funds were raised for the St. Joseph's Cancer Institute. ♦

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HELEN RIPKEN



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IN SEASON MARKET AND NURSERY



A Beautiful Day in the Garden

As you flip through the pages of this month's issue, spring is springing up all over. The flowering trees are budding out, bright green dominates the landscapes, and we have a compelling urge to get out into our gardens once again to chase away the gray of winter and embrace the freshness of this season.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY LAURIE EAGER

A trip to In Season Market and Nursery is in order. There you will be greeted by owner Julie Morehouse or another member of her knowledgeable staff and welcomed like an old friend. Julie and her late business partner, Eric Firpo, opened

their doors in this historic Stockton location in 2016. Fueled by the desire to create a community-based business that would bring together like-minded people, they founded the shop with the motto "Natural farm, natural food, natural landscape,

natural life." This mantra still holds true for every aspect of In Season.

Part nursery, part gift shop, part friendly gathering spot, In Season Market and Nursery is a world away from the big box stores. If it's plants you are interested

in, Julie brings more than 30 years of experience in the horticulture world. She can help identify garden pests, offer suggestions for specific areas of your garden, introduce you to new and unique plants and invite you to attend the hands-on workshops that are held each Saturday at the nursery. Especially popular are the classes on how to plant and grow delicious tomatoes, start veggies from seeds, compost and install drip irrigation. There are seasonal classes on garden-themed crafts, such as wreath making, and more. It's a delight just to stroll around under the magnificent persimmon tree out back and take a peek at the organic farm that supplies fruits and vegetables to the indoor market. New deliveries of plants arrive weekly, offering a large variety of flowers, vegetables, shrubs and trees that are suited to our San Joaquin Valley gardens.

Another treat is in store when you venture inside the shop and the old Tank House out back. Grab a freshly brewed cappuccino or a home-baked cookie and take a look around. In Season has an ever-changing array of natural food products to tempt you, from iconic Genoa bread to locally produced oils and vinegars, jams, coffee beans roasted here in Stockton from several vendors, small-batch teas and the beautiful produce grown in the farm behind the shop. It feels great to support local artisan producers, and the quality and freshness are incomparable.

The gift shop is also a treasure trove of unique and carefully chosen things. On my recent visit, I spotted block print tea towels, hand-painted mugs, locally crafted jewelry, cards from area artists and colorful glassware and ceramics for the table. Pick up soil amendments, high-quality garden hand tools and seed packets while you are there. Peruse a wide selection of pottery as well, and the staff will be happy to pot up a purchased plant while you wait.

In Season Market and Nursery is open seven days a week and they are delighted to host small group gatherings. There's always something new going on. To connect with In Season and find out about all that is happening at the store, follow them on social media. Instagram @Inseason.store and on Facebook at In Season Garden Center. Stop in to one of my favorite little haunts in Stockton, where both plants and kindness are always In Season. ♦

In Season Market & Nursery is located at 215 E Alpine Avenue, Stockton, California. To learn more, call 209-949-2499 or visit inseasonstore.com.



Laurie Eager is the author and illustrator of In Papa's Garden. A seeker of beauty every day, she works part time as an interior designer, loves adventure travel, all things French and dark chocolate. She lives in Stockton with her husband, Steve, and can be found most mornings enjoying a cup of coffee and the first rays of sunshine in their abundant vegetable garden.



“I credit my time at St. Mary’s with giving me the skills to succeed in college and later professionally in the working world. I still maintain friendships with people I’ve met during my time there. The theater program in particular is truly spectacular and solidified my love of the arts. I doubt that I would have received the mentorship and individual attention I received at St. Mary’s if I had gone elsewhere.”

DEREK ISETTI

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KIDS SHINING BRIGHTLY

MICHAYLA LIN

BY HERLIFE STAFF

Michayla Lin, 17, a resident of Stockton, California, and a senior at Stockton Early College Academy, describes for HERLIFE Magazine a project she undertook as associated student body secretary for SECA.



2023/24

HLM: *Why did you start this project?*

ML: I ran for my first student government position, sophomore class president, because I sought to connect and unify my class coming out of online school. This led me to join Student Leadership, where I eventually became ASB secretary. When I was a class president, I found it challenging to navigate how to pass paperwork, so as ASB secretary I created an online digital database to digitally record over three hundred pieces of paperwork passed each year. Additionally, I created paperwork guides and updated forms to promote accessibility and paperwork fluency among all classes and clubs.

