



(Show)house party

Art league's 2009 Showhouse is open for viewing and tours through March 29 < **PAGES 8-9**



Janelle Montenegro / For the Arizona Daily

in Museum of Art League's Barbara Calder talks with guests about the 2009 showhouse's great room, which was put together by several designers.

IS GALORE

le authors – one of them local – will meet
at Brandeis book event next week

REEDS WE DON'T NEED

Volunteers turn out to help dig out invasive, giant
reeds in Sabino Canyon

P3

LOST SEMIFINAL

Foothills boys' basketball tied in the fourth quarter
of the state semifinal but didn't hold onto it

P10

> UPDA

Show



Paul O'Connor checks out the patio outside the 2009 showhouse at Rancho Merita. The home originally belonged to Merle Norman.



Bobbi O'Connor of the Tucson Museum of Art League opens doors onto a view of the newly designed kitchen veranda, designed by Amy Maddock.



Designer Amy Maddock, right, talks with a visitor about the kitchen veranda she designed for the 2009 Tucson Museum of Art League showhouse.



Showhouse visitors pass through a breezeway that

ATED FORMER HOME OF COSMETICS LEGEND IS FOCUS OF TUCSON MUSEUM OF ART

house features art,



Photos by Janelle Montenegro / For the Arizona Daily Star

incorporates recycled materials, such as the pillows on the couch. The showhouse is open Tuesday through Sunday through March 29.

ART LEAGUE'S BIENNIAL FUNDRAISER <

, new design



The Tucson Museum of Art League's Barbara Calder, right, talks to visitors about the newly designed kitchen and breakfast nook composed by designers Christy Martin and Jan O'Brien.

By Janelle Montenegro

SPECIAL TO THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

The Tucson Museum of Art League's Designer Showhouse for 2009 is located at Rancho Merlita, 8520 E. Wrightstown Road.

Every other year, the league showcases a house for five weeks in the spring. This year's event kicked off Feb. 21 and runs through March 29.

Rancho Merlita was originally built for cosmetics legend Merle Norman by her brother and has a history of being the site of lavish parties for scores of Hollywood luminaries and socialites over the years.

Now owned by architect Diana Osborne and her husband John, the house has been revamped with the help of 25 other designers, each responsible for a certain area, such as the entryway, master suite, breakfast patio, landscaping and the like.

Additions have been made to

the house since the original construction, yet the house still preserves some of the original features such as flagstone flooring throughout and an indoor barbecue on the original stone fireplace in the great room.

The house still has two outside studios behind it in addition to the guest house located in front of the main house.

The showhouse features a gift shop filled with local artists' work for sale. The money raised from the showhouse event supports the Tucson Museum of Art.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at the showhouse door and include daily activities such as cooking demonstrations and designer guest speakers.

Go online to www.tucsonmuseumofart.org/showhouse for more information.

► *Janelle Montenegro is a Tucson freelance photographer.*

Hours

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Tuesday through
Saturday (closed
Monday).

Noon to 4 p.m.
Sunday

Events this weekend

11 a.m. Friday:
Cooking demonstration with Chef Daniel Scordato of Vivace.

11 a.m. Saturday:
Cooking demonstration with Chef Jeff Fuld of Elle Wine Country Restaurant.

1:30 p.m. Sunday:
DesignSpeak presentation, "Outdoor Living Your Way," by Amy Maddock of The Garden Studio.