

Fortunately, he was able to find reliable assistance, and he's kept some of his same staff members on for over 15 years.

"My biggest asset is my electrician," El-Amir said. "He's 89 years old, and when I need him, he is there."

El-Amir and his electrician have re-wired and modernized many homes, literally shifting them away from classic gas lamp lighting to newly wired ceiling fans and light switches. He's seen lots of change over the years as student housing has turned from a way for a family to make a few extra bucks to a thriving, profitable nationwide market.

"It used to be a small mom and pop business," he said. "I grew up right on Lancaster Avenue, and there were a few families that had a two family house and they rented one unit out and lived in the other unit. All of sudden over time it kinda became a business. Landlords started buying one house after another. Companies and LLCs and now there is a massive influx of national companies coming in and they are knocking down houses & buildings and building these massive buildings in six or seven months. It has changed a lot."

"I think what makes me different than the others is, sure you can go over to these buildings like the Theory and the 505, and you'll have an all inclusive with theater, fitness center and WiFi, but at the end of the day it's a building and it just does not have the cozy character of a house in a neighborhood with a sidewalk. In my houses, you can walk to campus and there is a front porch and back porch with a yard. The biggest thing is people love houses with the porches. I know how much value those porches have."

If you're the kind of student who values a porch and a prime location to share with a handful of your friends, [Andre's University Area Apartments & Houses](#) may have just the place you're looking for.

### Callie Kollenbroich



Callie Kollenbroich has been the Operations Coordinator and Content Writer/Editor at Rent College Pads since 2015. When she's not working, you can find her at home, eating peanut butter out of the jar and binge-ing an unhealthy amount of Forensic Files. She's not as lame as she sounds.

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