

Wrought Iron — Withstanding the Test of Time

*Elegante
Iron, Inc.*

By Marcy Eberhart

Wrought iron has been used for centuries because of its durability and security. When the process of bending iron to create ornate structures began, the ancient civilizations had no idea that their durable fortresses would one day become exceptional works of art. Wrought iron has many beautiful characteristics that have been the same for centuries. The intricacy of the scrollwork appears to be perfectly molded, when in actuality the artist's visible hand-tooled marks are a sign of quality and a finely crafted piece of art.



Wrought iron is used in its purest form to prevent rusting, which may be typical of an article that is made from cast iron. Even though cast iron was used in the late 18th century and early 19th century, it was only used to make cast iron pots and other more practical items, not for beauty or durability. Cast iron is just as the name displays; the items that are made in this fashion are derived from a "cast," or molded form. There may be hundreds or thousands of items made this way, which means that they are mass produced and therefore taking away the individuality of each piece.

Jenny Sandlin, founder and owner of the Dallas-based company Elegante Iron, created her company in order to preserve this ancient art. Her inspiration for the wrought-iron theme stems from her childhood in the Dominican Republic. Wrought iron is an art form in the Caribbean, where iron work abounds in the historical streets of her hometown. Her company brings this beauty to the resident of Texas.



Elegante Iron has provided many ornate entryways, decorative balconies, ornamental inserts, wine cellar entrances, railings and various other wrought-iron items to many homes in the metroplex. Some of the well-known builders that incorporate Ms. Sandlin's iron work include George Fuller Custom Homes, Shelley Reynolds Custom Homes, Acacia Custom Homes, Bob Bobbitt Custom Homes, Zachary Lutherman Custom Homes, Lonnie Gray Custom Homes and Steve Roberts Custom Homes, who all install the products because of their durability, security and beauty. Ms. Sandlin's company has also provided one-of-a-kind pieces to other companies in the 48 continental states.

Always elegant herself, Ms. Sandlin was honored in the 2002 and 2003 "Parade of Homes" and will again be a major asset to the 2005. Her products are well known in the industry; however, many times Ms. Sandlin is often asked the same question: "How can I obtain the beauty and security of wrought iron without having a tremendous electric bill?" The answer came to her in her quest to provide her clients with both beauty and practicality ... insulation! Polyurethane foam insulation on the entire jamb and door shields the home from extreme heat or cold and is very energy efficient. Other features include top-of-the-line weather stripping on all doors, double-paned hinged glass, and high-end ball bearings. The ball bearings absorb the weight of the door so that the doors open with ease. The hinged windows open independently of the wrought-iron frame for ease in cleaning and to allow conversation with visitors with the security of a locked door. "Our wrought-

iron entryways and wine-cellar entrances are warranted with a refrigerator-tight seal," says Ms. Sandlin. This is extremely important when creating wine-cellar entrances as it keeps the cool air inside where the wines are housed. It also keeps the cold from escaping into the rest of the home.

There are many varieties of iron work available, and all may be easily modified to your specifications. Elegante Iron also accepts ideas for something specific you may have in mind. All pieces of art are created using AutoCAD, a program that professionals utilize to create precise blueprints. Elegante Iron boasts oxidation-resistant finishes, all of which can be customized with a crackle finish that is an option only available from Elegante Iron. All items are coated with a four-step process. The iron is cleaned of impurities, then primed with a superior grade epoxy, layered with two coats of acrylic paint, then a sealant for extended protection. This makes the doors more durable than wood because there is no peeling, no warping, no cracking and is virtually maintenance free.

Elegante Iron is conveniently located in the neighborhood of 635 and Skillman. To make an appointment to see how your new or existing home can be increased in value by the beauty of wrought iron, call Ms. Jenny Sandlin today for an appointment at 214-342-8987 or visit their Web site at www.eleganteiron.com. 

