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## Life in the Fairhope Castle

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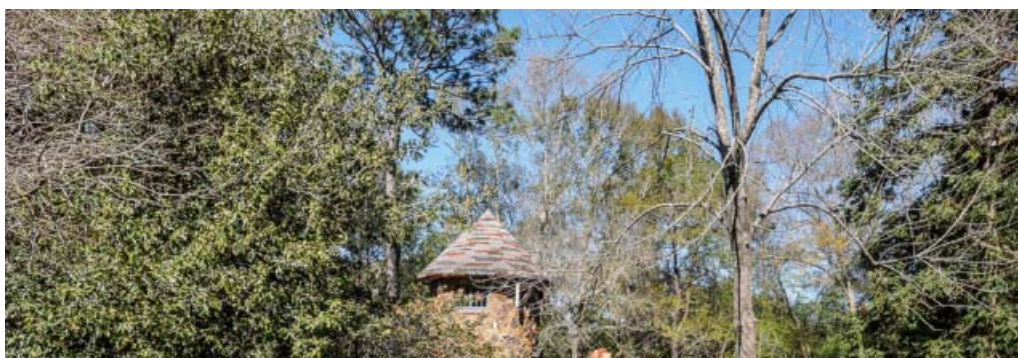




Meet Dean and Pagan Mosher, designers, dreamers, builders and occupants of Fairhope's most famous house . . . or more correctly, most famous castle.



For the past few years, I've served on the board of directors of the [Eastern Shore Art Center](#), and have recently been in charge of membership. In order to promote what fun it is to be a member, (wheee!) we have decided to organize special "members only" field trips and excursions, so here I am in my [new red shoes](#) welcoming everyone. It was a fun group of about 25 people who were all interested in the local history and architecture of the Fairhope Castle.Â







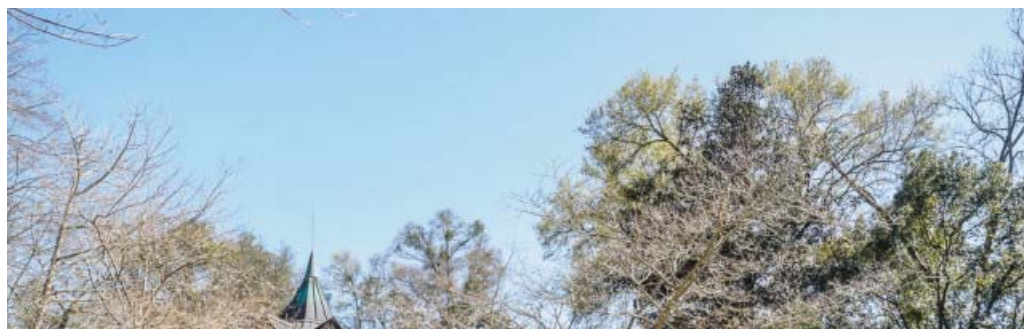
There are actually two castles, fondly referred to as “story book” castles. One built by Pagan’s late father, artist and writer Craig Sheldon, who named Pagan after the pagans he spent time with during the war. He said they were the nicest, most Christian people he had ever met – and that’s only one of the many, many stories that surround this fascinating family.



When she’s not busy nibbling her curds and whey and waving her magic wand, Pagan, is also the co-director of [The Creative Outlet Dance Center](#). She told us how it was always interesting growing up in such a creative home (which is now called the Sheldon Castle) and how her father would have the children bring stones back with them when they would walk down to swim in Mobile Bay. Each stone was worked into the house design which evolved over time. This house is where Pagan’s sister Megrez now lives. She was named after a favorite star Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon would look at each night when they were separated during war time. You may also recognize that name as belonging to Pagan and Dean’s daughter, Megrez Mosher, who I told you about [HERE](#).



The front door was carved by Mr. Sheldon and autographed by famous artists, politicians, and other interesting folks who visited him.







Years later, Dean and Pagan began construction on this castle of their own just across the lawn, and over the fairy tale bridge (I call it the Billy Goats Gruff Bridge – one of my favorite fairy tales). This home is known as the Mosher Castle.



When not tending to castle duties like shoohing out the dragons or sweeping up the pixie dust, Dean is a world renowned artist with works hanging in The Smithsonian as well as several other museums and major universities.





His paintings and sculptures are known for their historical and natural details. Dean's intense research has led him to work on several films and he told us about firing a real cannon in order to be able to paint a scene accurately. That's just one example of his major dedication to detail and why Dean is in such demand.



