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SOCIETY

In San Antonio, any excuse will do for a party. Leland Stone proved that maxim by throwing an elegant party to honor a door. Yes, a door, commissioned by a local couple through Stone's architectural hardware business, Stone Standard. The party spread between the handsome King William home he owns with partner Curtis Johnson and the home's carriage house. There, guests ogled handles, pulls and knockers mounted as art. "Any party that celebrates a door is all right by me," exclaimed Sam Bell Steves, whose family business was formerly named Steves Sash & Door.

Eloy M. Estrada fabricated the door, a process of trial and error he said took him 450 hours. "Fitting 32 pieces of ½-inch thick beveled glass and joining over 160 pieces of mahogany was a challenge," Stone said. "With the party, we wanted to show that beautiful things can be built in San Antonio and French fittings don't have to be fussy."

Standing tall on the patio, the pulchritudinous portal drew adorers Keller Henderson, Cynthia Marmalejo, John Troy, Ken Bentley, Margie Boldrick and John Demsey. Another wave of viewers brought Maria Elena and Richard Mogas, Don McDo-



NANCY COOK-MONROE

nald, Andrea and Jeff Sibley and Michael Risser.

Stone and Johnson's personal chef, Shih-Hua Fuh, served a dinner worthy of the Brandenburg Gate, including tuna and salmon flown in from Tasmania, and chicken Cordon Bleu. Huddled under a towering orchid, architects Chris Carson and Gabriel Durand-Hollis ate with Torrey Carleton, seemingly scheming. Laura and Frank Burney talked politics with Bill Sibley on the porch. Ah, the life of the mind, especially amid antiques and muted lighting.



Leland Stone (from left) enjoys a joke with Mac and Heidi White at a dinner party in his King William home.



7. Joinery & Fittings cocktail supper: Guests James and Loren Kruger (from left) and co-host Leland Stone examine hardware during the cocktail supper.