

# SEATTLE STREET of DREAMS®

## NEWS ON THE STREET



John Heller, Patricia Heller, Cathy McVey & Irma Sikma

Newsletter—April 2006

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### What's New at Dodd Ranch?

For the first time, the exterior architectural styles of this year's Street homes can be interpreted. Some of the styles can be described as "Casual Lodge", "Contemporary Prairie", "Santa Barbara Mission", "East Coast Manor", "European Country", and a "Casual Northwest". These

homes are absolutely awesome and will dazzle you in every way imaginable when you tour them this summer. Home sizes range in size from 5,500 to almost 10,000 square feet!



Insite Home's Entry In 2006 Show

The Dodd Ranch private security gate design is almost finalized, the entry "gatehouse" is in for permit, and the entry landscaping plan is set. Only four months to go before Dodd Ranch is transformed into one of the most exclusive addresses in Puget Sound. Hope to see you this summer!

---John Heller

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS!**

**2006 Seattle Street of  
Dreams at Dodd Ranch at  
Allen Lake**

**JULY 15 to  
AUGUST 20, 2006**

### Some Inside Scoop From The Interior Designers

Last week at our annual interior designer luncheon, I had a chance to query each of the interior design teams with the following question: "**What do you think are the two greatest trends in the residential interior design field today?**" Each designer was asked this question separately and independently. The stunning result is that every designer answer's was exactly the same! Yes, all six Street of Dreams designer teams answers were identical. Their response? Luxury homes are being furnished and designed with a *greater emphasis on casual living*; and the furnishings are *eclectic in nature*. So there you have it... *Casual eclectic is not only hot...it's white hot... and black hot, and red hot, and green hot....* Although the themes are different in every Street house this year, you won't be seeing a lot of formality and matching end tables!

- John Heller



2006 Seattle Street of Dreams Interior Designers  
Enjoy Their Luncheon

## Irma Sikma To Celebrate 25 Years!



Irma—1984

This summer, Irma Sikma will celebrate 25 years with us! She began her career as an administrative assistant for The Heller Company Realtors in 1981 when interest rates were over 18% and jobs were hard to come by. But as a new graduate from the University of Illinois, it was evident that there was something very special about Irma. In 1983, we created this idea called 'The Seattle Street of Dreams' not knowing if anyone would consider attending our event. In 1984 our first show debuted to fabulous reviews, and the rest is history.

As our only Show Director, "Irms" has enjoyed an incredible journey along the way. It has been an honor and privilege to have worked alongside this most incredible woman. She's been described as a 'Rock Star', 'Super Woman', and just plain 'Incredible' by so many people over the years. Always wanting to please others, Irma is a faithful employee and friend to many. For a little insight into the professional life of Irma Sikma, we posed a few questions to her the other day. Here are her responses. *From all of us at the Street, 'Congratulations and Thanks' for everything you do and who you are!*

- John, Patricia, & Cathy.

**What is it like to be the only Show Director the "Street" has ever had?** First, I feel proud...I feel "ownership" in my position. I love what I do and it has been my "baby". I've grown up with the show. I've learned every step of the way and I feel it is a big part of who I am and a part of my identity. I've always taken great pride in my position and invested my "heart and soul". I would like to believe my efforts and my energy have been a small part in the event's success.

**Is there a particular Street that stands out as your favorite?** Yes, the first Street of Dreams (1984) in Brookside Country Club. I guess it's my favorite since it was our first event. Everyone and everything was new. The excitement and success was contagious. Opening Night was a proud moment !!

**What is the most interesting aspect of your job?** The variety of tasks. I am responsible for most everything to do with the event (permits, logistics, personnel, communication, advertising, etc). There's never a dull moment and every year, every show site has new challenges.

**How have you changed over the years?** Let's see...I'm a little older and hopefully a little wiser, but as for change, I don't think I've changed much professionally. I feel my goals have always been to make sure every one involved in the event, whether it be one of our sponsors, one of our participants

or one of the attendees, feels good about their involvement with the "Street", that they walk out with a positive feeling about their experience.

**Any really funny memories/stories that you can share?** I don't know if this is really funny or not, but it's kinda fun to think back about the first "Street" in 1984 and where the home prices have gone. I will never forget how everyone attending the show, kept looking at the houses and thinking..."Who buys these houses, who could EVER afford one of these houses"...and that first year, the Street of Dreams home prices started at \$269,000. Boy, have we come a long way !

**What is the fondest memory that you can recall with your job?** The camaraderie and support I received from all the builders in the first Street of Dreams. I was young, pregnant with my first child and all the builders seemed to want to "look after me". One of the builders, Roger Montgomery, took the time to build me a cradle. I was shocked !! He presented it to me at the end of the show. My daughter, who was born that fall slept in that cradle as well as my three other children. I still have it today with the hopes to

someday have my grandchildren sleep there as well.

**What "Street House" was your personal favorite and why?** Wow...that's like asking me to pick my favorite chocolate. I have liked all the houses. Even though there have been ones that aren't my "style" or ones I could not see for myself, I have always been able to find something unique or something I like in every one. It's always fun to walk through the houses with the builder, designer or architect and they will show you what they are proud of and it makes you understand how it is special.

