

## Creative Living

Bob Sklar editor/953-2113

CLASSIFIED REAL ESTATE



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(F1E)

# Quilt exhibit showcases a new art form

quilter profiled: 2E

Quilts, traditionally bedcover and once crude insulation for castle walls, have come a long way since the most basic ones were made to keep bodies warm.

"Quilts As A New Art Form," a Janis Weisman 20th Century Decorative Arts exhibition devoted to the genre, will show how 21 quilt artists have combined form and function into pieces adorning walls in living

rooms, corporate suites and public buildings.

Four of the artists, Ohioans Nancy Crow and Judi Warren and local residents Carole Harris and Karen Kratz-Miller, will explain their techniques and creative processes at the opening reception 5-8 p.m. Thursday, April 4.

The 30-piece exhibition will run through April 27 at Artpack Services, 31505 Grand River (at Orchard Lake Road), Door 10, in Farmington. Weisman said she will donate 10 percent

of all proceeds to the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS.

QUILTS HAVE rapidly grown from folk art to individual pieces now considered works of art.

Although influenced by traditional methods of quilting, many of the artists invited to show their work have formal art training.

They are a part of a movement that has witnessed sculptors, printmakers, potters and artists in other media embracing quilts

as another path to explore.

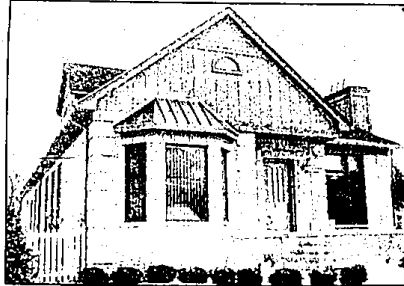
The exhibition will provide a keen look at the quilt medium as an art form. Although textiles continue to be the predominant material, quilt artists have turned to the non-traditional. Crushed cola cans, ceramic, plastic and metal have been used to create these special pieces.

Weisman, who operates a Birmingham gallery, said the exhibited artists were selected because they would provide a profound look at what's being created today. Prices range from \$2,000 to \$15,000.

ONE OF the newest trends in art quilting, making them appear three-dimensional, will be presented in two quilts by Joyce Marquess Carey of Madison, Wis.

"Stepping Down," a rectangular piece that measures 70 inches wide, shows four Jacquard-woven pictures of former Chinese chairman Mao Tse-Tung, using satin, velvet and sequins. "Magic Carpets," each 50 by 29 inches, appear at first glance as celluloid strips, furled every which way.

Please turn to Page 2



The Kings spent three years tearing down and rebuilding their Tudor style house in Livonia's Coventry Gardens. The couple demolished the original building to its frame to rebuild this 2,400-square-foot, four-bedroom house.

## House with past secures a fresh and upbeat look

By Janice Tigar-Kramer  
special writer

WHEN STEVE and Debbie King began the task of renovating and rebuilding an old, red brick house in Livonia's Coventry Gardens, they never dreamed the job would consume three years and involve the removal of each brick and every

chunk of wet plaster.

The result, a 2,400-square-foot, Tudor-style house with vaulted ceilings, a spacious loft and modern appointments in each room, is an outstanding addition to a charming neighborhood where most homes date back to the 1920s.

"No one was convinced I could rebuild the house — not my mother, the suppliers or my wife," Steve said, flashing a smile at

Debbie. "I think that was part of the motivation to go ahead with it." Besides the challenge from family, sub-contractors and neighbors who, over the years, had complained about the lack of attention renters had paid to the house, the building had special meaning to Steve.

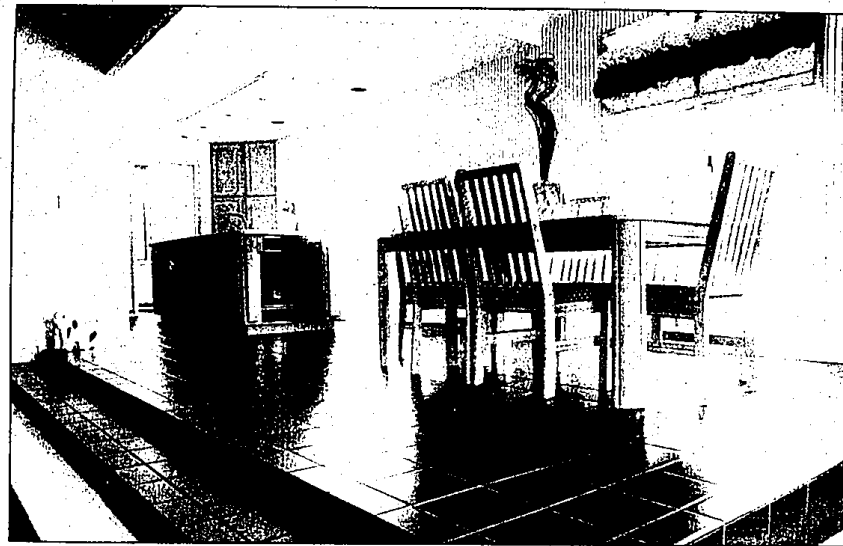
The sixth of 13 children, Steve grew up in the two-bedroom house on Edgemoor. He bought it from his parents in 1981 and remembered when it once looked like a mansion on its well-groomed, double-sized, corner lot. He was convinced it could be stately again.

