

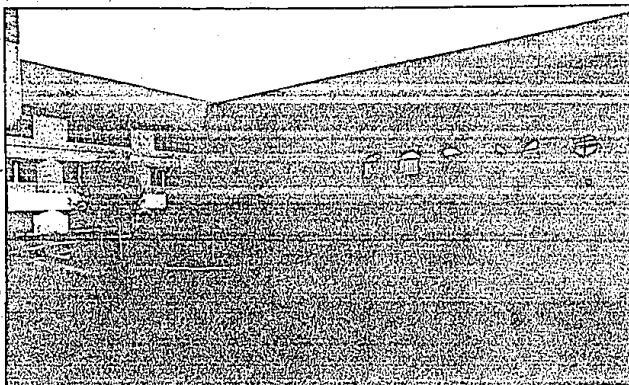
Creative Living

Marie McGee editor/591-2300



Thursday, August 17, 1989 O&E

(F1)



Beautifully manicured courtyard with the picturesque walkways has the look of an historic Ivy League campus.

Tradition Michigan National pays homage to American past

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

WHETHER BORROWING ARCHITECTURAL ideas or loaning money, Michigan National Corporation gives credit gracefully.

The new \$31 million, 283,000 square foot Michigan National complex in Farmington Hills is on a 25-acre site on Inkster just north of I-696 in Farmington Hills. Entrance is off Inkster. It's clearly visible from I-696 going west.

This attractive blend of architectural ideas and styles gathered

from several regions and periods was put together into a quietly elegant package by Luckenbach/Zieglerman of Birmingham.

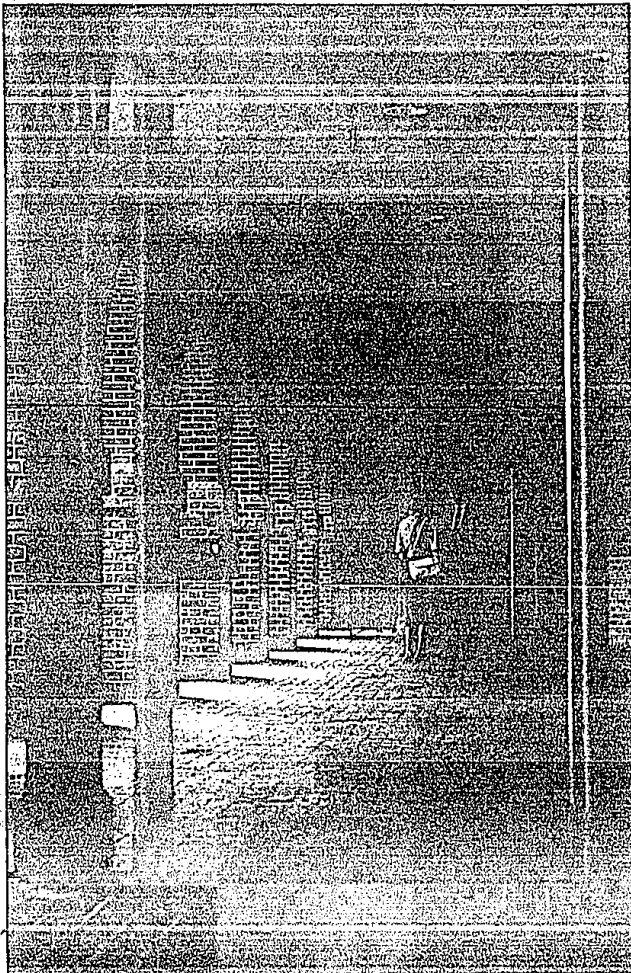
Robert J. Mylod, chairman and chief executive officer, said there will be a handpainted mural on the atrium wall illustrating the building's architectural roots — the Governor's Palace at Williamsburg, Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, University of Virginia, the Fannie Mae headquarters in Washington D.C., Harvard and Cranbrook.

