

Carol Smith Yeatts and Gordon Yeatts



An interior designer by trade, Carol bought her first house in The Heights eight years ago. She had already bought and restyled two other homes, however, her little red brick two story 1910 bungalow on the corner of 13th and Tulane had her hooked on The Heights.

In bad need of repair, it also needed a full kitchen and had 28 broken windows. Looking beyond the dismal condition of the house, Carol could not believe a house and a neighborhood like this existed in the city of Houston.

She worked on the house for a couple of years. Eventually the home got to the point she was looking around for another that needed her intervention. Complications arrived as she meets Gordon, who called Sugarland home.

Gordon has lived in the Houston area all of his life and had been living in

Sugarland for 30 years. He attended the School of Architecture at University of Houston. He opened his own commercial architecture firm 25 years ago, which is now located in Greenway Plaza.

Carol has lived in Houston since the late 70's and has had her own design company for several years. She now is the Senior Design Consultant for a commercial carpet company located in Dalton, GA. Her love has always been renovating older homes, particularly mid-century and bungalows.

Carol was determined to stay in the Heights, but after Gordon swept her off her feet, he moved her kicking and dragging to Sugarland. It was with the agreement that after Gordon's son graduated from high school and went off to college, they could return. Carol sold her bungalow, planned a wedding and honeymoon and moved to Sugarland... temporarily.

Gordon had a very strong interest in moving to the Heights. His grandfather had worked as a postman at the 19th Street Post Office in the late 1930's and his uncle was the associate minister

at Baptist Temple in the 60's. Together they have 3 children, Denver, Kelsey and Kirby. They also have a 10 year old 100 pound rescue dog named "Dawg." They are empty nesters except for Dawg who guards the front porch on a daily bases.

Finally, almost two years later (2009) they were back. They sold their home in Sugarland and moved into 2125 Yale (Hi-Rise Apartment Complex) to start the hunt for their new home. They happened to be driving by a little white house on 16th street that was framed by four one hundred year old crepe myrtles in front. As an architect and designer they could see the potential and envision the final product. A phone call began the process and before you knew it they were back!

They bought the house from the great granddaughter of the original owners. The house was built in 1903 and they were able to get all the pictures and history through the years. It includes an authentic picture of the great grandmother and her friend standing in front of the home with bonnets on.

The main thing that Carol and Gordon wanted was a BIG front porch. The home fortunately was set back on the lot sufficiently to allow the porch they envisioned. They raised the original house 18" and added about 1,000 square feet of living space. With Carol as the designer and Gordon supplying the drawings they had completed their plans within 3 months. The renovation took about 10 months.



The remodeled home and "Dawg".

It was very important to Carol and Gordon to "GO" local as much as possible. The windows and doors in the house are from Grogan's on Yale Street. Several of the vintage lights are from August Antiques on Heights Blvd. The plumbing fixtures from Ferguson's and the glass is from Heights Glass on 19th Street.

During Carol's history she has designed many things for many clients. One of her discoveries along they way is a great guy named Jose, who owns Jose's Upholstery on 19th Street behind Heights Glass. He custom made most of the furniture for her. The front doors were custom



made to appear like big windows and when open, brings that New Orleans feeling and flare to the house.

Their newly renovated bungalow was featured in the first issue of HGTV Magazine in October 2011. The home will also be on the Spring 2012 Heights Home and Garden Tour.

Carol and Gordon are happy to be back in the Heights for over 2 years now and they have no plans of ever leaving.

"The Heights to us is the best of all worlds, it is like a quaint little town with big city amenities all around. Great places to eat and lots to do!"