HLM: *Where does the money go?*

ML: The funds raised through SECA's Associated Student Body go directly back to the students and community. In Leadership, we have five committees: Activities, Beautification, Dance, Fundraising and Spirit. These committees are the masterminds behind a profitable

Timberwolf Market, the student store, flourishing campus gardens and unforgettable high school memories.

HLM: *How has this opportunity to serve changed your life?*

ML: Being ASB president means more than just a title to me, it is a privilege to connect and work with amazing people. I truly could not have been the leader I am today without the support of leaders who have come before me. The role has shown me the importance of sometimes being uncomfortable to grow and evolve as a person.

HLM: *What is your goal for the future?*

ML: When I was ASB secretary, I discovered my love for building and refining systems. I wish to become a systems engineer, where I design and optimize frameworks in technology. Additionally, I wish to give back to my community and family for all they have done for me. ♦

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WRITTEN BY MARY RAFFETTO
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KALI MATTHEWS

Photographers Sydney (nee Spurgeon) and Dawson Hayre met through a mutual friend who thought they would be a great match. That friend's hunch was right. The couple hit it off immediately, and it wasn't long before Dawson was rounding out his work schedule by making time to help Sydney with her photography jobs such as family photos, graduation shoots and other special events.

Both Stockton and Lodi have many beautiful outdoor settings for photos but one place in particular became special to them. Whenever Lodi Lake was the location for a late-afternoon photo shoot, they often found themselves lingering afterwards so they could watch the sunset together. It was during one of these magical moments when Dawson proposed. Sydney had imagined they might marry one day but was caught completely by surprise by his gesture. He even hired a photographer to capture the memory as it unfolded.

Thanks to her experience photographing numerous other weddings, Sydney was well equipped when it came to planning her own. She had witnessed plenty of popular traditions and knew what to expect, but she and Dawson also knew they wanted to create a wedding day uniquely their own, very small, intimate and special.

On October 14, 2023, at a private residence in Lodi, they were married, accompanied by Sydney's sister Mandy as her Maid of Honor, and Dawson's brother Haydon Wilcox as his Best Man. No fewer than three ring bearers bore witness to the nuptials, Sydney's six-year-old nephew Vincent and two boys for whom she is the nanny, Jett and Jack, ages three and two, respectively. Sydney's niece, Emmery, age two, was their flower girl.

Sydney was stunning in an elegant tank-style white satin dress with a lovely train. The dress featured a soft bow delicately placed at the small of her back, a detail which reminded her, with some amusement, of the ever-present and oversized hair bows she and her sister wore daily throughout their

- October 14, 2023 -

Sydney and Dawson Hayre



childhood. She carried a bouquet of white roses, chrysanthemums, sweet pea flowers and fragrant stock, all perfectly coordinated and accented with ornamental berries.

After the ceremony, guests mingled poolside, enjoying a cocktail hour set to the music of two flutists before dancing and dining in the warm night air. The meal included pasta with creamy pesto, chicken piccata, sliced beef with tomato parsley sauce, Delmonico potatoes, roasted vegetables and a crisp green salad. For the grand finale, a lemon olive oil wedding cake was served, a bright and flavorful family recipe baked by the bride's cousin, Megan Snow. In honor of Sydney's late maternal grandmother, Gwen, and the lifetime of wonderful homemade pies she baked, guests were also treated to a pie bar as part of the joyful celebration.



Dawson and Sydney had originally planned to spend their honeymoon in historic Lahaina on the island of Maui but due to the devastating fires that leveled the town, they had to make other plans. Since they had always wanted to tour the beautiful Oregon coast and photograph the famous Haystack Rock at Cannon Beach, that became their destination. There they enjoyed one another's company while hiking, taking photos and relaxing.

The newlyweds reside in Lodi and are the owners of Hayre Photography. Dawson umpires college baseball, works at Trail Coffee in Lodi and is on the board of Lodi BOBS. Sydney's parents are Steve and Mary Spurgeon of Stockton. Dawson's mother and stepfather are Diane and Greg Wilcox of Lodi; his father and stepmother are Dennis and Cindy Hayre, also of Lodi. ♦



PHOTOGRAPHY
Kali Matthews

BRIDAL GOWN
Miosa Bride

BRIDESMAID'S GOWNS
Nordstrom

GROOMS SUIT/TUX
Men's Wearhouse

GROOMSMEN'S ATTIRE
Tuxedos of Lodi

DJ
Bryan Mero, DJB

FLORIST
Linda King and Denise Combs

CATERER
Morada Eats Catering

CAKE
Megan Snow

JEWELER
DeVon's



SET THE MOOD: WEDDING FLORAL TRENDS

BY LINDA R PRICE

Floral creations reflect your personality and leave a lasting impression on your guests. This year's floral design trends range from classic to vibrant, monochromatic to bursting with colors, minimalist to extravagant. It's less about tradition and more about personal expression and creativity.