Mylod said: "Our cost stayed roughly at \$100 a square foot, which was our goal — \$115 for everything — furnishings, chairs — everything. The look is expensive, the material is relatively less expensive. We just decided we were not gonna go overboard." He mentioned the use of dry wall instead of plaster as a for instance, but noted how cove molding and chair rails (painted green against cream-white walls) give a rich look.

BEFORE THE PLANNING BEGAN a group from the corporation went on an architectural tour and reported back to Luckenbach on what they liked — those places that will be depicted in the mural.

"Carl (Luckenbach) went back and folded a lot of concepts we liked into a modern building," Mylod said.

The result is four, 2½ story inter-connected buildings in light terra-cotta/red brick with Flemish bond, situated around two large courtyards which are being landscaped like the carefully tended and sculpted gardens of Williamsburg.



The entrance to Michigan National's corporate headquarters in Farmington Hills sets the tone for the rest of the complex. It combines historic elements such as the brick arches and classic pillars with modern touches like the glass doors.

There are double chimneys, dormer windows, arches, pitched slate roofs, wonderful, picturesque brick work and wrought iron detailing. Actually, brick lovers, and there are many, will be delighted to know that 30 different brick types were used in patterns such as herringbone, basket weave and soldier coursing. The height limitation was placed by the city, but because the buildings are on sloping ground, Luckenbach created an appearance of greater height than there actually is.

Mylod admitted as he spoke about costs and the care that was taken to keep them moderate, that "we spent some money on the exterior — the brick work took a lot of artisans and that costs extra." He said he thought the slate roof was wise as well as attractive because of its long life span and low maintenance.

Even though the complex with the Williamsburg/Ivy League look pays homage to its American antecedents and the interior furnishings are highly traditional, it is far

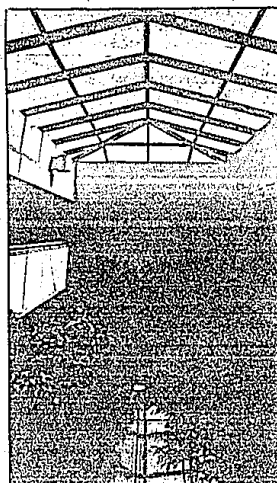
Staff photos by
Randy Borst

from an anachronism. There are vast expanses of glass offering beautiful views of the courtyards, glass roofed atriums and lots of skylights to flood the inside with natural light.

DON HENDERSON, construction engineer, said, "The design is

Please turn to Page 4

The interior atriums, which bring daylight and masses of live plants into the center of the buildings, integrate well with the more traditional elements.



Orchestrating a symphony of fine styles

The Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra Masterpiece Home, open Aug. 18 through Sept. 3, is designed to function as a fund-raiser for the orchestra and a showpiece for the builders, Herbert Lawson, Inc. and Randy M. DePrex Custom Builder, Inc.

D. A. Sellards Associates are the architects. Hours are 1-5 p.m. daily. Proceeds from the \$5 admission charge will help support the orchestra.

The committee will have changing displays of art and some live music during the visiting hours. This model in the Woods of Lene Pine on the southwest corner of Lene Pine and Telegraph (enter off Lene Pine) is a 3,000 plus square foot, detached condo.

While the base price for these 15 homes is given at about \$470,000, Carol Lawson, project coordinator

pulled out all the stops for the Masterpiece Home, so its price with all the extras, but the furniture, will be something over \$800,000.

But, then, who'd buy a ticket to see an ordinary home anyway? Lawson, who coordinated the interior design with Puffs of Petoskey, describes the style as "neo-classical with touches of contemporary." That means the visitor will see lavish use of marble, granite and oaks, soaring classical style columns, and big quarter round and half round windows.

Brass is used throughout, for all the hardware, as trim and accent for built-in pieces, light fixtures and balustrades, in combination with black granite for the living room fireplace, and as trim on the base of the glass top circular dining table. It turns to gold flecks in the upholstery fabric.



Touches of oriental, classical, traditional and neo-classical make the living room both comfortable and stylish. The jewel tones of the printed upholstery of the dining room chairs is set

against the cream neutral tones of the carpeting and walls and the honey-stained woodwork.

Please turn to Page 4