

GO WEST

Western style settles in comfortably

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER
mklemic@oe.homecomm.net

"Go West, young man, go West!" a famous editorial said. That exhortation of 150 years ago could apply today to decor as well, as shown in the West Bloomfield residence of Lili and Howard Camden.

"We're big 'out West' people," Lili said. That's apparent from the furniture and accessories around the house. The effect suggests the wide open spaces, yet is as cozy as a campfire.

For items for the home, Howard and Lili make selections based on enjoyment and use. Seeing such pieces when you return home is like greeting old friends, Howard says.

"Having something around that you like adds pleasure to your life," he said. The house was built in 1964. The Camdens have made a variety of changes in the 25 years the family has lived there.

One of these is the family room, made as an addition to the living room. The spacious area

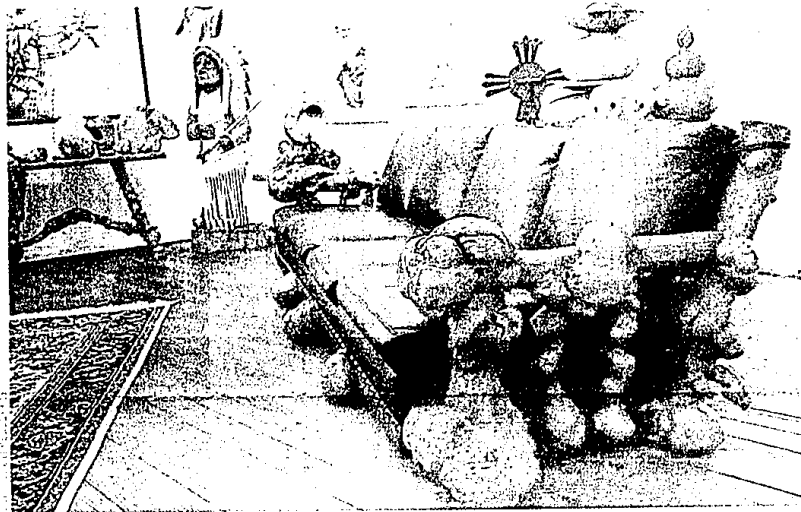
has a Western accent, with decor that includes lodge pole pine from the Rocky Mountains and American Indian art work.

The unusual furnishings are by a company in Wyoming that works in the style of Thomas Molesworth, an artist and craftsman of "rustic Western" furniture that was at the height of its popularity from the 1930s through 1950s.

They were made from burl—large growths on damaged tree trunks—selected by the Camdens. Among these pieces in the family room are a sofa, chair, table and coat stand. The sofa features reversible black leather cushions with a Chimayo pattern on one side.

Bases of table lamps were made from horns of bighorn sheep and elk.

"Except tables, 'I wanted something that gave me a little more room,'" Lili said. The result was the large, square tables made out of wood from a local 100-year-old barn. Lili made the colorful wool rug that rests near one of the tables.



Westward home: The Camden residence in West Bloomfield features Western furniture and accessories. The floor in the foyer (below, right) features a sunburst pattern in different woods.

The Camdens imported pieces of petrified wood brought from Wyoming when they put in the brick wall around the fireplace. Howard did the wiring for the iron chandelier that hangs nearby.

At the entrance to the family room is a metal kinetic sculpture by Charles Ringer from Montana. The art work features silhouettes of Indians and buffalo in gently swirling circles.

A sculpture of a horse by artist Deborah Butterfield stands in the foyer. The artist made the piece out of a Harry Lauder's walking stick that had grown in the front yard.

Howard has an eye for "found art," special stone and wood pieces that he finds in his travels and at gem and mineral shows. He has them polished and transformed into softly gleaming accents, some of them in the shapes of frogs and other creatures.

Wooden bowls and vessels of various shapes and sizes—some featuring colorful narrow bands made by lightning in the original tree—are stacked in arrangements around the house.

"I believe that bowls are a form of abstract art in themselves," said Camden, who has donated a bowl to the American Craft Museum in New York City.

Wood flooring by Erickson's Flooring & Supply Company of Ferndale adds a rich, distinctive touch with its inlaid border and other elements. The floor in the foyer features a sunburst pattern in different woods, including pink ivory and black walnut.

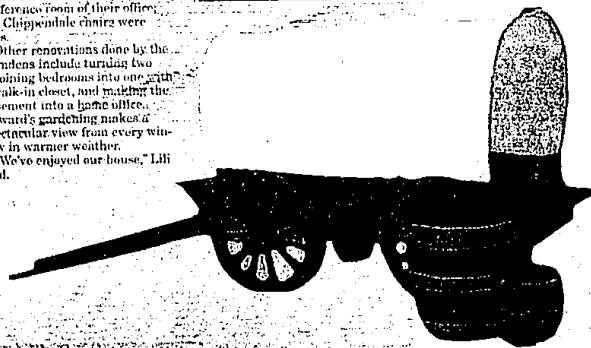
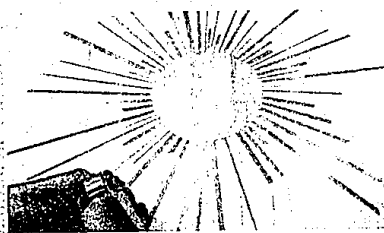
The Camdens made the original living room area at the front of the house into the dining room, putting a mirrored wall in front of the fireplace. Halogen lighting was recently installed in the dining room ceiling. The table in this room used to be in the conference room of their office; the Clippendale chairs were gifts.

Other renovations done by the Camdens include turning two adjoining bedrooms into one with a walk-in closet, and making the basement into a home office. Howard's gardening makes a spectacular view from every window in warmer weather.

"We've enjoyed our house," Lili said.



Going West: Howard and Lili Camden have furnished their home in the style of the West that they enjoy. Their dining room table (far upper right) used to be a conference table in their office.



INSIDE



MONTE NAGLER

Seeing stars

Seize photo opportunities with celebrities. Focus on Photography, Page 4



JOE GAGNON

Out of court costs

Defective water heaters costing consumers money. Appliance Doctor, Page 3



MARTY FIGLEY

Backyard beauty

Troy couple keeps backyard decor front and center. Garden Spot, Page 2