

# Creative Living

Mario McGee editor/591-2300



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## Renovation: make his country style

By Corinne Abalt  
staff writer

**A** MODEST LITTLE RED house on Wing Lake Road in Bloomfield Township has just been brought into the 1990s with a flourish.

The house that once belonged to the late Emma Huettner, who owned Franklin Hardware in Franklin Village, has undergone some major changes. It has been enlarged and completely remodeled as a home for Dean Kallas and his wife who are expecting their first child.

Kallas said, "I bought it for the natural setting and I wanted the natural setting to be left as it was."

He had admired a country style home just south of this one, found out that Richard J. Davidson, a builder, had done that one for himself and later sold it and moved his family to Oakland Township.

HE HIRED DAVIDSON to do his renovation to get the same genteel, casual country look. Davidson was delighted. This makes three in a row he'd done on Wing Lake Road. He knows the land, the homes close by, the neighbors and he has a healthy respect for the area.

He and Kallas put their heads together. Both did a lot of listening. Davidson to what his clients' interests were, their lifestyle, their space requirements and Kallas to Davidson's ideas about style, treatment and materials.

Davidson said, "You look at something, you know there's potential there, but not the outcome until you put it on paper."

Even after the plans were drawn, changes were made. A second floor with a master suite and a loft area for another bedroom (there are also two bedrooms on the first floor) was added along with a 24 by 32 foot family room in

back of the house and a large new kitchen — Kallas loves to cook.

A THREE CAR GARAGE was added to the north side of the house and the space on the south side where the original garage had gone under the house became more basement area for storage or some other function.

Davidson used design, materials and landscaping to create the feeling of a pleasant, tranquil, country atmosphere even though it's just blocks from the hub of a busy suburban area.

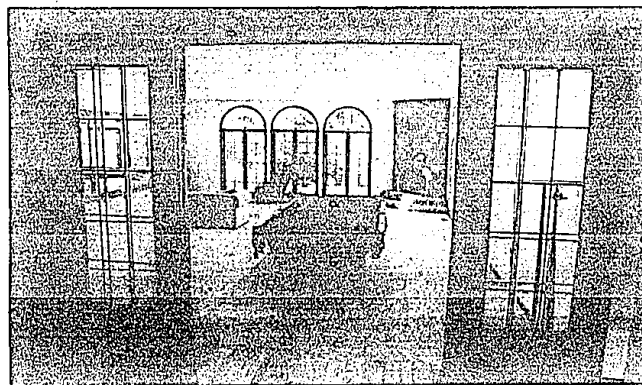
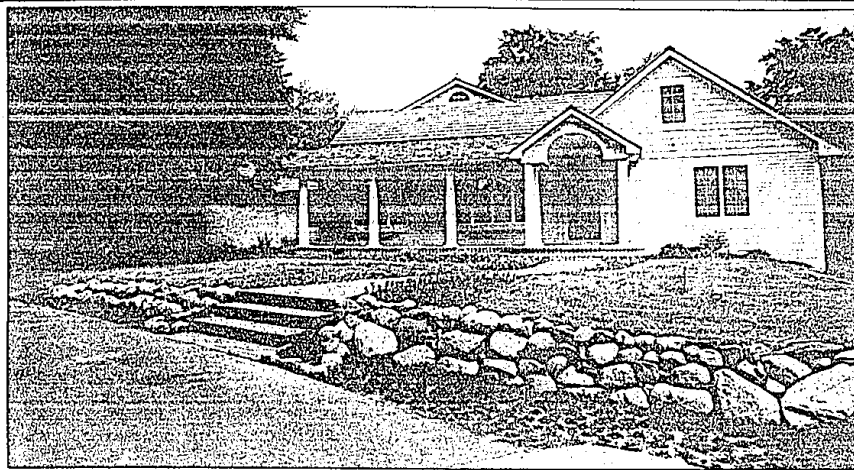
The actual roll of the 1.9 acre lot was not only taken into consideration, it was nurtured. The field stone effect around the original house and grounds was used and accentuated. Kallas said he didn't want formal gardens and formal landscaping. He chose instead to go only with lots of annuals and plantings that would add to the already attractive trees in his large yard.

There are many features which maintain the pleasant country look that is so important to the new owner — the new cedar shake roof, for one thing. Davidson said, "This home really required that effect." He went on to say, "The theme in this home was an arch."

THE CURVE PLAYS a major part in Davidson's design — from the three new bay windows in front and the curve of the counter between the kitchen and family room to the curve of the double edge hearth of the fireplace.

Kallas said he has been so busy learning about materials and building — bricks, brass hardware, French doors, fieldstone and shake shingles — that he and his wife have hardly had time to shop for furnishings, but that will happen.

"This home shines through with a lot of detail," said Davidson. Kallas said it was what he had in mind from the very beginning.



With the addition of a front porch, classic pillars, bay windows, second floor, family room and garage, a modest Bloomfield Township house has become a spacious, country home for a growing family. At left is view of the new family room (still to be furnished), which opens to a terrace and backyard.

