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Forecastle Bourbon Lodge is local artist showcase

[Sarah Ivens, @SarahIvens](#) Published 1:30 p.m. ET July 10, 2015 | Updated 8:41 a.m. ET July 14, 2015



(Photo: Alyssa Pointer/The Courier-Journal)

When Stephanie Lindsay, lead visual designer of Forecastle's Bourbon Lodge, was 18-years-old, she studied abroad in the United Kingdom. Horrified that her Welsh host family had never heard of Bourbon and were drinking Jack Daniel's, she battled her way through the rain and across the hills until she came across a small country store. There, hidden away on a back shelf, was a dusty bottle of Maker's Mark. She bought it and excitedly took it back for them to try. They loved it. And Lindsay felt a rush of pride in her home state that has never left her.

In fact, as she schlepps around the city making final preparations for her work constructing the Bourbon Lodge, it is her love for Kentucky that inspires her the most. "I see it as an opportunity to introduce Bourbon, and Kentucky culture in general, to people from out of state. I'm homegrown and I want the ethos to be the same.

"No one who enters the Lodge should be in any doubt about where they are and how wonderful it is here," she said.

MORE | [Enter to win Forecastle VIP tickets for two \(/story/insider/events/2015/06/09/enter-to-win-forecastle-vip-tickets-for-two/28727605/\)](/story/insider/events/2015/06/09/enter-to-win-forecastle-vip-tickets-for-two/28727605/)

When she's not working for Forecastle, Lindsay runs a floral design company called [Green Lady \(http://www.greenladystudio.com/\)](http://www.greenladystudio.com/) — she designed the flowers for Prince Charles and The Dalai Lama's visits to the city, and keeps restaurants like Sevice looking pretty — but the festival JK McKnight started gives her the chance to really get creative. The beautiful decor — combined with the good toilets and air conditioning — makes the Lodge feel like a VIP lounge, without the VIP prices or uptight atmosphere.

The Lodge's aesthetic is drawn from sources close to her heart. "My first thought is always 'would my grandfather Poppy Bill have had this in his hunting lodge?' My memory of him is of a wise man, who hunted and fished, and smelled of Bourbon and menthol cigarettes and he'd have loved the Lodge. Then I like to throw in a little bit of fancy, so I think about what an old Kentucky gent — perhaps a horse farm owner — would have in his sitting room. A beautiful fireplace, family portraits, piles of books, trophies and antique plates perhaps," she said.

[Forecastle Festival daily schedules announced \(http://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/music/2015/06/23/forecastle-fest-daily-schedules/29164919/\)](http://www.courier-journal.com/story/entertainment/music/2015/06/23/forecastle-fest-daily-schedules/29164919/)

These whimsical ingredients are loaned by Kathy Schmitt, the owner of the [Crescent Hill Trading Co. \(http://www.crescenthilltradingco.com/\)](http://www.crescenthilltradingco.com/) on Frankfort Avenue. "Kathy has been with me from the very beginning. When the first Lodge was just a tiny tent with hay bales and string lights, she let me borrow antiques to give it an authentic feel," said Lindsay.

Story continues below the gallery

In keeping with Forecastle's eco-friendly manifesto, Schmitt is as green as you can get. "I get my collectibles from the back of pick-up trucks on the way to the garbage, or from old house's where grandma has just died. If I like it, I buy it. It doesn't have to be an antique — just useful or beautiful."

[Bourbon Barrel Rehab \(http://www.bourbonbarrelrehab.com/\)](http://www.bourbonbarrelrehab.com/) are Liz Davis and Jeff Irish, a couple who are turning words and pictures onto reused bourbon barrels for four years. For this year's Lodge, Lindsay has commissioned them to make a 5-foot marlin to hang over the mantel, a replica of the one she has in her own home that her uncle caught in the Gulf of Mexico many years ago. "I'm always coming to them with weird projects. They embrace my wacky ideas," Lindsay said.

Fullscreen
Gallery | Bourbon Lodge at Forecastle

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"I lived in Los Angeles and worked in Hollywood as a production coordinator for 12 years, so I get the whole story that Stephanie is trying to put together here. I see her vision of Kentucky," Davis said.

Lindsay commissioned the couple to make their first ever map of Kentucky out of an old barrel for Forecastle a few years ago — an idea they've run with that has become a big seller and their products are now for sale in Regalo and KCAD.

[Holly McKnight gives Forecastle style advice](http://www.courier-journal.com/story/life/shopping/stylemaker/2015/07/10/holly-weyler-mcknight/29954165/)

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A sense of Kentucky's countryside will also be inside the Lodge this year with the help of carpenter Jay Robertson, owner of [Kentucky WiseWood](http://www.kentuckywisewood.com/) (<http://www.kentuckywisewood.com/>). "I loved Forecastle, so I volunteered two years ago to get free tickets. I'm a structural engineer by trade and ended up talking to Stephanie about the Lodge and what could be done with the space. Last year, I built the horseshoe-shaped bar and this year I'm making the stage out of reclaimed wood from an old tobacco barn from Henry County."

Robertson set up his company in Portland 18 months ago and it's going well. "This work with reclaimed wood goes along with all my lifelong passions — the Kentucky countryside, family farms and woodworking with my dad in the garage at weekends," says Robertson.

Another contributor to the lodge is [Jason Cohen](http://www.bourbonbarrelartisan.com/) (<http://www.bourbonbarrelartisan.com/>), a carpenter Lindsay has known since he was 11-years-old and who recently won the prestigious Garden & Gun magazine 'Made in the South' award. "Jason brings high design concepts with a rustic flair to bourbon wood repurposing," says Lindsay.

Lindsay lusted after a selection of beautifully crafted tables and chairs for the Lodge's garden, which Cohen agreed to lend — as the other artists have — in good faith, to help promote their state and the creative work that takes place in Kentucky.

"The locals who work with me to create the Bourbon Lodge have become part of a big Forecastle family," said Lindsay. "We stick together, help each other and we've grown together — we all share the love for Kentucky that Forecastle shows to the world."

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