

# CREATIVE LIVING

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## INTERIOR MOTIVES



NAOMI STONE LEVY

### Take creative view on window treatment

**W**indows on the world must either conceal or reveal the view. What is the exposure?

If the outdoors is lacking in charm, if you are seeing only the wall of the house next door, good sense tells us the window treatment should be opaque and/or concealing. If, luckily, we are looking at something WONDERFUL, perhaps no covering is required, unless some privacy is desired.

The second consideration: Is this room to be elegant, or casual and informal? Is it to be traditional or contemporary?

Let us try traditional AND elegant AND no view. Without doubt the most difficult thing to accomplish is elegance with SIMPLICITY, an achievement to be cherished. I always strive for it.

#### Finding fabrics

A favorite way to accomplish this is in the selection of fabrics. If you have decided to use a one-color scheme select a handsome texture that will add character. On the meeting edges and across the bottom hem of a pair of pinch-pleated draperies add a sumptuous tassel trim. If this trim has long drops the tassels will cascade down with a luxurious look. These trims aren't inexpensive, but justify the expense as contrasted with intricate valances or swags, an 18th century mode.

These draperies should be hung from a decorative rod, and be lined or even interlined with a soft flannel. The tassel trim will have some showmanship if there is a contrast — light on a slightly darker fabric, or conversely, darkish on a lighter fabric.

Should one have a preference for tiebacks with filler sheer curtains, I suggest flat tiebacks with the same tassel trim along the bottom edges. The filler sheers will be lovelier if they, too, have a slight texture rather than merely nylon voile (decease).

These sheers should be triple fullness. Any sheers should be very full! The amount of fabric to cover 72 inches of space therefore would equal 216 inches. Because most sheers are 48 inches wide one will require 4 1/2 widths or 21 1/4 widths per panel. Hems are at their best if seven inches deep rather than the customary four inches. Impeccable seams and hems are a significant finishing factor — NO RIPPLES. This will spoil the finest of fabrics. The seamstress must be good at the job.

#### Spare the rod

The rod should be placed above the window frame, not quite to the ceiling. This extra length also adds stature and elegance to a room that has an eight-foot ceiling. Again, select the more SIMPLE decorative rod. There is enough going on without trying to "gild the lily."

Let us discuss the rod situation. Plain traverse rods are anything but good looking if the curtains are ever left open. Decorative rods can be una-torned, and are available in a multitude of finishes: brass, chrome, iron, wrought iron, or wood in a number of finishes, including shiny lacquer.

On the informal aide we should be free of af-

See LEVY, 5E

## LOOKING AHEAD

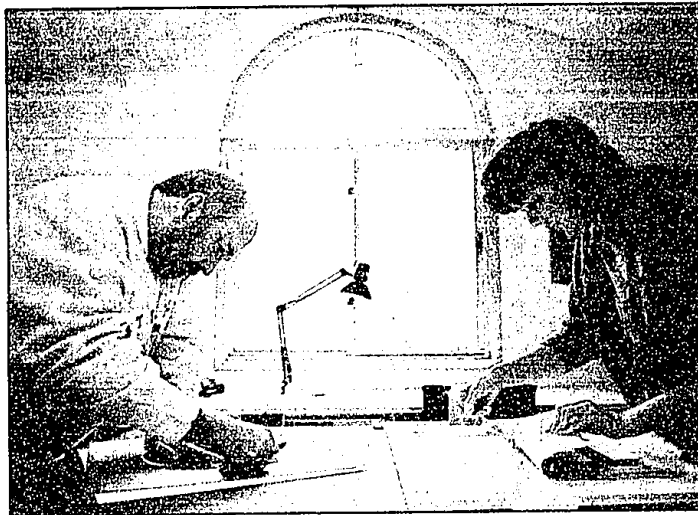
What to watch for in Creative Living next week:

- A preview of the 23rd annual spring plant sale of the Cranbrook Gardens Auxiliary.
- A look at plans for a special exhibit honoring artist Lillian Hoppin of Bloomfield Hills, who was involved in the founding of the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association.
- Marty Figley's Garden Spot column.
- Art exhibit openings and events.

## Your guide to Community Classified

CLASSIFICATION	SECTION
AUTOS FOR SALE (300-404)	C
EMPLOYMENT (300-434)	F/A
HELP WANTED (300-424)	F/B
HOME & SERVICE CARES (1-889)	G
MERCHANDISE FOR SALE (300-744)	C
REAL ESTATE (300-572)	B/E
RENTALS (300-439)	F/P

For complete index, turn to page 7E.



Artists at work: Barry Lehesten cuts the matting while Suzanne Lifton pastes hand-made paper (photo at left). Lifton (above) threads yarn through a natural space in an agate stone.

## Artists stay true to nature



Among the works at the Westacres Artist Market in West Bloomfield this weekend will be Visionality Designs, three-dimensional collage art by Suzanne Lifton and Barry Lehesten of Farmington Hills.

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER

Suzanne Lifton and Barry Lehesten of Farmington Hills strike a balance with their Visionality Designs — art works considered dimensional sculpture or three-dimensional, mixed media collage.

