

## Room for Design

# Creating new space from old

by  
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Just as children go exploring for private spaces to play in the attic or basement, adults too look for room in the home that can be turned into useful work or hobby areas.

While a child might create a magic kingdom with trunks and piles of suitcases for walls, an adult is more likely to search for a place to organize an interest. The object is to contain the clutter that goes with pursuing a business activity, doing volunteer work, or running a household.

On the other hand, it may just be a space for listening to music or reading. All of this becomes more comfortable when conditions are right, that is, with lighting, storage, and writing sur-

faces arranged, and comfortable seating.

Short of adding a room to the house or remodeling a bedroom to become an office-in-the-house, what is possible?

John Donnelly, a designer with Naugahyde vinyl fabrics, has some ideas. "First, survey the house," he said, "to see how traffic patterns and conversational groupings interact. Look for ends or corners of rooms that get little use."

"Consider minor structural changes. Maybe a door can come off a closet and, with the addition of shelves and a work surface, the closet can become a mini-office."

Very often, a little space is enough to

serve the purpose, making the addition or conversion of an entire room unnecessary. As little as 35 or 40 square feet in an existing room can make an ideal spot for an adult office.

AN EXAMPLE of an office away from the office might be in a walk-in closet. Imagine a warmly textured carpeting on the floor, and a subtle geometric patterned vinyl wallcovering on the walls to give a softening effect for warmth and for acoustical control. A comfortable small sofa or lounge chair covered in a vinyl suede fabric, and you have the makings of a very cozy office.

Soaring building costs have produced a space crunch with new apartments

and homes scaled down to offer less living space per dollar. Often remodeling and home improvement projects offer greater value as home owners seek ways to get more use from fewer square feet. Separate dining rooms are in decline and multi-use rooms are becoming standard.

One result of this is that fabrics and finishing materials, especially upholstery, are being subjected to harder and more intense wear.

Donnelly spends most of his time on design and engineering of vinyl upholstery and wallcovering fabric designed for a tough, laminated construction.

There are chairs in every home used daily for at least four or five hours. Other chairs are rarely touched.

Furniture in family rooms, hobby rooms and in-home offices get the hardest wear. They need a tough, durable vinyl fabric that is available in many colors and many textures.

Vinyl can be made to look like anything — leather, suede, or corduroy. What makes it different from these materials are its easy-care properties. Lamination gives it great resistance to tears and scuffing. It can be wiped clean with a damp cloth or scrubbed with soap and water.

Working on the problem are manufacturers like Unireoyal, maker of Naugahyde, which has found a way to laminate as many as eight layers of fabric to form a tough surface with unusually high tensile strength. New techniques in lamination will provide many answers for tomorrow's and many of today's comforts.



MR. AND MRS. AXEL BROGREN

## A. Brogrens mark 60th anniversary

Axel and Margot Brogren, residents of Farmington for the past seven years, celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary Friday.

The couple met during their early school days in Sweden where they married in 1919; then moved to the United States in 1927 with their son Bengt.

They have been members of Augustana Lutheran Church in Detroit since 1935.

Brogren joined the Parsons Corp. in 1928 as a tool maker, and retired after 33 years as chief engineer. He was a member of the American Ornithology Association for many years, and was

honored by Secretary of War Robert Patterson during World War II for his work with that department.

He also holds several patents for both ordinance and automotive inventions.

The couple have two sons, Bengt, who lives in Farmington Hills, and Roy, who lives in Lake Elmo, Minn. five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Brogren followed a family tradition again this past month, joining his older son's family walking across the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day.

## Depression Glass Society ready for show and sale

A collection called "Opalescent Glass of the Depression Era" is now on display in Farmington Hills Community Library, heralding the Michigan Depression Glass Society's seventh annual show and sale.

The event will run from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 20-21, in Schoolcraft College, on Hangerly Road, between Six and Seven Mile Roads.

"This year's show and sales promises to be an outstanding glass exhibit marking the 50th anniversary of the 'Great Depression' and the beginning of an era in patterns and colors," said Betty Merritt, president of the society.

The group has gathered 23 dealers from throughout the nation to exhibit glass in multitudes of patterns and colors from the depression years. They will be offered to collectors and glass lovers who are searching the rare and elusive pieces.

Special guests at the show will be Nora Koch, editor and publisher of "Daze" from Grosse Pointe, and Stephen Trupiano, artist in glass repair from Marshall, Mich.

Trupiano is a frequent radio and television guest in the U.S. and Canada, demonstrating his talent in restoring chipped crystal and glassware.

THE MICHIGAN Depression Glass Society was founded in 1972 and is de-

voted solely to the preservation of depression era glass.

Meetings are held the first Monday of each month in Jackson School, 32025 Lyndon, Livonia. The group welcomes visitors who are interested in the glass manufactured during the 1930s.

Marge Truscott, the Farmington area representative of the society, encourages residents to view the display in the local library, that will remain in the showcase of the front lobby through Oct. 30.

The collection is a sampling of the opalescent glass that was produced in pink, blue, yellow, green, red, gold, cobalt blue and crystal.

"A special process, after the glass was made, produced this lovely effect," Ms. Merritt said. "Many of the pieces have a pearly white edge, although other tinges were produced."

The companies represented in the display are Fostoria, Heisey, Imperial, Cambridge and Duncan Miller.

Similar displays are in libraries of many towns this month, placed by the society to publicize its fall show.

Each of the libraries is given a gift of thanks for the use of its showcase. The gift given to Farmington Hills Community Library this year is "Colored Glassware of the Depression Era, Book 2," by Hazel Marie Weatherman.

FOOD AND beverages will be avail-


able during show hours on both days, provided by Robert Breithaupt, director of food service of Schoolcraft College's fine culinary art's program.

Show chairman for the year are Nancy Carlson and Shirley Beyrart.

A donation of \$1.25 per person will be asked at the door.

Ms. Merritt will take inquiries about membership in Michigan Depression Glass Society by calling her at 554-3786.

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The candy dish, fashioned in blue opalescent and crystal by the Duncan Miller Co. in the early years of the depression, is one of the rare pieces of depression glass now on display in Farmington Hills Community Library.

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