Sustainability, local sourcing, textures, bold color palettes and unexpected inclusions give brides and designers a no-holds-barred opportunity to express themselves. An emphasis on supporting local growers reflects a broader societal shift toward responsible consumption. This trend is driven by growing awareness of the environmental affects of mass-produced, imported flowers, which can involve systems for growth, storage and transport that consume massive amounts of energy.

LIVELY AND BRIGHT

In 2024, brides expect to use high-impact, eye-catching, vibrant colors. Guests will see a lot of vibrant pinks, oranges, yellows, purples and electric blues. Designers can create a bold look with rich colors such as emerald green, burgundy, dark blues and dark purples, adding a touch of sophistication and drama to your wedding. Dahlias, peonies, ranunculus, fuschias and anthuriums all fit this profile.

ASYMMETRY

If your vision is to break away from the balanced, rounded bouquet, centerpieces and backdrops, think about a free-form design. Florals, greenery, succulents, even additions such as small branch-



es, weeds, herbs, grasses and fern fronds can give your display the impact of an organic creation.

Dramatic and sculptural floral elements are expected to make an appearance, with large quantities of single flowers grouped together creating fantastic statement pieces.

This approach shifts the focus away from the micro design elements, and the eye sees the overall shape of the design.

MINIMALIST

Asymmetry combines with a minimalist approach using unique elements such as dried flowers or herbs intermixed with fresh blooms. Natural-looking bouquets and arrangements with wildflowers and unusual foliage move away from traditional roses and eucalyptus. Soft lines and floral cascades contrast with firm lines provided

by twigs or succulents and provide new texture.

NATURAL

Imagine thistles, succulents and air plants that create an interesting visual effect and bring your vision to life. Mix different textures together in single arrangements or use them as accent pieces throughout your venue. Dried elements such as lavender or wheat stalks provide a rustic touch, larger-than-life dried palms give a modern boho

twist. Dried banana leaves have a contemporary sculptural feel.

The unexpected, such as berries, fruits and vegetables used as seasonal accents, introduce a fresh element.

STATEMENT PIECES

A trend gaining traction is using floral arches, chandeliers, hanging and floating arrangements composed of fresh blooms cascading from a primary element of your venue design. Combined with this trend is the use of minimal, carefully designed table centerpieces that complement the statement piece. It can create a dramatic, fairy-tale atmosphere that surprises and photographs exceptionally well.

THE CLASSICS

Favorites such as peonies, dahlias, ranunculus, garden roses and lilies will remain popular choices; more modern blooms such as cosmos, chamomile, ornamental kale, scabiosa and tiny textures will be added. Not to be left out are lilies, tulips, orchids and hydrangeas. All are timeless blooms that provide a touch of romance and sophistication.

To be truly eco-friendly, consider using potted plants in your décor. After the wedding, they can be taken home, gifted to guests or replanted, making for a sustainable, zero-waste floral solution.

BARBIECORE

She's endured for 60 years; thanks to the movie, pink will be around for the foreseeable future. If you're embracing the color and trend, there are almost limitless options for wedding floral design.

Pink comes in a world of hues and shades, from the lightest, most pastel iterations, warm peach tones, watermelons and corals to vibrant magenta and deep, almost purple tones.

Think about using different shapes and textures of pinks and pink-colored leaves, such as caladiums, rex begonias, arrowhead plants and all the rainbow of pink-tinted succulents such as echeverias. Pair with cymbidium orchids in a deeper shade.

REPURPOSE AND DONATE

Extend the joy of the wedding by donating your floral arrangements to a charity, hospital, care home or homebound individuals. Brides who have church weddings frequently leave their florals for a later worship service.

Chances are your city has a business or nonprofit that will organize repurposing your flowers. Forget Me Knot in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, started after Leona Davis planned her daughter's wedding and asked, "What happens to our flowers?" Following the wedding, the family divided the flowers into bouquets and delivered them to a local nursing home. "When we saw the residents' faces upon receiving the flowers and hearing the bride and groom's love story, our hearts erupted with love and gratitude. It was clear that we couldn't stop with this wedding!" she writes on the website.

No matter what your wedding theme is, choose flowers that you love and that represent your personal style and vision. ♦

SOURCES: mooncast-films.com, ebonfloral.com, melodyfrenchdesigns.co and wholeblossoms.com.



