

Creative Living

Marlo McGee editor/b91-23u0



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Designed for family living

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

While Herman Frankel says his new single-family homes in Woodcliff, West Bloomfield are "definitely designed for families with children," he's introducing a new level of sophistication into his designs.

They are among his largest and most lavish, from approximately 3,500-4,200 square feet, with a base price of \$359,900. Interior designer for the model, Richard Daniels of Birmingham-based Brian Killian & Company, brought a fresh, dynamic approach to the model and worked with the Frankel Organization on the planning.

Frankel has built extensively in West Bloomfield, and his style in both condos and single-family homes is well-known. Woodcliff, like many of his other developments, has winding roads, scenic lots, trees and rolling terrain.

THE EXTERIOR of the houses is a combination of brick, cedar siding and fieldstone. In the model, the Meridian II, the interior space

is clearly defined, but an open feeling is created by the two-story great room and foyer, the many palladium windows, the curved edges of the archways, the soaring marble detailing of the great room fireplace and the pleasant, efficient, traffic pattern.

On the second floor of the model are four bedrooms, counting the spacious master suite, and a total of three baths.

Daniels chose to showcase the furnishings in wonderful shades of teal, blue and muted green in combination with black against warm cream walls and carpeting.

The floors are partly carpeted and partly hardwood with a light pickled oak finish. A large alcove in the family room with a large closet/storage space on one wall is left uncarpeted. This would make a nice play area for small children that could double as a dance floor for teens and adults.

THE COLORS and appointments in the kitchen and adjacent nook with the studio ceiling are a refreshing change from the prevailing sterile, white, high-tech look.



Eating area adjacent to the kitchen continues the urban/rural blend. It is a chic, sophisticated interior with a lovely view of the woods beyond.

Daniels chose a soft pastel shade called Lindenwood for the countertops and used black as an accent color. The wallpaper in the nook is a gray background with a small contemporary print.

The frame of an old screen door is mounted as a wall sculpture, and

two classic fruit prints add touches of interest. The lighting fixture over the table is totally contemporary. It's a provocative mix of colors and styles that works well.

The flow of color and style, from the sleek contemporary approach in the dining room, to the ultimate

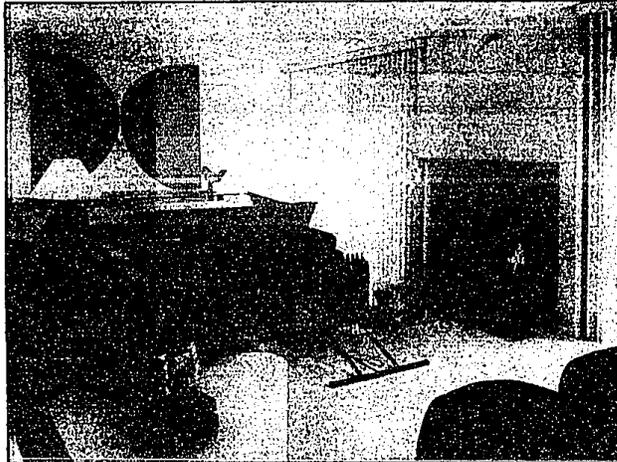


There's lots of drama in the line of the marble fireplace in the living room and the windows which soar two stories.

ly comfortable master bedroom is natural, not too tightly structured and pleasing to the eye.

In both design and look, the house is impressive without being ostentatious. It is well planned with many details that should contribute to a comfortable family life.

The model is open from noon to 6 p.m. every day but Thursday. To reach the model, stop at the Woodcliff on the Lake models on West Bloomfield Lake Road, north of Walnut Lake Road, 1 1/4 miles west of Orchard Lake Road. For information, call 683-3500.



Corner of the family room shows the beautifully detailed tile fireplace. The room includes an alcove and storage area.



Designer Richard Daniels heightened the drama of the first floor powder room with a sculpted marble splash in front of the mirror and a provocative work of art.

Sculptor builds in a poetic frame of reference

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

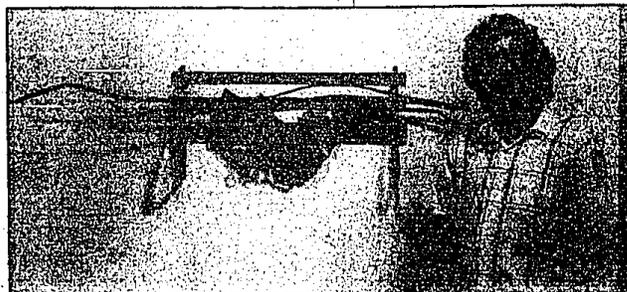
Todd Erickson talks like his sculpture looks. He describes each piece with a poetic, philosophic turn of phrase and says, "Each has a narrative that goes with it."

Like his sculpture, he is an interesting study in contrasts. He describes how exciting it was to live in Detroit's Cass Corridor, yet he is a nature lover who has a bachelor's in Biology with an emphasis on botany.

He speaks of urban renewal, but said, "I don't mind things in decay and I have a fascination for rust." He compares trees that fall apart to buildings that fall apart. He said he saw more animals such as raccoons and kestrels (small falcons) in the city than he has seen in the suburbs.

His pedestal and wall sculpture pieces, at Cantor/Lemery Gallery, 538 N. Woodward, Birmingham, through June 24, embody equally strong, unexpected combinations of elements. Several look like wood with a honey gold patina. In truth, they are steel finished with repeated layers of chemicals and stains. Parts look almost fragile, yet they are very strong.

"I transform nature into bronze," Erickson said. "I work in two modes,



Todd Erickson describes his mixed media sculpture, "Imagination of Nature." The horizontal rods represent the lay system of magnetic currents that go through the earth's surface.

— lost wax bronze casting and steel assemblage."

ONE PIECE, "Paddle Wheel," has a machine-type connotation. Others are closer to people in their meaning and symbolism. The symbolism falls

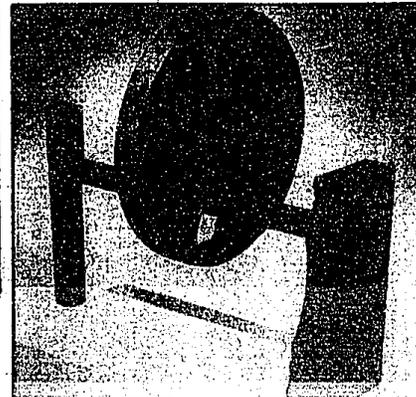
in layers like the chemicals and stains. It shines through at two or three different levels.

Some, such as "Mr. Sisyphus" — named after the Albert Camus character who struggled desperately to push the boulder to the top of the

mountain only to see it roll all the way back down — are relatively uncomplicated. "Wheels on Wood-

ward" is another whose meaning appears clear.

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Wheels and rolling things fascinate Todd Erickson. He often uses them as symbols for people and their relationship to the development of civilization.