



Hidden and Exquisite Home

A glimpse inside the Dilley-Tinnin home's concealed splendor

By C. Wayne Dawson

Recessed a hundred feet or so from Austin Ave. behind stately oaks, the Dilley-Tinnin home appears inconspicuous among the many historical mansions lining Georgetown's Belford District until one draws closer and discovers the startling features setting it apart from the other nineteenth century homes. Not offered for viewing on

any of Georgetown's historic tours, one must search diligently to see the treasures tucked inside this home sitting astride a one and a half acre lot.

Owners A.C. and Suzi Campagna have spared no expense to restore and upgrade Georgetown's only Victorian Italianate home. Built by New Orleans importer Clarence Dilley

in 1879 the home was subsequently sold to John Tinnin, a cattle baron. Suzi researched Tinnin's history on Ancestry.com and other sources, finally locating a rich body of his correspondence held by a stamp collector. She paid the philatelist to photocopy Tinnin's letters and

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now holds an extensive repository of historical information about the former owner.

This is but one example of the Campagna's efforts to blend modern technology with the ambience of the past, which she also applied throughout the house. One sees this combination of new and old in the first floor's three Sub-Zero refrigerators, two in the kitchen alone, one of which holds 75 wine bottles with separate controls for red and white varieties. Despite these modern



influences, the kitchen bows to tradition with an artisan stove hood boasting a stone façade taken from a demolished building displaying a stone carved grapevine suggestive of Tuscany. Underneath, hand-painted glazed subway tiles resembling aged brick decorate the wall over a six burner Wolf gas stove containing two full double ovens.

Guests can travel to the second floor on a modern elevator, which Mr. Campagna has outfitted with rustic molded panels. Once there, they can tour the four bedrooms filled with antique dressers, armoires, and credenzas cunningly constructed with



delicately inlaid wood. Several of the mansion's five and a half bathrooms are on this floor, including Suzi's, which is distinguished by a doorway flanked on either side with etched glass panels depicting birds in a

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garden. Both his and her baths include tile floors heated for the winter months.

When it's movie time, everyone can gather in an enclosed wide screen theatre, replete with overstuffed leather chairs and tastefully paneled so as to hide a modern sound system lodged between traditional pillars.

Despite the museum-like atmosphere of the floor, a master closet housing a modern stacked washer and dryer make it unnecessary for the upstairs residents to haul their laundry downstairs to get their clothes clean.

Mindful of her personal heritage, Suzi has preserved numerous relics from her own ancestors. Parts of an old post office from her great-grandfather's hometown of Leesville, Texas hangs on the wall of a second story room. It sports an old fashioned barred window and mail slots containing letters written by her grandfather.



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In another blend of the old and new, the Campagnas built a new northern annex to the mansion in recent years reproducing the Italianate style of the original structure. The lower floor of this addition is a four car garage with slatted wooden arched doors, preserving the flavor of an old carriage house. Above it, the second floor is decked with white clapboard siding and black shutters, making the new

building indistinguishable from the old. An octagonal cupola topped by a weathervane crowns the top, serving as a counterpoint to a taller version towering over the main structure.

Those wanting a more in-depth glimpse of this beautiful historic can find it online at www.1220SAustinAve.com. This property is currently for sale. For more information, contact Lauren Powell, Capital City Sotheby's International Realty at (512) 695-0679 or lauren@laurenpowellrealty.com. ■