

Woodcut exhibit explores history

The world's oldest printmaking technique, the woodcut, is the subject of a survey in the Schwartz Graphic Arts Galleries of the Detroit Institute of Arts. The exhibition, "The Art of the Woodcut," will continue through Saturday, Jan. 4.

"The Art of the Woodcut" displays examples primarily from the museum's permanent collection. Chronologically installed, it illustrates nearly 500 years of relief printmaking, from late 15th century masters to modern artists.

Christine Swenson, DYA associate curator of graphic arts and show organizer, said, "The term woodcut designates an entire class of prints including woodcuts carved from planks of wood, wood engravings incised on end-grain blocks, and linoleum prints cut from blocks."

All are relief prints because a design is applied to the surface. Areas not to be printed are cut away. The design appears in a network of lines and planes standing in relief that are inked or colored and applied to paper by hand or with a press.

OUTSTANDING AMONG early woodcuts, characterized by their energy and complexity, are those of Albrecht Durer, along with his contemporaries and followers Albrecht Altdorfer, Hans Baldung and Lucas Cranach.

The 16th century brought innovations as two blocks were used, a key block with basic outlines of the composition, and additional blocks inked with different tones of the same or related colors.

The finest work was done by Ugo da Carpi, Niccolò Baldini and Andrea Andreani of Italy, and Hendrik Goltzius in Haarlem.

Intaglio techniques and etching superseded woodcuts for multiplying ideas in print until about 1790 when Englishman Thomas Bewick perfected a wood engraving technique using the metal engraver's burin rather than knives and gouges of the woodcutter.

When cleanly inked and printed on ever-smoother machine-made papers, wood began to rival metal as the medium for achieving minute detail in printing.

French wood engraver Auguste Lepore learned his brilliant cutting technique in England and also did much original work, liberating the medium from its frequent role of reproducing works initially executed in other media.

Late 19th century American wood engravers were recognized masters of this art and craft. The tradition continued in the 20th century in the original work of artist printmakers, such as Thomas Nason, Asa Cheffetz, Rockwell Kent and Leonard Baskin.

THE WOODCUT WAS a primary medium for German Expressionist artists Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Emil Nolde and Eric Heckel. Edward Munch exploited texture and surface to animate his woodcuts with intensity. Katha Kollwitz expressed powerful statements of human suffering.

In France, Felix Vallotton and Paul Gauguin created highly personal images and Aristide Maillol used the medium in the modern printed book.

The linoleum cut became popular among English artists after World War I and Picasso and Matisse used it to create sophisticated, complex images.

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Particularly interesting are the Provincetown woodcuts of B.J.O. Nordfeldt, Gustave Bauman, Blanche Lazzell, Maude Hunt Squire and Edna Boies Hopkins who worked in a community of artists and writers at Provincetown, Mass., and adapted traditional Japanese woodcut techniques to modern idiom.

Working with master printers in the 1970s, Helen Frankenthaler translated the veiled effects of her stained canvasses into woodcuts that provide a contemporary finale to the survey.

"The Art of the Woodcut" is open to the public without charge during regular museum hours, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday.

