

Creative Living

Marie McGee editor/644-1100



Thursday, May 1, 1986 O&E

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cultural cues

● **CIVIC CHORUS**
Livonia Civic Chorus will present its 21st spring concert, "Spring at Heart, 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday in Clarenceville High School Auditorium, 20155 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. Tickets are \$4.50 for adults and \$2.50 for seniors and students. Advanced tickets may be purchased at the LOVE office, Livonia City Hall. Tickets will also be available at the door.

● **SCANDINAVIAN SYMPHONY**
Conducted by Livonia resident Douglas Morrison, the Scandinavian Symphony will perform Charles Ives' Symphony No. 2 in Southfield High School on Lahser at 10 Mile roads at 8 p.m. Saturday. The concert will also feature Wagner's Entry of the Guests from "Tannhauser," Handel's Concerto Grosso Opus 6, No. 1 in G, and Finlandia by Sibelius. Tickets are \$5 at the door with discount for seniors and students. For more information, call 535-1330 or 644-9202.

● **SYMPHONY HOME TOUR**
The 6th annual home tour, sponsored by the Women's Association for the Dearborn Orchestra Society, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 17. Featured will be nine elegant homes in east Dearborn (Aviation Subdivision) of varied age and architecture, including English Tudor, Spanish colonial, American colonial and ranch styles. In addition to a tour of the homes, there will be a bake sale, flower cart and boutique located at tour headquarters where lunch also may be purchased. For more information, call 563-1323.

● **KIENZLE TO SPEAK**
Mystery writer, William Kienzle will talk about his new book "Deathbed" at 8 p.m. tomorrow in Alfred Noble Library, 9201 Plymouth Road, Livonia. The meeting is sponsored by the Friends of the Livonia Library and is open to the public. There is no admission charge.

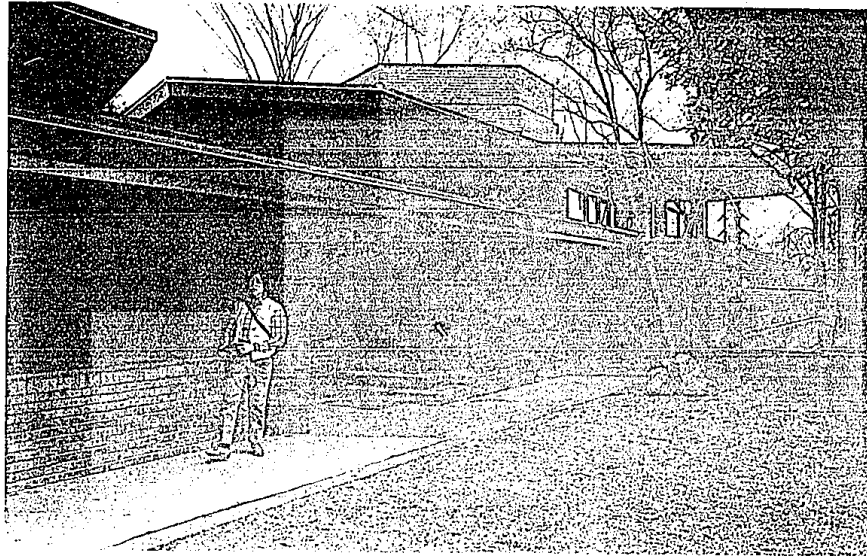
● **POLISH DANCERS**
The Polish Centennial Dancers of Plymouth will be performing their sixth annual recital at Churchill High School in Livonia at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 4. They will feature a Krakowiak wedding and will demonstrate their Polish heritage through lively polkas from around the world. For more information, call 261-9016 or 453-2388.

● **HUNGARIAN HERITAGE**
The Hungarian American Cultural Center will launch a series of lectures beginning in May. R. B. Clements-Zahony, administrative assistant to the director of the John M. Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs, Ashland College, Ohio, will be the first speaker at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 18 in the Cultural Center, 26257 Goddard Road, Taylor. His topic will be "The Americanization of a Hungarian: A Historical Perspective." Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. For information, call 422-7173.

● **ARTS AND CRAFTS**
The Michigan Cultural Association is sponsoring an arts and crafts show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. this weekend at the Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main Street, in historical downtown Northville. More than 65 varied artisans will have works for sale. Parking is free. Admission is \$1 for adults.

● **STAINED GLASS**
The Detroit Historical Museum announces a two-week workshop from 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17 in stained glass. Participants will create a sun-catcher while learning the fundamentals of the art. Registration fee is \$5 plus a \$6 materials fee. For more information, call 833-1005.

● **DYNAMIC DETROIT ARCHITECTURE**
Madonna College in Livonia will offer a five-week workshop on Dynamic Detroit Architecture from 1-4 p.m. beginning Saturday, May 10. The workshop will include lectures and walking tours around Greater Detroit to focus on major architectural achievements. For more information, call 591-5188.



Wright's Snowflake House in Plymouth was a source of fascination for those who attended the symposium on Frank Lloyd Wright architecture at the University of Michigan.

Wright hand Architect's work studied

By Susan Steinmueller
staff writer

A THREE-DAY Frank Lloyd Wright symposium held in Ann Arbor climaxed last week with a bus trip to two area houses designed by the legendary architect — the Wall House, or "Snowflake," in Plymouth, and the Affleck House in Bloomfield Hills.

The symposium, "The Wright Hand," was sponsored by the University of Michigan College of Architecture and Urban Planning and Domino's Pizza Inc.

