

Ballroom owners taking spin in south Charlotte

Partners in business, dance and life, Dana Glandon and Tony Prado are making a 12-year dream come true with the opening of Queen City Ballroom in south Charlotte.

Located at 10403-I Park Road, the 5,625-square-foot competition ballroom and studio will offer



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lessons in tangos, salsas, foxtrots, cha-chas and more. The studio took 10 months to plan and build. It has 14-foot ceilings, mirrored walls, crystal chandeliers and professional theater lighting by Barbizon Charlotte Inc.

“The hardest part was finding a large enough space that didn’t have poles running up and down the middle of it,” says Prado, a professional theater dancer who will teach at the school. “This represents our complete wish list.”

He declines to say how much it cost to build and outfit the ballroom. Morgan Construction Co. Inc. renovated the studio, Gail Shook is the interior designer.

Glandon and Prado think now is the perfect time to open such a studio in Charlotte, since ballroom dancing or “dancesport” hopes to attain Olympic status in 2008.



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Tony Prado, left, and Dana Glandon will offer lessons in tangos, salsas, foxtrots, cha-chas and more at Queen City Ballroom.

The ballroom converts into a theater for shows and will be offered for weddings and other events. It includes a full kitchen, a bar and wrought-iron café tables and chairs.

A small retail component has been added in which dancers can purchase special suede-bottomed shoes, CDs, false eyelashes, body glitter and accessories.

Queen City features more than 15 instructors trained in over 20 dances including the quick step, shag, Latin, swing, tap, jazz, ballet and the traditional waltz. Gunar

Ejups, the ballroom’s architect, is also a part-time instructor.

Queen City will be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. for a slate of classes and on the weekends by appointment. Every Friday night the ballroom will be open to the public who, for a 10-spot, can dance the night away.

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