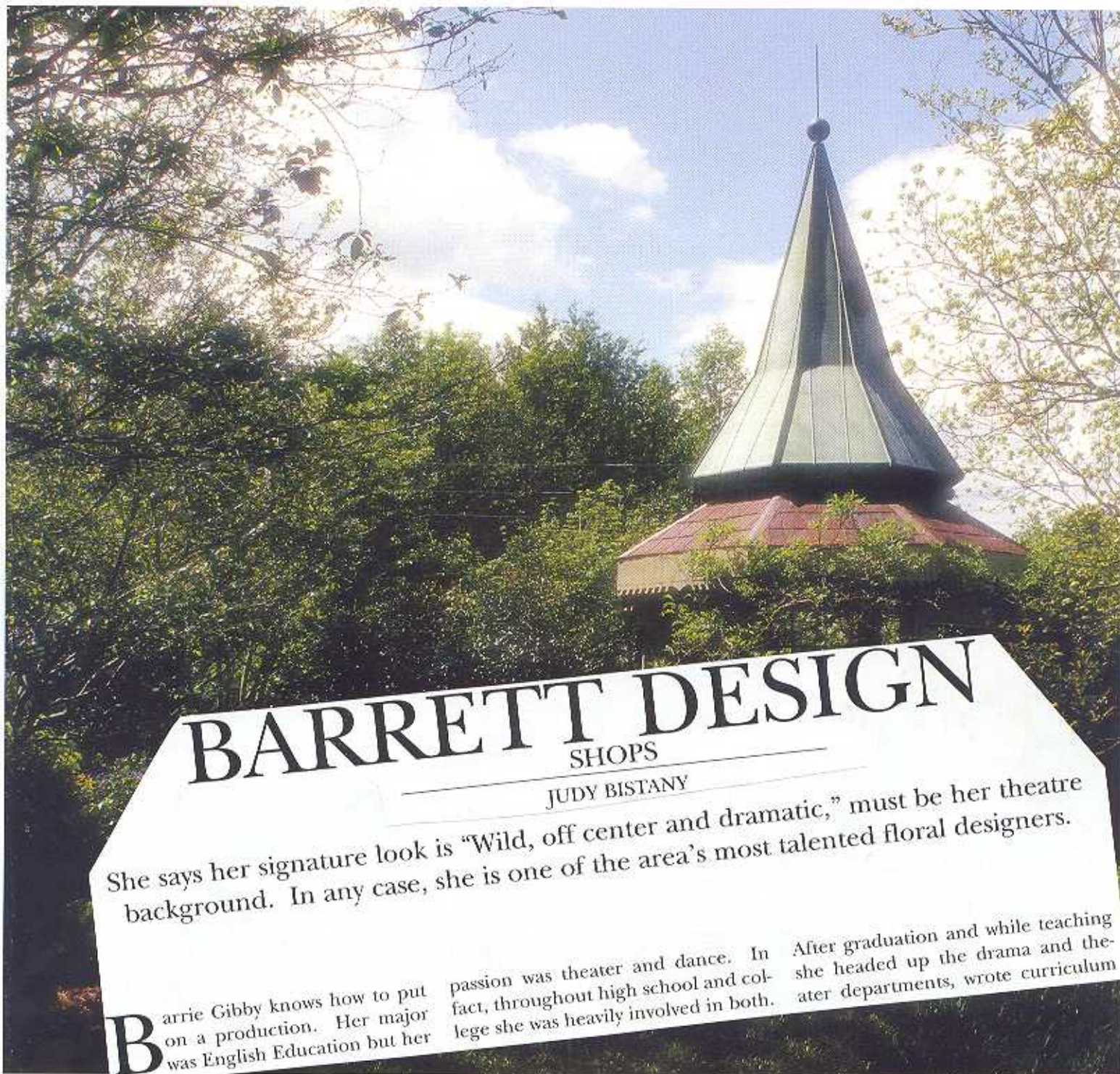


SOUTH CAROLINA HOMES & GARDENS



BARRETT DESIGN

SHOPS

JUDY BISTANY

She says her signature look is "Wild, off center and dramatic," must be her theatre background. In any case, she is one of the area's most talented floral designers.

Barrie Gibby knows how to put on a production. Her major was English Education but her

passion was theater and dance. In fact, throughout high school and college she was heavily involved in both.

After graduation and while teaching she headed up the drama and theater departments, wrote curriculum

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for integrated arts and theater programs and has some pretty impressive productions to her credit. The Pirates of Penzance, My Fair Lady, South Pacific, the Music Man, the Wizard of Oz and Peter Pan can all be listed on her resume plus many more. And it is just this background of designing, choreographing and directing theatrical productions that she feels gives her the advantage of a total visual overview in her work as one of the area's most talented floral designers.

As the wife of a private school headmaster she got plenty of practice hosting theme related fund raisers over the years. It was this avocation that evolved into the continually rapidly growing floral design and events business that she runs on Harden Street in Columbia. "It was about time!" she says, after operating on a small scale in her home for many years, using her dining room table for a showroom. At the Holiday Market where she first showed in 1995 she impressed Columbia with

her dried botanicals and ornaments. By 1999 she had gone retail with her very own store front and has continued to grow ever since.

Her signature look is, as she herself describes it, "wild, off-center and dramatic." Whether it is of the real or permanent variety, it is can always be counted on to make a creative statement. Ever the teacher, she often gives seminars to women's groups and garden clubs on innovative subjects that she has developed. Her own coined phrase of "Using Roadsidea" is a popular topic, as is "Building Wreaths," "Potted Gardens," "Holiday Tablescape" and



"Creative Parties."

Barrett Design is a full service florist and Barrie Gibby is a floral designer who creates some impressive events, whether it is the numerous weddings she does, the annual Centurion Club event which she has just completed, the yearly Heathwood Auction for 1000 people or a romantic Valentine Dinner for just two. Her forte is great style mixed in with always new creativity and panache. She does home consultations, keeping her clients' records on file including everything from the table measurements and the size of the chandelier to the style of the home, colors and the personal



tastes of the owners. That way, she is always ready to prepare the perfect design when she is called. She does potted plant gardens on site (her client's) and special events, all the while teaching her clients and customers that using whatever they have on hand is not only OK but the perfect thing to do. One upcoming wedding will be a mass of floral arrangements and decoration using the client's yard for flowers and greenery. At Christmastime she is busy decorating many homes for the season, and throughout the year, she maintains contract clients, both commercial and residential to whom she delivers floral decorations on a regular basis.

Barrie's hobby and passion is gardening and the creative use of greenery and flowers that are native to the area is a favorite thing to do. Living in South Carolina, she says, affords her something green all year long. Gardeners will readily recognize many of her staples — *claeagnus*, *blupturnum*, and *pittosporum* along with evergreen jasmine, clematis, magnolia, viburnum, *ligustrum*, camellia leaves, winter jasmine, wisteria, *smilax*, bittersweet and plum trees to name a few. Among the flowering plants that she loves are all types of lilies, the new kermit mum, viburnum snowballs, hydrangeas and winter jasmine. Twigs and vines, quince and forsythia along with the rest of our southern seasonal bounty are also mixed with the commercial flowers that she orders, sometimes from very exotic locations.

Greenery and flowers are her artist's palette, movement and form are her guides as she works with her ever growing clientele. Throw in a little of the theatrical in lighting and visual impression and she has created a winning formula. Open daily and on Saturdays, and at other times by appointment, Barrett Design at the direction of Barrie Gibby will design the perfect floral arrangement or the perfect event for even the smallest production.

Barrett Design is located at 1101 Harden Street in Columbia in Five Points.