

Studio rises from factory renovation



Photographer Marisa Miller (left) helps customer Laura Velzy in the lobby area of the new Focal Point photography studio.

By Casey Hans
Staff writer

THE SIMILARITIES in architecture are there, but the building is different. It has a new spark of life.

The story, 22-foot entryway invites customers to be comfortable. The muted grays and mauves, mirrored parabolic lighting, and overstuffed sofas invite the eye to focus on the important things — the professional photographs that grace the walls.

Michele and Jerzy Jakacki, owners/photographers of the Focal Point Studio of Photography are finally home.

After thousands of dollars, many cost overruns, the unexpected expenses of a new roof and an underground oil holding tank that had to be drained and excavated, they are happy to finally be in their new studios.

They moved from their rented quarters downtown to the former machine shop building just west of Farmington Road in early October. The new studio was renovated during much of the past year.

"We feel more creative, able to do more unique things," said Michele.

"Being in the graphics business, everything had to be appealing," Jerzy added.

"IT WAS the studio's unique qualities of handling both a camera and people that led the former Lia Iacocca, daughter of auto magnate Lee Iacocca, to hire the Focal Point staff to photograph her wedding this past fall.

That same creativity of approach showed in the design of the renovated building, which was coordinated by Michele with the expertise of architect Walter Pytkak.

"He was the glue of all this," Jerzy said about the architect. "He had other jobs going on, but he didn't glass things over. We have a very good building."

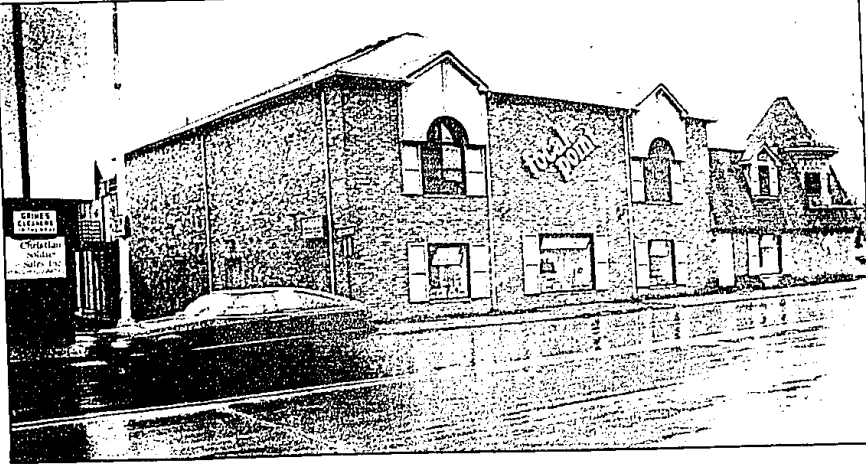
The building's cornerstone shows it was built in 1912. Before becoming a machine shop, it served as a community post office and also a car dealership. It was most recently Precise Tool and is the building adjacent to the city hall parking lot.

A new interest in revitalizing the downtown area has led local business owners to participate. The Focal Point renovation is one of several projects already planned in downtown Farmington.

THE JAKACKIS took the rectangular building, demolished a small addition, and constructed almost 10,000 square feet of working space. The new building is shaped like an isosceles triangle.

When the Jakackis considered moving Focal Point several years ago, they planned by hiring and training the proper number of employees, then began their search. They found places outside of Farmington, but decided to stay.

"I'm strong on Farmington," Jerzy said. "We wanted to stay here. We just want to thank our customers for tolerating our move."



Focal Point Studio of Photography is housed in a renovated former factory.



AT LEFT: Jerzy and Michele Jakacki, owners of Focal Point Studio of Photography in one of their studios overlooking downtown Farmington.

Staff photos
by
Randy Borst

police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington-area police, fire and court cases filed during the past week.

PRISON TERM

A 27-year-old man found guilty of extortion and assault in connection with an argument that broke out at Independence Green Apartments Feb. 20 was sentenced to prison.

The argument was over a radar detector, which turned up missing the night of Feb. 19-20, said detective Brian DeGrande of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

Oakland County Circuit Judge John N. O'Brien sentenced Kenneth James Trembath to 2-30 years in prison for being a habitual offender-second offense.

Trembath also was sentenced to a mandatory two years in prison for possessing a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Following a bench trial, O'Brien found Trembath guilty of extortion, felonious assault and a felony firearms charge.

The victim, a 29-year-old Detroit man, was an acquaintance of Trembath's. The victim was tied up and held at gunpoint while being ordered to give back the radar detector, which, it turned out, he didn't take, DeGrande said.

The victim was treated at Sinai Hospital of Detroit for a gunshot wound to the foot. The judge found the gunshot to be accidental, DeGrande said.

Trembath was arrested on a traffic charge Feb. 26 in Anaheim, Calif., DeGrande said.

MAN SENTENCED

A 19-year-old Oak Park man was sentenced to 3-30 years in prison for the armed robbery of a McDonald's Restaurant at 10 Mile and Grand River and for carrying a concealed weapon in a motor vehicle.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Richard Kuhn sentenced Reginald Gibson Nov. 17.

The restaurant was robbed Aug. 22, 1986, said detective Brian DeGrande of the Farmington Hills Police Department.

