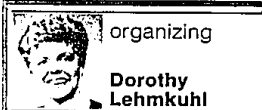


# Creative Living



Monday, June 6, 1988 O&E

(O)E



## organizing

**Dorothy Lehmkuhl**

Q. I am fairly well organized but my husband is a disaster. He won't let me throw anything away, leaves a trail wherever he goes, and generally sabotages my efforts. Help!

A. I only have one suggestion. Repeat after me: "Oh God, Grant me the Strength to change what I can, the Serenity to accept what I cannot change, and the Wisdom to know the difference."

Seriously, there are millions of Odd Couples out there, and it's not always the man who is at fault. The husband of one of my students jokingly told her, "It's either the Organizing for Success class, or Obedience School!"

Communication is the best way to solve any problem. First, don't "assume" he "should" know how irritating his habits are to you. Maybe he simply doesn't understand the impact of his habits. Even if he does, give him an "I Message." Pick a good time for discussion and calmly, unemotionally and without accusation factually state (1) what he is doing and (2) how it affects you. For instance: "When you refuse to dispose of anything, our house becomes overloaded and it frustrates me because cleaning is next to impossible."

Important: Do not offer a solution. It is imperative that you stop at that point and allow him the integrity of solving the problem. If he doesn't respond, you might ask what he thinks could be done, but DON'T call him names, put him down, get angry or otherwise sabotage open communication.

Chances are he won't change, but you might offer him Don Aulet's book, "Clutter's Last Stand" (Writer's Digest Books) — 276 pages of why and how to de-junk. Also, don't forget to show him this column regularly.

To straighten up, establish one place for his items, these can be placed in a large basket in a handy spot like the laundry room, entry closet floor, hidden corner, etc. While ridding surfaces of clutter, this provides a collection place where he can find his belongings.

While chancy, you might cycle his things out. Store away items you know he will never want for a length of time (say 3 months a year). If he hasn't needed them by then, pitch them. (Do this at your own risk and don't blame me if you get caught!) It's much better to get his approval in advance and, in doing so, you may slowly convince him he can't keep everything.

Try negotiation. If you find picking up after him irritating, ask for a "deal" whereby he will do one of your unpleasant tasks in return. This might soothe emotions.



Great room of the Villa model has a beautiful view of the rolling land, trees and lake.



Kitchen of the Villa model has a breakfast area and lots of counter and cupboard space.

## Scenic sites challenge builder

By Corinne Abelt  
staff writer

It's a challenge that keeps Herman Frankel, West Bloomfield builder/developer, coming back for more. He's done most of the things young, aspiring members of his profession dream about — shopping centers, condos, elegant single family residences, even a state-of-the-art senior residence and nursing care facility. So what else is there?

Well, there are a lot of beautiful building sites around Mirror Lake, south off Pontiac Trail, west of Orchard Lake, not flat, mind you, but rolling terrain with lots of trees and wonderful views. To Frankel, that represents the kind of a challenge he loves. And that's how Woodcliff on the Lake, with an eventual 46 single family homes and 70 (most detached) condos, came into being.

One of the streets is appropriately named Panorama Court, another is Oak Hollow. The office is at 4669 Oak Hollow. The homes run about 3,600 square feet.

The two models, the Villa and the Regent, furnished by interior designer Dick Talbot, show that Frankel has modified and changed the floor plan he used in many other developments. The high volume ceiling which he used for so long has been changed.

In the Regent, the great room ceiling is high but not as much as before, and the ceiling for the dining area is slightly lower for a cozier look. The overall effect, however, is one of space and more space. That's due in part to the living room door walls which open on to a deck and a lake or ravine view beyond. This model also has a library and large well-appointed kitchen.

The Regent's master suite, with room size walk-in closets,

separate mirrored dressing area leading to the master bath with Jacuzzi whirlpool tub, is on the first (entry) level along with second bedroom with private bath. On the lower level is a spacious activity area, wet bar, powder room and space for additional bedrooms and bath.

The Villa, with dramatic great room with wood burning fireplace and library, is furnished in a black and white contemporary look in sharp contrast to the more eclectic Regent. This one, too, has a library, luxurious master bedroom suite with walk-out deck, wood burning fireplace and Jacuzzi whirlpool tub that overlooks the lake and wooded site. It also has large walk-in closets, two more bedrooms.

Exteriors are fieldstone and stained cedar siding. Two and three car garages are attached. Price range is \$315,000-400,000. The models are open noon to 6 p.m. every day but Thursday.

## Showcase house is aglow with ideas

Last week I visited the Designers Showcase House in Grosse Pointe. I regret the invitation had not been extended earlier enabling me to urge you to see this fabulous house as well as the equally fabulous job of interior design.

The showcase house on Washington Road was built for Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Harmon Booth. The home was designed by Detroit architect Marcus R. Burrows in 1922. The facade is English Renaissance. The main entrance hall and front stairway are constructed of black marble. The stone door surrounds are from Count Franco Artemis' home in Madeira, Italy. The 16th century fireplace in the Great Room came from "Throne Room" at Hamilton Palace in Scotland, while the William and Mary paneling in the library came from Standish Hall in Lancashire, England, dating to circa 1695.

The present owners purchased the home in 1985. They are interested in architectural history and restoration which is evident by what has been done to the home.

FAUX FINISHES, wall glazing and stenciling and trompe l'oeil make each room outstanding. The crown moldings look like marble while the floor stenciling gives the flavor of an area rug.

I adored the corner study. The lavender gray walls give the room a look of quiet sophistication. The marble top table desk is contemporary and just the right touch for the fine antique pieces and English chintz upholstery.

Most of the rooms are traditional with just enough contemporary to give an eclectic feel.

The 44-foot-long living room has two sectional sofas, one facing east, the other west. Each is flanked by a pair of



## designing ways

**Eve Garvin**

Louis XVI chairs. While the sofa style is contemporary, the damask fabric is traditional.

The master suite is a sunshine yellow — with a linen print from Brunswick and Fils to make your spirit soar. Two French Bergere chairs in a pink and white check flank the fireplace.

This lovely old glows — each room is a showcase in and of itself.

Remember to watch for the Junior League Showcase House next year.

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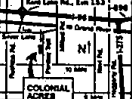


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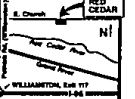
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