

## COVER STORY

# Home tour highlights diversity

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**H**ome tours have become a popular way to sneak a peak at how others maintain and decorate their homes. They provide a fresh injection of new ideas and a chance to politely invade someone's privacy for a good cause.

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation is holding its 19th Annual Historic Home Tour noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and \$5 for children under 12. They are available at ticket booths in Riverside Park in front of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 N. Huron St.

Ypsilanti's home tours benefit the foundation's activities in preserving local architecture. This year a portion of the proceeds will also go to the Riverside Arts Center.

Ypsilanti has a rich architectural history. It's late 19th century and early 20th century public buildings,

*On the Cover: Kyle and Skip Bunton call their house a "work in progress" as they continue to renovate their Cotswold Cottage and revive its gardens. Their home is one of five in the Ypsilanti Historic Home Tour. Cover photo by Jim Jagdfeld.*

including several on the campus of Eastern Michigan University, are notable for their variety of styles and unique decorative ornamentation. Private residences are also notable for their variety. Though the Victorian style often predominates, other styles were also important. This year's four houses and one small apartment complex show that diversity.

Kyle Bunton wasn't even sure she wanted to buy a house when she and her husband bought the Cotswold Cottage at 507 Fairview.

"It's charming, cute. I didn't want a house, but my husband, my fiancé at the time, did," Bunton said. "Then I was going through one of those house books and saw a picture. I knew it needed a lot of work. But I thought if I wanted a house, it had to be different. It just suckered me in."

The house that Skip and Kyle Bunton were "suckered" into buying was built in 1926, one of the first houses on Fairview in Ypsilanti's College Heights neighborhood near the university.

The Period Revival English Cotswold Cottage has a storybook quality with its distinctive rolled roof, eyebrow windows and thick stucco walls.

"I liked the roof, the kitchen nook, the wood floors, that we've had to refinish. It had old world quality workmanship," Bunton said.

The house has become a "labor of love" for Bunton, a dietitian at St.

Joseph Hospital and her husband, who works in sports rehabilitation for Body Specs.

"On the exterior we pulled off the ivy to protect the masonry. We completely redid the yard, re-established a garden and lawn," Bunton said.

"We refinished floors, painted, plastered. It's been a project, a lot of sweat, real sweat equity."

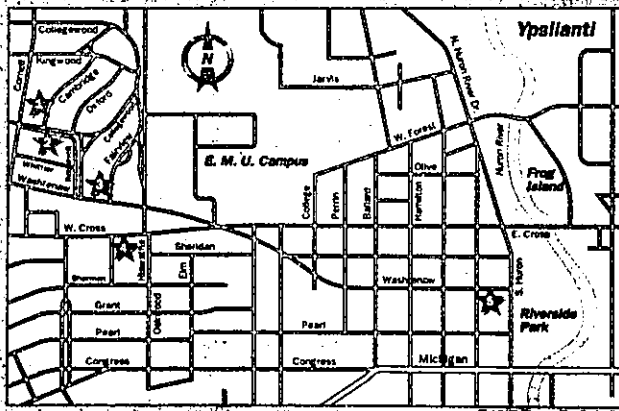
The house has been given a period look with special window treatments, family heirlooms and such unusual touches as a chair bought at the Treasure Mart for \$36 that once sat in the lobby of Ann Arbor's historic Michigan Theatre.

The Buntons have also experimented with interior painting. They took a class in house painting together and learned a process called "smooching" that creates a marble look for walls.

Bunton said that despite her

See TOUR, 16C

## YPSILANTI HISTORIC HOME TOUR



1. 708 Cambridge  
English Tudor  
National Style  
1926
2. 1207 Rosewood  
Colonial Revival  
Style  
1930
3. 507 Fairview  
Period Revival  
English  
1926
4. 1035 W. Cross  
"Cottage"  
House" Style  
1926
5. 184-190 W.  
Washington  
Prairie School  
Apartment  
Complex  
1904

