

BUILDING SCENE

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THURSDAY, MAY, 7, 1992

BUILDING SCENE'S NAMES & PLACES

Birmingham office building opens

The first office building in Birmingham to be built in four years has opened its doors. The J. West Hunter Building is a three-story, 71,000-square-foot structure with a three-story atrium, covered parking and 24-hour security. It is owned by Sterling Equities I Corp. of Indianapolis and is available for sale or lease. Terence Tosto of Bingham Farms is the brokerage firm. Damone/Andrew of Troy was the general contractor; Michael Boggio of Birmingham was the architect.

Young Engineer named

Charles J. Roarty of NTH Consultants, Farmington Hills, has been selected as Young Engineer of the Year by the Detroit Chapter of the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers. Roarty is geotechnical department manager of the company's Detroit office.

The award is presented to the engineer who best meets criteria in professional accomplishment, service to the engineering and local community and involvement in professional organizations.

He has served as project engineer for the 150 West Jefferson building, resident engineer and zone manager of construction during an expansion program at O'Hare Airport in Chicago and consulting engineer in residence during the initial underground construction at the Detroit Wastewater Treatment Plant Pump Station 11A.



Charlie Roarty

HRC promotes McPhee

David McPhee has been named chief engineer of design in the mechanical department at Hubbell, Roth & Clark, the Bloomfield Hills consulting engineering firm.

McPhee joined HRC in 1958 and is in charge of design work and written specifications for municipal and industrial projects. He is also involved in the development of computer programs for civil engineering and structural engineering designs.



David McPhee

Kelly names design firm

Ford & Earl Associates, Troy, has been selected to design the interior of Kelly Services' expansion of its corporate headquarters in Troy.

Readers inspire designers



Responses to the 1992 Dream Home survey resulted in the design of three houses with the owner in mind.

If there's one thing Observer & Eccentric readers agreed on in their responses to Landmark Design's 1992 Dream Home survey, it was brick. No matter what size of home people dream of building, brick is their exterior material of choice.

And although that preference didn't hold true in responses received from other parts of the country, Landmark wasn't surprised at brick's continuing popularity in this area.

More than 100 readers sent completed survey forms that ran in the Observer & Eccentric in January. Because of the high response, Landmark created three separate home plans for small (1,490 square feet), medium (2,185 square feet) and large (3,873 square feet) houses. Each is custom-tailored to the tailored specifications of that size range. Floor plans for each model and the survey responses that

See SURVEY, 3G

A vote for function

BY MARILYN FITCHETT
STAFF WRITER

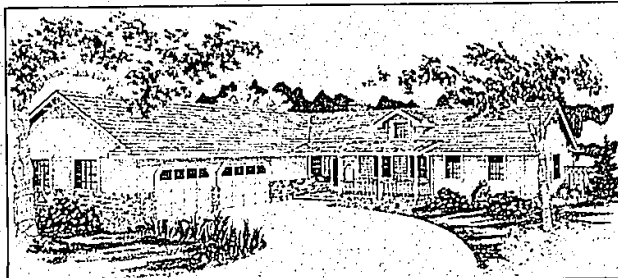
Some of the replies were strictly by the book. Others were long enough to fill a book.

Some wanted to spend \$45,000. Others wanted to see what 10 times that much would buy.

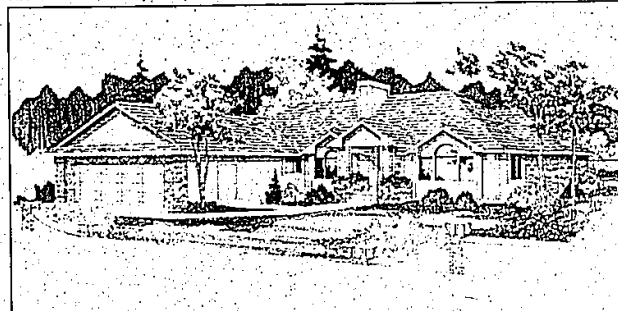
But respondents to the Landmark Dream Home survey could be more easily categorized by the similarities they wanted in their homes.

