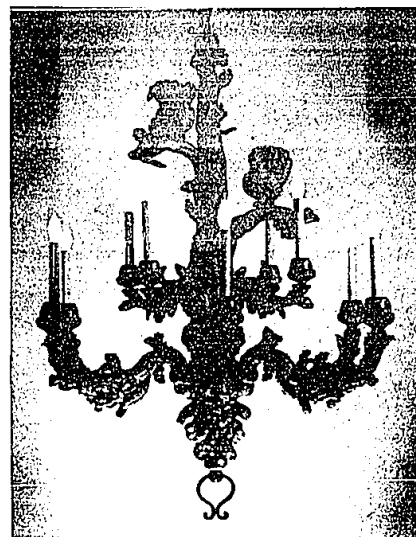


Sue Bolt's ceramic art for the wall above the tub and the decorative individual tiles in the tub all tell the story of the life of the family who enjoy a summer home up north. The figures, against a background of blue sky and water, are easily recognizable to their friends as are the activities in which they are involved.



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Tub art — creating a splash

By Sally Gerak
special writer

"I first saw Sue Bolt's work at the Detroit Artists Market. It had such whimsy and originality that I thought it would be wonderful to capture it in something very personal," explained the owner at a L'Arbre Croche vacation home near Harbor Springs.

That home, designed by Birmingham architect Carl Luckenbach, was built more than 10 years ago.

It has breathtaking views of Little Traverse Bay from most of its spacious rooms. The master bath, however, had no view of the bay until the owners recently replaced a solid wall with a greenhouse window.

Remembering Bolt's ceramic artistry, the owners commissioned her to complete the remodeling project with a mural of hand-painted ceramic. The art work adds new meaning to the phrase, "room with a view."

In the nine-by-five foot mural, the owners and their dog are posed between the house and a crooked tree. (L'Arbre Croche is French for crooked tree.) They watch friends parrying on the deck.

A BARBEQUE fire notes their fondness for clambakes. An airplane and sailboat are more personal interests. The puffy clouds, sea gulls, sun shining

and evergreens are other vacation time favorites.

"The things that are part of our life — that's what we wanted to include," said the owner's wife who did rough sketches for Bolt's guidance.

Bolt and her artist husband, Russ, a former General Motors designer, now live and work at their studio near Charlevoix. After the initial artist/owner consultation at the cottage, communication was by telephone and mail. Using the owner's rough sketches, the Bolts did a scale drawing of the mural and sent it to the owners for their approval.

"I knew I'd love it," said the owner's wife.

"She was very nice to work with," noted Bolt, pleased that the owners expanded the commission to include the entire tub as well as the mural.

Randomly placed among the solid color, deep aqua tub tiles are 57 tiles depicting such owner preferences as morel mushrooms, shell fish and ski scenes.

"I felt like I was designing something for the head of a pin," quipped Bolt, recalling the detailed design on the four-inch, hand-made tiles. "But I loved doing it. I had never done a project that large for that kind of installation."

SINCE COMPLETING the L'Arbre

Croche cottage commission, the Bolts have also done a large series of hand-painted tiles for Tom's Cafe in Charlevoix and another large project for a private home on Torch Lake. Bolt's ceramics and prints are also carried by the Detroit Artists Market, where she

had her first show 25 years ago.

The Bolts exhibited in Common Ground's Art in the Park in Birmingham last week. They may be reached at (616) 547-4855 or visited at their Grange Hall studio/gallery on Marion Center Road, south of Charlevoix.

Locate proper windows in harmony with nature

Thoughtful planning in regard to windows and landscaping can go a long way toward the kind of energy conservation that pays off.

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To conserve energy, windows should be placed where they can take advantage of sunlight, its warmth and the ventilation provided by prevailing winds.

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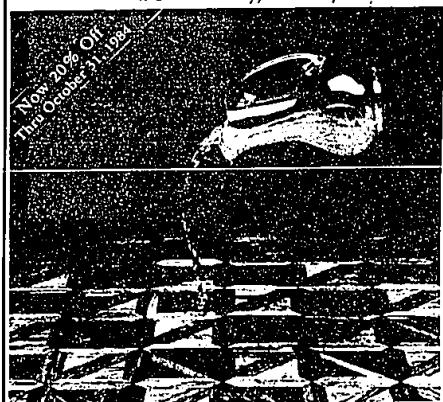
glass area facing south. The windows and patio doors should be double glazed to trap the heat of the low-lying winter sun.

Roof overhangs, awnings or leaf-bearing trees should be used to protect the glass against excessive heat gain from the high summer sun.

To achieve maximum solar access, place bushes closer to the glazed area. Tall trees should be further away.

If there is a prevailing north wind in your locale, plant mature evergreen trees on the north side of your home to provide wind break.

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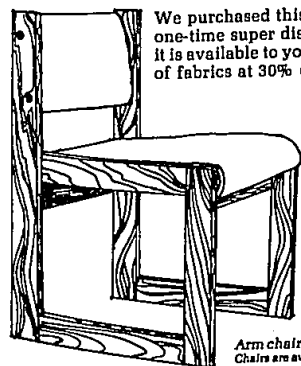
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