It was attended by approximately 1200 architects, owners of Wright-designed homes, and Wright aficionados from around the country.

Leonard K. Eaton, University of Michigan professor of architecture, calling Wright "the greatest American architect that ever lived," said that based on the success of the first-time conference, a second would "hopefully" be held.

"It's a search for personal survival," said architect Nils Schweizer of Florida of the contin-

uing interest in Wright. "You see in Mr. Wright's work a prototype for that kind of a search for meaning." About 300 toured the two houses. They admired them inside and out despite a slight drizzle, and took numerous photographs.

Both the Wall (1941) and the Affleck (1940) residences are brick and cypress structures from the Wright "Usonian" period. The major difference is that Wright used hexagonal forms in the Wall house, and rectangular shapes in the Affleck residence.

Visitors seemed hard pressed to pick a favorite house — as Steve Barstow, Shepherd architect, said, "They're different approaches."

"SNOWFLAKE" was recently bought by Tom Monaghan as an addition to his Ann Arbor-based Domino's Pizza headquarters, Domino's Farms.

The house reveals a snowflake structure from the air and its various levels spin into a rolling hill site. The young Carlton David Wall built it as a wedding present for his wife, and Wright designed it as a "romantic house for a romantic couple."

Indiana visitor Courtney Robinson, attending with his wife, Barbara, said, "I think that we would both like to be 24 and 21 (the ages of the young couple when it was built) and to move into this house, or even to build it."

Bloomfield Hills architect turned tour guide for the day, John Davids, lived there as caretaker with his architect wife, Judy, for a year.

"We felt like newlyweds," he said. "We loved it when we moved in, even more so after moving in. A lot of times, people say Wright's homes aren't livable, but they are."

Among the Wright homeowners examining the two houses was Donald Schaberg. His residence, completed in 1958, was the last of four that Wright built in Okemos. Like the Wall and Affleck residences, Schaberg said his cypress, mahogany and brick house is Usonian.

While Schaberg said the two local houses reminded him somewhat of his house, he added, they're all unique. They're custom made for the builder, and client.

He described Wright as "exceptional" to work with. "He gave us everything we wanted. But we approved of his work and had no reason to question the things that he wanted done."

"His overall livability, comfort, views, having a warm environment inside and out," Schaberg cited as part of the experience of living in a Wright-designed home.

Schaberg said he attended the symposium.

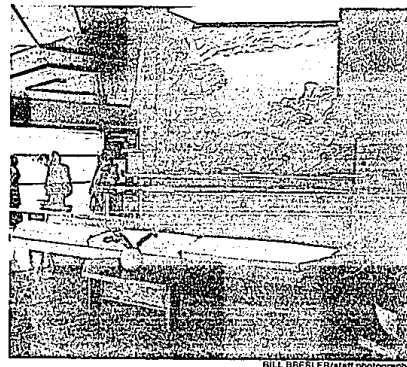
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The Wright stuff for sale

FRANK LLOYD Wright is known for creating a distinctly American style of architecture. He also designed much that went into his buildings — furniture, sculpture, even dinnerware.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation sells copies of Wright objects such as oak candlesticks (\$35), dinnerware (\$170 for seven-piece set) created for Wright's Imperial Hotel in Tokyo; and art-glass panels. Inspired by those Wright designed for windows, skylights, cabinet doors and light fixtures. Also available are a number of books by and about Wright.

For a catalogue, write to 951 Chicago Ave., Oak Park, Ill. 60302.



Visitors tour and photograph the library of the house, which was moved from New York City to Michigan.

Monaghan builds Wright collection

By Dale Northup
special writer

TOM MONAGHAN, owner of the Detroit Tigers and Domino's Pizza and a Frank Lloyd Wright enthusiast, has amassed a superb collection of Frank Lloyd Wright artifacts.

It was shown in conjunction with a symposium on Wright, sponsored by University of Michigan. Furniture, stained glass windows, books, photographs and memorabilia are displayed in his corporate headquarters in Ann Arbor Township.

He also purchased a Wright house which was built on the site of the Guggenheim Museum in New York City in 1953 and later dismantled. All these will eventually be on view in a Frank Lloyd Wright Museum to be constructed by Monaghan.

Domino's \$120-million dollar office complex in Ann Arbor Township was designed by Gunnar Birkerts of Birmingham. It bears a strong resemblance to Wright's Banfill Pavilion in Alberta, Canada (1911) which was never built.

BIRKERTS' DESIGN has a strong dominant horizontal, longitudinal axis, hip roofs, large overhanging eaves and ribbon windows.

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Monaghan's input as a client is apparent in the design of his office. It reflects a Wrightian propensity.

It was after completion, he said kiddingly to Birkerts, "Now I can't enjoy it."

Monaghan referred to Birkerts as "The greatest living architect in America." He also said, "My relationship with Gunnar Birkerts has been one of the richest experiences in my life. . . He has a great ability to understand what I'm saying without my saying it. . . His buildings have a way of working out with time. . . I have the luxury of arguing with him because I'm his client."

BIRKERTS WAS also given recognition by the keynote speaker of the symposium, Bruno Zevi, the leading force in European architectural journalism and foremost European exponent of Wright's work.

Zevi extolled the architect's exploration of freedom and the elements of a Wrightian vision.

The Wright hand, the Wright stuff, Gunnar Birkerts is the heir apparent contributing to the further development of American architecture in Ann Arbor Township and the country.



Pat Segel photographs a hallway leading to the dining room in the Snowflake House.