



If it's not a marriage made in heaven, it may be the next best thing. Aerospace engineer Courtland Bivens III spent more than 18 years at NASA, where he patented numerous aeronautical inventions. Today, while his colleagues are golfing, the retired colonel and deputy chief engineer of flight testing spends weekends devising ingenious millwork, molding and ceiling creations. His wife, Regina Lynch-Hudson, is a successful publicist. Together, the left- and right-brained duo have designed the Daffodil Villa, a daffodil-yellow manor in Roswell, Georgia, just outside Atlanta, that harmoniously blends their extremely different tastes and passions.

Yellow, according to Lynch-Hudson is a color associated with  
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The façade of the Daffodil Villa features European awnings and classic black lions. A lipstick-red dining room (below) stands out in the otherwise yellow-dominated house.

# A Masterful Collaboration

Aerospace engineer Courtland Bivens III and his publicist wife, Regina Lynch-Hudson, transformed a foreclosed European-style house in Roswell, Ga., into a colorful home/office showcase they call "the Daffodil Villa." They are now building a wine room and are replacing their gallery-level ceiling with solid brass panels. A banana yellow "keeping room" is accessorized in cheetah motif on everything from pillows to window treatments.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARTHUR USHERSON/THE WRITE PUBLICIST & CO.



NASA inventor and his publicist wife create DRAMATIC SHOWCASE



## MASTERFUL COLLABORATION *Continued*

laughter, happiness, good times and creative energy. It's an effective hue for the marketer to surround herself. So Bivens abandoned his practical, middle-of-the-road, blue-gray tendencies to turn a run-down foreclosure into a lively thinkpad for his wife. "She's the mastermind, and I implement her ideas," Bivens told TV producers recently. "I handled the renovation the way I handle a PR campaign; every detail was calibrated and deliberate," Lynch-Hudson says of the nine-month reconstruction project.

So what makes this yellow European-style villa so special? A story on the front page of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Living section said, "The meticulously designed 6,000-square-foot home stands out among its builder-beige neighbors like a dollop of butter in a bowl of oatmeal." But it was the couple's rare ability to compromise that made it work. They agree that they are the perfect balance of ying and yang. And Bivens' eye-for-perfection and Lynch-Hudson's flair for over-the-top drama yielded a unique artistic design.



The masterful collaboration begins at the entryway. There's a 20-foot faux-rock wall, installed by Bivens, a double-spiral staircase, majestic chandelier, Corinthian columns, baby grand piano and black, gold and copper carousel horse—all reminiscent of an old Hollywood movie set. Four fireplaces and a formal dining room in lipstick red add to the home's luxurious atmosphere.

The textured Venetian plaster dining room walls were applied by Lynch-Hudson. A four-inch black molding or "ribbon" bordering the room's ceiling—a signature motif throughout—was crafted and installed by Bivens. Lynch-Hudson added hand-painted, high-gloss black mirrors. Posh cheetah-print chairs and window treatments surround a sleek black lacquer table. "With a little coaxing I even convinced him to let me cover an antique chair (a chair he inherited from his godfather)," says Lynch-Hudson. It was her turn to give when Bivens tore up the dining room ceiling for four months to inlay 800 medallions constructed from molds.

In fact, the couple's contrasting personalities and pursuits are

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A double spiral staircase, reminiscent of an old Hollywood movie set, is what instantly sold the couple on the house. Original paintings (left) and other artwork are evident throughout the home. A computerized baby grand piano (below) in the great room fills the home with jazz tunes.



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The centerpiece of the master suite is an Old World black wrought-iron bed. Below, the master bath suite reflects the motif of luxury hotels Bivens and Lynch-Hudson have visited, with monogrammed bathrobes and "Daffodil Villa" logos on towels.



Bivens and Lynch-Hudson, in front of their lipstick-red dining room. He crafted the ceiling from 800 medallions. She applied Venetian plaster to the walls and painted.



## MASTERFUL COLLABORATION *Continued*

reflected throughout the house. An authentic Roman general's helmet, designed exclusively for Bivens by an armorer in England, is part of a collection that embraces his love of world history and his West Point training. Medieval swords are more signs of Bivens' love of lore, battle and chivalry. But along with his interest in knights and warriors from the Dark Ages, Lynch-Hudson lightened things up with her love of the mystical, enchanting and whimsical.

The harmonious partnership is ever-present in bedrooms—where bedding and linen are the classic ivory of luxurious resorts the couple has visited. Their initials and emblem, Daffodil Villa, are imprinted on satin pillows, waffle-weave bathrobes and plush towels. The master suite mimics Mediterranean Revival Style with travertine tile flooring and an Old World black wrought-iron bed. The guest room is bright yellow with a high-gloss black four-poster bed, a collection of black mirrors in varied sizes and a large-scale painting of a nude diva wearing only a feathered mask.

Modernist yellow and black leather sofas sit on black-and-white marble floors in the parlor and home office. Four top-lit Corinthian

columns and canned lighting (installed by Bivens) illuminate large-scale original works.

Among them is a sensual oil painting by Clara Harkavy titled *Regina Reclining*, featuring the lady of the house dressed in a fire-engine red gown with red fox fur boa, lounging across an elegant antique fainting sofa.

"Every woman needs three indulgences as she approaches 50—a red convertible Jag, a rich night cream and a portrait that captures her completely in her element," says Lynch-Hudson. "I'll settle for a good night's sleep and a glass of Chateau Le Pin," laughs Bivens. He is in the process of building a wine room in the house.

—Sylvester Monroe

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