**What part of your job do you enjoy the most?** That's easy...the people. I love developing relationships. I've enjoyed the opportunity of working with many of the same people over the years. I hear about their families, their interests, what makes them happy. Everyone I've worked with has taught me something about life and it's been great.



Irma—1985



Irma—1987



Irma—2005

## Six Hot New Trends in Kitchen Cabinet Designs

Planning a new house, or considering a remodel? Congratulations! The amount of custom cabinetry options available for your kitchen has never been greater. In fact, you don't need to limit your choices to the kitchen. Cabinetry is often used in other rooms to increase storage and maintain the home's visual flow. Many larger homes even feature secondary kitchens near media or bonus rooms. Following are some of the trends to consider when designing your new space.

**Mix it Up.** Mixing colors and styles was uncommon even ten years ago. Now you may see painted cabinetry paired with stained wood, or dark cabinetry used to accent lighter shades. The use of glaze colors such as chocolate, licorice, pewter, suede and vanilla offer even more opportunities to mix up the color palette. Finish enhancements such as distressing, sand-through and burnishing are used throughout the home.



**Functional Furniture.** Legs, feet, columns and corbels are often used to create the look of fine furniture. Staggering the heights on a wall of cabinets and "bumping out" a sink cabinet can add to the look of freestanding furniture. Fitting the base cabinets and range hoods with decorative accents is another popular option.



**Island Life.** Once a luxury, islands have become firmly established in our kitchens. A cook who loves to entertain may have the range top in the island and include seating for guests. Warming drawers, small sinks, second dishwashers and wine coolers are common features. Multiple heights allow an island to be used for serving and prep work, or to act as a visual barrier in an open floor plan. Islands frequently feature a different door style or stain color than the rest of the room.

**Stow and Show.** The one thing we all want is storage, and lots of it. The trend now is towards organized storage, with corner cabinets, pull-out shelves, drawer dividers, recycling centers and pantry cabinets. Designers today are making use of all available space.

Kitchens seem to be the gathering place for family and friends, and display areas are increasingly popular. Plate racks, open shelves, and wine racks add visual interest without sacrificing storage. Glass doors are a great accent when used over a peninsula or on a few select wall cabinets. Options such as stained or etched glass and panels with decorative materials sandwiched between sheets of acrylic provide further opportunities for personalization.

**Appliances Rule.** The trend toward entertaining at home has definitely impacted our appliance choices – we want them to look as good as they function. Stainless steel is very popular, and the demand for commercial-grade appliances continues to rise. At the same time, panels that match the cabinetry allow modern appliances to blend into an old-world style kitchen. Warming drawers, refrigerator drawers, and dishwasher drawers are commonly requested items.

**The "Wow" Factor.** Every design should have one detail that makes the homeowner, and their guests, say "wow." Savvy designers can make the most of a homeowner's budget by specifying an exotic material in a very prominent area, and substituting a less-expensive option somewhere else. Adding beaded panels inside open shelves, layers of crown mouldings to the top of cabinets, and pendant lighting over an island all boost the level of detail in a room.

**Universal Design.** A developing movement is the desire to create an "ageless" home, by specifying convenience items for family members of any age or physical ability. Raised dishwasher cabinets, lowered countertops, pull-out shelves, and faucets with levers instead of knobs make tasks easier for everyone. Hardwood floors, wider doorways, and lower light switches are other common considerations.



In the end, well-designed, well-constructed rooms, filled with the colors, materials and belongings that are important to the homeowner, fulfill the biggest trend of all – creating a warm, welcoming, personalized home.

**CANYON CREEK**  
Cabinet Company

Article Courtesy of Canyon Creek Cabinet Company

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## Cathy McVey Celebrates 15 Years !



We are proud to announce that Cathy McVey, the Street's Show Administrator and key organizer of virtually everything we do recently celebrated her 15th anniversary with us! *What is Cathy's favorite Street of Dreams memory?* Answer: "Giving birth to my son Gary smack in the middle of the '99 Show. Marty and I had actually planned to have this event (having a baby) take place after the show, but Gary had a different idea by coming 3 weeks early." **Congratulations again Cathy. You are awesome.**

---John, Patricia & Irma.

### We're Looking For Land or Finished Lots!

Where should the Street of Dreams be located in 2007?

**WE'RE EVALUATING SITES SO GIVE US A CALL OR DROP US A NOTE .**

Call John Heller at 425-985-2405

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## Many Thanks To Our Wonderful Sponsors



### ON-LINE REFERRALS

**Have You Ever Been Involved In A Past Street of Dreams?**

Thousands of show patrons contact us each year requesting referrals or leads for different subcontractors, suppliers or vendors. If you have participated in the Seattle Street of Dreams in the past (or current year) and would like to be added to this elite list, please contact [info@seattlestreetofdreams.com](mailto:info@seattlestreetofdreams.com) for more information.