

Creative Living

CLASSIFIED REAL ESTATE



Mary Klemic editor/644-1100

(S.F)D

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New film focuses on famed architect

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

Albert Kahn used a variety of materials in his architecture. Now yet another material — the thin celluloid of movie film — is being associated with him.

A German cameraman and Detroit support crew visited the Detroit area last week, researching and interviewing for "Kahn," a film about the architect.

"I call it a documentary and essay, because it's not really a documentary, it's a very subjective approach to Albert Kahn and his time," said director and producer Dieter Marcella.

KAHN was the foremost industrial architect of the first half of the 20th century. His work includes the Fisher Building, the James Cousens and George Booth houses in Bloomfield Hills (Booth founded Cranbrook on his estate), a summer cottage in Walnut Lake, the Burroughs Adding Machine Co. building in Plymouth, the Belle Isle conservatory and casino, and Hill Auditorium and Angell Hall at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

"It sounds like it's going to be a wonderful film," said Sue Marx of Sue Marx Films of Detroit, which will be involved in "Kahn" distribution. "He's (Marcella) done his homework, dug up a lot of information."

"Kahn was a major, major figure. He designed the houses and country clubs for the auto barons, clubs he couldn't go into himself."

MARCELLO, a native of southern Germany, had the idea

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Designer works magic with lobby floor

By David F. Stein
special writer

Art in public places can aspire beyond a slew of matching pictures for a company headquarters or the token sculpture fronting a government high-rise.

Remember the mosaic floors in ancient Roman baths or the frescos of Italian Renaissance churches, Southfield interior designer Anna Kenedi pleaded to her corporate bosses at United Artists Theatre Circuit Inc. in New York City.

The result is an intricate faux three-dimensional design in the unlikely setting of a suburban multiplex theater.

AS MOVIE-GOERS enter the lobby of the United Artists Theatre at West River Center in Farmington Hills, they encounter a mirror-image of the three "steps" leading to a "platform."

Hopefully, Kenedi-kidded, no one intent on the popcorn stand ahead will trip in these make-believe steps. This unusual design recently won the 1990 Job of the Year Honor Award from the National Terrazzo and Mosaic Association.

Kenedi joins select company. Last year's winner was the famed New York firm of I.M. Pei and Partners. The architect for the theater, which was completed last winter, was T. Rogvooy and Associates of Birmingham and the general contractor was Northfield Construction of West Bloomfield.

KENEDI'S ILLUSION employs only four colors — rose, light gray, rose with beige, and dark brown.

Some movie-goers will wonder if they have stepped into one of Dutch artist M.C. Escher's perpetual-motion drawings. Others bending over to pick up a ticket stub may think they have landed atop a Mayan Temple.

Actually, a painting tradition is being trotted out. The design, Kenedi said, derives from the tradition of trompe-l'oeil, where the artist attempts to deceive viewers into thinking they are looking into a three-dimensional scene.

Anna Kenedi
steps to award

Shadows cast by the lobby's lighting scheme enhance the effect and Kenedi has even extended the basic design lines to the concrete sidewalk in front of the theater.

"The patterns were strategically placed to make the space look wider and make people feel welcome," Kenedi said. "Some of the best things in life are still free, the light and the shadows."

KENEDI HAS designed more than 20 theaters for United Artists in a partnership spanning 25 years. But her plans for the elaborate terrazzo floor had to win over executives zealously guarding United Artists purses in a depressed business climate.

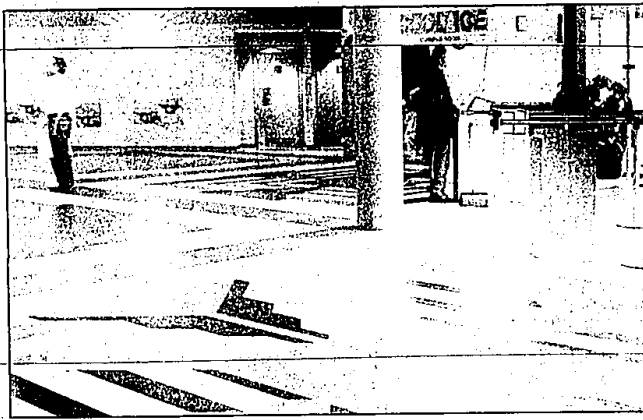
And it didn't help that the other end of West River Center features a Target store.