Here we are in the kitchen looking at the beautiful handmade table. The built-in china cabinet in the background was made by Dean for Pagan as a Christmas gift. It has a beautiful asymmetrical pattern in the door. Each light fixture, mantle, hearth, and bookcase has a wonderful story behind it.







Here's the nautical influenced kitchen table that looks out on the "drawbridge" front door.





Up in the turret, where Rapunzel lives (you can really see her hair hanging out the window this weekend during The Arts and Crafts Festival) is my favorite spot. It's a beautiful view of the kingdom with all the rooflines giving a magical feel to the balcony where a cool breeze blows. Dean designed, cut, sanded, painted and installed all of the woodwork which mimics the surrounding tree branches and roots.



The top of the turret is mesmerizing . . .







as are the winding stairs that lead to the princess perch. (There's also a prince living in the castle. More on [Cleveland Mosher](#) another time).

I



If you're in Fairhope, the Moshers are always gracious hosts to those who want to photograph the outside of their house, and by contacting them through [their web site](#), you can make arrangements to have a tour of the interior.







Upon closer inspection to the exterior, you can see fragments and mementoes of special items, some beautiful, some quirky, all interesting, melded into the exterior walls that protect our local story book family. There's so much more to see than what I've been able to show you. I hope someday you'll be able to tour this magical home for yourself.



**A big thank you** to the Moshers for allowing our group to tour their amazing home, and more thanks to them for being such tireless contributors to Fairhope's thriving art scene. If anyone deserves the royal treatment, they certainly do.

\*

For more information on [The Fairhope Castle](#), visit their web site [HERE](#).

For information on becoming a member of the [Eastern Shore Art Center](#), so you can join us on our next trip, click [HERE](#).

\*

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## Comments



Emily says

March 16, 2016 at 10:12 am

Leslie Anne, I really enjoyed seeing this dwelling, how fascinating! It looks exactly like a fairy tale castle. Thanks for including the link, I would love to take a tour or at least tour the grounds.

Hope you have a great weekend with the arts and crafts festival. I wanted to come but timing was off. I'll look forward to you telling all about it.



Leslie Anne says

March 16, 2016 at 11:19 am

It looks like it's going to be a wet weekend, so I hope the festival isn't washed out. You'll definitely love seeing the castle, so hurry down another time!



Rachel says

March 16, 2016 at 12:34 pm

I loved your tour through the Castle. Now I have another reason to come to Fairhope! What an interesting, creative family.



Leslie Anne says

March 16, 2016 at 2:13 pm

It's such a surprise to drive past and see it for the first time. You'll love it when you see it in person.



Margaret Neely says

March 16, 2016 at 1:11 pm

Leslie Ann,  
Mike and I thoroughly enjoyed the tour – such a treat to see the castles and meet the Moshers! Thanks so much!



Margaret Neely



Leslie Anne says  
March 16, 2016 at 2:14 pm

I was so glad you were able to be there. It was a fun crowd and not too rowdy of a bunch! Hope to see you on future tours!



Pam Richardson says  
March 16, 2016 at 3:09 pm

Wow, how interesting and thanks for the tour! Next time I come to Fairhope I need to contact them !



Leslie Anne says  
March 16, 2016 at 7:10 pm

Put on your Cinderella dress and come on down!



Jenna says  
March 16, 2016 at 5:53 pm

wow, even a drawbridge! Thank you for the tour, amazing story, talent and family!



Leslie Anne says  
March 16, 2016 at 7:10 pm

Any good house worth a thing will have a drawbridge to keep the riff-raff out.



Marsha Cannon says  
March 16, 2016 at 6:10 pm

Oh so magical! In all of my visits to Fairhope I have never known about this. Next time I'll be sure to visit.



Leslie Anne says  
March 16, 2016 at 7:12 pm

It's funny, because the castles are in a fairly obvious place downtown, but they are tucked back beneath a magical forrest, so they are difficult to see. Keep searching!



Shelia says  
March 16, 2016 at 7:50 pm

HI Little Bitty Pretty One! You're really rocking those red shoes! 😊 Oh, this house looks so magical! What fun too. I would love to tour it and I'm sure it has some stories to tell too! I was looking at the home owners cute little knees. Every since I got busted and chopped, I'm always looking at knees! 😊

Be a sweetie,  
Shelia 😊



Leslie Anne says  
March 16, 2016 at 8:10 pm

Pagan's a dancer, so she has exceptional knees and legs! Not that I stare or anything, but you know . . .

