

# Home designed by family for family



**Season's greeter:** (Left) A four-foot Santa will greet visitors in one of the residences on the "Snowprints" tour. (Right) The Detroit Symphony Orchestra Holiday House is an elegant French Country manor residence in Bloomfield Hills.

Staff photo by Dan Dean

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
Special Writer

Unable to find a home with a large enough family room a Birmingham couple, who wish to remain anonymous, purchased a small, older home, demolished it, then built an 8,500-square-foot traditional Georgian colonial. Designed by Victor Saroki & Associates of Birmingham, the home is one of six showcased during "Snowprints: A Winter Tour of Homes" presented by the Seaholm High School PTSA to benefit student programs and services.

An open floor plan allows for interaction between the couple and their two teenage daughters. Cased archways, custom moldings and elaborate window treatments exude southern warmth.

"Our family is really the center of our existence. The kitchen and family room is where the members congregate. We've never allowed the children to have TV's in bedrooms so that the girls wouldn't drift off and isolate themselves from the rest of the family. Family is very, very important and the extended family is extremely important," said the matriarch of the family, a professional volunteer.

Eighteen members of her family will fly from her native New York to celebrate Christmas. The spacious home with walk-in closets in each of the five bedrooms will easily accommodate them all. Goldner-Walsh Nursery will accent the family's decorations which include a fresh-cut pine tree in the fam-

ily room. A live wreath intertwined with pomegranate will add spice to the mantle above the fireplace in the space meant for lingering and mingling.

Creating a warm interior to offset the expansive high-ceiling home challenged designer Connie Lovell of Birmingham. In the living room, she contrasted deep blue walls against the white airy ceiling to minimize the height. A cream colored area rug and puddled draperies offset the Brazilian mahogany floor.

Throughout the home, visitors will find Lovell's generous use of bold, opposing colors. The formal dining room's intense coral-washed walls add intimacy to the large space.

The master bedroom suite is a world unto itself with a mahogany sleigh bed with tapestry shams and green brocade comforter; sitting area including berry mohair, ball and claw antique chairs; his and her walk-in closets, and a bathroom with whirlpool tub, sauna/shower, all lit by natural light.

"The idea was to create a Victorian style residence for a very strong family who admire individuality and the pursuit of education," said Connie Lovell.

Original artworks by Julie Dawson and Mwanza installed throughout the home emphasize that individualism.

**On the cover:** The angles in the architecture, as seen in the guest bedroom of a house on the "Snowprints" tour, is typical of the architect's style. Staff photo by Dan Dean.

## Make Snowprints for Tour

The Seaholm High School PTSA hosts its seventh annual "Snowprints: A Winter Tour of Homes" 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and available at Mills Pharmacy, 1740 W. Maple; Birmingham Drugs, 1220 S. Woodward; and Seaholm High School, 2436 W. Lincoln. On the day of the walk, tickets cost \$15 at Mills Pharmacy, Birmingham Drugs, Leo's Souvlaki Coney Island, 154 S. Woodward, and Ember's Deli, 3598 W. Maple.

Proceeds will go towards the Technology Fund, a teacher's wish list for video equipment and the like. Last year's tour generated about \$10,000.

"It's a nice opportunity to make an event out of it and for people to start celebrating the season," said Judy Palischeck, tour co-chair with Nina Brooks.

In addition to the traditional Georgian colonial, the walk will showcase a 1907 three story Dutch colonial enhanced by the homeowner's creative decorating; a 1995 French Provincial home with extensive wood accents on Quarten Lake; 1938 traditional Cape Cod which won Better Homes & Gardens' Home of the Year Award that year; a 1967 classic pillared Bloomfield Village colonial with exquisite traditional decor; and a sophisticated 1953 custom-designed home with recently remodeled master bedroom suite and kitchen/family room.

For more information call Palischeck at (810) 644-3064



Photo by William Hanson

## Holiday house filled with seasonal style

The Detroit Symphony Orchestra Hall Volunteer Council presents its 1996 Holiday House and Boutique through Sunday, Dec. 8.

The house is filled with seasonal decor and the wonderful sounds of holiday music by local talent. The fund-raising event is in an elegant French Country manor home at the end of a tree-lined driveway at 780 Vaughan Road in Bloomfield Hills. Vaughan Road is east of Lahser, between Long Lake and Lone Pine roads.

Almost every one of the house's 11 rooms is replete with decorated trees and other holiday greenery and ornamentation to complement home furnishings by Scott Shuptrine of Troy, supervised by its Design Studio director, Casey Werner Pierson.

The 1996 Holiday House hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets may be bought for \$6 per person in advance from The Village Barn gift shop, 32760 Franklin Road in Franklin (call (810) 851-7877), through the DSO Music Box Boutique or by calling (810) 646-9186. Tickets also may be bought for \$8 per person at the door of the Holiday House.

Among the well-known florists participating are Party Blossoms of Silk + Morgan Inc. of Berkley, Breath of Spring of Bloomfield Hills, Goldner Walsh of Pontiac, Jacobsen's Florist of Bloomfield Hills and Reiko M of Royal Oak.

A large gingerbread house has been donated for raffle by Home Bakery of Rochester. The DSOH Volunteer Council is also hosting a large holiday boutique on the second level of the house, featuring fresh green wreaths and numerous other items for sale.

Valet parking is available. The house isn't open to children under 8 years of age and isn't barrier-free.