"I told them, the metropolitan Detroit clientele is sophisticated and ready for something that is much better than average. After all these years, you owe me that much."

"The very same floor could have been done in a very basic, simple tile for \$25,000 less, but I figured I only asked them for a thousand dollars a year since I have worked for them."

The total cost of the floor was unavailability.

TERRAZZO FLOORS are also very practical. They require little maintenance and can often outlast



DAVID F. STEIN

This faux three-dimensional floor pattern in the lobby of the United Artists Theatre in Farmington Hills presents three "steps" lead-

ing to a "platform." The design recently received an award from the National Terrazzo and Mosaic Association.

up to a hundred years, the buildings they inhabit.

Thus, this mixture of marble chips and a cement or epoxy binder is popular with architects for airports, schools and municipal buildings.

"In comparison to carpeting or vinyl, terrazzo will pay for itself in five to eight years through reduced maintenance costs," said Bert Mulroni of Boston Tile and Terrazzo Co., the Detroit firm that installed the floor.

THE HUNGARIAN-BORN designer is a graduate architect and credits her success to schooling at the University of Architecture in Budapest. "My architecture teeth are showing, based on respect for all the basic shapes."

"It's like someone who is a good physician. They didn't invent the

"The patterns were strategically placed to make the space look wider and make people feel welcome."

Anna Kenedi

human body, they just know how to repair it."

Kenedi came to the United States in 1957, the recipient of Eisenhower administration generosity during the Cold War.

"I escaped with my girlfriend, who is also an architect, on foot with great difficulties, like you see in the movies."

She started her own design firm soon after arriving in Detroit in the early 1960s with her husband, Peter, a chemical engineer. Kenedi remem-

bers, however, when "I was one of the first women at Albert Kahn who didn't type there."

A steady stream of residential and commercial clients has followed.

And already on the boards is a United Artists theater scheduled for Bethesda, Md. Here Kenedi plans to expand on the trompe-l'oeil style by creating the illusion for the Greek amphitheater.

Can the Tower of Babel be far behind?

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Seminar looks at home design

"Home for the Holidays," a Design Directions '91 program, will be Friday, Oct. 11, at the Michigan Design Center of Troy.

The seminar, sponsored by Schoolcraft College, will feature Jose Ruggiero, publishing director of Home magazine, and Jo-Anne Pier, retail merchandising director at that publication.

Ruggiero is flying in from Los Angeles, and Pier from New York, for the seminar.

DURING HIS 20 years in design and the home furnishings industry, Ruggiero designed a textile collection and developed an audio-visual

magazine for Ethan Allen Inc.

He was chief decorating consultant for the award-winning PBS series, "This Old House," and he is host of the nationally syndicated radio show, "Home Magazine on the Air." Pier is responsible for designing marketing programs for home furnishings such as decorating clinics, seminars and how-to demonstrations.

She has produced programs for major department and specialty stores including Jacobson's, Saks Fifth Avenue, Neiman Marcus and others. She has also produced marketing events for retailers with many national magazines.



Jo-Anne Pier



Jose Ruggiero

THOSE ATTENDING the Oct. 11 seminar may bring fabric swatches and pictures of rooms or areas about which they have questions.

The \$55 seminar fee includes lunch. For registration or brochure, call Schoolcraft College, 462-4448.

the University of Michigan Museum of Art. Bacher will speak informally to guests as they enjoy coffee, pastries and croissants.

At 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29, Bacher will speak at the gallery art forum, part of the "Art Then and Art Now" lecture series. The forum is open to the public free of charge. For reservations, call the gallery at 433-3700.

