

Creative Living



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Doctor finds his own tension reliever

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

YOU CAN BET your new Rehoboth, that when cardiologist Dr. Pierre Atallah of Rochester plans a townhouse community, it has walking and jogging paths and an aerobic exercise room.

Dr. Atallah and his wife, Ruth Marie, who works with him at his new clinic in downtown Rochester as well as on River's Edge, his 58-unit townhouse complex in Rochester Hills, purposely chose a site that would be soothing to the occupants. He said the planning and development help him get rid of the stress that builds during long hours of working with cardiology patients at Harper Hospital of Detroit

and at his clinic in Rochester. "I am building this (River's Edge) not to sell, but so people can enjoy the beauties of the Rochester area. I wouldn't buy an old house. I like to do my own construction, my own design, and I love Tudor."

Then as if to further explain, he added, "My job is cardiology. I'm not a builder. I use good builders. This is a hobby. I function more as a developer. I oversee the whole thing."

ANOTHER PROJECT, which most of the public will never see, is his personal residence in the Rochester area, which he candidly said rivals Meadow Brook Hall in size and grandeur.

It is River's Edge, this Bourne-born physician wants to talk about,

not his very private residence.

Standing in the glass-enclosed dining area of one furnished unit overlooking the Clinton River, he opened the glass doorwall for a breath of air, mentioned that there will soon be a deck built there, closed the door again and said, "We are building a clubhouse with full-size pool table, sauna, showers, exercise room and tennis courts. There will be facilities for canoeing on the Clinton River and the fishing is good. I have caught fish in this river."

"We are located close to the expressways, but hidden. It is amazing how secluded we are."

He commented on the beauty of the trees in the area and said a small island in the river, accessible to River's Edge residents, attracts bits of birds and other wildlife.

He said, "We had a group of Indians, who love nature, remove only the trees that were necessary for the development. They saved many

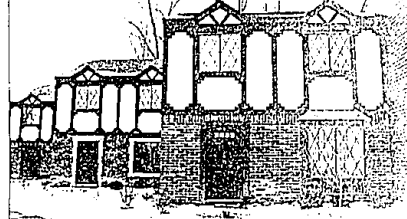
which are nicely nestled into the landscape."

AND WHILE THE ROADS are paved and the grounds are slated to be landscaped as soon as possible, much of the area around the river has been left natural, so it does, as the doctor said, have a secluded feeling.

The townhouses are all Tudor style brick and stucco with private entrances. The two-bedroom is 1,200 square feet, bath and a half, dining room, living room, well equipped kitchen and first floor laundry room.

Rents start at \$750 a month and go to \$950, depending on location, view and balconies.

Almost half are already occupied, the rest are up and the inside work should be completed in the next month or two. The model is open 1-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.



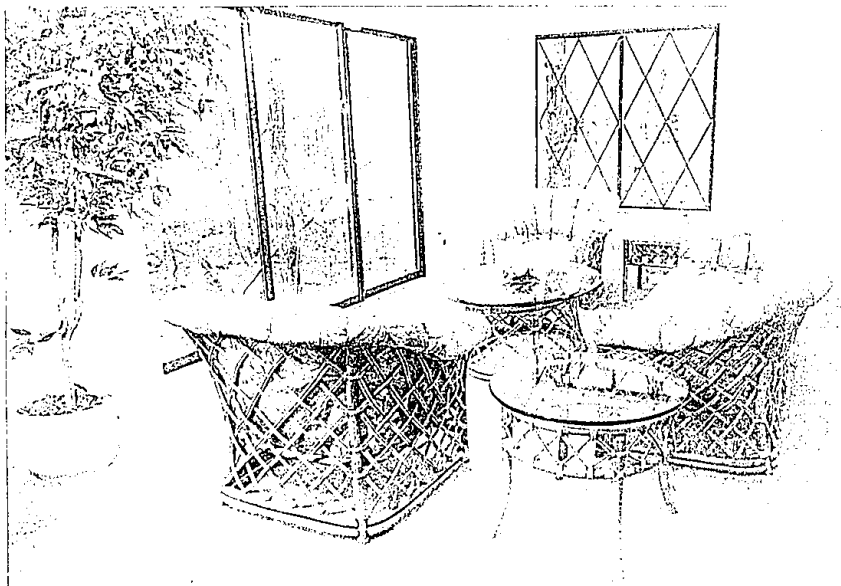
The River's Edge apartments look like houses with their separate entries. There is some variety in the trim around the windows and the doors and there are several floor plans. The sports and social facilities for use by tenants are a definite plus.

