

# Creative Living

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Thursday, August 11, 1988 O&E

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Comfortable lower-level family room, done in rattan with neutral colors, is ideal for entertaining. Books and treasures collected on travels play an important part in the lives of the residents.



Work of art done on commission by artist Julie Dawson, ties in many elements in the home — colors as well as artifacts. It is a watercolor collage.

## Condo styled for comfortable living

By Corinne Abatt  
staff writer

**B**IRMINGHAM INTERIOR DESIGNER, Margie Cockle-Cunningham, ASID, likes the relationship she developed with a client in Rochester. "There was a lot of trust . . . we communicated well," she said.

The other side is that Cockle-Cunningham had a great deal of respect for her client's wishes. In many instances she gave the client choices and used many favorite things from a former residence.

The couple, who love to travel, had things they had bought in many countries of the world, so one of the challenges was to use as many of these things as possible in the new, smaller residence by the golf course. "She had lots of old, wonderful pieces that should not be hidden away," Cockle-Cunningham said.

Some of the client's expressed wishes were for low maintenance, bright and sunny atmosphere, straight lines, wicker and rattan furniture and a comfortable, livable environment.

Cockle-Cunningham saw the condominium soon after the former residents moved out and before her clients had filled it with furniture. She elected to keep the neutral gray/beige carpeting, a smoked mirror wall in the foyer, the burgundy wall covering in the powder room and all of the venetian blinds except in the master bedroom. These she replaced with white shutters to enhance the garden room atmosphere.

**SHE RECYCLED** THE client's Herndon dining room set and case

pieces and was happy to have a favorite Baker easy chair reupholstered in the same neutral fabric as the new living room sofa. The dining room chairs were reupholstered in the same fine pastel striped cotton that is used for the wide valances in the living room and dining areas.

The neutral background in the living room is brightened by a refreshing and colorful print used for the throw pillows on the sofa and cushions of the dark rattan chair.

But, the color story really began with that burgundy wall covering in the powder room. There are subtle touches of it throughout the house, but never to the exclusion of other accent colors.

The floor of the entry hall, kitchen and breakfast room are done in light beige square tile. Cockle-Cunningham said they tried a lot of rugs before they settled on a lovely Oriental throw rug with a burgundy background in the entry way.

There's a custom woven burgundy and cream rug in the breakfast room. Cockle-Cunningham said she knew the minute she looked at the back wall of the 8-by-10-foot breakfast room that it needed a large baker's rack. The brass one she put there, more than 4 1/2 feet long, has plenty of room for the client's collection of cookbooks as well as some collectibles.

**THE SWIVEL CHAIRS** of the rattan breakfast set are covered in camel wool with a fine burgundy line. The round table top is glass. The recycled oriental style living room coffee table suggested the use of other oriental pieces, at least a few, and they, as Cockle-Cunning-



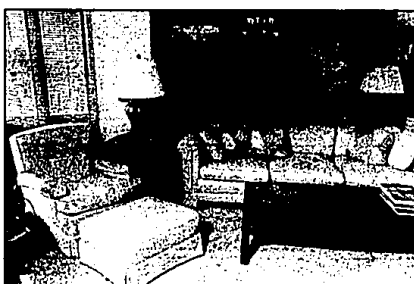
Master bedroom has the fresh look of a garden room. The wall covering is a warm salmon. The spread for the angled king-size bed is shades of salmon, teal and gray. The print on the wicker chaise is repeated on the headboard and in the master bath.

ham said, add a modern touch to some of the classic styles being used.

Her piece de resistance in the art area is a 7-foot collage by Birmingham-based artist Julie Dawson which hangs on the landing, clearly visible from the entry hall. Dawson was commissioned to do a work that would incorporate many of the client's favorite things. She visited the home, made notes and sketches and completed 33 hand-painted design sections which she mounted in foam core. Depictions of two oriental, carved, ivory figures are the center images. The flowers and vegetation

are taken from the design of the printed fabric in the living room and the C-scroll design from a favorite oriental table. Not to be forgotten are the cats which show up throughout the house in ceramic, carved wood and fiber art form.

**THE MASTER BEDROOM** suite has a personality all its own. The striped wall covering is somewhere between salmon and dusty rose. The quilted, custom made covering for the angled king size bed incorporates this shade along with teal and charcoal. The existing headboard is cov-



Corner of the living room and dining area shows the favorite easy chair that was reupholstered in a neutral fabric to match the new sofa. The pattern of the cotton throw pillows is part of the seven-foot painting on the stairway wall.

ered in a print which is used on a wicker chaise and in the master bath.

Rich charcoal gray is used in combination with neutrals in the lower level family room as well in accents, such as candles, throughout the house.

The repetition of colors is always subtle, never contrived, never obvious. It seems to just happen in a pleasing way.

Since books are a must in this household, places for them show up

Staff photos  
by John Stormsazand

in almost every room along with comfortable places to sit and read. It is definitely not a show house, but a live-in house that clearly reflects the interests and personalities of the owners.

## A class act

## Recording industry facts to make your head spin

By Corinne Abatt  
staff writer

You say you want to cut a record. You have the music, the musicians and the studio rented for two hours. Soon as you get it out to the deejays and the record stores, you're on your way to fame and fortune.

Wait a minute. Back up for a second. There are a few things you ought to know.

You can find the answers — how to avoid the frustrating, costly trial-and-error method — in a new class by Martin Scott Kozine through Wayne State University's Lifelong Learning Center at Birmingham Groves High School. The class will be offered from 7-10 p.m. Mondays in the fall term.

**THE CREDIT** class is about how to make and market a record, Kozine said. He will cover all the technical aspects — mastering, plating, how

the kind of vinyl used and the kind of press used can change the sound, studio time, studio costs and what to do when things go wrong in the studio.

"The average guy doesn't have a lot of money for overdubbing and a lot of people think that with all the modern technology available, the record will sound better than their tape," he said.

Even with the modern technology, it is important to know what questions to ask, Kozine said.

"We'll talk about how to deal with record stores, how to deal with distributors — how to get it heard and get it sold," he said.

"And we'll go one step further, when you get an offer from a major company, how to deal with attorneys and agents. For instance, if somebody from a record company says they're gonna call you back, they usually don't. How to avoid the film flim."

In essence, he said, the class will cover the technical, creative and business aspects of recording.

"It's for musicians and actors. We'll be talking about career opportunities — music, overdubs, sound dues and how to break in. There will be one session at Sound Pattern Studios of Detroit with Danny Dallas, one of the most respected sound engineers in the business. I've taken him all over. I've never worked with anyone but Danny Dallas."

**KOZINE, WHO** has a master's in composition from Wayne State, is a composer, pianist and founder/owner of Open Sky Records. He performs six nights a week at the piano at Sebastian's of Troy, three with two solo acts, is working on some original material and currently has his recording company on the back burner.



Martin Scott Kozine, left, and Keith Carruthers "Rehearse." The picture was taken after one of the enjoy a pleasant "breakfast" as a result of recording sessions.