

Speaking out brings fame

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the street and built a \$12 million house.

"It was rather a small house, actually — three bedrooms, a drawing room, a dining room and a kitchen. I wanted to make the house look as though she had spent all her 60-plus years there, and so I went to junk shops and bought a lot of strange things to give an inherited look.

"FOR EXAMPLE, I bought an old granny cot for \$50. It looked like I just went up into the attic and found it, after it had been stored there for a couple of generations.

"I deliberately used a strange mixture of fabrics and patterns throughout the house, to look as though it had been formulated over the years.

"For the dining room draperies, I used a fabric that reminded me of horse blankets. Since it was a stud farm, I thought it appropriate to bring horses into the house.

"It had only been six months since the builder left, but the house looked like it had been in the family for generations.

"Just as wine improves with age, a house's natural fading and wear lead only to improvement on the original concept. I designed natural fading and wear into this house."

MENTION WHITE ceilings and Browne's affability cools.

"I detest those 'no-man's land' ceilings.

"Ceilings are a wonderful, usually overlooked, opportunity to subtly complement something important in a room — a great painting, the main fabric, carpeting, even the client.

Throughout history, ceilings have been one of the most important parts of the room.

"In my own home in Georgetown, I have a faux tortoise ceiling in the living room. I did it myself, and I had it reproduced in the home in Versailles.

"I've made it a point to learn marbling, glazing and other faux finishes. It's really very simple, using 'Paint Magic.' If a painter tells me something can't be done, I demonstrate that it can be done."



Anthony P. Browne shares opinions

YOU DON'T need high ceilings for tortoise or other fancy finishes, Browne said.

"If you have a colored ceiling, and a white cornice, it will only accentuate the height of a room and make it look higher."

The Washington-based designer often gets stuck with chintz because people think it's British, he said.

"When it came time to decorate my own home, I needed a break from roses."

"I used Indian colors, like ginger, saffron and other earth tones. It's quiet and relaxed, with enormous chairs. There's a sense of complete freedom.

They say people look like their dogs — well, I'm very like my house, and I never rearrange it because its constancy is part of my life."

The kitchen and bedroom in Browne's home are accessible through trompe l'oeil bookcases that are really secret doors.

"I taught Oprah to love secret doors and now she wants them everywhere!"

Advocate for arts urges involvement

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"There are many people like myself who don't have any artistic talent but love the arts."

The many organizations of which Cohan is a member include the board of directors of the University of Michigan Musical Society and Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan. His wife, Helga, works at the Sheldon Ross Gallery in Birmingham.

COHAN'S LOVE and appreciation for the arts came from his self-educated father, who emigrated to the United States from Europe. Cohan's father loved music so much he would go to churches just to hear the organ play.

Exposing young people to the arts contributes to the well-being of society, Cohan said. Such exposure encourages creativity and exerts a positive influence.

"My wish is that one of these days a young man or woman who was exposed to the arts in public

school will become president of the United States, and that person will have a much more human and humane attitude, and will bring to the presidency that kind of . . . humanity."

The arts also benefit Michigan's economy, efforts to attract business and tourism industry, Cohan said.

IN JANUARY 1991, Governor John Engler announced he was freezing all state grants for the arts, and ordered the elimination of the 25-year-old MCA. His administration's attitude that government shouldn't "be in the business" of supporting the arts sparked great public outcry and debate.

In April, Cohan called for a summit meeting of Engler, key legislative leaders and arts community representatives. Engler accepted and appointed Art Ellis, the director of the state commerce department, to negotiate with Cohan to prepare for the summit.

As a result of the meeting, which took place in August, Engler promised that his next budget will contain "initiatives that will help assure long-term, stable and sound financing for the arts . . . as well as basic funding." Also as a result of the summit, the state Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs was created to stimulate and encourage creative and performing arts in Michigan.

"The arts are willing and should take their fair share of cuts during hard times, but don't eliminate them."

THE ARTS have come under fire nationally as well. Examples can be found in recent controversies surrounding the National Endowment for the Arts, including attacks by political conservatives and the forced resignation of chairman John Frohnmayer.

"Clearly the president (George Bush) this time responded to the

pressures from the right."

Out of 22,000 NEA grants, less than 10 have been controversial, Cohan said.

"The arts have always been under attack. Pleases was spat upon. Attitudes change. Great literature was condemned.

"IN THE short run I'm pessimistic, in the long run optimistic.

"In the long run I think the arts will prevail. In the short run we have a president who I think has been swayed by the politics of the moment."

Cohan urged supporters of the arts to become active politically and speak out. They should contact businesses, write letters to legislators and back such institutions as the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum.

"I'm going to do everything I can to keep . . . speaking out for the arts."

Tear into workshop

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts will offer a four-week adult "Works on Paper" workshop, 6:30-9 p.m. Mondays, April 6-27.

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MIDWEST MORTGAGE CO. 451-8000	15% 30 yr	5%	15 yr
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PACIFIC WORLD MORTGAGE 642-1630	15% 30 yr	5%	15 yr
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