SINCE HE'D worked as a painter, mason and roofer throughout high school, Steve decided to sub-contract only plumbing, electrical work and some carpentry.

He worked with an architect just long enough to produce the blueprint required by the city in exchange for a building permit. Then, unable to find a general contractor willing to supervise the project, he took over the job himself.

He also was certain bids would have been astronomical, anyway, simply to cover unexpected problems that generally accompany the demolition of an aging house. Even city inspectors thought he had taken on too much.

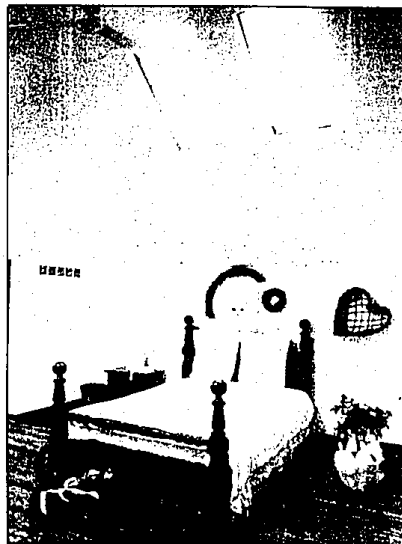
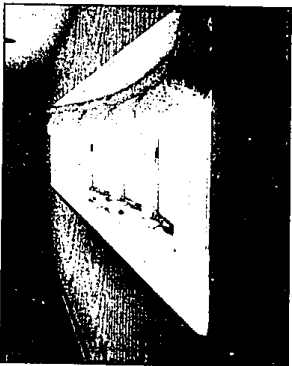
Please turn to Page 2



The platform kitchen overlooking the great room is boldly decorated in black and white. The room features a black,

satin finish, ceramic floor with a work island and the newest in appliances.

Right: Since the Kings liked the home's original bow-style window, they replaced it with a similar style by Anderson. The platform kitchen is boldly decorated in black and white.



Left: The Kings selected a traditional decor for the second-floor loft, which used to be the home's attic. The room, now the master suite, features a cathedral ceiling, four large skylights, an adjoining bath and a walk-in closet. The couple refinished the original red oak flooring.

Staff photos  
by  
Jim Jagdfeld

## Old Nankin Mills schoolhouse: It's rich in history

ITS NAMESAKE, the 135-year-old Perrinville School at Warren and Merriman in Westland, the first brick schoolhouse in what then was Nankin Township, is better known.

But Nankin Mills-Perrinville School, built by Henry Ford I in 1937 at Ann Arbor Trail and Farmington Road for workers at his nearby village mill, is still a Westland landmark brimming with history.

The two-room schoolhouse, in the old town of Perrinville, was expanded in the '50s. Livonia Public Schools acquired it in 1969 when the Nankin Mills School District dissolved. Livonia later converted it to a curriculum development center when elementary enrollment declined.

The school's name was changed from Nankin Mills to Perrinville

"I'm delighted to hear that the Westland Historical Commission is contemplating the Nankin Mills area as the first of many historic districts it hopes to establish during the '90s."

minus the "S") after a new Nankin Mills school opened nearby in 1957.

Within this backdrop, I'm delighted to hear that the Westland Historical Commission is contemplating the Nankin Mills area as the first of many historic districts it hopes to es-



Bob  
Sklar

ablished during the '90s.

TOM BROWN, who chairs the commission, says the area is one of the city's most historic. "Ann Arbor Trail was the high road so it could be traveled year-round by stagecoach between Detroit and Arbor."

If Livonia Public Schools ever decides to close the curriculum development center, I'd urge it to work out an agreement with Westland so the city could restore the old two-room schoolhouse and use it as a mu-

seum of artifacts from the village mill era and early 20th century classrooms.

The original part of the schoolhouse boasts a slate roof, a bell tower, hardwood floors and a coal room — pretty good shape, says Sue Grigg, head custodian. "The school's not in bad shape inside. And outside, it's in great shape."

Henry Ford built the school for kids of workers across the road at Nankin Mills, now offices for the Wayne County parks system. Driven by water power from nearby Nankin Lake, the mill produced engravings, carburetor parts, rivets and bearings.

DURING THE '20s and '30s, Ford, ever the innovator, bought old grist mills as part of a grand plan to build

village industries along the Rouge and other small rivers.

He believed farmers working in an atmosphere of cleanliness and tranquility would restore a proper balance between the industrialized city and rural communities.

During the slack season, farmers "could work in the small plants in the farming communities, thus resulting in year-round work, providing the security of farm life with the increased income afforded by industry," Ford said.

Ford's experiment, which intrigued American and European planners, proved unprofitable. Nankin Mills closed after World II. It became a county nature center in 1956 but closed in 1980 when funding ran out.

IN ITS heyday about 1850, the

town of Perrinville flourished as a small commercial center at Ann Arbor Trail and Merriman Road.

It was a stagecoach stop between Detroit and Ann Arbor. The coming of the railroad farther south to Wayne spurred the town's decline in the late 19th century. The crossroads became part of the new city of Westland in 1966.

Last year, the city applied for a \$50,000 state equity grant to help restore the original Perrinville School at Warren and Merriman.

Plans call for Western Wayne County students to attend day-long classes in that school once it's restored. Harper Readers and reproductions of early textbooks would highlight the 1890s curriculum.

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