

# 926 PRAIRIE LANE

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SECTION G

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## I think I shall never read ...

I spent several pleasant days toward the end of the summer thumbing through musty woodworking and project magazines.

My neighbors had gone on a use-it-or-throw-it-out cleaning binge, and I was the lucky recipient of reading material that certainly was headed straight to the trash.

Most of the magazines were from the late-1980s and early '90s. Apparently, it was an era when computer desks should have been on every woodworker's to-do list.

It also apparently was an era when it occurred to few people not named Gates or Jobs that computers might one day fit comfortably on a lap and when still fewer thought they'd slip into a hip pocket — the 21st century's version of the Boy Scout utility knife, combining telephone, clock, camera, flashlight, date book, phone book, encyclopedia, etc. into one slim package.

But I digress.

Flipping through the magazines, I came across a lot of plans for "crafty" versions of bookshelves, key cabinets, recipe files and cutting boards that often involved tulips and roses, cartoon pigs and cattle. I kept flipping.

(I was never one for the "country" look, but I did stop to learn how to create milk paint — should the need for that ever come up.)

Among my finds were the plans — and a set of full-scale cutting templates — for a porch glider. Although I've never even briefly yearned for a porch glider, it seemed such a shame to let the plans go to waste, so ... well, you never know. I'll need something to keep me out of trouble next winter.

Also, should I ever be so inclined, I now have step-by-step chain saw instructions for turning a tree stump into a happy little bear.

Sadly, I do not own a stump or a chain saw. In fact, I've never even used a chain saw, so I believe I'll stick with my chisels.

On the upside, I harvested a handful of workshop tips that I'll pass along in the coming months after I run a few tests at the HouseWorks Project House.

Finally, from 1991 issues of WOOD Magazine, I gleaned this short ode to trees that apparently was translated into English from Portuguese.

I thought I'd pass it along today.

### To the Wayfarer

*Ye who pass by and would raise your hand against me, hearken ere you harm me.*

*I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights; the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun; and my fruit are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on.*

*I am the beam that holds your house; the board of your table; the bed on which you lie, the timber that builds your boat. I am the handle of your hoe; the door to your homestead; the wood of your cradle, the wood of your coffin.*

*I am the bread of your kindness, and the flower of beauty. Ye who pass by listen to my prayer:*

*Harm me not.*

I am not, I'm quick to confess, a fan of poetry. As a matter of fact, I find the genre mildly irritating, so please don't send me any samples.

However ...

There surely are hundreds of poems extolling the beauty of trees (Joyce Kilmer's comes immediately to mind), but this is the first I've ever seen that pays homage to the use to which we put them and their wood.

More's the pity.

Send your questions to: [HouseWorks, P.O. Box 81609, Lincoln, NE 68501, or email: houseworks@journalstar.com](mailto:HouseWorks, P.O. Box 81609, Lincoln, NE 68501, or email: houseworks@journalstar.com).



STEVE BATIE  
HouseWorks



DAN LITTLE/Lincoln Journal Star

Mark and Ellie Lewis' home will be on the upcoming Architects' Home Tour. Here it is illuminated in the morning hours.

# Home with a view

## Contemporary house takes advantage of the site

By KATHRYN CATES MOORE  
Lincoln Journal Star

He wanted a breezeway. She wanted a sunroom.

Those weren't the only considerations that went into Mark and Ellie Lewis' decision-making process when they built their new home at 3010 Durado Court, but these two must-haves were certainly near the top of the list.

The breezeway — an architectural element that seems like a blast from the past — was Mark's idea as a connector between the main home and pool house.

And Ellie wanted the sunroom to have a good view of the family-friendly pool. It had to be visible from most of the main floor of the house, so she could keep an eye on the kids, she said.

They both got what they wanted, and the finished home is part of the upcoming Architects' Home Tour happening Sept. 21.

Tucked behind the fourth hole at Firehorn Golf course, the home was designed by architect Dave Johnson, with LOTS of input from Mark Lewis, who is a veteran home builder. At first,



DAN LITTLE/Lincoln Journal Star

The swimming pool, lined with black tile, reflects the exterior and patio of the Lewis home.

Lewis thought he and his wife would be able to piece together their ideas and have a draftsman put it on paper.

"We discovered it was going to take more than that," he said.

With 8,000 square feet, a complicated roofline and a pristine lot that called for the house to be sited perfectly to take advantage of the views, Lewis knew having an architect was a good idea.