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Saron & Julian Burford

WRITTEN BY MARY RAFFETTO
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
BRIGGS PHOTOGRAPHY

By her own account, Saron Kan Burford, 39, was always determined to be self-sufficient and “never had a focus on love.” That is, until she met her husband, Julian Burford.

Saron, a first-generation Cambodian American, had put her energy into earning her master’s degree and building her career. In 2017, she traveled with her family to visit relatives in Dallas, Texas. There, her cousin Ly invited his gym buddy, Julian, to spend time with them.

As their attachment grew over the next six months, Julian decided to “take a chance on love” by relocating to California in December. “Thankfully for me, and by the grace of God, it worked out in the end!” he said. Despite the distance, Saron never doubted his love and loyalty. She felt a deep trust for Julian and was moved by his attentiveness to her and their relationship, saying, “I felt at peace with him.”

- June 4, 2023 -

The weekend before Christmas 2021, before their trip to Texas to spend the holiday with his family, Julian had Saron's brother interpret while he asked her father for her hand in marriage. Her father gave his blessing and Julian began planning his surprise proposal. On Christmas morning, they all went to a park for family photos. There, in a lovely gazebo, as a romantic song played on his phone, Julian said, "We've been on this journey as best friends, but I was wondering if you'd continue on this journey with me as my wife?" He dropped to one knee and presented her with a sparkling engagement ring, and with tears of joy in her eyes, Saron responded, "Of course!"

"Our families are from two different cultural backgrounds, two different worlds. They would be traveling enormous distances, and we wanted to create a backdrop and a setting where everyone, approximately 125 guests, could come together as one, connect, bond and have fun!" Saron said. "We arranged a three-day event around the wedding so our extended families could spend time connecting with one another while celebrating love and diversity."

On June 4, 2023, their wedding took place at The River Mill in French Camp. Saron was attended by her Maid of Honor, Lisa Lim, her best friend; her college best friend, Teresa Montanez; and her nieces, Gwyneth and Chloe Steele. The groom was joined by his brother, Joseph, as his Best Man; his cousin Christopher Poindexter; and college best friend Andy Fang as groomsmen.

Saron describes the morning of their wedding as busy, task-filled and exciting, but she also remembers feeling surprisingly calm and peaceful as a result of prayer. From the vows themselves to the formalities of the bouquet toss, cake cutting, mingling with their guests and more, the day was jam-packed. "It was an extremely ambitious timeline," she says. "We feel proud that we were able to achieve it."



The bride credits her outstanding bridesmaids for assisting her with all she needed including several clothing changes and a couple of unexpected challenges with her reception dress. They ensured all was right before sending her out to the reception for first dances, prayer and an amazing dinner.

Soon it was time for their sunset photo session and a final outfit change, where Saron and Julian had opted to honor her heritage by donning traditional Cambodian attire. Bridesmaids came to the rescue to properly affix her sash, twirling and pinning it just so. Somehow, Julian's Cambodian pants had been left behind, but by then the couple had learned to "just roll with it," posing for their sunset photos all the same, intent on enjoying every minute of the day.

"Our honeymoon at the Maldives' Heritance Aarah resort was a manifestation of prayers and a totally unexpected blessing made possible by the generosity of our beloved friends and family," Saron said. "Just the thought of our wedding day brings back pure joy and happiness." ♦

PHOTOGRAPHY
Briggs Photography

BRIDAL GOWN
Sheryl Giles Bridal Couture;
B2BC Bridal Couture

BRIDESMAID'S GOWNS
Camille La Vie;
Amira's Fashion Couture

GROOMS SUIT/TUX
Tuxedos of Lodi

GROOMSMEN'S ATTIRE
Tuxedos of Lodi

HAIR STYLING
Hollywood Waves
by Jessica Quintero

MAKEUP
Karina Hernandez,
Jessica Quintero

DJ
Dj Johnny Sanchez

FLORIST
Sylvia's Flowers and Gifts

CATERER
The River Mill

VENUE
The River Mill

CAKE
M&W Dutch American Bakery

JEWELER
Lucky Jewelry
San Jose

VIDEOGRAPHY
Love Genre Films



JACKSON 3 FOUNDATION

The inaugural fundraiser for the Jackson 3 Foundation was held on January 12 at the Waterloo Gun and Bocce Club. Guests enjoyed an evening of great food, inspiration and festivities. The foundation is dedicated to supporting families navigating sudden loss during a child's formative years. Congratulations to Jackson 3 Foundation for a terrific beginning to this worthy and heartfelt cause. ♦

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HELEN RIPKEN





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DANCING FOR THE DOGS (AND CATS!)

