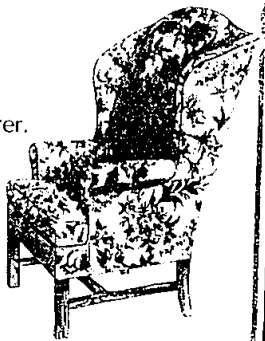


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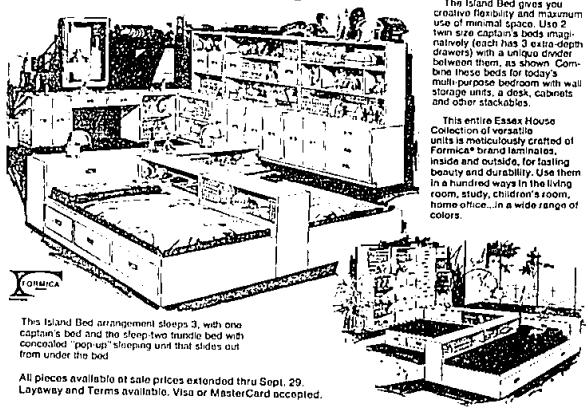
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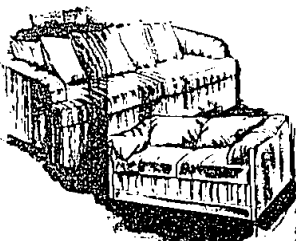


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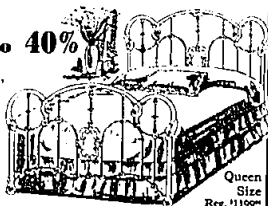
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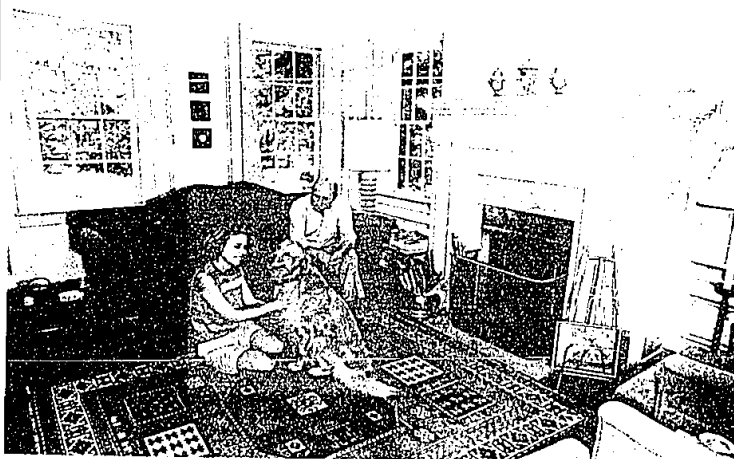
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The artist at home . . .



MINDY SAUNDERS/staff photographer

Glen Michaels chose the soft earth greens for the walls and woodwork of this room from the Wedgewood set on the mantle. The camelback sofa is a rich blue and there's a brilliant red in the chair. Artist Glen Michaels, who understands the wonders of primary colors, relaxes with the family collie and daughter, Suzanne.

Accident inspires decor

By Carol Azizian
staff writer

WHEN GLEN Michaels "inherited" three shattered 18th-century Wedgewood pottery vases, he had no idea he would wind up piecing together the decor for a study around the vases.

"It was a freak accident," said the Troy artist who is best known for his wall assemblages of domino-like tiles, stone, wood, cast bronze and printing press type. "A friend gave them to me, after the vases had fallen on a marble hearth. She thought I might be able to use the fragments in my art work."

"Every day, I'd glue a couple of pieces together. Then I realized how beautiful the forms were. I asked my friend if she wanted them back and she said no."

That's how his adventure in home decorating all began. The earth green pottery soon became the centerpiece for a library/study in Michaels' spacious Georgian-style country home. The Wedgewood trio is placed on the fireplace mantle.

"Wedgewood green has a particularly restful look," he said. "It's soft, yet it has strength."

MIXING paint colors to match the earth

green tones in the pottery, he came up with four varying hues to apply to the fireplace, ceiling and walls of the study. The painting experiment soon spread to the hallway, which also is covered with earth green tones.

"It was a common practice in the Georgian period (of architecture) to use several values of the same color in a room to emphasize the moldings," Michaels explained.

"This room was once green," he noted, pointing to the study. "It was probably the parlor of a very simple farmhouse built around 1830."

A small portion of the house was constructed in the early 19th century. The remainder was added on by the Stoepe family in the 1920s.

Both the furniture and decorative pieces were incorporated to compliment the walls. But the Michaelses didn't buy any new furniture or art work. They used what they had.

Coincidentally, a dark blue design in one of the Wedgewood pieces matches the color of a Victorian-era camel-back couch in the study.

A Chinese watercolor scroll blends almost perfectly with the soft green walls.

Other colors are introduced in the Kazak Oriental rug — yellow ochre, cerulean

blue, ultramarine blue and vermillion. Two chairs compliment the red tones.

"Most people don't have very much courage with color," said Jacqueline Michaels (Glen's wife). "If you just look at a flower garden, you'll see that all the colors in nature go together."

OTHER antique elements include a late 19th-century brass magazine rack and a grouping of 1920s-era wind-up toys depicting Amos 'n' Andy, Charlie Chaplin, Tom Mix, the Toonerville Trolley (from a cartoon strip), Charlie McCarthy, GI Joe, Li'l Abner and Maggie and Jiggs (cartoon characters).

A fireplace screen (once called a "nursery screen") adds to the 19th-century effect. "We never figured out if it was intended to keep the kids away or dry diapers," Jacqueline joked.

Elements from other cultures are apparent in a Japanese tea chest, Persian tea caddy, Indian temple toys and Pre-Columbian heads.

The diversity of objects and styles contribute to an overall, warm atmosphere.

"We wanted it to look like a country house," Jacqueline said. "It's a very welcoming house which lends itself to entertaining."

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