

## PROTECTING HISTORY FROM THE INVASIVE FORMOSAN TERMITE

With a home on the gulf coast, homeowners should expect to protect their investment from two forces of nature, hurricanes and termites. Built in 1880, the Landes-McDonough House, a Texas Historic Landmark, was built to survive hurricanes. It survived the 1900 Hurricane that killed over 6,000 people. More recently, the home has weathered the hurricanes that hit the Gulf Coast in 2005. However, what might finally destroy this treasure is another threat from nature, Formosan termites.

The eclectic Victorian structure, which features opulent accents in ornamental terra cotta, brick and ironwork, provided refuge to some 200 people during the 1900 hurricane. In 1954, the Dominican Sisters acquired the home to house a fine arts center. The home then passed hands until 1998 when Drs. Kott purchased the home.

“When we purchased the home, we saw its beauty and history and immediately began the renovation to restore it to its former glory,” said Mary Lee Kott. “We started by installing a new roof and refurbishing the iron work on the exterior of the home, before moving to the interior. Once we began working on the inside of the building, much of the wood behind the walls resembled Swiss cheese—it was clear we had a termite problem.”



## Media Center

### *Bringing in the Experts*



When Bryan Springer of Bevis Pest Control conducted a pest inspection in the Landes-McDonough home, he found active Formosan termite colonies at work throughout the structure, including the architecturally impressive third story tower. The invasive Formosan subterranean termites had devoured whole walls and left a crumbling infrastructure in their wake.

“We knew we were facing a difficult pest management challenge. The brittle walls, stairs and floors were riddled with termite damage,” said Springer.

“Formosan subterranean termites are known as “super termites” for a reason.

They are responsible for up to \$1 billion in property damage in the US annually, and the species’ ravenous nature has enabled it to spread across the lower half of the US Gulf Coast states and Hawaii at an alarming rate.”

Springer selected America’s number one termite defense product, **Termidor**<sup>®</sup> termiticide-insecticide, to treat the home’s termite infestation. BASF, the manufacturer of **Termidor**, was there to lend support. Dr. Bob Davis, Market Development Specialist, and Mike Howard, Senior Sales Specialist, visited Springer in Galveston to inspect the structure and help with the thorough and extensive termite treatment. The team from Bevis Pest Control carefully applied **Termidor** to the soil proximal to the foundation along the exterior wall and to soil in conducive and active areas in the interior crawl space. The technicians also used special equipment to convert the **Termidor** finished solution to a foam application that was then injected into the structural voids, reaching the termites that were active within the structure.

“**Termidor** was the natural choice for this unique treatment,” said Springer. “**Termidor** is proven effective in delivering excellent control of Formosan termites, and BASF’s technical support was great at helping us decide the best way to treat this unique home.”

Springer will continue to perform yearly inspections of the home to ensure this historic landmark stays termite free. Mother Nature has a mind of her own, and while there’s no telling when the next hurricane may strike, the Landes-McDonough House is better prepared than ever to weather the storm.

[www.pestcontrolfacts.org](http://www.pestcontrolfacts.org)

Always read and follow label directions.

 **BASF**  
The Chemical Company