Hope your knee is on the mend and you can dance around soon!



Laura Ingalls Gunn says  
March 17, 2016 at 8:16 am

Oh I just cannot get over this wonderful house Leslie! You should share this wonderful post



at Thoughts of Home on Thursday. Have a very Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Leslie Anne says  
March 17, 2016 at 8:46 am

Good idea. I'll see if I can shoot it over there sometime today!



SANDY HILL says  
March 17, 2016 at 12:52 pm

Leslie, what a wonderful introduction to one of Fairhope's unique homes!

Your commentary summed the tour up perfectly and the photos were superb.

I'm so glad that I joined the Art Center and am looking forward to many more delightful experiences!

Sandy



Leslie Anne says  
March 17, 2016 at 3:03 pm

Sandy, I'm so glad you're part of the art center. It's a great group of people and I hope you can join us on the next excursion!



Stacey says  
March 17, 2016 at 12:52 pm

Leslie Anne, your little town is just really special. I hope to get there one of these days.

I didn't realize until today that you had changed blogs! I wondered where you went and here you are sporting cute red tennie shoes! 😊

Thank you for joining us at Thoughts of Home on Thursday. Love having you.



Leslie Anne says



March 17, 2016 at 3:03 pm

Hey Stacey! I've just changed the name of the blog, but it's still the same old me! So glad you found me and I'm glad you liked the castle tour!



Marigene says

March 18, 2016 at 5:01 pm

What an interesting home...thanks for the tour. It looks like it would be a fun place to live. Visiting from Thoughts of Home. Have a great weekend.



Dewena says

March 23, 2016 at 12:31 pm

This is fabulous! I'm in love with every detail but especially the turret room and the view out over all the roof lines. And you're just darling, Leslie Anne, in your new red fairy tale slippers! I loved the tour!



Leslie Anne says

March 23, 2016 at 8:12 pm

Thanks Dewena. Glad you liked the tour, and I hope to see you back and blogging soon!



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*I live in Alabama and write a column for the Press Register and AL.com. You'll find some of my stories here as well as a host of other precious and darling things. Thanks for reading, and drop me a line sometime!*

*Leslie Anne*

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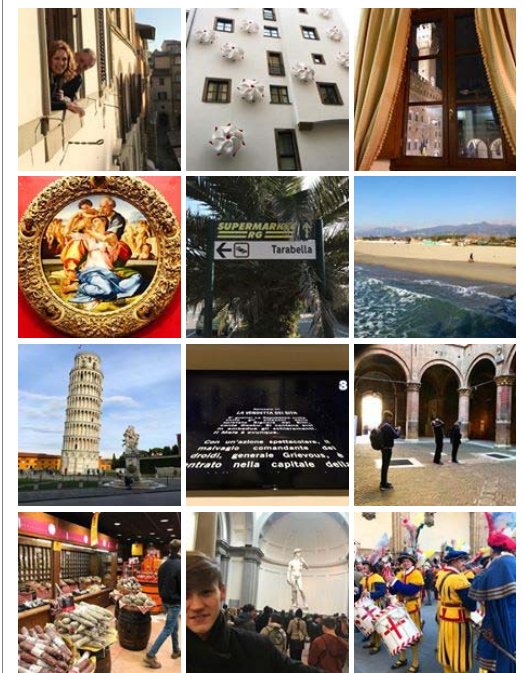
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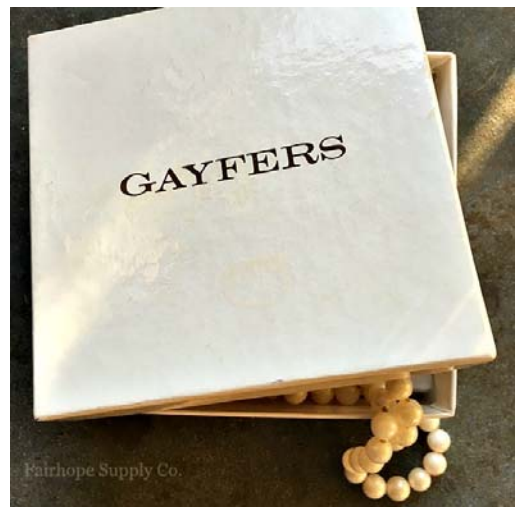
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