River's Edge is east of Crooks, north of Hamlin. Follow Streamwood all the way to the model. For information and expressway directions, call leasing agent Robert Oman, 652-0060.



Dr. Pierre Atallah, cardiologist, finds planning and developing properly a relaxing change from his stress-charged medical career. Here, he is flanked by one of his favorite views, the Clinton River from the living room of an apartment in River's Edge.

Staff photos by Camille McCoy



Living room of one of the River's Edge condos was furnished by Ruth Marie Atallah. The leaded glass window reflects the owner's favorite architectural style, Tudor.

Glass collection goes to UM-D

The man who gave the University of Michigan-Dearborn much of its art collection was honored recently with a "distinguished leadership" award.

Alfred Berkowitz, a retired Birmingham pharmacist and self-made millionaire, describes himself as an "impetuous buyer" and contributor to many causes.

The award -- the second given by the UM-D campus -- was presented at winter commencement ceremonies. It honors people for any combination of service, and financial or political support to the campus.

"They needed a nucleus, a little something to start a little fire," Berkowitz said of his gifts and his encouragement of eight other donors.

BETWEEN THEM, the benefactors have contributed nearly 1,000 works from private collections to make the UM-D Library a fine arts center.

UM-D's collection includes prints, mixed media, paintings, drawings and two-dimensional works by Picasso, Miro, Rembrandt, Chagall, Degas, Goya, Toulouse-Lautrec, Appel, Nevelson, Nesbitt and Jenkins. Berkowitz made available his extensive glasswork collection that now occupies much of the library's second floor.

Several years ago, he met UM-D's former head librarian, C. Edward Wall, and learned the new library would be designed to hold an art collection.

"Someone suggested, 'Why not U-M Dearborn?'" said Berkowitz, who thought of the campus at that time as "absolutely the poorest little mouse I'd ever seen."

AFTER SELLING his Gaylord



Birmingham pharmacist Alfred Berkowitz, left, talks with admirers about the glass collection which he recently gave to University of Michigan-Dearborn.

house, Berkowitz faced the question of what to do with the 4,000 square feet of museum-quality art.

"The collection came from all over the world. We're talking over 55 centuries," he said.

The Detroit Institute of Arts would accept only a couple of pieces, not an entire collection.

UM-D accepted everything. "They listened to reason," Berkowitz said,

adding the university agreed not to sell non-museum quality pieces for at least a year.

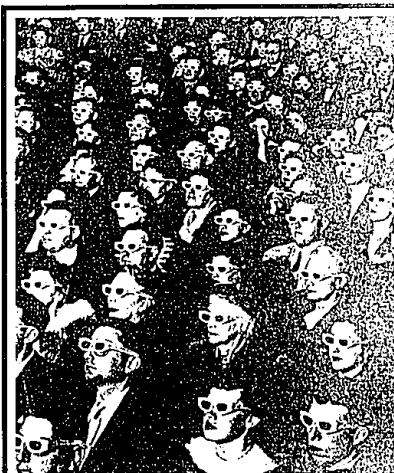
Since then he has given UM-D much Baccarat crystal work.

HIS PRIVATE collection began to take shape in the early 1950s, when he was traveling to Germany several times a year as a steel importer. Later he traveled often to France

and Switzerland.

"I'm an impetuous buyer. If you're impetuous, you pay what they ask," he said.

"I love education. I love to give to schools. Education is the only thing that no one can take away from you. They can take away all your material belongings, but they can't take your education away."



Photojournalism develops

Among the examples of outstanding photojournalism in the exhibit, "Life: The Second Decade" at Detroit Institute of Arts through Feb. 5 is this one of the audience watching "Bwana Devil." It appeared in the Dec. 15, 1952 issue of the magazine and shows the audience wearing Polaroid spectacles to enjoy the three-dimensional sequences. The exhibit, in the De Salle Gallery of Photography, is open free of charge during regular museum hours, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Closed Mondays and holidays.