TICKETS ISSUED

Two 17-year-olds, a man from Farmington Hills and a woman from West Bloomfield, were ticketed for driving in a motor vehicle following a traffic stop on Interchange Drive Nov. 28, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

A 19-year-old West Bloomfield man was ticketed for possessing alcohol following a traffic stop on

Pipers Lane Nov. 29, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

A 17-year-old Milford man was ticketed for being disorderly after he sprayed dry chemical extinguisher on a patrol car parked at the Dell Man, 29420 Grand River, Nov. 29, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

Two 18-year-olds, a man from Farmington Hills and a woman from Woodhaven, and two 18-year-olds, both Farmington Hills men, were ticketed for possessing open intoxicants in a motor vehicle following a traffic stop on Barlow Nov. 29, according to a Farmington Hills police report.

THEFTS REPORTED

A radar valued at \$200 was reported stolen from a car parked at Specialty Towing, 20760 Sunnydale, Nov. 17-27.

A flight jacket, money and other items valued at \$450 were reported stolen from a car parked on Witherston Nov. 21-32.

A 1987 Buick Regal valued at \$19,750 was reported stolen from Tally Hall, 31005 Orchard Lake, Nov. 23.

Tools valued at \$150 were reported stolen from a van parked at Towne Square Pub, 27408 Eight Mile, Nov. 23.

Four rally wheel covers valued at \$320 were reported stolen from two new cars parked at Farmington Hills Chrysler/Plymouth, 29301 Grand River, Nov. 23-24.

A 1987 Jeep Cherokee valued at \$18,500 was reported stolen from Bob Saks AMC/Jeep, 35200 Grand River, Nov. 23-24.

Two lawnmowers, a snowblower, tires and ski equipment valued at \$3,250 were reported stolen from the garage on Springfield Nov. 24.

A radar detector valued at \$350 was reported stolen from a car parked at Motor Wheel Co., 27655 Middlebelt, Nov. 24.

A 1987 Oldsmobile Regency valued at \$22,000 was reported stolen from Blakeney's Ranch House, 28333 Grand River, Nov. 24.

A bed liner and tailgate valued at \$700 were reported stolen from a new truck at Bill Cook Buick, 37911 Grand River, Nov. 24-25.

A radar detector valued at \$350 was reported stolen from a car parked on S. Lakeview Court Nov. 24-25.

A 1985 Jeep valued at \$12,000 was reported stolen from Bob Saks Oldsmobile, 35300 Grand River, Nov. 24-25.

A fuel transfer pump valued at \$400 was reported stolen from a pickup truck parked in the municipal

lot at Farmington Road and State Nov. 25.

A 1982 Ford Escort valued at \$1,500 was reported stolen from outside Clancy's, 32350 Eight Mile, Nov. 25.

Construction equipment valued at \$5,800 was reported stolen from a construction trailer at Drake and 14 Mile Nov. 25-27.

Eight rally wheel covers valued at \$400 were reported stolen from two 1988 LeBarons parked at Farmington Hills Chrysler Plymouth, 29301 Grand River, Nov. 25-27.

Three tires valued at \$600 were reported stolen from a Renault 5 parked at Bob Saks Toyota, 35200 Grand River, Nov. 25-27.

A coronet, computer equipment, two TVs, a VCR, stereo equipment, camera equipment, jewelry, tools, a telephone and an answering machine, and cash valued at \$5,750 were reported stolen from a house on Mullane Nov. 25-29.

Money, a coin changer, camera equipment and a VCR valued at \$2,200 were reported stolen from a house on Westmeath Nov. 25-29.

A computer valued at \$3,200 was reported stolen from James P. Ryan Associates, 31000 Northwestern Highway, Nov. 25-30.

Four spoked wheel covers valued at \$200 were reported stolen from a car parked at Boisfort General Hospital, 28050 Grand River, Nov. 26.

Stereo equipment valued at \$1,450 was reported stolen from a car parked on Claymore Nov. 26-27.

An in-dash radio valued at \$800 was reported stolen from a car parked at Gateway Apartments Nov. 26-28.

A cellular telephone valued at \$1,000 was reported stolen from a car parked on Hunters Whip Nov. 27.

Cash was reported stolen from the registers of two Farmington drug stores Nov. 27. Management at Perry Drugs, 22084 Farmington Road, and Maple Village Drugs, 23300 Farmington Road, each reported money taken.

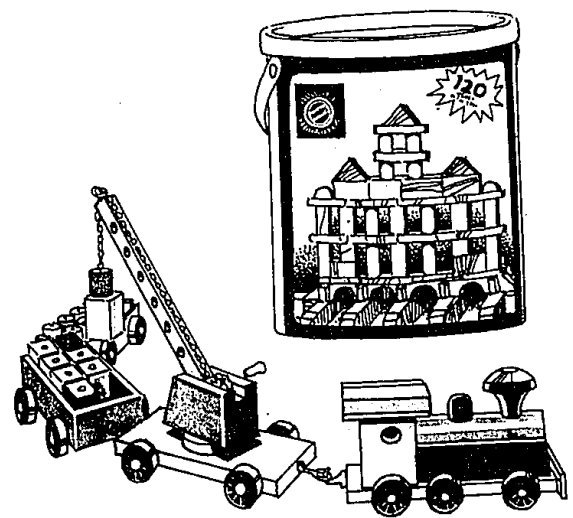
A motorcycle, four bicycles, a VCR, a TV and a video game valued at \$2,782 were reported stolen from a house on Clubhouse Lane Nov. 27-28.

A 1980 Chevrolet valued at \$750 was reported stolen from Farmington Mobile Manor Nov. 27-28.

Ten cassette tapes valued at \$85 were reported stolen from a car parked on Clubhouse Lane Nov. 27-28.

Ten dress shirts valued at \$300 were reported stolen from a car parked on Westbrook Nov. 27-28.

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