Of the more than 100 Observer & Eccentric readers who responded to the survey printed in January, more than one-third (36) were interested in a 2,000-

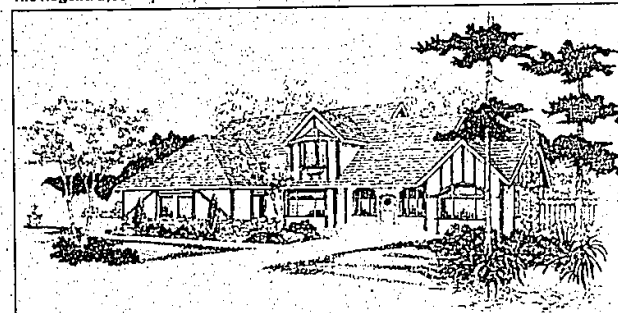
See FUNCTION, 3G



The Avalon: 1,490 square feet



The Regent: 2,185 square feet



The Ascot: 3,873 square feet

Furniture a reminder of days past

Designers waxed nostalgic at the recent furniture market in High Point, N.C. But rather than live-for-line copies from notable early collections, they opted for replicas from the past updated for the present.

A serving cabinet from Baker Furniture Co., for example, showcases a 12-bottle wine rack behind one door. The company knows full well that few homes have wine cellars these days. Likewise, other manufacturers know there were no computers or TVs in centuries past. But they're designing nostalgic cabinets for them, anyway.

In a more traditional vein is a trend for furniture painted in country style. A chest, hand-decorated with an all-over star design reminiscent of the Pennsylvania German folk look, is one example. The piece, from Century Furniture Co., is part of its Henry Ford & Greenfield Village reproduction collection.

But history, as it will be seen in retail stores by late summer, is being repeated in grand as well as plebeian dimensions.

In adapting ornate antiques in Russia's Hermitage Palace, Baker mixed one of the more exotic and luxurious veins. The collection includes a number of pieces with elaborate gilding and carving, such as a center hall table with a faux marble top. Some of the pieces, such as a desk with supports carved in the classical Greek lyre shape, are of mappa burl, a highly figured wood which resembles the Karelian birch often used on Russian court furniture. At \$13,750 for the table, the collection has prices to match the visual grandeur.

Ralph Lauren's English campaign-style mahogany furniture — \$11,038 for one of the beds — is also pricey. Named Dressage, it is designed to look like a wonderful antique shop discovery. Details include the company's insignia in polished brass, campaign hardware and artificially aged leather on bed headboards and easy chairs, decorated with painted equestrian motifs.

Penton's collection, by British fabric designer Victoria Morland, also exploits the romanticism of British legend with furniture such as a planter's chair, a "Star of India" shaped ottoman and an end table decorated with paisley motifs.

Specifically American historic periods are reproduced in the Mission and Shaker styles. Jamestown Sterling's new oak bedroom and occasional pieces are adapted from the historic mission pieces at Roycroft Inn in East Aurora, N.Y. Stanley Furniture Co. added new pieces to both its Mission-Inspired and Shaker furniture introduced at the October market.

Brooklyn's "Wexford Terrace" American Victorian collection is adapted from the kind of opulent furniture a lumber barn of the Northwest might have selected.

In the past, most parts of a named collection tended to be of the same material and style. Now it's common to mix glass, metal, wicker and woods in natural and painted finishes.

"The materials may be a hodgepodge, but there's often a strong brand-name association to lend an air of authenticity. A new mixed collection from Drexel-Heritage, for example, is based on furnishings from the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, N.C."

"The common thread is often a particular designer's name, such as Mark Hampton whose 70-piece collection for Hickory Chair Co. copies mid to late 19th century country furniture from England and France. The furniture includes unmatched chests, tables, dining chairs and upholstered pieces, many with Gothic revival details."

"Two-career families are the norm, so people don't have the shopping time they once had," Hampton says. "I tried to take something that has been popular forever to give the effect of antiquing abroad."

Frugal decorating begins with paint

(AP) — With only \$500, how would you spill up a room? Paint? Furniture? Accessories?

Several interior designers were asked, and all chose paint as at least part of the solution.

"We can't forget paint because that's the best decorating bargain," says Patricia Treiber Shaw of Dallas, a consultant to J.C. Penney Co. "A piece of unfinished furniture, newly painted, can work miracles. And new throw pillows for the sofa — all for under \$500 — could change a room's whole look."

Valances for existing window shades or blinds and a skirted table will soften a room, as will any fabric-covered table. Shaw, for example, turned a childhood desk into a vanity table, using a glass top and a skirt made from a printed bed sheet.

Connie Beale of Greenwich, Conn., suggests buying paint and a wallpaper border. Do the work yourself and add an inexpensive sisal area rug.

"If the room feels under-decorated, the money would be better spent on a couple of great plants," Beale says.

HIDDEN RIDGE HOMESITES



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