



Embellish the exterior

Plants gone a bit wild contribute to the sense of whimsy. On the wall along the stairs, terra-cotta pavers, some set upright, serve as decorative screens for exterior vents.

Connect to the outdoors

"There really is a sense of indoor-outdoor living," says resident Lauren Wilson. "Part of it is the courtyards, and part of it is the balconies. They extend your living space." >36

Lisa Star and daughter Luna with their Siamese, Maya. "My favorite thing is this door's view into the courtyard," Lisa says.



Celebrate artisans

Local ceramicist Linda Hail created the 130 plates that are set into the façade. The curvy ironwork is by David Shelton (davidsheltondesign.com), brother of architect Jeff Shelton.

Soothe the senses

Every courtyard includes a water feature, ranging from a carved stone bowl in which blossoms are floated to this fountain (right) made from a 6-foot-high urn.



"I didn't want to live in an anonymous apartment complex with anonymous people," says AnnaMarie Daniels.



"I just tried to make it delightful" —JEFF SHELTON



WOOD STYLING: JEFF SHELTON

WAYS TO GET WHIMSY

Rev up the fun factor by sparking neutral walls with small doses of color

BRIGHT SPOT
Turn an under-the-stairs nook into a focal point with a painted chest and a vase filled with green foliage.



PLAYFUL PLATES
Get the 3-D look of Cota Street Studios' exterior walls by hanging Mexican painted-pottery dishes (from \$15; jacarandahome.com).



COLOR CODE
Give wood doors a lift with stencils. Shelton matched exterior paint to Minwax stains (above, Fruit Punch, Mustard, Buckskin) used elsewhere in the complex. ■