

LIFESTYLE

CITY CONFIDENTIAL

What was the most valuable thing you learned from your award? A key thing for me was getting over my fear of expanding my business and hiring people. Sometimes we have a fear of growing our own businesses — the fear of the unknown. They taught us to just go for it, in a planned manner.

What was your biggest challenge starting your own business? Whenever anyone starts their own business, it is because they are good at one particular thing, but there are several factors to be successful, not just that one technical thing. You really have to examine your strengths and weaknesses. Are you good with mar-

keting? Do you have good people skills? Are you good at seeing the big picture and the details? I found out things about myself I didn't know, like that I had many of those talents on my own, and I found out a few things about myself I had to work on.

What project are you most proud of? 910 Fatherland Street, the "red" house. It has a lot of layers to it, a lot of depth. Every time I go over there, I see something new.

What is your best tip for someone about to remodel their home? Lately, everyone is rushing things. Someone will call and they are going to do an addition to their house that may range from \$75,000 to \$125,000 and they want to get started immediately. To me, if you are going to spend that much money, you shouldn't rush the process. Take the time to find a designer and contractor that you click with, and who have experience in the industry of design you are looking for — such as if the house is historic.

Describe your dream home? I could list several grand amenities, however at this point in my life ... a house with half the amenities and paid off would be my dream house.

Lynn Taylor

BY ALEXA HINTON
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When Lynn Taylor began her career in building design more than 20 years ago, she was in Orlando drafting plans for spacious, but uniform homes for wealthy Floridians. "I did new home design — 'McMansion' type homes," Taylor admitted.

But after a recession hit the Southern state and Taylor lost her job with a construction management firm, the Centerville native decided to return to Tennessee. She relocated to East Nashville, where the neighborhood's changing façade ended up fortuitously changing her career path.

Taylor switched from specializing in the new to modernizing homes in Nashville's historic communities like East Nashville, Germantown and Sylvan Park as well designing "in-fill housing," or a historic replica house to fill into an empty lot.

The 44-year-old entrepreneur's idea for tapping into this aspect of the housing market caught the attention of the Oxygen Network, and in 2004 Taylor was awarded their "Oh! Get The Money: Build Your Own Business with Oxygen" award. As one of three women winners out of more than 16,000 entries, Taylor received a \$25,000 check as well as a trip to New York City for a weekend of business training. The initiative was designed to give aspiring female business owners the cash and tools to turn their small business endeavors into the real deal.

Taylor, who is hosting an open house from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. today to celebrate another attained dream — she recently moved her business, Taylor Made Plans, out of her home and into a commercial space at 935A Woodland Street.



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