

INTERIOR DESIGN

Old, new meet by design

BY MARY KLEMIC

Staff Writer

The old and the new came together in several special ways at The Community House in Birmingham last week.

Joe Ruggiero of HGTV gave a lecture there Wednesday on "World of Design: Old World Meets New." With appraisal clinics featuring representatives of the Frank H. Boos Gallery of Bloomfield Hills and DuMouchelle Art Galleries of Detroit, the event kicked off The Community House Antiques Festival.

The site also housed a preview of Ruggiero's furniture collection for Norwalk Furniture, which was introduced last year. Here the collection—which also includes fabric and decorative accessories—is available exclusively through Joseph Keenan Design Consultants of Birmingham.

The festival will take place Friday-Sunday, March 16-18, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, south of Maple and east of Southfield Road in Birmingham.

Both in his slide presentation and in an interview afterward, Ruggiero talked about living with antiques and how residents should follow their own style.

"Many people feel that more is better. I feel that more is less," he said. "I say keep it simple."

On HGTV, Ruggiero co-hosts *Rooms for Improvement with Leslie Uggans*, *Best of American Design* and *Homes Across America*. He was chief design consultant to *This Old House* on PBS for nine years, wrote the design and source book *Found Objects*, and was editor of *Home Magazine*.

Ruggiero has visited 16 countries in the past four years for a series of TV specials. In his talk he showed slides of places he has visited, among them the homes of Monet, Renoir and fashion designer Hubert de Givenchy. All of these featured antiques.

"I encourage people to have those getaway spaces, personal rooms," Ruggiero said.



In home: Joe Ruggiero says homeowners should "follow their own style" with antique furniture.

accents.

■ Faux painting should be done subtly.
■ "I'm a big fan of portraits. I think they add character to the room."

■ "I love sisal. I love seagrass. You can use area rugs on top of it."

An Italian area with little gardens that he visited reminded him of townhouses in Birmingham, Ruggiero said.

"This is a very, very special part of the world for me," Ruggiero said.

Designs

Ruggiero started his furniture designs about five years ago. He had met Keenan on one of his trips to the area and approached him about handling the collection.

"He is such a talented designer," Ruggiero said. After asking Keenan about the collection, "He was like, 'When do I start?'"

Ruggiero described his furnishings as a cast of characters, playing three different "roles." These are design themes: "Euro Country," casual, Old World elegance; "Spice," exotic and whimsical; and "Boulevard," sleek, urban and neutral.

"Every piece has been influenced by a piece I found in my travels," the designer said.

For example, the base of a table was inspired by a Japanese farm implement. A chair is reminiscent of a club chair found in Paris.

Keenan praised the versatility of the furnishings, fabrics and accents.

"It's good clean design," he said.

Antiques festival hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10.

Related events include a gala preview party, presentations and a grand raffle. Specialists in restoration will be available to repair items brought in by visitors.

For information, call (248) 644-5832.

World view

Monet's kitchen was dressed in chrome and yellow, with various shades of red roses as accents. Renoir's house was colored in monochromatic tones that played to the outdoors.

Chaiky blue is a color that goes well with antiques, Ruggiero said.

"You don't want anything to fight with your antiques."

Among Ruggiero's other comments and suggestions:

■ Place architectural fragments in the garden to frame views.

■ Make assemblages on tabletops and change them by moving the pieces throughout the house.

■ Clippings arranged on a wall make an ever-changing tapestry.

■ Photography is becoming more and more popular for

CALENDAR

■ Art Van Furniture has teamed up with WJBK-FOX and the Dress for Success agency for "Clean Your Closet Weekend," a clothing drive. Drop off gently used business attire for women Friday-Sunday, March 16-18, at Art Van stores in Southfield, (248) 669-3770; Waterford, (248) 674-4731; Livonia, (248) 478-8870; Westland, (734) 425-9600; Novi, (248) 348-8922; and Warren, (810) 779-9530 and (810) 939-2100. Dress for Success will distribute the clothing to low-income women entering the workforce. Tax deduction receipts will be available.

■ The Community House Antiques Festival will take place Friday-Sunday, March 16-18, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates, south of Maple and east of Southfield Road in Birmingham. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10. A gala preview party will be 6-10 p.m. Thursday. Preview party tickets are \$55

(friend; enter 7 p.m.) and \$100 (patron; enter 6 p.m.). In the program "Take a Walk With a Designer," 8:30-10 a.m. Friday, Dan Clancy of the Perimeter Freewald decorating studio will lead a walk through the show before public hours, explaining how to make different antique items work in the home. Tickets are \$25 and are limited to 25 people. A continental breakfast, and lecture on "Folk Art" by Nancy Druckman of Sotheby's, will take place 10-11 a.m. Friday. Cost is \$15 and includes show admission. Specialists in all areas of restoring will be available during the same hours as the show and preview party to repair prized items brought in to the event. A grand raffle for a two-year lease on a Lincoln Navigator, LS or Town Car will be featured; raffle tickets are \$50, or three for \$100. For information, call (248) 644-5832.

■ In honor of National Reading Month, Art Van Furniture has created a variety of events to

encourage students to read. Each Sunday in March, 2-4 p.m., children are invited to enjoy stories read in Kids Castles (or read one of their own) in Art Van stores at 27775 Novi Road in Novi (phone (248) 348-8922) and 6500 14 Mile in Warren (phone (810) 939-2100). The event is free.

■ Colorworks Design Studio, 32506 Northwestern Highway in Farmington Hills, hosts a winter seminar series, "Because the Details Make the Difference." The last topic of the free series at the studio will be "The Right Accessory in the Right Place," 7:30 p.m. March 28. Space is limited and reservations must be made in advance; call Andrea or Laura at (248) 851-7540. The session will cover how to pick and place accessories, including the art of placement for a finished look, picking pieces to complement each other, adding warmth or drama, color impact to add interest, and art work selection.

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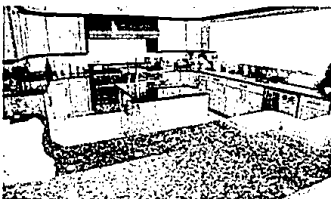
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