

For resale purposes

New approach: Try 'greenroom'

Mike and Mary Pulick of Livonia like to refer to the addition to their home as the "green room" rather than a greenhouse -- which is what it really is.

The addition was designed by Livonia architect Bob Seymour with resale in mind, the Pulicks said.

"Rather than just having something attached to the back of the house, we wanted it to look like part of the house instead," said Mrs. Pulick, who is active in Livonia Garden Club activities and who coordinates the volunteers who tend the gardens at Greenmead, Livonia's historical site. Her husband shares the gardening hobby and, in fact, was the one who proposed the greenhouse addition to their home.

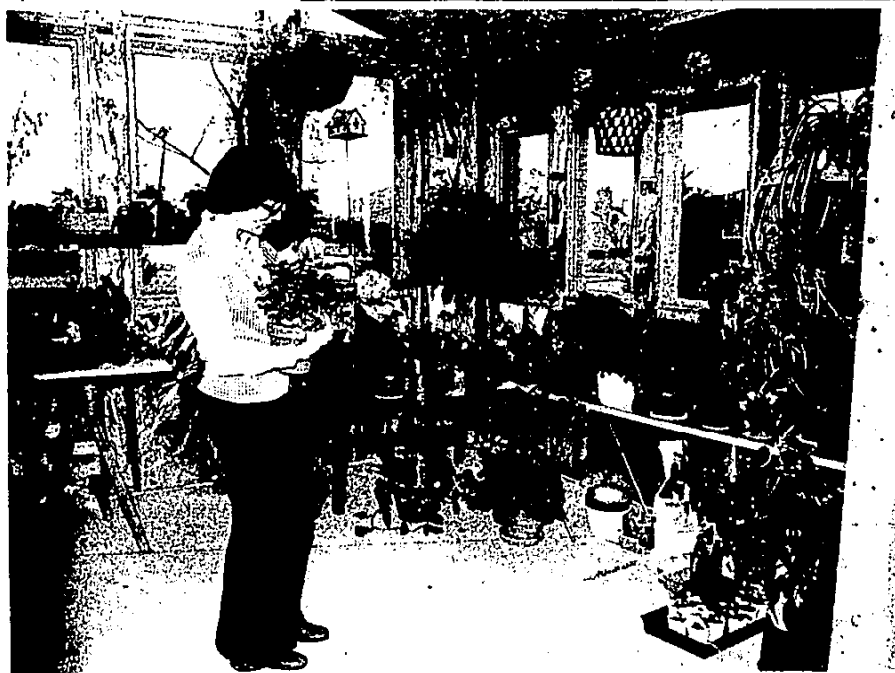
The addition is 12-by-14 feet and faces the east and the south. Estimated cost was \$25 to \$30 per foot if the homeowner does all the work and \$40 or more if the work is contracted.

It has 4-by-4-foot skylights of special glass that doesn't screen out the ultraviolet rays needed by growing plants -- "and we had time finding that glass," commented Mike Pulick.

The room will be sealed off from the rest of the house by a door wall to prevent the humidity from escaping. It has a space heater and a fan for exhaust to prevent overheating. Eventually shades will be installed.

The floor is concrete and the walls, when finished, will be of wood to give it a natural look. The room has a sink with a separate outlet for a hose and will have benches along the windows as well as a center work table.

And while it may not be quite finished, both Pulicks aren't letting any grass grow under their feet in keeping the area well stocked with plants and seedlings.



It isn't even finished yet, and Mary Pulick already has her "greenroom" filled with flowers.

'The first advice to prospective greenhouse owners is to build one as large as possible. A small greenhouse will look tremendous for awhile, but as your hobby expands, you'll regret not having built a larger one. The cost does not double as the size is doubled.'

-Marge Alpern

Greenhouse gardening consultant

Lawn is aid in cooling

A thriving lawn certainly benefits our surroundings, especially in congested areas that are "heat islands" in summer. Temperatures taken on plastic grass

attained 158 degrees F in one test, but on growing grass the temperature only reached 88 degrees F. Under these summer conditions, bare soil reached 102 degrees.

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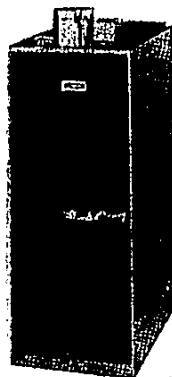
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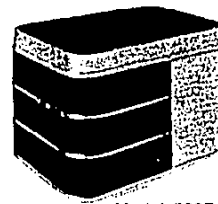
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