

National builder show previews '90s

By Lisa Brody
Special writer

Where would you look for the most innovative building products? If you're one of the nation's 60,000 home builders, you'd look to the National Association of Home Builders' Show held in Atlanta last month.

Exhibitors from around the world filled more than 400,000 square feet with products created to dazzle the eye and ease everyday life.

Traditionally elegant design and decor are rapidly replacing the minimalist and country Victorian looks of the '80s. Products for every area of the house, from entry doors to cabinets, faucets to fixtures, seem to reflect a respect for consumer needs and tastes.

Delta Faucets is a case in point. New kitchen and bath faucets have a European look, with sleek, high spouts and a variety of bright colors. "We're offering an enhancement of style with Delta's traditional mechanisms," said R.C. Walker, director of product planning.

Delta is featuring pressure-balanced valves in its shower faucets, which have two controls, one for volume of water, the other for temperature. With a diverter in the spout, these faucets also are water savers. Pressure-balanced valves, also offered by Moen and Grohe America, allow a bather to select the water temperature accurately to within one degree Fahrenheit, to turn off the shower and to turn it back on at the exact temperature and volume.

In addition to the thermostatic control, the valves prevent temperature shocks that often result from sudden changes in hot or cold water pressure. Grohe's model can

supply enough water to simultaneously turn a shower head, a personal hand shower and body sprays while maintaining a specific water temperature.

"PRESSURE-BALANCED valves will be required in new homes and certainly multifamily construction by the end of the century," said Roger Garrison, Moen field sales manager.

Kitchen were also home to innovations at the show. Induction cooktops are the newest development in stovetop cooking and are featured by GE, Whirlpool and Jenn-Aire. It is a glass ceramic heating surface that works on magnetic energy. There is no heat from the surface because it uses metal, cast iron or stainless steel cookware as a heating element.

Cooking is quick and so is cleanup. Pot boil over? Glass cleaner and a cloth will take care of it. "When it cools, you can use it as an extra counter space," points out Debbie Earle of Whirlpool.

Other new appliance features include refrigerator take-out counters, which are small doors that provide easy access to cold beverages and snacks without opening the refrigerator's main door. These are offered by GE and Hotpoint. GE has also developed small refrigerator bins that can go directly from the refrigerator to the microwave and then to the dishwasher.

Grohe America, a maker of premium faucets, has introduced the Ladylux, which makes cleanup if not a breeze, then less of a hassle. The Ladylux's spout is interchangeable with several tools.

The water flow can be changed to a push-locked spray;

the spout can be removed and a food scraper, spray brush for delicate china and crystal, or a filter can be added.

"It actually becomes an appliance, just like a dishwasher or stove," said Al DeGenova at Grohe.

KOHLER, THE maker of bathroom products, displayed five sinks featuring artists' original designs. They range from a cobalt blue on white Delft floral pattern to a bright Haitian-inspired design to a 19th century European botanical to a stark 20th century black/gray/white design. Matching ceramic tiles and accessories are available.

The company also is promoting a new Overture whirlpool that is intended as an affordable step up from a bathtub in new construction. Constructed of a composite material that is lightweight and easy to install, it comes in several colors and can accommodate two persons.

"We're now saying, 'Here, look, this has Kohler styling at a moderate price,'" said Nancy Deptolla, Kohler manager of public relations.

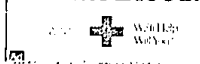
Kohler is also building a line of barrier-free showers and baths that come with a seat, grip and rail bars, and hand-held shower sprays. The units are set lower into the floor for easier access.

Latchkey children were in mind when Schlage Lock Co. developed a keyless lock system.

"A lot of the people we are selling it to are parents who both work, and the kids keep losing their keys," said Jerry Tuft of Schlage.

The lock is both a deadbolt and a latch connected with infrared sensors. The code is set inside, and the door is unlocked from the outside by turning the doorknob to the code as you would a combination lock.

Donate Blood.



Oxbow Courtyard Villas

...in Union Lake
Luxury 2 Bedroom,
2 Bath Cluster Homes

Skylights • Fireplace
Enclosed Courtyard
2 1/2 Car Garage
Beach and Docking Club
Memberships Available

From... **\$79,900**

Call Nan Linder

363-8307

Open Sat. & Sun. 1-4
or Call for Private Showing
Sales by CENTURY 21 OLD ORCHARD, INC.

EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS IN PLYMOUTH

SPECIAL PRICING ON HOMES THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

Four outstanding quality built homes on quiet oak natural lots near Wood one home one of our best. Owners report this is a real find. Numerous amenities and top quality construction. Master bedroom with private bath. Complete in the excellent 1/2 lot. A 2 bedroom model. Call today. Complete information start at \$257,500. Phone 454-1519. Homeowners are also available starting at \$50,000.

WOOD ONE

Available for immediate occupancy. Less than 15 minutes from Ann Arbor.

Walnut Hills

LUXURY LIFESTYLE

BRIGHTON AREA

47 Spectacular Homesites

Walnut Hills is a luxury community on over 65 acres of land rich in natural beauty. Elegant homesites are nestled in a natural country setting just minutes away by expressway are shopping, entertainment, cultural and recreational activities. With rolling terrain, trees and protected open space for existing wildlife, the natural environment of Walnut Hills offers a paradise in your own backyard. THE IDEAL LIVING EXPERIENCE - WALNUT HILLS.

For further information call...
(313) 229-7838 (Office)
(313) 227-4757 (Model)

Take I-96 West to Spencer Rd. Exit 147. Turn right on Spencer Rd. and continue through Spencer Bridge to Walnut Hills.

LAST 4 BUILDER'S MODELS

Northville

Richard E. Greenspan
Builder, Inc.

All Models Fully Carpeted with Window Treatments Fully Landscaped with Sprinkler Systems

Priced from **\$165,000 to \$175,000**

MODELS LOCATED ON:
White Haven Drive, South side of 6 Mile Rd. and 1/2 Mile West of Haggerty Rd., Northville 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
MODELS OPEN DAILY and SUNDAY (Closed Thurs.)
MODEL PHONE 420-2500
Mornings or Evenings - Call Braun Realty 453-2653

Ranch: 3 Bedroom, Great Room, Ceramic Tile Foyer, 1700 Sq. Ft. Living Area
Colonial: 3 Bedroom, Great Room, Ceramic Tile Foyer, 1920 Sq. Ft. Living Area
Colonial: 4 Bedroom, Formal Living Room, Family Room, Ceramic Tile Foyer, 2250 Sq. Ft. Living Area
Colonial: 4 Bedroom, with Den, Living Room, Family Room, 2400 Sq. Ft. Living Area

SPECIAL OFFER!!! SAVE UP TO \$8700* ADULT COMMUNITIES

...in the country

Come share our dream

- 1 & 2 Bedroom Ranch Units
- Private Entries
- Clubhouse and Nature Area
- Sandy Beach or Pool
- Hotpoint Appliances
- Full Basements
- Optional Fireplace, Family Room and Walkout Basements

Exclusive country living for adults 55 years and older
(No resident children under 17)

THREE GREAT LOCATIONS

RED CEDAR (Williamston)
From... **\$58,900**
(517) 655-3446

CENTENNIAL FARM (Green Oak Twp.)
From... **\$68,900**
(313) 437-6887

COLONIAL ACRES (South Lyon)
From... **\$66,900**
(313) 437-1159

Visit our Decorated Models today!
OPEN MON.-FRI. 12-4 PM • SAT. & SUN. 12-5
ALSO OPEN THURSDAYS (Red Cedar Closed Thurs.)

Built & Developed by: **CENTAUR CONTRACTORS**
Sales by: **COLONIAL ACRES REALTY**

Enjoy the Lifestyle Dreams are Made of™

Imagine living in the community of your dreams... Oak Pointe features 700 acres of luxury condominiums and elegant single family homes nestled among lush golf courses, rolling meadows, lakes and streams. Oak Pointe... Michigan's finest residential and recreational community.

- Beautifully decorated models
- Two lush golf courses
- Private marina and beach
- Driving ranges
- Cross-country skiing
- Tennis courts
- Jogging-walking paths
- The Roadhouse Restaurant
- Brighton area schools

Models and information center open:
Monday-Friday 1:00-5 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday noon-6 p.m.
Closed Thursdays

Oak Pointe Sales Office:
313-227-2608

Located on Brighton Road, 4 miles west of I-96/US 25

The Highlands*
From \$235,000
Call 227-6600

Glen Eagles
From \$161,900
Call 227-2608

The Fairways
From \$149,900
Call 227-9944

Sales by ERA Griffith Realty Brighton
*Sales by Guenther Homes, Inc.