

# Spotlight

## 'The Bloomfields' is focus of tour

**T**HE DETROIT chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Great Lakes chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers again team up to present a design spectacular from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2.

Focus of this year's annual house tour is "The Bloomfields." Seven houses in Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield and Bloomfield Township will be open for public viewing.

Included on the tour are three homes designed by architects for their own families.

One of those is Ralph Youngren, FAIA, and interior designer Ann Youngren, ASID, who have designed the interior of their detached condominium to take advantage of its location in a densely wooded area.

Large expanses of glass and a cool gray monochromatic color scheme link the natural landscaping with the interior and provide a background for an extensive collection of furniture and art. A variety of spatial columns have been created to provide an architectural setting for the collections which the Youngrens have developed over the past 25 years.

A SECOND HOUSE FALLING in that category is the Savin residence.

Built on a heavily wooded site, the Savin residence was designed by architect Joseph Savin for himself, his wife and three children. The house consists of three modules and decks which were built over the past several decades.

The modular design concept allowed the house to grow in an organized manner as family life changed and as budget permitted.

The last module, containing a seating pit and activities area, was put in place this year.

Interior planning was designed to keep the space visually open and free, while providing separation between noise-sensitive areas. There is a continuity between entry, living, activities, dining and kitchen spaces; the bedrooms are zoned separately.

Custom storage is accessible throughout eliminating furniture and housekeeping clutter. Large folding doorwalls in the activities and living area conceal a desk, bar, television and fireplace wood storage. When closed, the doors become a group of matched panels.

ANOTHER HOME ON the tour is the Allen residence. Built in 1956, the 1,800-square foot house with 600-square foot semi-attached carport-storage structure was designed for the architect, his wife and their two small children.

Located in a former apple orchard, the modest one-story residence continues to be an efficient, pleasant environment for the parents now that the children have grown and moved away.

The 20-by-27-foot glass-walled entry-living-dining area has views of a trellised entrance court on the west, and of a lawn, trees, and pond toward the east.

The furniture pieces, designed by Eero Saarinen, Charles Eames, George Nelson and Alvar Aalto have been in constant use since the early '50s, as have the built-in cabinets, counters and closets designed by the architect. The house's appearance and color schemes today are consistent with the original design concepts.

Four other homes on the tour will feature the design work of ASID members Julie Baba, Cynthia Ohanian, Ann Rathbun and Kasey Pierson.

The tour is \$12 per person (no children under 12) and takes place rain or shine. Tour-goers will depart from Andover High School by motorcoach shuttle service until 2 p.m. Tickets may be purchased in advance by contacting the DC/AIA at 955-4104 or purchased at Hudson's Northland, Eastland and Westland Home Stores, Jacobson's Store for the Home in Birmingham, Pierson Interiors and Walter Herz Interiors. They may also be purchased the day of the tour at Andover High School.



STEPHEN CANTRELL/SAIT photography

Interior designer Cynthia Ohanian describes this large family room as "classic modern." The background is beige-taupe. A few period pieces and antique accessories enhance the modern line. The separate areas make it an ideal place for entertaining large groups.

## 'Classic modern'

### Letting yesterday live quietly with today

By Corinne Abelt  
staff writer

**I**NTERIOR designer Cynthia Ohanian, who recently opened her own firm after being a member of several prominent interior design firms, has a special talent for creating subtle elegance.

This is what her clients wanted for the family room of their Bloomfield Hills Home. They have a collection of Armenian art and sculpture and other treasures they've collected on their travels. There is a gentle softness about many of the works that might have been overshadowed by brilliant colors.

But the art thrives in the beige taupe background, which Ohanian used with muted mauves, dusty rose and grays. Even the oriental rugs have a neutral background with touches of soft pastels.

Ohanian calls the style "classic modern" because she combined period pieces and antique accessories, such as a Louis XV table and a 200-year-old wooden horse from China with a modern line.

SINCE HER CLIENTS frequently entertain large groups

and host weekly meetings as a part of their commitment to their church, she planned several areas where groups could gather within the large space — a bar with comfortable seating at one side of the room and nearby two matching, upholstered chairs in front of the polished stainless steel fireplace; a large sectional and seating by the entertainment center; and an easy chair and ottoman for reading or enjoying the magnificent view of the picturesque lake just beyond.

The sectional is upholstered in

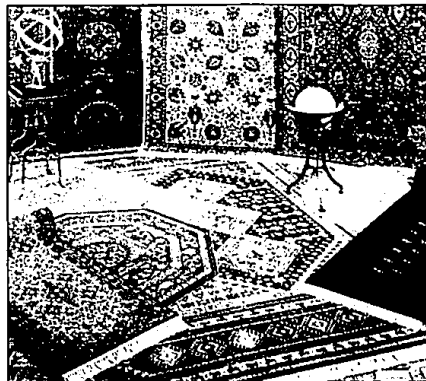
mauve, textured velvet. It has a sculptured line along the back, which the designer said is important, "because when you walk in, you see the back."

The square coffee table, at the curve of the sectional is for turquoise marble. Translated that's mottled gray with ribbons of pink and flecks of burgundy. Ohanian picked the piece of marble and designed the table.

Two throw pillows on the sectional are of polished cotton in delicate pastel shades, one has a

design of tiny seed pearls on the front. This touch, like the throw, adds a bit of stardust to the atmosphere.

Still, as requested by the clients, Ohanian avoided turning the room into an intellectual exercise. She made it hospitable, attractive and reflective of the Armenian heritage of the people who live there. There is a timelessness about the room, which the designer said will keep it fresh and current for many years to come.



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