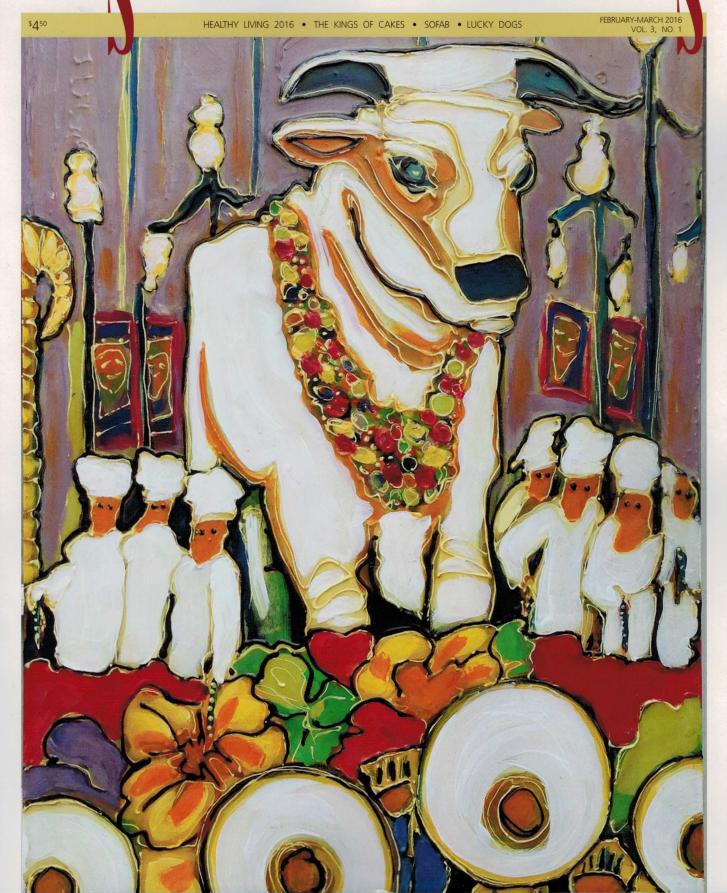
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by Anne Honeywell

ANA DE AGUIAR AND HER HUSBAND, Jose Veras-Pola, were driving around New Orleans over 10 years ago and felt drawn to their Uptown property the first time they saw it. Five years later, they made it their own. "We were living in the Warehouse District, and we needed more space," says Ana.

Originally from the Dominican Republic, these two physicians fell in love with New Orleans and moved from New York to the Big Easy 14 years ago. The coveted oversized lot (which is actually three-and-a-half lots) and house were originally part of Dogwood Plantation.

"This was the administrator's home," says Ana. "We absolutely loved the house, and only cosmetic changes were needed to make it the perfect home." She enlisted the talents of her favorite designer, Penny Francis, and they went to work straight away. "Penny is so resourceful. Anything you need or want, she can find you excellent options, any of which could work. Working with Penny is always fun. We have worked together on several projects, and I can always count on Penny to be so positive and uplifting."

Francis, Associate ASID, IIDA, is the owner of Eclectic Home on Opposite page: The Oak Street. "I have been working with Ana and Jose on this project from the beginning. They moved in five years ago, and we are like a stunning Ashley family now," laughs Francis. "They are very busy people, and this >> Longshore painting.

master retreat features

