

with climbing vines, the waterfall feeds into a small pond that then feeds into a tiled streambed that leads into yet another pond. In the middle of the second pond rests a large sculpture of a golfer. It reflects Reaves' love of the sport, and she aptly named it "Playing Through." A small footbridge, with iron railings custom designed to depict the branches of a tree, provides easy access over the streambed to the unattached garage.

The backyard now effectively captures the look and feel of a well-planned Asian garden, and has provided Reaves with an "escape" she enjoys coming home to every day. "I was trying to create an atmosphere where I could really relax," she says. "I wanted people to forget they were in a condo environment as soon as they stepped through the gate."

Of course the downside to creating such a beautiful backyard was that suddenly Reaves felt compelled to extend the look to the inside of her home, too. So she started on her kitchen first.

Many people would shy away from all the work involved in a kitchen remodel, but one of Reaves' responsibilities as President and CEO of River City Bank is the interior design of new branch offices, a part of her job that she thoroughly enjoys. Although she has no formal training as an interior designer, her strong sense of color, style and design trends has helped her create individually decorated offices that each reflect the unique neighborhoods they serve. These talents, and a little help from the professionals at **Poggenpohl Kitchens** helped her completely transform a small, utilitarian kitchen into a sleek, modern area where convenience is key.

The biggest change came when Reaves decided to knock out a wall and move the water heater to an upstairs location. This changed the configuration of the kitchen and increased the space available, opening up a large area under the stairs that could be used for functional, decorative storage and a new home for the refrigerator. The slate used on the patio outside was carried into the kitchen floor, but enhanced by highly reflective black granite tile around the room's perimeter. Black granite also dresses up the counter tops and Reaves even found an artist out of Woodland who etched an Asian mountain scene on the granite back splash. The painted walls in the kitchen are faux finished with metallic overtones, and a pair of pendent lamps offer a contemporary and practical lighting solution. Reaves chose rich cherry wood tone cabinets from Poggenpohl that not only provide convenient storage for all of her kitchen necessities, but hide the appliances as well. "I'm one of those people who doesn't like things sitting out," admits Reaves. "So the only appliance that you see is the oven. You can't even see the metal trim around the refrigerator." Not only does Reaves have a full sized refrigerator/freezer, but she also has an under the counter refrigerator with pullout drawers and a wine cooler. All of her appliances are also from Poggenpohl. The sleek, contemporary look is completed with fixtures from The Plumbery.

Reaves liked the Poggenpohl cabinets so much that she used one in a high gloss black lacquer finish for a buffet in her dining room, too. The felt-lined drawers for silverware storage, and pullout drawers for stacked dishes keep everything within arm's reach when she's entertaining, says Reaves.

The dining room and living room are done in shades of purple accented by black and white. Reaves' own creative touches can be seen throughout the rooms, like the modern ceiling light fixture she crafted from foam. In the living room an entire wall is dedicated to a contemporary shelving unit she designed that combines both open and hidden storage. Throughout both rooms, paintings, vases and even an authentic kimono reflect Reaves' interest in Asian artifacts. "I like finding unusual things," says Reaves. "I was actually surprised by how much Asian I brought out in this remodel, because the overall look is really very contemporary."

Reaves remained true to her design style throughout the entire first floor of her home, creating an easy sense of continuity from room to room. Unfortunately, she estimates we'll have to wait another 9 months before we can see what she accomplishes with the upstairs portion, but we have a feeling it will reflect the same sense of elegant comfort we've already experienced downstairs. **GIR**