Thursday, November 20, 1986 O&E (S.F.9EX)13E

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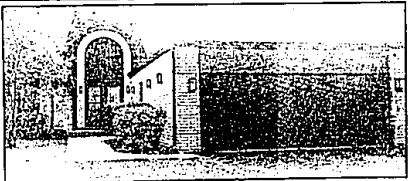
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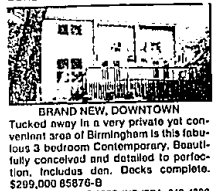
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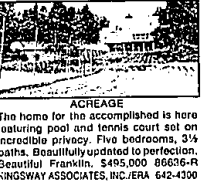
NOTTINGHAM AT ITS BEST
As pretty a site there is and a stately 4 bedroom family Colonial with 3 full and 3 half baths, family room, walk-out lower level, central air and conveniences to Birmingham schools. \$239,000 8506-F
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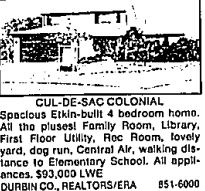
BRAND NEW, DOWNTOWN
Tucked away in a very private yet convenient area of Birmingham is this fabulous 3 bedroom Contemporary. Beautifully conceived and detailed to perfection. Includes den. Docks complete. \$209,000 8587-B
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PEBBLE CREEK CONDO
End unit Phase II lower ranch. Two bedrooms, library, 2 full baths, half bath in partially finished lower level. Unique fire expression area opens to large deck overlooking rolling commons. \$165,000 BWR
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ACREAGE
The home for the accomplished is here featuring pool and tennis court set on incredible property. Five bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths. Beautifully updated to perfection. Beautiful Franklin. \$495,000 86636-R
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CUL-DE-SAC COLONIAL
Spacious Etkin-built 4 bedroom home. All the pleasures! Family Room, Library, First Floor Utility, Rec Room, lovely yard, dog run, Central Air, walking distance to Elementary School. All appliances. \$93,000 LWE
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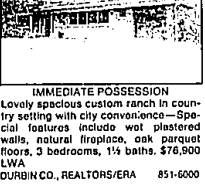
FINE BIRMINGHAM LOCATION
Clean and neat, ready to move in describes this attractive 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath Ranch. Special family room, fireplace, finished basement and garage. Updated kitchen and hardwood floors. \$113,000 88600-S
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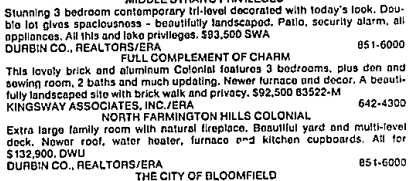
NEW HOME FOR A NEW YEAR
Cozy up and get comfy in front of beautiful brick fireplace in the great room of this 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial with open floor plan. Less than one year old and nestled on a cul-de-sac. \$141,900 SWO
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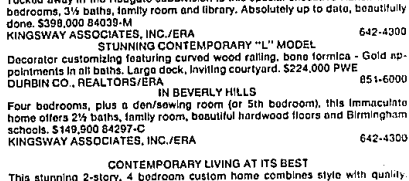
BIRMINGHAM'S HOLY NAME AREA
Handsome Cape Cod on lovely grounds with large deck and privacy. Features include 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, library and Florida room. Full basement, 2 car garage, walk to downtown, Quaker Lake and schools. \$137,500 88435-G
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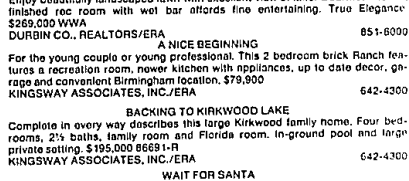
IMMEDIATE POSSESSION
Lovely spacious custom ranch in country setting with city convenience—Special features include wet plastered walls, natural fireplace, oak parquet floors, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths. \$76,900 LWA
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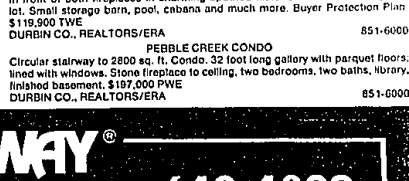
MIDDLE STRAITS PRIVILEGES
Stunning 3 bedroom contemporary tri-level decorated with today's look. Double lot gives spaciousness - beautifully landscaped. Patio, security alarm, all appliances. All this and lake privileges. \$93,500 SWA
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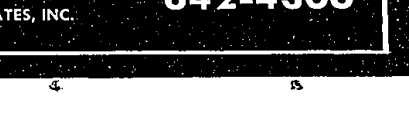
FULL COMPLEMENT OF CHARM
This lovely brick and aluminum Colonial features 3 bedrooms, plus den and sewing room, 2 baths and much updating. Newer furnace and decor. A beautifully landscaped site with brick walk and privacy. \$92,500 83522-M
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NORTH FARMINGTON HILLS COLONIAL
Extra large family room with natural fireplace. Beautiful yard and multi-level deck. Newer roof, water heater, furnace and kitchen cupboards. All for \$132,500. DWU
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THE CITY OF BLOOMFIELD
Tucked away in the Rutledge subdivision is this special executive Ranch with 5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, family room and library. Absolutely up to date, beautifully done. \$398,000 84039-M
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STUNNING CONTEMPORARY "L" MODEL
Decorator customizing featuring curved wood railing, bone formica - Gold appointments in all baths. Large dock, inviting courtyard. \$224,000 PWE
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IN BEVERLY HILLS
Four bedrooms, plus a den/sewing room (or 5th bedroom), this immaculate home offers 2 1/2 baths, family room, beautiful hardwood floors and Birmingham schools. \$149,900 84297-C
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CONTEMPORARY LIVING AT ITS BEST
This stunning 2-story, 4 bedroom custom home combines style with quality. Enjoy beautifully landscaped lawn with excellent view of lake. Gourmet kitchen, finished rec room with wet bar affords fine entertaining. True Elegance. \$269,000 VWA
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A NICE BEGINNING
For the young couple or young professional. This 2 bedroom brick Ranch features a recreation room, newer kitchen with appliances, up to date decor, garage and convenient Birmingham location. \$79,900
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BACKING TO KIRKWOOD LAKE
Complete in every way describes this large Kirkwood family home. Four bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room and Florida room. In-ground pool and large private setting. \$195,000 86631-R
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WAIT FOR SANTA
In front of both fireplaces in charming updated historic home on country size lot. Small storage barn, pool, cabana and much more. Buyer Protection Plan. \$119,900 TWE
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PEBBLE CREEK CONDO
Circular stairway to 2800 sq. ft. Condo. 32 foot long gallery with parquet floors, lined with windows. Stone fireplace to ceiling, two bedrooms, two baths, library, finished basement. \$197,000 PWE
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