Staff photos by Jerry Zolynsky

## Weavers create a touching wall piece

By Corinne Abalt  
staff writer

Earlier this year the members of the Michigan Weavers Guild gave themselves a challenge they weren't sure they could fulfill.

They wanted to do a display for the Michigan League of Handweavers conference in Holland this summer that could be donated to the Lender Dog School in Rochester. The conference theme was "Connections" and the Guild members saw this project as a strong connection with the community.

The problem, of course, was to give it visual appeal for the conference and tactile appeal for the Lender Dog School.

Natural mohair, handspun by villagers in Nigeria, was sent to Loreta Green, a Guild weaver, with the stipulation that it be used for a service-oriented project. Certainly this met that qualification.

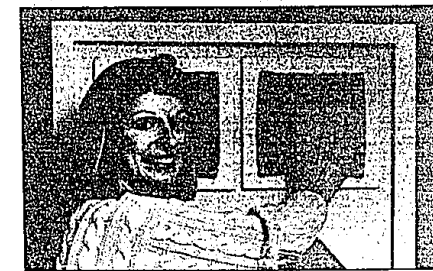
Alice Goldberg of West Bloomfield, Guild president, recalled, "When it arrived it was almost brown, after we got through washing it, it was pure white." The 18 weavers involved decided on colors

— blues, white, cream, gray. Each would weave at least one 8- by 8-inch square of any design and texture.

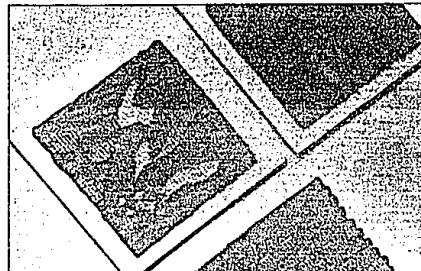
Hadwiga Stockler of Rochester Hills, said, "When everybody was at home weaving, I thought, it isn't going to work, it's just going to be a bunch of 8-by-8 pieces." Others had doubts as well. No one was sure how the squares would be mounted and displayed.

The solution finally arrived at was to make a triptych of linen backed panels and mount the squares on them in the style of an abstract design. At the same time smaller versions of the squares were made and put into a book with an explanation of each in Braille, so the students at the Lender Dog School could learn about the process as well as enjoy the quality of the work.

The project received a commendation from Patricia George, keynote speaker at the conference. Not only did she compliment the Guild for the professionalism of their weaving skills, she mentioned how pleased she was to see weavers combining their love of weaving with their desire to support the community.



Venice Rioux of Rochester climbed on a stool to reach the blue and white square which she wove for the piece for Lender Dogs for the Blind dormitory wall.



Each square has a completely different pattern and texture, made to touch and enjoy.

side to support the community.

But, another test was still to come. While the women were installing it on the wall of the dormitory living room, one of the residents wanted to find out what they were doing. Stockler remembered his comments as he touched the panels. "He kept saying that it was wonderful, just wonderful. It was especially nice to see someone enjoying it while we were hanging it."

Somewhat, at that moment, all the weavers knew their idea was on target. Sharon Fifield of the Lender Dogs School, who helped coordinate the project, said, "They presented it to us on the 50th anniversary of the School and the students have enjoyed it so much. They are fascinated by all the different textures."

Venice Rioux of Rochester, vice president of the Guild, said the response has been so gratifying that she hopes they can begin to weave small pieces for each of the dormitory rooms.

The Guild will have a show Nov. 9-12 at Orchard Mall, Maple and Orchard Lake, West Bloomfield. Many Guild members also belong to the Fiber Group which will have an exhibition at Somerset Mall of Troy on Oct. 12.



The book on the table has a small replica of each square on the wall with a description in Braille of the technique used to make it. From left the weavers are: Alice Goldberg, West

Bloomfield, Guild president; Venice Rioux of Rochester; Ann Hopwood of Dearborn; and Hadwiga Stockler, Rochester Hills.

## Guest conductors highlight season

Birmingham-Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra's 15th anniversary season will be marked by the appearance of three guest conductors for the pops concerts — John Covelli, Mitch Miller and Charles Greenwell.

The Orchestra's permanent conductor and music director, Felix Smetak, will conduct the three classical concerts.

All of the concerts will be given at Temple Beth El, 14 Mile and Telegraph, Bloomfield Township.

Resale will be on the podium for the opening concert, "The Best of Brahms," at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15. The soloists will be Detroit Symphony Orchestra members,

Geoffrey Applegate, violin and Marcy Chanteaux, cello.

The classical concerts will continue with "Sounds Fantastic," at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4 with Lloyd Porter, saxophone and "A Russian Spectacular" at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 25 with Leszek Bartkiewicz, pianist as the guest artist.

The pops concert schedule is: "Pops Goes the Symphony," 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9 with John Covelli conducting and performing on the piano; "A Night in Old Vienna," at 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, Charles Greenwell conducting; and "Mitch Miller's 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 9.

For brochure and ticket information, call 645-BDSO