

Creative Living

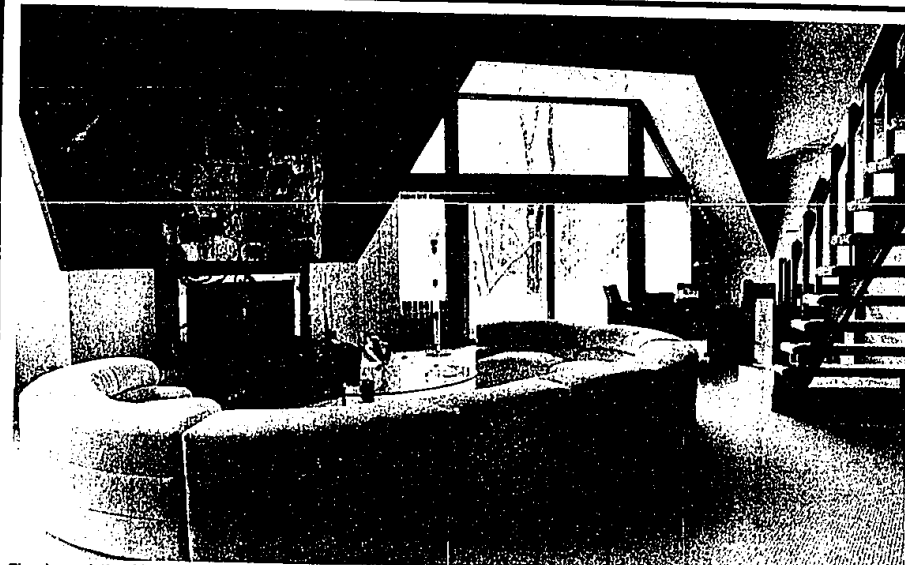
Corinne Abatt editor/644-1100

classified real estate and homes



Thursday, February 21, 1985 O&E

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The close relationship of structure and design of the dome house is repeated in the lines of the furnishings. Note how the lines of the back of the sectional relate to the curves and arches and (right)

how the sculptural base of the dining room table and the frosted glass of the chair arms compliment the skylights of the dome.

Furnishings strengthen architectural lines

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

A dome-shaped house sounds lovely and terribly uncomplicated until you start furnishing it. Mixing 45-degree angle furniture with curving walls is a bit like the old square peg in round hole trick. It won't work.

A client of Cynthia Ohanlian of Gorman's Southfield interior design staff bought a charming dome-shaped house in Bloomfield Township.

For this successful career woman, the house, with the highly appealing, distinctive architecture was almost irresistible. She liked the convenient location and fact that the house was practically invisible from the nearby main road. Architecturally, it was exciting, but the inside needed help before it would suit her taste and lifestyle.

What was once a dark interior became very light with the removal of dark wall panels. The walls were painted white. The floors were carpeted in a soft gray and the new lightness made the lines of the tetrahedrons which make up the high skylighted dome more visible, sculptural and beautiful.

Ohanlian chose furnishings which repeat and reinforce the curves of the architecture so there is a seemingly non-stop flow of rhythm and energy throughout the house.

THE COLOR scheme is essentially shades of black and white. A collection of lithographs by Joan Miro brings bright splashes of primary colors into the living room.

An elaborate fieldstone fireplace which follows the curve of the room dominates the living room which has a dining area in one part. The wide raised hearth is semicircular.

The sectional which also follows the curve of the hearth at a distance is gray with a sculptured back, so that from any angle, it seems an integral part of the dome home.

The large cocktail table in front of the sectional is glass and lucite with black marble. It too has a smooth round contour.

A black marble game table by Bruton, with chairs of silver gray leather contrasts dramatically with the larger dining room table on a signed Plexiglas base with chairs upholstered in black with lucite arms and legs.

The torchere style floor lamps remind the visitor ever so pleasantly

that there is a substantial amount of Art Deco mixed with the modern lines. These two are extremely compatible because there's often a kind of happiness in the Art Deco line that keeps the modern from being too stark.

THE FLOOR of the kitchen and adjoining family room is white tile. A luxurious, comfortable sectional in the family room is upholstered in soft gray leather. The glossy, black formica wall unit, like many pieces in the home was custom designed to fit the curve of the wall. It houses the TV and serves as storage area for books and albums. The area rug is rich gray with the black border design.

The large painting, signed Talbot, over the sectional, is an abstract in pastel colors with lavender as a dominant one. It provides color accent as well as artistic values.

The house is so carefully tailored to the tastes of the owner that it reflects her energy and personality almost as well as a photograph. The art and decorative pieces which she likes so well are displayed throughout the house. She chooses what she likes with great care and skill and she is quite a purist about the ar-

chitecture of the house. She plans to remove one interior wall which interrupts the flow of the line of the living room and to add another wing for a master bedroom suite.

R. Buckminster Fuller, American architect and engineer championed the geodesic dome design for many reasons.



Staff photos by Mindy Saunders



The black Formica wall unit with its sloping end was designed to fit the angled wall of the family room. The owner and woman's best friend find the gray leather sectional a wonderful place for relaxing on a bright winter day.

Couple launch gallery with poster show



MINDY SAUNDERS/staff photographer

Ned Duke and Ann M. Dandron-Duke are having their first show in their new Duke Gallery. Longtime Ann Arbor residents,

they are interested in decorative art from 1885 to 1940.

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

Before TV and radio commercials, there were posters. Around the turn of the century, posters were an effective way of advertising a product or an event.

Now, those posters are collector's items and rightly so, for many fine artists were employed to do the illustrations. Even at the time they were being done, the quality of the art work was appreciated.

The new Duke Gallery of Birmingham has built its first show, "Les Maîtres de l'Affiche," (The Masters of the Poster) around this art form.

The 35 lithographs in the exhibit are actually color lithograph reproductions of posters. The lithograph reproductions were published from December 1895 through November 1900 as a service to poster collectors who paid a certain (subscription) fee to receive a total of 340 of these in 60 monthly issues.

Many fine artists have done posters over the years, Toulouse-Lautrec being among the most famous. And while his aren't in this collection, many by his contemporaries such as Jules Cheret, Maurice Griffeffhagen and Lucien Miltvet are, and some of their works are similar in style to Lautrec's.

CHERET was one of the pioneers in

the use of color and image in advertising.

The posters advertised everything from cigarettes for women, lamp oil and art openings to muskates, dramas, operas and the Folies Bergeres.

Most have at least one figure, and often there are enough to tell a whole story.

Ann M. Dandron-Duke and husband, Ned Duke, specialize in European and American decorative art from roughly 1885 to the middle and late 1930s.

He said, "We have the largest collection of French Deco chandeliers in the country."

They also have a half-dozen or more bronze table lamps with glass shades by well-known makers such as Handel, Jefferson and Tiffany, and a large section of American and European art pottery and glass.

"What we're trying to do," said Duke, "is offer really strong decorative items."

The most important of these is a cast bronze and ivory of a woman and two dogs mounted on marble by Cluparus.

"That's our most exciting piece," said Duke. He is originally from Chicago and came to the University of Michigan on an athletic scholarship and continued

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The colorful poster for the theatrophone was originally done as an advertising piece but quickly became important as an art form.