The pieces are harmonious arrangements of polished stones and such materials as leather, feathers, yarn and handmade paper. Lifton and Lehesten work in harmony — one placing the components, one cutting the mats, the two conferring before and during the process. Viewers feel harmony with the finished works.

"Every piece is different, which is what we like about this. We can't duplicate things," Lifton said. "Everybody's getting something unique."

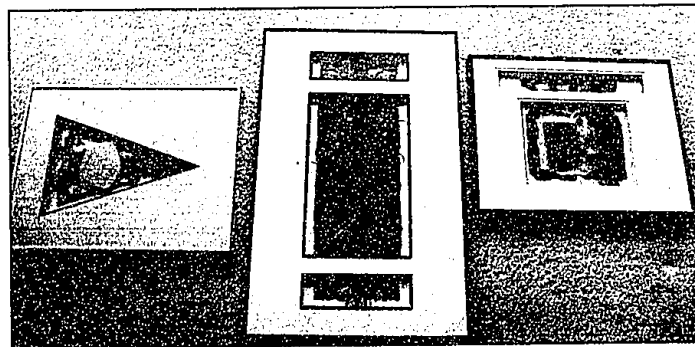
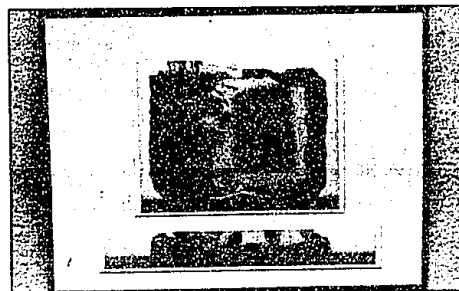
"One of the strong feelings we get is (viewers) probably relate to it somehow, a certain harmony with it," Lehesten said.

Visionality Designs will be featured in the 27th annual Westacres

Artistic arrangements: Black Apache tears, obsidian, a Picasso stone and natural yarn fibers and papers make up a Visionality Designs piece in the top photo. The works in the photo at right show different mat cuttings.

Artist Market, a juried event presenting pieces by more than 50 professional artists and craftspeople. The market will take place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at the Westacres Clubhouse on the bluff of Middle Straits Lake, off Commerce Road, between Green Lake and Union Lake roads in West Bloomfield. Admission is \$1. Photography, mixed media, jewelry, painting, pot-

See DESIGNS, 5E



## Southfield sale displays delightful dahlias

BY MARTY FIGLEY  
STAFF WRITER

The Southfield Adult Center, 24350 Civic Center Drive in Southfield, is the location of the South-eastern Michigan Dahlia Society sale of dahlia tubers, 1-4 p.m. Saturday, May 6.

The tubers will be divided into three sizes — AA-A size will be priced at \$2 each; BB-B size will be \$1.75 each, and the smaller ones \$1.50 each. All of the tubers are first

quality. For more information, call Hank Lenhoff at (810) 788-9354.

Members of the society will be on hand to answer questions and will be happy to assist in selections.

Dahlias bloom in an array of colors, from many hues of yellow, soft apricots, bright oranges to deep crimsons, maroons and scarlets, and add color to the garden from July until frost, so there should be one that is perfect for any garden situation.

Some dahlias can grow to 10 feet

in height, and need staking, while other varieties grow only 12 to 15 inches tall and don't need such support. These plants do need at least six to eight hours of sunlight each day to perform well. But as with most anything, there are exceptions and there are some varieties that can grow with less sun, as long as they have plenty of light and warm soil.

Dahlias like a good rich soil and should be fertilized at least twice each season. For the flower to be

very large, side buds are pinched out to allow the central bud to grow without competition. On the other hand, the plants with small flowers aren't pinched.

Droopy leaves is a sign that the plants need watering; they need a good deep drink, but don't like wet feet. Rain water is often sufficient, but when water is applied manually, it is best not to wet the foliage.

See DAHLIAS, 5E

Arboret features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Mary Klemic, Creative Living, Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or fax them by calling (810) 644-1314.

**ON BOARD**  
Wallis Klein, Betty Maple and Dawn Lynch Rameal of Bloomfield Hills and Lennie Pincus of Southfield are among the board members of Michigan Performing Arts Inc., the non-profit organization specifically committed to the continuance of Youththeatre. With its home stage at Music Hall Center in Detroit, Youththeatre has launched its 32nd season of live professional performances for Michigan children and fam-

## Art Beat

**HOE.** During the past season Youththeatre audiences exceeded 140,000 attendance at weekend public performances, weekday school field trips and bookings in communities statewide.

**DOCUMENTARY DATE**  
Henderson Filmmakers of Birmingham has announced that its video documentary about the Vietnam era American servicemen still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, "Our Missing in

Action," will be aired in metropolitan Detroit during the Memorial Day holiday weekend 5 p.m. Sunday, May 28, on the public TV station WTVS-TV Channel 56.

"Our Missing in Action" was first aired in 1987 by all of Michigan's public TV stations. At that time, the program in edited form, including an entirely different ending, was distributed nationwide by the Central Education Network to numerous public TV stations. The upcoming telecast in Detroit will show the national version, the first time viewers in this area will have the opportunity to see it.

"Our Missing in Action" movingly examines the issue of American servicemen still missing in the aftermath of the Vietnam War.