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Solution: Architect puts house on an angle

By Corinne Abatt staff writer

RIDDLE: WHAT'S large, contemporary, graceful, has a three-car garage and fits on a 70 foot lot in Birmingham?

The home that architect Alexander Bogaerts designed for Scott and Dee Dee Jacobson, that's what, Jacobson's company, S.R. Jacobson Development Corporation of Southfield, did the construction.

It works so well on the 70 by 149 foot lot because the house is rotated on a 45 degree angle.

Bogaerts said, "There were two relatively difficult restrictions to work with — to include a three car garage and to save the major trees on the front of the lot."

He said that as a result of the rotation, instead of a view of a 10 foot sideyard from the dining room window, there is a garden court with 20 foot as the extreme dimension.

The exterior of the contemporary house, approximately 2,850 square feet, is white split rock brick with white mortar and painted (smooth) cedar-siding.

THE GREAT ROOM, in the front of the house has a 14 foot ceiling which goes up to 24 feet at the far end where the second floor studio overlooks the room from a balcony.

In addition to the studio which can double as a guest bedroom there is another bedroom and a master bedroom suite. Since this is partially over the garage, there is a delightful walk-out balcony in the master bedroom.

The Jacobsons asked Bogaerts to include a glass brick wall around the open stairway to the second floor, so while the design is contemporary, this adds a touch of Art Deco, but blends in well with the black and white color scheme, the oak floors laid on the diagonal and the black pipe railings.

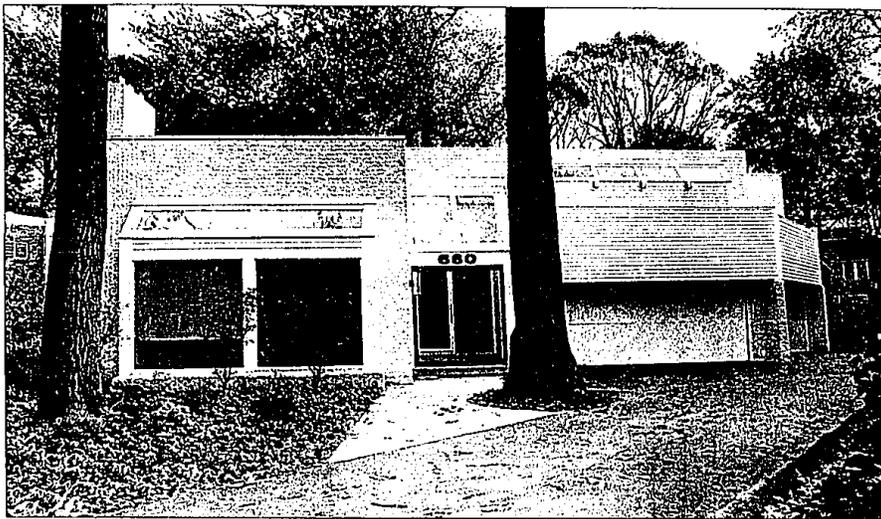
Where carpeting is used, such as on the stairs or in the living room, it is a rich slate gray tweed. The master bedroom is carpeted in white wool. The master bathroom is dramatic black and white — high gloss black floor tile, black sunken tub and white accessories.

The fireplace in the living room is

black marble and the Jacobsons, still waiting delivery on new furniture, plan to accessorize in bright colors, many of which are being picked up from a large contemporary painting in the dining room by Karen Egrin of Franklin.

THE KITCHEN with pristine white, high gloss laminate cabinets by T. J. Industries of Troy, a ceiling fixture with an open, white metal rod frame and center island with a surface unit that has gas and electric burners as well as a grill, reflects the "high tech" look which the couple are establishing in the home.

The house, with maximum insulation, suits the lifestyle of this busy, career couple. Former Miss Michigan World and Miss U.S.A. World, Dee Dee Jacobson now a model, attended Marygrove College. He is a Michigan State graduate.



This house, which Alexander Bogaerts designed for the Scott Jacobsons, was turned 45 degrees to accommodate a three-car garage and save the mature trees on the 70-foot wide lot.

"This house is perfect for us," Jacobson, "visitors comment that it's more like New York City highrise than a house in the suburbs."

The residence, with a deck off the dining room, the modest yard, front and back, first floor laundry, modern

conveniences, is as close to condominium living as it is separate residential.

