



Above | It's the personal touches that make Oxendine's 300 Hay apartment come alive, including paintings, a G.I. Joe figure from his boyhood and an old-fashioned percolator like the one his grandmother once owned.

Below | Designer Lynn Leath worked keepsakes in with the contemporary (and comfortable) furnishings.

spare room for guests. "Or storing a few things," Oxendine says and laughs.

The living room is equipped with a fireplace and space above for a flat-screen television, which is just what Oxendine plans to do with it. The kitchen has retro red and black lamps suspended from the ceiling above black granite counter tops. He even brought a retro touch to his appliances, choosing an old-fashioned percolator over a traditional coffee maker, just like the one he had growing up.

Oxendine gives much of the credit for these details to dear friend and designer Lynn Leath. She has woven in childhood keepsakes with more recent collectibles that hold personal significance for Oxendine. A G.I. Joe doll, a gift from Oxendine's paternal grandfather in 1969, is propped on his bedroom dresser. Prints from the outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind!" are displayed throughout the loft. A member of the Lumbee tribe, Oxendine served on its board of directors.

"The play has special meaning to me because it takes place near where I grew up and is about the history of Robeson County," Oxendine says. "It's a story about Native Americans, blacks and Caucasians living together and helping each other."

But most special to LaVern is a print called "Puttin' In" by Jerry Locklair. He points to the scene of children and adults working side by side, putting up a crop of tobacco.

