

Park Place centers on art theme

By JACKIE KLEIN

Gallerist Albert Scaglione's pet expression is "I live art."

That's the reason he's building an art shopping center in Southfield, conceived from an age when elegance and charm outweighed computer mentalities which allot X number of square feet for X percent of profit.

Scaglione, 40, has owned Park West Gallery on Telegraph between Nine and 10 Mile roads for 10 years. He's running out of space so he decided to build a two-story gallery as a theme for 10 other stores on Northwestern Highway between 12 Mile and Inkster Road.

The 3.25-acre center, to be called Park Place, will be ready for occupancy in August, Scaglione estimates.

"The total concept is to support the gallery which is the focus," Scaglione said. "The other stores will feature fine furniture, interior design, jewelry and gifts. They all deal in some phase of the arts and each owner has European roots."

Scaglione said he and architect Robert Ziegelman are enthusiastic about the site on the lake where McInerney Restaurant customers used to sit and feed the ducks. McInerney's is closed and will be torn down to make way for the new shopping center.

THE CENTER, which Scaglione describes as a kind of museum but not as hush-hush, is patterned after his home in Farmington Hills. His Baugh House, in which form follows function, has a flat roof, simple lines and is built into a hill. A stream meanders through the heavily wooded rear of the property and both the inside and outside of the home are backgrounds for art objects.

"The lake on the shopping center site

is a natural for surrounding Japanese, sculptured gardens," Scaglione said. "The art gallery will have 27-foot high exposed ceilings for natural lighting and expansive glass on the facade."

"All the stores will be buff brick with bay windows and metal canopies. They'll be simple, clean and affordable with a tasteful atmosphere. The center will be built into a ravine and customers can enjoy shelter and open space, sunlight and shade with a lake in between."

Brick pavement and glassed atriums will adorn the center, Scaglione said,

and he plans to add sculptures and murals outside. But the real power will be inside the gallery, he maintained.

SCAGLIONE SAID he's looking forward to conducting original art shows and high-quality auctions in his new facility. It will have a conference room to accommodate 300 persons and a large suite for the owner.

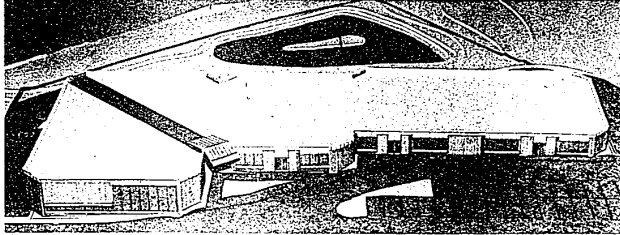
"My office is even going to have a sauna and a bar," Scaglione said. "But I won't be isolated. Art should be open. It's not like industrial espionage."

The center is only about a mile and a

half from Scaglione's home so he can jog or ride his bike to work, he said. Park West Gallery was also close to his home when he lived in Southfield.

Scaglione describes himself as a "homebody" but he also travels around the world buying art works for his gallery. Ironically, he mused, he was a physics major in college.

"I was with NASA involved in space travel and how to re-enter Mars," he recalled.



The proposed Park Place will feature fine furniture, interior design, jewelry and gift shops. They

all will deal in some phase of the arts and each store owner has European roots.



SCAGLIONE: 'I live art. That's why I decided 10 years ago to open an art gallery.' (Staff photos by Mindy Saunders)

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