

Designers, builder offer modern version of Old World grandeur

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

Opulent fits. So does elegant and impressive and any number of the other superlatives.

The Detroit Symphony ASID (American Society of Interior Designers) Showhouse which opened last Tuesday is a brand-new \$1.5 million 25-room house in Bloomfield Township, built by the Malcolm Leventon Corporation of Southfield.

The 25 interior designers added some \$1 million in furnishings. Landscape architecture students from Lawrence Institute of Technology did the landscape plan and another group of LIT interior design students did one of the hallways.

The project, a fund-raiser for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, is sponsored by the Detroit Symphony League, the Women's Association for the orchestra and the Michigan Chapter of ASID.

Loretta Miles, ASID, coordinated the work of the designers. That, in itself, is a demanding job which she handled with great success.



The bathroom of guest suite is done in earth tone tile. The three imported boxes are leather covered. The effect is a tailored, but hospitable look.



Blues, greens, shades of mauve and neutrals give the living room which is designed to function as a music room a kind of sophisticated serenity.

The continuity from room to room is a triumph, for too easily, each room can become a showplace for an individual designer without regard to surroundings. It can and does happen, even in homes done by a single interior designer. But, the flow of color and style here is exemplary.

THE COLORS the designers were given to work with were neutrals, taupe, teal and black, and various accent colors. Miles kept close tabs on the plans for each room, approving color swatches and design. She may have made a few people unhappy for a moment or so as she rejected things she felt wouldn't fit, but the end product is highly pleasing.

Visitors will note the mix of periods and colors, antiques interspersed with late Art Nouveau, country French, Oriental and American. With this it becomes more like a family home in which treasures have been collected over the years, rather than a newly created showhouse.

The house lends itself to elegant, expensive treatment. There is a lavish use of Italian marble, not only in

the two-story foyer with a classic winding staircase, but in the master bathroom and family room and master bedroom suite fireplaces. All the marble was carefully matched on site by European craftsmen.

The use of crown moulding is extensive, giving an old world look to these new surroundings. The oak trim, sometimes natural, sometimes painted and treated to achieve a pickled oak look, warms the atmosphere, which by dint of size alone, could be cold.

The Georgian fixtures, wealth of textures and soft accent colors also help make a hospitable atmosphere. A soft teal shows up frequently as does rose, for instance, in the charming upstairs sitting room by Ural Design & Interiors of Livonia.

Turquoise, sometimes considered hard to work with, is one of the dominant colors in the living room by Gorman's Gallery of Southfield.

Here it reaches an exciting level used as a wall color and repeated in the elaborate crown moulding. Against a honey-colored carpet, muted tones of sea foam green and mauve for accents give a sophisticated, continental ambience to the living room.

At the far end, on a carpeted dais, is a Louis XVI harpsichord in bright blue.

THE ETCHED pattern on the glass coffee table matches the small, overall upholstery print on matching chairs.

The family room, about the same size as the living room, with pickled oak paneling, was done by Walter Herz Interiors Inc. of Southfield.

Because, as expected, it is less formal than the living room, the colors of the family room are bolder and the wicker and contemporary French furnishings more casual. But even this casual is in keeping with the formality of the home.

The kitchen and adjoining solarium (a passive solar energy room), designed by Pastor Interiors Inc. of Bloomfield Hills with cabinetry planned and designed by Kitchens by Lenore of Birmingham, is a wonderful combination of sunshine and artistry. The pickled oak look continues throughout. The wall treatment is a laminated, large print, navy blue fabric with tangier and neutrals.

The shaded teal, tile floor, a color to fall in love with, has pale peach grouting.

In fact, the color of the grouting in all of the tile installations is something to pay attention to, along with a myriad of other details which add so much to the overall look.



The graceful drama of the circular stairway is enhanced by the five-part skylight and a sweeping curve of molding on the inner wall.

NOT TO BE missed is the \$30,000 19th century French needlepoint rug in the French bedroom (hardly a detail) by Perlmutter Freilwald Inc. of Franklin, and the coffee table with a 19th century gas lantern from a Belgian lake shop in the grand guest suite by John Mitchell Interiors of Birmingham.

For the \$5 fee at the door, visitors will have a chance to see what's happening in the home furnishings field (which often leads the apparel field), the new colors and trends.

It is more than a visit to a 10,000-square-foot house with a rather staggering price tag. It's a delightful learning experience.

Helen Peterson of Bloomfield Hills

is the symphony chairman of the showhouse and Brian Collins represents the local chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers.

There's a boutique with lots of greenery and hand-crafted items by Michigan artisans on the premises along with a tea room.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tues-

day-Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday and 6-9 p.m. Thursdays. Closed Monday. The house will be open through June 22 at 1711 Morningside Way, Wabek North, north of Long Lake, between Franklin and Middlebelt, Bloomfield Township.

For information, call 446-0950 weekdays.

Designers give talks

A series of Thursday lectures, "An Evening with the Designers," begins at 7:30 p.m. this evening at the Detroit Symphony/ASID showhouse and continues on June 2, 9, 16.

Tickets for the programs are available at the door, 1711 Morningside Way, North Wabek, Bloomfield Township, north of Long Lake between Franklin and Middlebelt.

All of the speakers are members of the Michigan Chapter of the Ameri-

cans Society of Interior Designers.

The programs are: May 28, "Eclecticism/How to Mix Periods," Daniel E. Clancy; June 2, "Accessories and Lighting," Brian Clay Collins; June 9, "Color/Does Red Really Make You Rage?" and "Window Treatments," by Margie Cockle Cunningham.

Each program will include a slide presentation followed by a question and answer period.

For information, call 569-3212.



The shaded teal tile floor and the light oak cabinets work together to give the kitchen a bright, sunny country French look. The glass cabinets are contoured.

Staff photos by Mindy Saunders