The gallery will celebrate its anniversary with a private party Tuesday, Oct. 1, featuring live music, gourmet food and valet parking.

Works by Lathrup Village artist Barbara Roy are featured until Monday, Sept. 30, at the J. Giordano Gallery, 332 E. Main in Northville, 348-0282. Roy paints in pastels, oils, and pastels and oils.

Art Beat

Bacher.

Bacher uses science, physics and color theory to create what has been referred to as a "high-tech impressionism" in his paintings.

The works will be on display Sept. 28 to Nov. 2 at the gallery, 430 N. Woodward in Birmingham. A public reception in Bacher's honor will take place 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28.

At 10 a.m. Sept. 28, Bacher and gallery director David Klein will begin a Birmingham gallery crawl to benefit the Connoisseurs Club of



These large flowers are among the subjects of Lathrup Village artist Barbara Roy that are on display in Northville.

Cultural exchange

Decor shows Tuscan/American style

☐ See Home Furnishings special section today

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

Interior decorator Connie Lovell and her client looked at each other in the foyer and nodded in agreement. If there is any one influence in the design and furnishings of this lovely Bloomfield home, it would have to be Tuscan.

But mostly it is American, with influences that slipped into the American interior design vocabulary as naturally as the heritage and dreams that the settlers brought with them across the ocean.

Lovell, based in Birmingham, began her plan for the home before the basement was dug.

"When I'm working with new construction, I like to get in at the preliminary stage before ground is broken."

In this case, the client had a number of antique pieces and accessories for the new house.

Lovell made a large file, documenting everything for each room — floor plan, location and type of furniture, upholstery, paint, floor and wall coverings and all custom designs.

"All the furniture was located before the foundation was poured," she said.

Lovell designed a special recessed area in the dining room to accommodate a large sectional breakfast cabinet. In the master bedroom, she designed a recessed area over the bed to hold a lovely, soft-green Chinese screen.

HER FILE for each room is so complete that when the builder actually starts, all of the answers about every area are at his fingertips.

Lovell's client wanted an impressive living room fireplace. She brought Lovell a magazine picture of one she particularly liked. The fireplace is on a wall that soars more than 25 feet to a peaked roof, enhanced by a bank of windows.

This fireplace had to be a statement — and it is. But, Lovell's clean, abstract design moves Old World

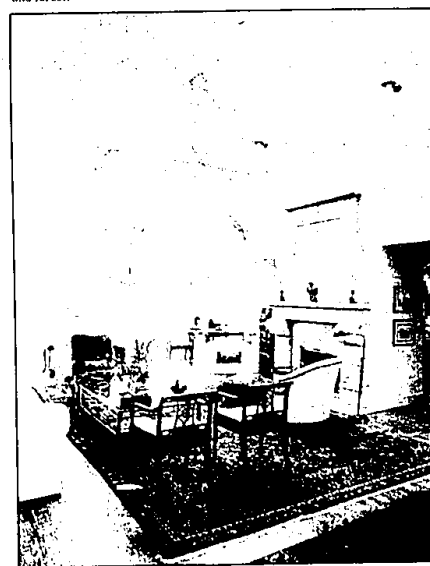
tradition into the American 20th century.

The color is subtle neutral on neutral. The architectural line is a gentle geometric curve. It doesn't shout. It doesn't squeal. It's just there, timeless, dignified and well-suited for this contemporary home of soaring peaks and grand two-story windows with magnificent views of lake and forest.

The back of the fireplace opens to the dining room. Here the front is flat. The dining room ceiling is lower and while the table can easily seat 12, the ambience is cozy and comfortable, a place for good fellowship and enjoyment.

Farmington Hills architect David Ferriby designed this house to take

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JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

The natural limestone fireplace, designed by Connie Lovell, is really an American version of those in the country homes of Tuscany in Italy or southern France. The furnishings range from antique and classical styles to contemporary in the custom-designed steel and glass coffee table.

Janice Trimpe
sculpts in clay