

# Filmmaker, crew building documentary about Kahn

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for "Kahn" when he came to the Detroit area in 1988 while filming "American Beauty LTD," a fiction feature about an immigrant coming to the United States, specifically to Detroit. "American Beauty LTD" went on to receive a German film award.

"I saw all this architecture of Albert Kahn," Marcello said.

Kahn's work spans between the 15th and 16th century Renaissance era in Europe and what Marcello calls "modernity" of the turn of this century, the filmmaker said.

"When the new auto industry arose, he had a totally new look for the future."

"The other architects that I see cared a lot about how the art world would look at their work. Kahn cared about how his architecture would work. This was one of the reasons he was so effective."

Kahn designed about 3,000 buildings, compared to Frank Lloyd Wright's 150, Marcello said.

"He was the right man at the right time at the right place. Detroit had a totally new industry."

KAHN, THE son of a rabbi, was born in 1859 in Rhaunen, Germany, and received his early schooling in Europe. He came to Detroit with his family when he was 11. He was apprenticed at age 15 to the Detroit architectural firm of Mason and Rice, and started his own practice in 1896.

"I think having this experience — coming from a very poor family and treated badly (because of prejudice) — he must have been a man with grandiose thinking. He wanted to overcome this small scale."

In 1891, Kahn went to Europe on a traveling scholarship.

"He did a lot of sketches. He loved all these Renaissance buildings. This is what he brought here to the States."

THE FILM crew will be back in the area by next April to shoot the buildings. Now it is doing a lot of interviews.

"We're having discussions with people who worked with him, or we're talking to his daughter, just to know how he shared his esthetic views with those around him. We're talking to other architects."

The crew plans to shoot buildings in Italy next spring that inspired Kahn on his European travels. The film will show these buildings and what they influenced in Detroit.

"We are still thinking about shooting in Russia."

In 1929-32 the Russian government commissioned Kahn to design factories and tractor plants. He drew up 521 plans, and was criticized by the U.S. government for it. But the factories generated business between the two countries.

"There was criticism that he was helping the enemies of capitalists. He would refer (such criticism) to

Henry Ford, who said, 'As long as we do business with them...'

Among Kahn's other architecture are GM Headquarters and "almost every one of the auto plants in Detroit."

These plants produced at least half of the material for World War II, Marcello said. He said the British general Montgomery credited military victory to Kahn.

KAHN, WHO died in 1942, was honored both in the United States and abroad.

The U-M and Syracuse University conferred honorary degrees on him, in 1933 and 1942, respectively. In 1937, he received a gold medal at the International Exposition of Arts and Sciences in Paris, and was made chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France.

The American Institute of Architects gave him a special award at its annual meeting in Detroit in 1942, and the same year awarded him a medal for distinguished war service.

The Franklin Institute awarded him the Frank P. Brown medal posthumously, in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the development of industrial architecture.

ARCHITECTURE MUSEUMS in Germany and the United States are cooperating in making the film. Marcello is especially pleased with the local response the project has been receiving.

# Screenwriters workshop scheduled

Emmy Award-winning producer and writer Harvey Swihart's screenwriters workshop will be presented again this year by Cranbrook House group a meet for eight

months through May, beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3.

The course, "How to Complete Your Script in Eight Months," is designed for aspiring screenwriters who want to finish a script and who feel the need for more direction and

motivation.

It also gives the opportunity to learn from a support network.

Fee for the course is \$300, with a \$100 non-refundable deposit. Enrollment is limited. Call Cranbrook P.M., 645-3635.

# Worlds unite in house style

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full advantage of the magnificent view. Lovell used natural materials — marble, granite, limestone and wood — to reinforce the sense of permanence.

IN THE lower-level bedrooms, which have a fine view of the lake, the scenery is pure northern Michigan.

Lovell continued her Tuscan/American approach with white cabochon detailing in the green/black marble floors of the foyer, powder room and kitchen.

Lovell-designed tile patterns are in the bathrooms as well, enhancing what she calls the "European feeling going on to contemporary American."

All of the Lovell-designed cabinetry in the kitchen and library carries the same approach. It's styled from traditional wood, in an abstract, clean, more contemporary design.

The beautiful, richly patterned Sarouk rugs in the living and dining room add lots of color and excitement to the interior.

LOVELL USED a deep rich green as an accent color; the seats of the empire pull-up chairs in the living



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/Staff photographer

room and in combination with deep red in the throw pillows. The seats of the Queen Anne dining room chairs are brilliant red.

Against the neutral off-white walls, polished hardwood floors and dramatic contemporary lines of the house, these primary colors hold their own comfortably as do the lines

The emphasis in the first-floor powder room is on Old World beauty and workmanship with a sleek modern look. The white cabochon detail in the green/black marble floor is repeated in other parts of the house.

and styles of traditional furniture.

"This is a family house," Lovell said.

That never was in doubt after seeing the bedroom suites for young adults, the lower-level exercise room and the activity room complete with a table tennis table.

And all that with a million-dollar view.



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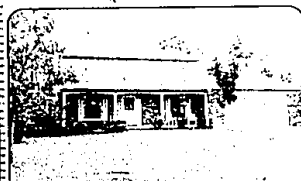
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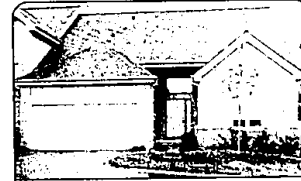
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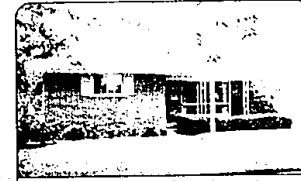
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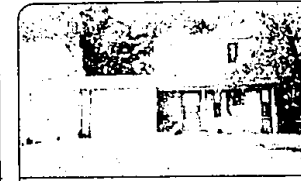
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