Architect Johnson of Studio 951, who has known Lewis for several years, said the project was a good collaboration. "He understands construction, and they knew exactly what they wanted," Johnson said. "And the lot was amazing."

Exterior shapes, rooflines and some surface aesthetics are part of what Johnson brought to the table, he said. "We made

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### If you go

■ **What:** The Lincoln Architects' Home Tour

■ **When:** 1-4:30 p.m. Sept. 21

■ **Tickets:** Tickets may be purchased at each of the tour homes, cash or check on the day of the tour. \$10 adult/\$5 student.

■ Proceeds from the tour support community-based programs, architectural education in K-12 public and private schools, scholarships for students attending the University of Nebraska College of Architecture and practice-based and practice-oriented research.

■ **Information:** [aialincoln.org/home-tour](http://aialincoln.org/home-tour)

## MAILBOX

### — Decorating Direction —

#### Decor in all its facets

Fans of crisp, modern architecture and clean-lined shapes will love one of this fall's strongest style trends: faceted décor.

For those who feel that the whole bold, geometric-pattern thing is nearing overexposure, faceted furniture and prints make sense, according to New York designer Elaine Griffin.

"Purer and streamlined, the faceted silhouette is the stylistic descendant of geometrics — think geometrics deconstructed," she says.

The style, says Griffin, can be modern (the faceted Hearst Tower in New York City oozes architectural chic), primitive (think Grand Canyon) and vintage (Art Deco and the Cubists).

"Faceted shapes are intrinsically more visually appealing because, whether they're mirrored or not, they reflect more light," she says.

"A faceted element in a piece adds a stylish, decorative layer of dimension and surface interest without crossing over into the fussy, frilly or overdone."

The "gemstone" shape is especially attractive in reflective materials — mirror, glass, shiny metallics — where light plays off the planes. The look is clean, contemporary and luxe.

Yet in ceramic, wood or fabric, the polyhedron shape looks appealingly organic, as in honeycombs and cellular structures.

Wayfair's got faceted décor from



Associated Press/Lamps Plus

An ARteriors Home Drea Geometric table lamp has a faceted base.

several sources. Stacked, smoky, etched-glass facets make a smart-looking Borghese table. Imax's lemon-yellow ceramic Chantal vase has a chic modern look. ([wayfair.com](http://wayfair.com))

Faceted candlesticks from Godinger stack like crystal jewelry and would dress up a dining table. ([lampsplus.com](http://lampsplus.com))

At Target, a faceted cotton lampshade is available in sea blue, black and white. A silvery, faceted-glass column anchors a table lamp in the Xhilaration collection. ([target.com](http://target.com))

Capiz shells are hand-cut into facets and fitted into a wire frame to create a drum pendant lampshade available from West Elm. An angular side table is layered with antiqued mirror, making a useful little piece that could suit a formal or rustic space. ([westelm.com](http://westelm.com))

— Associated Press

### — Promising Product —

#### Screwdriver with super charger

The 4V MAX Lithium Pivot Screwdriver is perfect for DIY projects because the handle rotates 90 degrees to allow for either pistol-grip or inline orientations, making it easy to use in tight spaces. An included micro USB wall charger supplies the screwdriver with a charge rate that is up to four times greater than that of standard Black and Decker chargers. In addition, the screwdriver accepts any micro USB to USB charging cable (not included) and therefore can be charged from a variety of ports, including a computer with a USB outlet. It comes equipped with a bit holder and an extensive and convenient kit of popular accessories, including bits, screws, nails and even hooks and wire for picture frame hanging. It sells for \$39.99.



Courtesy photo

### — Green and Growing —

Plains coreopsis (Coreopsis tinctoria)

— This native beauty blooms all season long. Daisylike flowers are golden-yellow with dark red centers. It makes a great cut flower and attracts butterflies. Fine-textured foliage adds to its interest. It grows 2 to 4 feet tall and 12 to 18 inches wide in full sun. It tolerates heat, humidity and drought. Plains coreopsis is an annual and should be left to self-seed to ensure perpetuity.



Courtesy photo

### — Five Things to Do This Week —

1. Buy some potted mums for outdoor decor.
2. Arrange garage for easy access to winter items.
3. Dig new garden beds for next spring.
4. Apply herbicides to your lawn for winter annual or perennial weeds.
5. Collect seed from perennials and annuals.