

BUILDING & BUSINESS

BUILDING & BUSINESS
OBSERVER
STARS

This column highlights promotions, transfers, hirings and other key personnel moves within the suburban business community. Send a brief biographical summary - including the towns of residency and employment and a black-and-white photo, if desired - to: Stars, Building & Business, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Our fax number is (313) 591-7279.

Terry O'Rourke was appointed director of strategic planning with Lear Seating Corp. in Southfield. O'Rourke will be responsible for planning and guiding the strategic growth of the company. He had been employed by Ford Motor Co. for 21 years, where he worked in the purchasing department.



O'Rourke

Edward Blazo Jr. of Westland joined Farm Bureau Insurance as an area agent. Blazo had been a manager for Marathon Fuel Oil in Birmingham. He earned several top awards for petroleum product sales before undergoing the training necessary for new insurance agents.



Blazo

Peter Mueller was named project engineer at Inalfa Hollandia Inc. in Farmington Hills. Mueller will serve as a liaison between customers' engineering departments, Inalfa Hollandia and Inalfa B.V., III's parent company. He had worked as Kelly Technical Services in Dearborn.



Mueller

William Turner was promoted to body shop manager at Tennyson Chevrolet in Livonia. Turner joined Tennyson in April 1994 as assistant body shop manager. Turner has more than 32 years of experience in the automotive industry, with the last 26 years spent in management.



Turner

4 firms
receive
design
awards

Architects don't necessarily design projects to win awards, but they're always happy to bask in the glory. Several area firms won state recognition this year.

By DOUG FUNKIE
STAFF WRITER



Four architectural firms with a sense of vision and local ties have received 1994 American Institute of Architects Michigan Honor Awards.

Two - Kenneth Neumann/Joel Smith and Associates, both in Southfield - designed houses. Victor Sarokl & Associates in Birmingham drew plans for a club. Roy G. French Associates in Rochester conceptualized an addition to a nature center.

Ten of the 70 anonymous nominees evaluated by a committee of architectural professionals in Minnesota received accolades. Projects must have been completed within the past three years.

"They're looking for consistency, high-quality architecture, excellence in design, how it addresses needs of the owner... use of materials... thoroughness," said



Nature center: Roy G. French Associates designed this extension to a nature center in Rochester.

Arthur F. Smith, who chaired the state competition this year.

Scott Bonney, an architect with Neumann/Smith, was project designer for a completely renovated lakefront house owned by George Brostoff and Connie Brown in Dexter.

"It's a small, two bedroom house," Bonney said. "It started out as a cottage. They took it down to bare studs. It's very compact. Lots of spaces do double duty."

The entrance foyer, for instance, can be used as a dining area, Bonney said. Storage drawers were built under steps.

The living room and kitchen are on the main level, a master bedroom and smaller bedroom-up-

stairs. A loft is above the bedrooms.

"We kind of pulled it all together," Bonney said. "We're proud of the level of detail and build-ins... little nooks."

Glass blocks, mahogany wood and stainless steel wire were used in construction. Windows predominate on the lake side.

Sarokl was honored for Sheler, an alternative club in the basement of St. Andrew's Hall near Greentown.

"It was previously a club that attracted a lot of musicians, art students - a counter-culture club," Sarokl said. "We thought we should develop on that theme."

The choice was ecology and planet Earth.

A meandering bar top consists of layers of inexpensive particle board alluding to strata. The DJ's booth is partially cone-shaped. A giant symbol of the sun suggests warmth and caring for the ecology.

"We used natural materials in material ways," Sarokl said. "Concrete was left as raw concrete, wood as wood as opposed to stains and finishes. We tried to create a very curious atmosphere."

Arthur F. Smith designed a contemporary home with a "hard" look in Birmingham for a young bachelor that would symbolize his achievements in the steel and commodities markets.

See AWARDS, 1P

Students hear about
limits on construction

By DOUG FUNKIE
STAFF WRITER

Over-regulation and the difficulty of urban poor to own houses are major problems facing the construction industry, said James R. Irvine, president elect of the National Association of Home Builders.

Irvine, a builder and property manager in Portland, Ore., spoke to students during a recent visit to Lawrence Technological University in Southfield.

Irvine challenged architectural, engineering and trade students to become familiar with building issues and to get involved finding solutions to problems.

"Think about the concentration of poor," he said. "What does it mean for society, for the country?"

"You're here because you have vision. Why don't kids in the inner city have vision? Why don't they live in a home of their own or their father's home? We're going into a third generation or more where owning a home isn't a reality."

Irvine also touched on what he perceives as burdensome regulations. Government sometimes seems more concerned about protecting animals than making affordable housing available to people, he said.

"It's time to bring reality to problems," Irvine said. "As of 1990, we had two-thirds of the standing timber we had in 1620. We have a chance of matching that in the 21st century with good forest management."

"No question we've had a loss of wetlands over the last century," he added. "But in the

last two decades, we - our industry - have increased wetlands."

Several students interviewed after Irvine's brief remarks agreed with his tone, especially as it related to the environment.

"One thing I like about the group (NAHB) is they have a handle on the issue," said Chad Grinwis, a senior architecture major and treasurer of LTU's student NAHB chapter.

"I worked with an architect who built on a lake and DNR was very heavy handed."

"I think wetlands are under control," said Bill Bowerman, a senior engineering major. "It's not like it used to be. People know how to harvest, replant. Nature is really adaptive."

"I think the general public is more environmentally conscious," said Michelle Erat, an architecture senior and secretary of the LTU student chapter.

"I'm a nature lover and still see a need for balance between environmental issues and building issues," she added.

"There's too much emphasis on the bird (spotted owl)," said Tim Capaldi.

Robert R. Jones, a West Bloomfield residential builder and president of the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan, commended the students for getting involved in a creative profession.

"I think all of us must remember that we're all students," Jones said. "Learning is a lifetime experience. I think those of us today not called students should remember that. Education is the keynote of becoming more professional."

SE Michigan
housing growth
leads Midwest

Single-family building permits issued in southeastern Michigan through the first six months of this year soared by nearly 30 percent from the comparable period in 1993.

Builders pulled permits for 9,500 houses and detached condominium units in a 10-county area including Oakland and Wayne, according to U.S. Housing Markets, a tracking service based in Livonia.

The percentage increase was the

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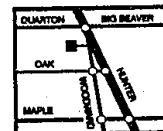
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