

Couple convert dairy barn to a home

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

LARRY RAYMOND means it when he says he and his wife Hope "will tackle anything."

In 1976, they bought a vintage 1940s dairy barn near Maple and Inkster in Bloomfield Township.

Since then, they have turned the barn into an attractive residence, doing about 99 percent of the work themselves.

They had professional help with the heating, plumbing and electrical work and insulation. But, the dry wall, plastering, entirely new second floor, kitchen bedrooms, floors, built-in bookcases, built-in closets — everything — is their work.

The basic structure with steel framework, was solid. There was no worry about laying brick over the existing first floor. It is six inches of reinforced concrete which Raymond said, "can carry 250 pounds per square foot. It's unbelievable how sturdily built this is."

It took some serious time with a jack hammer to drill holes in that floor to bring heating up from the lower level, which housed the manure troughs and concrete mangers, and install a circular stairway.

RAYMOND, on the staff of Ralph Calder and Associates of Detroit for 25 years and a graduate of the University of Michigan school of architecture, said he missed working on the house only one weekend in the first three years. "Most people don't recognize me if I'm not covered with dust and paint."

But, for the Raymonds, this isn't work, this is a way of life they love. Everything in the home reflects their incredibly wide range of interests — from quilting, spinning, weaving, bolany, off-beat travel, primitive art, contemporary art and classical music to cooking — and of course, architecture. And they share all of these interests.

The large floor room, at one end of what the couple call "the winter room," is one of the reasons they liked the barn.

Not only was there ample space on the first floor for the loom and a whole room devoted to spinning, weaving and affiliated handicrafts, there was plenty for a living room, dining room, kitchen,



A window saved from a Cass Corridor hotel links the master bedroom on the new mezzanine to a large closet and dressing area just beyond. At right, Larry Raymond pauses for a moment near

one of his favorite spots in his home, the kitchen. Behind the counter on which he's leaning is the work area complete with six-burner stove, refrigerator and pantry.

pantry, three bedrooms and baths.

THE VERTICAL space was such that the couple built a mezzanine on which there is a library, master bedroom, master bath and closet/dressing area.

But, even though the plan is slick and the workmanship excellent, it is the thousand personal details which make his home special. Each accessory, piece of furniture or architectural detailing has a reason for being and most have a story.

The Raymonds laid the 7,000 bricks in a basket weave pattern for the floors and walks themselves. Raymond, responsible for all the professional documentation at Ralph Calder and Associ-

ates, keeps track of details, even the number of bricks used.

The half-circle leaded glass window over the headboard in the master bedroom, was originally in an old Cass Corridor hotel.

The beautiful marble top on a contemporary built-in buffet in the dining room came from one of the old baths in Mt. Clemens.

The dining room is a study in eclecticism. The rough ceramic pieces in a weaving on the dining room wall are pot shards which the Raymonds dug in Peru.

"We think they're pre-Columbian," Raymond said.

On another wall of the dining room is a dart quiver which Raymond traded

for his wife's blue nightgown to a native on a trip to the Upper Amazon.

The contrast between these pieces and the marble-topped buffet with its high gloss black formica doors, the contemporary white plastic laminate and chrome table from Switzerland and the black leather and chrome chairs is dramatic.

The sills of the deeply recessed windows are made of crushed pieces of coping tile from the original structure, set in cement. The walls are two feet thick because the Raymonds added a foot of insulation to the already substantial walls.

LIKE THE dining room, the interior furnishings are a combination of per-



ods representing things which the couple like, from antiques to modern. They wove many of the textiles themselves and plan to do more.

Many of the herbs on the shelf in the kitchen near the six burner stove (often they both cook at the same time) come from their herb garden.

The view through the huge open pentagon of the semi-enclosed porch in-

cludes, meadow flowers, trees and a small pond.

The Raymonds have identified 36 different wildflowers and have planted 22 other kinds. They have also identified all of the trees on their almost two acres of land.

This is a personal home, with meanings which continue to grow as the Raymonds' appreciation for beauty continues to widen.

25% OFF

Solid Cherry and
Solid Oak from

Jamestown Sterling
CORPORATION

A FALL SPECIAL

From *Stewart Glenn*
Quality for your home at a
price you can afford



This solid cherry dining room features the beauty and grace of Queen Anne styling. Other pieces are available in their dining room collection, as well as a complete solid cherry bedroom grouping.

Jamestown Sterling, one of the finest names in solid wood furniture, introduces their new collections in solid cherry and solid oak at a price you can afford. The pieces are generously sized yet scaled for today's home. Both the cherry pictured above, and oak collection pictured at right feature complete dining room and bedroom groupings and are constructed and finished in a manner you will be proud of...quality you expect from Stewart Glenn. This quality at these low prices represent one of the finest values on the market today. But hurry, 25% off suggested retail prices for these groupings ends September 29.



Fine Furniture Since 1917

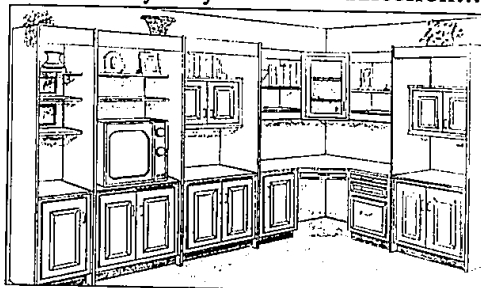
Stewart Glenn

2600 N. WOODWARD
Bloomfield Hills

Open Mon., Thurs., Fri. eves 'til 9 p.m.

332-8348

Cabinetry Beyond The Kitchen...



For Every Room Of Your Home.

Creative Cabinets can be specially designed to meet the needs of today's modern lifestyles whether it's a family room, bathroom, study or office.

ROK

ROYAL OAK KITCHENS

4518 N. Woodward • 549-2944

3 blks. S. of 14 Mile Rd.

Serving the Community for 28 years

Interior Plants... ...that survive



Planterra
TROPICAL GREENHOUSES, INC.

OPEN HOUSE
Friday
Sept. 21

7315 Drake Road
Just North of 14 Mile
West Bloomfield
661-1591