Raising funds for the new free/low-cost Spay and Neuter Clinic and Wellness Center, Stockton's finest danced the night away on February 10 at Stockton Golf and Country Club. The contestants paired with seasoned professionals competed throughout the night as guests enjoyed cocktails, dinner and a fabulous time. After a successful evening, many are hoping this becomes an annual event! ♦

PHOTOGRAPHY BY HELEN RIPKEN



BY **HERLIFE STAFF**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **HAYRE PHOTOGRAPHY**

Q: What's your full name?

A: Theo Garibaldi

Q: Tell us about yourself.

A: High maintenance and prissy. I know what I like and I won't stop begging until I get it!

Q: What's your favorite vacation spot?

A: Carmel and Carmel only. It is my heaven on earth!

Q: And when you get to go along?

A: Walk to Lincoln Center on the weekends with my whole family and get a puppacino at Starbucks.

Q: Your best play spot?

A: Carmel Beach. I love when my dad throws my ball in the waves for me and I frolic along the shoreline with all of the big dogs.

Q: Do you have a guilty pleasure?

A: I go to the office with my dad on Mondays. I like to lay on the desks instead of in my bed so that I get lots of love and no one gets their work done.

Q: Are you ever a naughty pup?

A: I find dead sea creatures on the beach and rub on them. It makes my mom so mad but I always get a warm shower and blowout afterward.

Q: What's your canine obsession?

A: My mom. She gives the best massages every morning and is my best friend. When she leaves me, I wait by the door (not so patiently) until she gets home.

Q: What's your favorite treat?

A: Puppy Chow at Stationæry Restaurant in Carmel. Grass fed beef, potatoes and kale. I only eat organic!

Q: Where do you go for pampering?

A: I go to Happy Pawz for my quarterly haircuts. I don't like being there but they sure make me look handsome. They're the only ladies in town that will put up with me.

Q: Where do you come from?

A: Doodles by the Sea in Monterey, California.

Q: What else should we know about you?

A: I would never run away from my parents. They can't get away from me if they try!

Q: Who are your human parents?

A: Mark & Deanne Garibaldi ♦



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Stockton Ballroom
Info: visitstockton.org

MARCH 2 *Valley Waterfowl Sportsman Dinner*

Lodi Grape Festival Grounds
Info: valleywaterfowl.com

MARCH 9 *Chinese New Year Celebration*

33 W. Alpine Avenue, Stockton
Info: visitstockton.org

MARCH 9 *Linden Band Boosters Shrimp Feed*

Linden Lions Club
Info: visitstockton.org

MARCH 15 *Nor Cal Rental Crab Feed*

Hutchins Street Square, Lodi
Info: visitstockton.org

MARCH 16 *SCT Black & Gold Gala*

Hilton of Stockton
Info: sctlivetheatre.com

MARCH 21 *Latina Business Conference*

University Plaza Waterfront Hotel
Info: info@sjchispanicchamber.com

MARCH 23 *Stockton Kiwanis Crab Feed*

St. Basil's Orthodox Church
Info: 209-239-9051

MARCH 24 *First Tee Bowling Fundraiser*

Pacific Bowl
Info: joesmithfts@gmail.com

APRIL 5 *Opening Day Stockton Ports*

Banner Island Ballpark
Info: mlb.com

APRIL 6 *Champagne & English Tea*

Church of the Presentation
Info: www.hospicesj.org

APRIL 12-14 *SJ Asparagus Festival*

San Joaquin County Fairgrounds
Info: visitstockton.org

APRIL 12-16 *Cambodian New Year*

Cambodian Buddhist Temple
Info: visitstockton.org

APRIL 18 *State of the City*

Port of Stockton, Shed 20
Info: stocktonchamber.org

APRIL 21 *Stockton Earth Day Festival*

Victory Park
Info: earthdaystockton.com

APRIL 25 *GCRM New Life Gala*

Stockton Golf & Country Club
Info: 209-957-7277

APRIL 25 *Philanthropy Summit*

Hutchins Street Square, Lodi
Info: philanthropy-summit.com

APRIL 27 *Wedding Walk*

Lincoln Center
Info: lincolncentershops.com



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Celebrating 125 years, St. Joseph's Medical Center is proud to serve the Stockton community. For more information, please visit dignityhealth.org/stockton.

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We aim to transform care delivery, expand provider access, and improve the quality of health care.

Longtime and new partners are encouraged to engage with us in this important work! Learn more at www.hpsj-mvhp.org.

Principles of the Community Reinvestment Program:



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Barrier-Free
Quality Care



Strategic &
Transparent
Spending



Beneficial
to Our
Members



Support
for Local
Innovation



Partnership
with
Community



Integrity

