

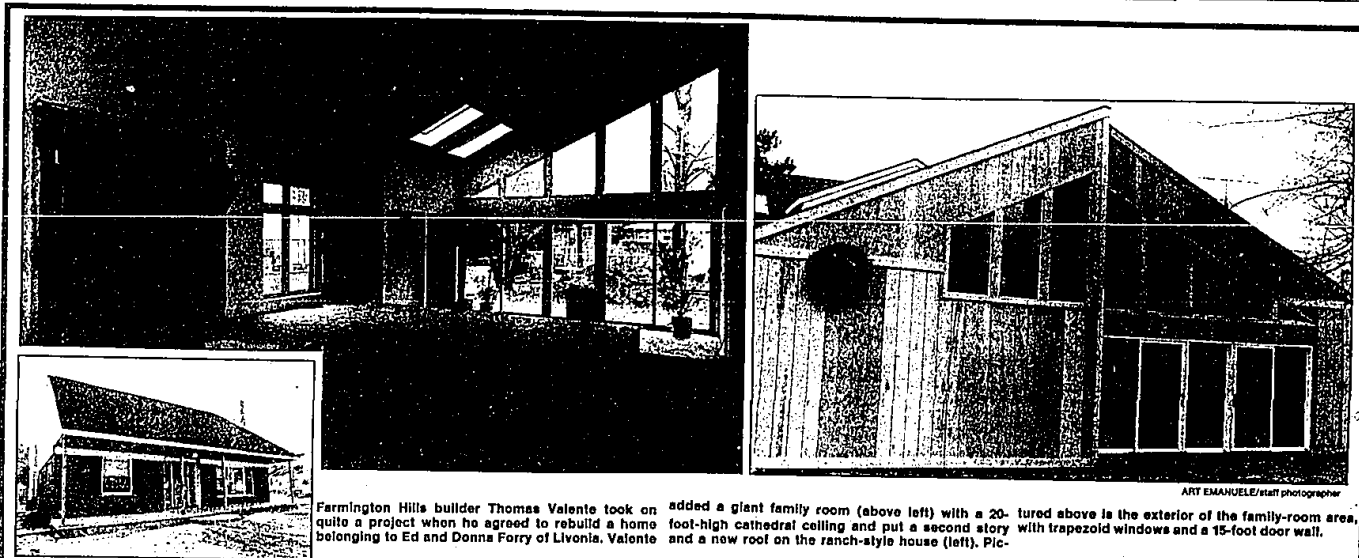
# Suburban Life

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Thursday, January 10, 1985 042

(P.18)



ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

Farmington Hills builder Thomas Valente took on quite a project when he agreed to rebuild a home belonging to Ed and Donna Forry of Livonia. Valente added a giant family room (above left) with a 20-foot-high cathedral ceiling and put a second story with trapezoid windows and a 15-foot door wall.

## 'Peaking' interest

### Rebuilt house reaches new heights in style, comfort

By Richard Lech  
staff writer

**T**O REBUILD an entire house is a home remodeler's dream.

It could also be a nightmare if things don't work out as planned.

Builder Thomas Valente of Farmington Hills recently got the chance to rebuild a home belonging to Ed and Donna Forry in Livonia's Rosedale Gardens area.

While the project offered its share of worries, Valente and the Forrys are very pleased with the result.

"There were a lot of unusual angles, a lot of unusual stress points," Valente said. "It's a hell of a challenge, but it's come out real nice."

"The nicest thing about this job is that Tom has made our dream come true," Donna Forry said, "and I hope we have made a friend for life."

Valente started by tearing the roof off the Forry's one-story, two-bedroom ranch house to create an upstairs. He then extended the new roof into the back yard to cover both the garage and a large portion of the yard.

That formed the house's most spectacular feature — a giant great room.

Six hundred square feet in area, the room peaks with a 20-foot high cathedral ceiling, a slightly raised platform that will serve as a family room, and a 15-foot door wall overlooking the back yard.

"We wanted a family room with a cathedral ceiling, but I don't think we

planned to go this high," Forry said with a laugh.

"My husband's looking forward to next Christmas because he wants to put a huge tree in here."

The big room has four sky windows in its sloped ceiling, five paneled beams that will be illuminated with inset lighting across the top of the ceiling, and trapezoid and triangular windows above the door wall.

The room also contains the walls and flat roof of the garage, the top of which will become a loft within the "great room."

The area between the family room and the kitchen, which is in the original section of the house, will become an eating area. The kitchen also is being remodeled.

THE FINAL touch will be a fieldstone fireplace in the family room area.

The upstairs area has become one giant master bedroom, with a bathroom and a separate vanity room. Another room will become a storage area, although it could easily serve as a fourth bedroom.

The project is several months away from completion, but already has drawn considerable comment from neighbors and passersby, Valente said.

"It's going to be the Taj Mahal when it's done," he said.

The Forrys are part of a growing trend among homeowners to remodel what they have rather than move, he said.

The Forrys have lived in their home for 13 years, but in recent years they wanted more room for them-

selves and son Chris, a student at Livonia Franklin High School.

They owned some property in Salem Township that they were considering building on, Donna Forry said. But mom and son talked about out of that sleep.

"Chris and I wanted to stay in Livonia, so Eddie lost out on that," Donna Forry said. "Our son is in high school, and he didn't want to leave, and I didn't want to leave the neighborhood."

