

Builders share ideas

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Barton was humbled by Lawson's invitation and a 100 percent "go for it" response by his family, coworkers, colleagues and mentors.

Barton's Homearama home, Victorian Rose, is a Victorian ranch priced at \$250,000-\$280,000. His homes have ranged from \$60,000 to \$500,000.

"The whole house is a paradox of Victorian and modern," Barton said. Oak and cherrywood highlight the house.

Just as Victorian-era builders left their own distinctive thumbprint in homes they completed, Barton did the same with an inlaid rose design in the oak floor of the Victorian Rose's octagonal-shaped parlor.

He wants this rose to be his trademark in future homes. "Wherever you stand and look in the house, in any direction, it looks like the petals are spread," Barton said.

This home features a Victorian-style, pull-chain water closet, pedestal sink and claw-foot bathtub.

Barton's wife, Jan, is in charge of the interior decorating. Lots are negotiable in Riverbridge for reproducing Victorian Rose, billed as highly energy and maintenance efficient, Barton said.

Late next summer, Barton plans to build in a Canton subdivision located south of Hanford, west of Canton Center Road.

ENTERTAINING IS a snap with plenty of elbow room to spare in The Northshore by Kevin Biondo of Biondo Designers and Builders, Northville. The home is priced at \$240,000-\$250,000.

The Northshore features an open floor plan with a wet bar in the great room, which also has a fireplace.

The master suite has a double opening, see-through gas fireplace, open to both the bedroom and the Jacuzzi in the master bath.

Biondo has converted a third bedroom into a study with a view of the angled stone fireplace in the great room.

Among Homearama builders this year, Biondo started out most recently — four years ago, said Nancy Rosen of Stone, August, Baker Communications Companies, Troy.

But in that span, he has built in Livonia, Northville, Birmingham, South Lyon, Grosse Ile and Farmington Hills.

CRAIG CORBELL of Michigan Custom Homebuilders Group, Inc., Livonia, features Morgan II, a colonial priced at \$220,000-\$250,000.

The home features covered and uncovered decks, a side-entry garage, a "walk-out" lower level, and a hip roof with cedar shake style shingles.

The great room includes a two-story fireplace with raised hearth and a full wall of glass overlooking a ravine.

"This home was done on spec," said Corbell, a first-time Homearama participant. "It incorporates all features people wanted in this price range with a traditional interior that is timeless. It's definitely a move-up house."

The home can be duplicated with three, four or five bedrooms.

Corbell, who builds to suit, is willing to build anywhere. He's had new home construction in Clarkston, Commerce,

Novi, Plymouth, Northville and Dearborn.

LEO SOAVE of Leo Soave Building Co. Inc., Livonia, combines practicality with luxury. His Cape Cod home, The Villager, priced at \$225,000, features convenient traffic patterns.

A first-floor laundry is just steps away from the kitchen, which is steps away from the great room. The master bathroom features an oversize separate shower with a seat and a whirlpool bath.

"There's a lot of living space in a Cape Cod," said Maria Soave, the builder's wife, who handled the interior design. "Parents want a whole retreat area."

The Villager has a video monitoring system, a stereo system throughout the house and a central vacuum system.

The Soaves live in one of two homes Leo built for the 1987 Homearama in Livonia's Deer Creek subdivision.

Her husband still maintains contact with people he built homes for years ago in the Seven Mile-Middlebelt area, Maria said.

"He doesn't do whole subdivisions," she said.

THE BAYBROOKE, by Bob Halso, president of Pulte Homes of Michigan, Royal Oak, is priced at \$190,000-\$220,000. Halso is in charge of the company's national headquarters in Michigan. The company now operates in 17 states.

"This is the first time Pulte has been involved in a Homearama," said Deen Hyde, Pulte's marketing director.

"We're usually under the (Homearama) price ranges."

The Baybrooke features a "live-in" type kitchen with enough space for a love seat so "you can enjoy what's happening," Hyde said.

The master bathroom has a vaulted ceiling, a gas fireplace with marble surround and a large closet. The laundry room is upstairs.

Pulte is also building homes in Canton, Rochester Hills, Lake Orion and Northville. "We're not spot builders," Hyde said.

Paul Dyhdalo of Daler Corp., Warren, presents The Riviera, priced at \$189,000-\$209,000.

The split colonial features an open, transitional floor plan. The great room has a corner marble fireplace.

Dangler has built homes in Bloomfield Hills, West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills.

Ice sculpture

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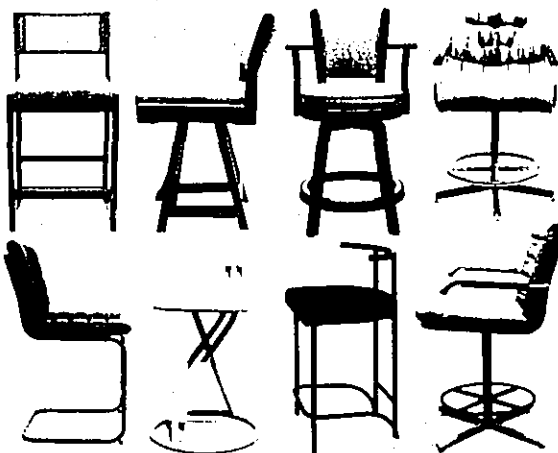
supplying the ice sculptor, Cecil said.

"The ice is 18 feet in length," Cecil said. "It will be put in a glass-sided trailer."

The sculpture, featuring Santa Claus, his sled, six reindeer and pine trees, forms the backdrop of the display. Brick paving stones form the perimeter, with a sculpted candy cane hedge lining one side.

"THE THING we are doing has never been done before," Cecil said. "The sculpture will be done on site either by student or professional ice carvers."

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