

# Bachelor pad on the bayou

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By Sue Mayfield Geiger



*Photos by Kevin Cox*

*Van Goodgame has completely transformed the white brick ranch-style home on Dickinson Bayou he purchased in 2005. The cement-paver patio has ample seating for lots of company.*

**When Van Goodgame's house in Seabrook was destroyed by fire seven years ago, he picked up the pieces and started looking around for a new home. Nothing seemed**

to interest him, but he continued to look. His Realtor ran across a good deal in Dickinson and sent Goodgame a photo of the house. Goodgame wasn't impressed.

"The house was listed at below market value, and I could see why," he said. "So, I told my Realtor 'no way' and to keep searching." Goodgame kept house shopping while his Realtor continued to encourage him to at least take a quick look at the Dickinson property. The answer was always, "no." The Realtor would not give in and finally called Goodgame from the house one afternoon. "Look, I'm at that house right now — just give me five minutes," she said. Goodgame gave in and told her: "OK, but just five minutes!"

The white brick, ranch-style house on Dickinson Bayou was overgrown with weeds and brush. "You could not see the front door from the street and you couldn't even see the bayou due to the woods," Goodgame said. "But the minute I walked in the door, I knew it was the house for me. I saw everything that I wanted to do to it, because it had amazing potential." The first thing he did was clear the underbrush. Next, he ripped out the blue carpet and blue Formica kitchen countertops.



Longleaf pine floors were installed throughout the house, except for the bathrooms where slate was laid. Pella windows came next. “I had the help of architect Holly Larsen, who made some great design changes,” Goodgame said.



The kitchen walls were removed to give the living area and kitchen an open effect. Cherry wood cabinets and stainless steel Thermador appliances added the finishing touches. Contractor Bob Pahlka did most of the renovations with Lisa Purdy doing the interior decorating. The 2,500-square-foot house has two bedrooms and two baths. A third bedroom functions as a wine room in the house, which is on three-quarters of an acre and still is a work in progress. The house was built in 1997. Goodgame bought it in 2005. Since then, he’s filled it with massive furniture from North Carolina and enjoys relaxing in the wine room, which includes a wine closet full of imported and domestic wines. The wine humidor keeps them at a cool and constant 57 degrees.

The living area’s focal point is a floor-to-ceiling fireplace made of native stone, which was originally white brick. Recessed ceilings add a nice touch to this impressive “bachelor pad” and a series of tall windows provide a larger-than-life view of Dickinson Bayou. A color palette of brown and beige flow throughout the house.



Another focal point is the Jonathan Charles Buckingham round-to-oval mahogany dining table. A card table for playing games and chess sits nearby.



“I like openness and everything to flow,” said Goodgame, who is opposed to fenced yards. “I don’t like boundaries. Goodgame said he was mainly attracted to the area because of its natural feel and that it gives his black Labrador, Jazz, freedom to roam.



The cement-paver patio has ample seating for company. The backyard slopes down to the bayou and wetlands, where Goodgame keeps his 22-foot Mariah.

Goodgame has a degree in marine biology, which is probably where he gets his love of the water, he said. “I’m a sailor, diver, wine enthusiast, traveler, businessman and adventurous person,” he said. (More photos next page)



*Van Goodgame enjoys sipping vino in his wine room (converted from a third bedroom) that includes a wine closet full of imported and domestic wines. The wine humidor keeps them at a cool and constant 57 degrees.*



*A card table for playing games and chess sits between the dining and living rooms in Van Goodgame's Dickinson home.*