THEY HIRED Valente, who had built an addition for a friend of theirs, to do the remodeling job.

Valente has been in the remodeling business for 13 years, five years on his own. He has constructed additions, remodeled kitchens and bathrooms, and refinished basements.

But he had never done anything quite like the Forry project before. "This is like one of a kind," he said. "Most people don't go through with this extent of remodeling."

"This was really the first time I was able to do this much of a house. It was a real good learning experience. A lot of things somebody can't teach you. You just have to do it."

A YEAR AGO Valente met with the Forrys to discuss what could and could not be done. After the planning was done, they took their ideas to an architect, who put them down in blue and white.

Last September Valente started to rip the house apart to put it back together with a new look.

Valente and his subcontractors had to do their work while the family was

still living there, a potentially touchy situation. But the builder got along very well with his clients, who were receptive to his suggestions and patient during any delays or problems that came up.

In fact, the s and Valente have become close friends. He even joined a family painting party in the master bedroom on his own time.

"One thing I got out of this is another family," Valente said.

The project provided plenty of headaches, however. He had to make sure the house's old walls would support its new superstructure. The plumbing, wiring and heating had to be changed to accommodate the improvements.

"On a job like this, there are a lot of things you can't see," he said. "You don't know what's behind the walls before you open them up."

THE HOME'S exterior also un-

derwent extensive renovation. Valente gave a Tudor look to the upstairs bedroom, put in new windows and a new front door, and heightened the chimney using bricks that matched the original as much as possible.

"The thing we're trying to do is make it look like it's always been there," Valente said of the added work.



ART EMANUELE/staff photographer

After working so closely together on the remodeling project, Valente (right) and the Forrys — Chris, Donna and Ed — say they now feel as though they are all one big happy family.

## Doctor laments teens' lack of sexual knowledge



Dr. Michael Roth

By Lorraine McClieh  
staff writer

**T**HERE WERE AN estimated 1.2 million abortions performed every year illegally before 1973. And there are 1.2 million abortions taking place every year since the law was changed to make abortion legal in the first trimester of pregnancy.

"And there are the same number of nervous wrecks coming into my office every month," said Dr. Michael Roth, an obstetrician and gynecologist with offices in Farmington Hills and Detroit. "Nothing has changed. The teens are still as ignorant as they ever were. They are ignorant about their bodies, ignorant about birth control, and they are not even knowledgeable about their rights under the law."

**ROTH BELIEVES** it is important for all women to have a gynecological examination as soon as menstruation begins. A regular practice of his is to give his client a talk, along with visual aids, about how the body functions ear-

ly on in the initial visit.

He has stopped being surprised "at the lack of knowledge these girls have about their bodies, for no matter what reason they are here."

As to rights under the law, he encounters a similar ignorance.

"They have never been told that if I told these girls' parents anything they told me in confidence, I would be breaking the law or that I can give them birth control pills without their parents' consent."

"And, apparently, they've never been told that they can walk into any Planned Parenthood Clinic for free."

**WHEN ROTH** set up practice 10 years ago, he wanted to save the world, he said.

He set out to do this by contacting a half-dozen school systems, requesting time to talk with 10th-to-12th grade students. What he got in return, he said, "was a half-dozen half-assed backward responses."

The school representatives he spoke with about classes, lectures, seminars or talks suggested a variety of formats,

but all insisted the parents be present.

"One of them suggested I give an adult education class for parents and if they chose, they could bring their teens with them."

**"THAT WOULDN'T** work. It doesn't work because it's been tried before and because your audience is made up of parents who are already open about sex with their kids."

"Because I wanted to talk about sex to young teens, I was being accused of advocating sex among the teens."

"So the steady stream of the young and the anxious are still pouring into the abortion clinics and getting pregnant out of ignorance. It is not going to change until we reach those kids with some correct information, talk to them on their level."

**ABOUT** 18 months ago, Roth established a program called Women's Resource Center, in his offices at 32905 12 Mile Road. The program has caused him another bit of frustration. A mix-up in the Yellow Pages placed his advertisement in three telephone books,

none of them reaching his hometown.

"The program is going along OK, but the partial refund I got doesn't make up for the fact that I'm not getting to the kids in this area."

The three main factors Women's Resource Center concerns itself with are birth control, tubal ligation (sterilization for women) and PMS (Premenstrual Syndrome).

"PMS is sometimes known as that time-of-the-month-again and is the leading cause for decreased productivity in women, so a tremendous amount of research is being done on it now."

"We heard a particularly large amount about it last year when a woman in England was acquitted of murder because she was affected with PMS."

PMS can show up as anything from headaches to weight gain to mood swings.

**ROTH QUOTED** statistics that show that two-thirds of the 1.2 million women who will have abortions this year will be middle-to-upper-class whites.

"The repeaters, those who have two and three abortions, are in exactly the same ratio to the middle-to-upper classes as they are to the poverty stricken, so don't be fooled into thinking abortion is only for the indigent blacks."

Michigan is one of the few states that pays for abortion through Medicaid, and Roth expects that is not going to last long.

**"THERE IS** a strong movement to disallow this. I think before too long there are going to be enough votes to override the vetoes (by the governor)."

"Part of it is dollars and cents. Part of this is pressure to bear from the Right-to-Life."

"If this is ever dropped, massive amounts of education are going to be more important than ever."