

Classic contemporary Designed with the future in mind

Story: CORINNE ABATT
Photos: STEPHEN CANTRELL

From the time the house was a few scratches on paper, Bloomfield Hills interior designer George Williams and Mark and Mona Dembs planned their new house.

Both Dembs, a house builder, and his wife, had definite opinions on how the house should be built and the atmosphere they wanted. Williams took their ideas and coordinated them with wall coverings, paint, Formica, window treatments and carpeting. Even the interior and exterior brick colors and shingles came under his scrutiny.

The multi-level, five-bedroom house in West Bloomfield will take this family, including young children, into the future with a minimum amount of care and worry.

The interior architecture is such that it, in many instances, alleviates the need for furniture. The lavish use of built-ins cuts down any potential clutter. Exterior materials, such as brick, are used inside to unify the house.

Transitions from one room or area to the next are skillfully handled. White patterns of wall coverings change, the off-white and earth tone colors remain constant. Variances in shades and tones are subtle, so the mood of the house doesn't vary dramatically.

DEMBES USED GEOMETRICS in the interior construction to create unusual spaces and counteract the box effect that is present in many houses. A repetition of materials as well as color families throughout the house further adds to the continuity.

One of those repeated many times in natural travertine marble. It was used for the large contemporary fireplace in the game room down one level from the foyer and living room. The same marble,

polished, but unfilled, is used for a free-standing shelf mounted on a dining room wall and for the guest bathroom vanity.

Eventually, a proposed long wall shelf in the living room will be of the same natural travertine marble.

Formica colors range from a patterned white in the kitchen (which is textured to look like fine linen) to shades of chamomile in the master bedroom and a soft yellow in the game room.

THE ELEGANT MASTER BEDROOM, larger than many a studio apartment, was designed by Dembs to be a luxurious retreat for parents whose children may someday want to entertain lots of friends in the living room and game room.

Mrs. Dembs said her husband rebelled against the idea of being cooped up in a small bedroom while the young people took over the lower floors of the house with their friends in the years to come.

Entertaining is enjoyed by everyone in the family. When Mrs. Dembs is in charge of the entertaining, she has a huge island in her all-white kitchen on which to work as she prepares the food.

She frequently has more than 100 people for a buffet supper, and that many people hardly make a dent in the spacious house.

THE FAMILY is already happily living in the house, entertaining poolside on sunny days and inside on the rainy ones. However, the complete interior decorating may not be finished for several months.

That is something the visitor wouldn't know unless Williams pointed it out. While essentially the house is complete, there are still some things to be added or changed.

But, this is a house that stands proudly and well as it is because of the many things that were put in during the construction.

The master bath, for instance, is down an angled hall from the bedroom. It really needs little but what was built in.

An oversize shower with a white quarry tile floor and beautifully built-in cabinets and a small corner bench is complete as it is. Just beyond in the hall are the closets for the master bedroom with mirrored doors.

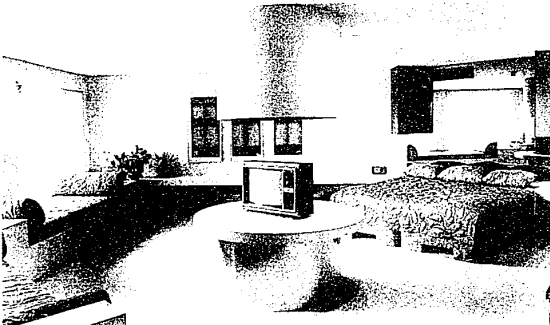
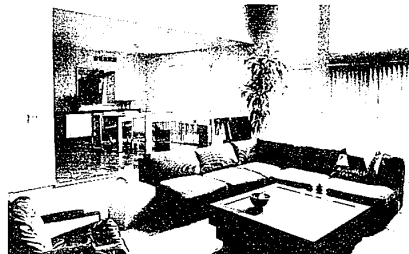
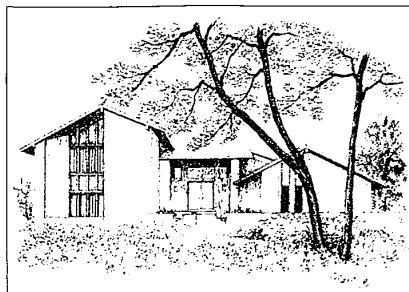
While wall paper in subtle patterns is used in the bedrooms, the three children's bedrooms and the kitchen, the dominant wall covering is a textured blend of wool and linen in neutral colors.

THIS IS in the large open foyer, contrasting beautifully with the face brick used outside as well as in, the living room, dining room and hallways.

Completing the warm, contemporary atmosphere are the large bronze-lined windows over the front door. The windows soften the light so gently that the change is hardly noticeable.

Mark and Mona Dembs, working with Williams, planned for both present and future living for a growing family. It's a family-oriented house built with parents, grandparents and young people in mind.

Drawing, above right, shows the outside of the Dembs family home in West Bloomfield, which was designed and built by the owner. At right is the living room and the dining room, up one step. Both rooms are pleasantly formal in look, but totally functional for family activity.



Bedroom is a pleasant place to retreat to away from the things that are going on in other parts of the house. The patterned bed and lounge coverings are shades of rust and

brown. The carpet is maize and the Formica in the center installation a closely coordinated shade.



Meals for large or small groups are fun and easy to prepare in this spacious kitchen. Background color in the wall covering is a soft cove au lait. This natural shade

combined with lots of white creates a crisp, cheery atmosphere.

**the Hearthside
Interior Designers present . . .**

Ethan Allen

A New Concept From Ethan Allen . . .
It's semi contemporary, and you thought we were only Colonial!
For outstanding design and quality, look to the Hearthside.
Our designers are ready to show you a whole new world of exciting ideas.

the Hearthside
Michigan's Largest Ethan Allen Dealer

Livonia • Southfield • Utica

**Look!
at bright ideas...**

**it's a
bed,
it's a
blast,
it's
superbunk!**

Made of heavy-gauge tubular steel with a tough baked enamel finish, here's everything a kid's room needs: L-shaped bunk w/shelves and ladder \$460; a dumping bag, \$56; desk and chair that fit right under the top bunk, \$190; 3 drawer chest, \$320; shelf extension, \$80. Mattresses extra.

Red in stock
Other colors by special
order (8-9 weeks)

bright

downtown rochester
652-3388