

Adding on over the years, the Posts have doubled the size of their Fairway Drive home

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Skipper Post was a young architect in 1964 when he and his wife, Bryan, bought a lot off Fairway Drive for their first home. Over the decades, the Posts' home has grown right along with their family.

"I designed this little house, but we couldn't spend more than \$20,000 to build it," Skipper Post recalled.

The original house was so tiny that when the couple went to Union Federal Savings and Loan to borrow the money to build, Josie Camors, the savings and loan president, told them they needed to make their dining room bigger.

Even with the small dining room, the bids came in \$5,000 over budget.

"Skipper redesigned the house as a rectangle with the number of square feet we thought we could afford," Bryan Post said, "and we started building."

The Posts even left two bedrooms and a bathroom unfinished and completed only one of the bedrooms when their son, Ray, was born.

"We finished the second bedroom when our daughter, Wendy, was born and finished the second bath in 1973, as our growing family was too much for only one bathroom," Bryan Post said.

Over the 48 years the Posts have lived in their home, they have made additions and renovations, doubling the size of the house.

What started as a home with tiny, separate rooms is now a modern design with an open floor plan.

The small living room is now the foyer, and the dining room was divided to increase the size of the guest bedroom and to create a large pantry.

"Every room has a different ceiling," Bryan Post said. "When we built, we could only afford an 8-foot ceiling, but in the different renovations, we took out the low ceilings and raised them to the attic. By 1995, every ceiling had been raised into the attic."

One of the major changes came in 1974 when the Posts added a large den, a breakfast room, a study off the master bedroom and a garage.

The den was added where originally had been a porch along the back of the house. Skipper Post used aggregate finished with select pea gravel over the concrete slab for the den floor that now extends to the outside patio.

“Floors in the living area and kitchen are either waxed red bricks, original to the house, or exposed aggregate,” Bryan Post said.

As part of the many projects, the Posts added skylights and windows to allow for more light. They added a gable to raise the ceiling in a section of the combination den/dining room so they would have enough height for a breakfast.

“When we bought this property, it was a forest,” Skipper Post said. “We could not grow grass anywhere on this lot there were so many trees, but in the 48 years we have lived here, we have lost 10 or 12 big trees.”

“Two storms left trees on our den roof, so all of the skylights, ceiling and roof needed repair,” Bryan Post said.

After a tree fell on a skylight they had just replaced in the den, the couple installed a wood ceiling there.

Along one side of the den in a recessed area are large plants in pots, which are watered by an inside sprinkler system turned on with a flick of a switch.

In one of the most recent renovations, the Posts called in architect friend Kevin Harris for more updates to the home.

“I do mainly commercial,” Skipper Post said. “I told Kevin I needed an architect.”

“We needed an unbiased eye,” said Bryan Post, who taught math for many years at Baton Rouge High School.

The home is filled with clocks, Stickley furniture and other collections the Posts have acquired over years.

“I’m a boat maniac. A lot of our things are nautical,” Skipper Post said.

He is also an avid gardener, who designed his own landscaping and spends hours each week working in the yard.

The Posts love to entertain friends and family.

“When we added on and made everything open, we became the family entertainment center,” Bryan Post said.

“We have a lot of friends in multimillion-dollar homes, but they like our ‘camp.’ My friends don’t even fuss when I say we’re ‘under construction.’ That’s because we’re always under construction.”