

Sunroom spruces, enlarges

By Arlene Funke
special writer

HELEN MERRILL adores the spacious sunroom added to her Plymouth home four years ago.

"Typically it's where I spend all my free time," Merrill said.

No wonder. The 15-foot by 22-foot room, encased in glass, overlooks the family's brick patio and flower-filled yard.

The fully energy-efficient room is light and airy, furnished with pale green carpeting, white wicker furniture and accented with peach-and-white cushions.

Merrill and her husband, Kenneth, 61, retired from Ford Motor Credit Co., hired Old Village Remodelers of Plymouth to build their sunroom.

The room's warm, Victorian ambience was conceived by Merrill, based on photographs in design magazines.

Barbara and Jim Suhay of Birmingham added a sunroom six years ago. They hired Bob Stern Builders of West Bloomfield.

"I think we wanted more room on the first floor for entertaining," said Barbara Suhay, who teaches at a community



photos by BILL HANSEN

Helen Merrill of Plymouth enjoys spending time in her light, airy sunroom. The energy-efficient room, which overlooks her tree-filled yard, can be used year-round.

college. "What we use the room for, more often, is informal dining. We eat dinner

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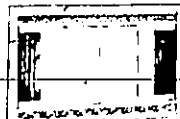
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Family meals and casual activities take place in the sunroom of the Suhay family of Birmingham. Elizabeth (left) and Amy Suhay enjoy a game of checkers.

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