

# THE ENCHANTED CORNER OF PINE

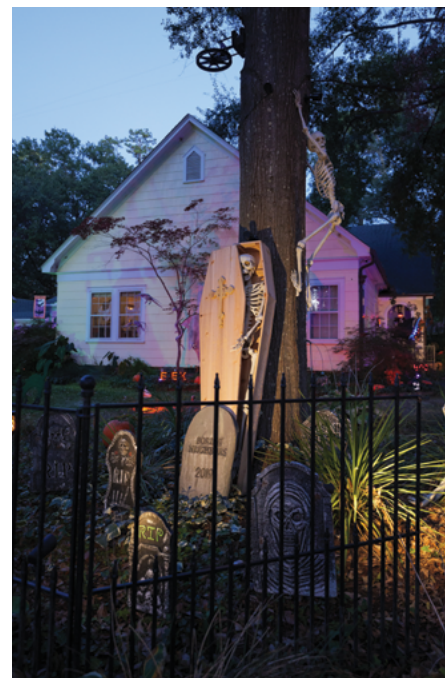
BY TIFFANY HORTON, HORTON DESIGN STUDIOS  
PHOTOS BY MATT CORNELIUS



The magic of Halloween is upon us and at the corner of Pine and West 31st Street, you'll find two families who work together each year to create a seasonal display that looks like it came straight from the set of *Hocus Pocus*. It's here that Sha and Patrick Quinn and Samantha and Jon Stokes will work up to Halloween day creating a bewitching wonderland for trick-or-treaters. "We start about the first of September," Patrick shares, "but keep adding as we find stuff. I even had a friend ask, 'When will you stop decorating?' and I told him, 'Halloween night.'"

The Quinns have been decorating for Halloween since they can remember, and specifically in this location since they bought the house in 1999. "Sha had been decorating [for Halloween] anyway and then Home Depot came out with the 12-foot skeletons," Patrick said mischievously. "We didn't get it the first year but made sure to get one the second year. Then [the Stokes] started decorating, and we just got obsessed with it."

For the Stokes, it started when they were house hunting. They were drawn to the charm of the area. "I remember when we started looking for a house. We knew we wanted to live over here, and we saw their house decorated with skeletons climbing up the side. We both commented, 'How



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cool is that?' It's funny that we then ended up being neighbors," laughed Samantha. Jon elaborates, "It was the middle of summer when we actually bought our house, but we remembered that they were the ones who decorate for Halloween and said to each other, 'Hey, that's the fun house!' So, when Halloween came up that year, we knew we had to do something. We started with the big inflatable pumpkin."

From there, the pair of neighbors has continued to grow their collection of decor. They spend all year with their eyes open for anything that could be added, and they even make some decorations themselves for a more personal look, like a collection of tombstones honoring Texarkana's bygone landmarks that Jon created. Overall, the focus on both yards is over-the-top family fun, sometimes a little scary, but never gory according to the Quinns and the Stokes. "When we first started, my mom was concerned. I told her it wasn't going to be scary, but then we got the 12' skeleton," said Jon. Concerned for the kids, Jon's mom had to be reassured. "They have been drawn to it!" he said.

Both couples are shocked when people all over town know where they live and comment on the decorations. Sha shared a memorable incident. "Once we were out to eat and talking about the decorations and this lady completely turns around and goes, 'You're the house on Pine with the big skelly and the dragon?' And I just couldn't believe someone in town knew our house like that. The lady even said that they drive by all the time and that it's her favorite house. After hearing this, we just knew that we wanted to start building it and



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get more. From there, it's grown into what it is." Samantha added her own experience, "At the doctor's office, someone asked, 'Are you near those houses that decorate?' and I just said, 'Yeah, we're one of those.' It's really so cool how many people enjoy coming by to see what we've done."

The neighbors are frequently asked if it's a competition between the two houses. "We actually work together," Patrick said. "Jon knew of a particular skeleton that I was looking for. We didn't have it here, but he saw it in Shreveport and brought it home for me. We do stuff like that all the time."

The decorations have become such a draw on Halloween night that the Quinns and the Stokes have decided to make two changes in logistics this year. "We're getting the street shut off. We talked to the city, and they said they would barricade it for us. We have so much foot traffic that we were kind of worried last year, so this should make it much safer. We just may need some volunteers to make sure the barricades don't get moved," Samantha said with a laugh. Sha added, "And since we've started decorating, more and more houses near us do too, which adds even more people."

The second big change is that they will be raising money this year for the local charity, For the Sake of One. "We had seen in a Halloween Facebook group that people

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had set up displays where you could donate money for a cause. I thought, 'How cool would that be?' As we stood outside last year, people would comment about how they felt like they should give us some money towards everything. But that's not why we do it," Jon explained. "But to use it as a way to raise money for a local charity? We liked that, and if all these cars and people do just a little bit, that could be kind of a big thing. It's a goofy thing that we're going to do anyway, but to give it a purpose is pretty cool."

Through their boundless creativity, unwavering dedication, and some help from their kids, the Quinns and the Stokes transform their quiet corner into a captivating Halloween display. It's proof that shared passion and collaboration can make a difference. As they continue to weave their Halloween magic, come by, and experience it firsthand! And, if you can, contribute to their charitable cause. It's a bewitching blend of whimsy and goodwill that builds community, and it is sure to put you in the mood for Halloween. ①