But, for all its space, so cleverly tucked into the lot, there are broad, unobstructed views of the pleasant tree-lined street and no direct views

from theirs to neighboring houses.

The angle of the house on the lot also allows neighbors on both sides unobstructed views of the street.

"I was always interested in contemporary architecture," Jacobson said. "The lot was right for us, there

are all different types of houses in this area."

And he's right, in a neighborhood of Tudor, Spanish, American colonial and 1920s style architecture, this contemporary one is unobtrusive and completely at ease.



The splashes of bright color in the Karen Egrin painting in the dining room will be repeated in the color scheme of both rooms. Louvre blinds are used throughout the house.



The architectural detail of the stairway sets the mood for the house. Posing with owners Scott and Dee Dee Jacobson is their dog, Clara Ling, a char pel whose dark sable coat fits nicely with the color scheme.

Staff photos by Mindy Saunders

Czech couple excel in molded glass form



The glass work, titled "Kontakty," was done this year. The color is close to topaz. The varying thickness of glass within this single work give it great architectural as well as optic qualities.

By Corinne Abatt staff writer

The current exhibition at Habatat Gallery of Southfield offers a rare opportunity to see glass sculpture by the renowned Czechoslovakian artists, Stanislav Libensky and Jaroslava Brychtova, through Dec. 1.

This, in fact, is their first solo exhibition in North America, even though their work has been exhibited and installed throughout the world, much of it in conjunction with architecture.

Six of their works are in the entrance room of the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, N.Y. One of them is a transportation terminal in Osaka, Japan.

Ferdinand Hampson, director of Habatat Gallery, said, "Actually this is the first time they've ever had a gallery exhibit anywhere in the world. Most of the pieces (in this show) have never even been seen photographically in this country."

HE SAID their representative (and translator) Peter Clikka of Art Centrum, Czechoslovak Center of Fine Arts, questioned at the beginning whether they had enough time to produce a body of gallery-size works for the show which includes earlier as well as new work.

Hampson said there are earlier works in the show because their process involves the use of a mold and many of the smaller pieces are done in editions of five.

The large solid glass spheres with molded glass forms imbedded in them were done 1980-1982. The later works, essentially combinations of geometric forms, columns, squares, rectangles, blended into a single form of varying thicknesses are more hard-edged than the earlier works.

In a lecture at the Detroit Institute of Art, Libensky told the audience that all of the Czech artists under 55 years of age, working in contemporary glass, were taught by him.

"These newer pieces, single cast, are too advanced for this country right now," said Hampson.

In their lecture at the Detroit Institute of Art, Libensky told the audience that all of the Czechoslovakian artists under 55 years of age, working in contemporary glass, were taught by him.

Libensky, born in 1921, began his studies of glass in his early teens and continued it, after the Nazi occupation, at the glass-making school in Zelazny Brod. After advanced studies, he became headmaster of the school in Zelazny Brod where he was involved in painted and etched glass and glass windows.

ONCE HE and Brychtova met, later married, and combined their talents, the quality and excitement of their output was far greater than each had achieved individually.

Brychtova, daughter of Jaroslav Brycht, professor of glass making at Zelazny Brod, studied sculpture at the Academy of Applied Arts in Prague. Her particular talents in mold making allow the couple to produce in glass the wonderful forms which he conceives and illustrates in paintings and drawings.

They began casting glass in the factory at Zelazny Brod in the mid 1950s and together they were awarded the Grand Prix at the World's Fair in Brussels in 1958 and the gold medal at the Eighth Biennale in Sao Paulo in 1959, the gold medal in Munich in 1966 and the gold medal in Stuttgart in 1968.

SINCE THEIR larger pieces are usually meant to be in collaboration with architecture, Libensky said they consider their work both functional as well as fine art.

"Our sculptures are most like individual expressions which fulfill the architectural (concept)," he said.

She said that even though his paintings for works are two-dimensional, they give a three-dimensional viewpoint and he can imagine how the sculpture will look.

"This approach is very complex," Brychtova said, "He is very sure how it will look. It is not just chance . . . from the very beginning we have been trying to make use of all the characteristics of glass."

This, she said, meant they had to move beyond traditional glass-making techniques. For instance, she said, they found a new expression in glass in "the thickness — very heavy, very sculptural."

Habatat Gallery, 28225 Southfield, Lathrup Village, is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday until 9 p.m. Friday.