

# At Home

INTERIOR DESIGN ■ DIY ■ GARDENING

Across the ocean

Adopted daughter  
 changes Doug and Anita  
 Peterson's lives. C6

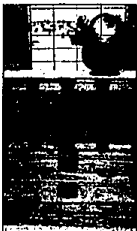


## Accents

### Japanese antiques

Japanese antiques have stories to tell, says Birmingham native Jake Costello.

Costello, who has been living in Kyoto, Japan, for the last 21 years, is an enthusiastic student and collector of



pieces in and around the Kyoto area.

He and his wife, Yuko Abo, have brought a wide variety of items for a Japanese antiques show Sept. 13-21, at Antiques Centre of Troy, on the northeast corner of Maple and Coolidge.

Admission is free. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call Judy Frankel at (248) 649-4399.

The items show the impeccable skill of the person who made them, Costello says. These craftsmen expected little more than a living and the respect of their patrons, he says.

"Their name was their reward," said Costello, a Seaholm High School and University of Michigan graduate.

"To be a craftsman you would spend 10 to 20 years as an apprentice. The detail and craftsmanship just excited me and attracted me. The workmanship is unparalleled in another culture."

The objects come from three periods: Edo (late 1700s, 1800s), Meiji (late 1800s) and Taisho (early 20th century). They include kimonos and textiles, ceramic and lacquer ware, dolls, chests, household devices, flower baskets, lanterns, candlesticks, art and decorative pieces and Buddhist items.

(Shown here are a merchant's chest from the Meiji period made of paulownia wood, with all hand-forged hinges.)

The featured collection was put together for the beauty and artistic value of the pieces, as well as with an eye for how they could be transformed and used in a Western home and garden.

An old warehouse door can become a coffee table. An obi (sash) can be made into pillow, or a dining table decoration. A sake jug can become a lamp. A ceramic hibachi can become a plant holder.

"They stand the test of time," Costello said. "They're still usable."

Costello joined the Peace Corps and eventually went to Japan, where he studied bamboo flute. He now has a business, Kodo Japanese Antiques, in Kyoto.

Costello wanted to do something to give Japanese antiques exposure in the Midwest, and had a show at the Antiques Centre of Troy last year.



PHOTOS BY JERRY ZOLNIGAT/ECCENTRIC

The dining room, like other rooms at Phyllis Whitehead's residence, features an eclectic mix of animal prints, floral designs, art and vintage posters. The house will be on Designers' Homes on Tour Sept. 22.

## Designer's eclectic 'finds' create exotic, elegant home environment



Phyllis Whitehead pauses for a moment on the verandah of her Birmingham home.

BY MARY KLEMIC  
 STAFF WRITER

Sleuthing is a hobby of Phyllis Whitehead.

"You never know what you may find," said Whitehead, an interior designer.

Examples of what she has found on her excursions through the countryside are among the eclectic furnishings in her Birmingham residence — one of six featured on Designers' Homes on Tour Sunday, Sept. 22 (see related story).

Whitehead's house was built in the 1880s. Two

PLEASE SEE HOME, C2



Phyllis Whitehead refers to a sun room as a garden room because it gives the feeling of sitting in a garden. Accessories include lamps made from garden statues, and a moose head between framed floral prints.



A Clawson company added an Arts and Crafts look to the driveway of a Birmingham house, in keeping with the era of the residence.

## Compliments pull into artistic driveway

BY MARY KLEMIC  
 STAFF WRITER

Accessories for a house aren't limited to the interior or even the yard.

And outdoor trim doesn't stop at the house or even a fence.

Take, for example, the driveway at a Birmingham house. Colored concrete has transformed the drive-

way into a giant artistic accessory, one that is turning heads, stopping passersby and drawing rave reviews.

The family bought the house two years ago. It was built in 1912. When work was going to be done on the driveway, the family wanted the look to be special.

"We really wanted to respect the era of the

house," said resident Janice Morgan.

Unfired concrete of Clawson sat down with the family and developed a design that evokes an Arts and Crafts look.

The driveway now is dressed in an arrangement of rectangles, in shades called palomino (a mellow gold) and leather (a medium brown). At first glance,



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFMEYER/ECCENTRIC

Janice Morgan stands on the family's driveway, which has drawn attention because of its artistic look.

the surface resembles wood because of the swirls in the concrete.

The numerals at the bottom of the driveway also convey Arts and Crafts style.

"I initially wanted

some kind of paver look," Morgan said.

The surface was found to be more conducive to decorative concrete.

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