

At Home

INTERIOR DESIGN ■ DIY ■ GARDENING

Conquerors
THE FARMINGTON COMMUNITY HOUSE
FARMINGTON HILLS BRANCH
32737 West Two Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334-3906
competition.C5



Accents

Orchestrations

Orchestrations for the Home features vignettes by interior designers, and presentations by interior designers, architects, landscape architects and garden and floral artists at the Michigan Design Center in Troy.



10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday-Sunday, March 7-9, at the Michigan Design Center in Troy.

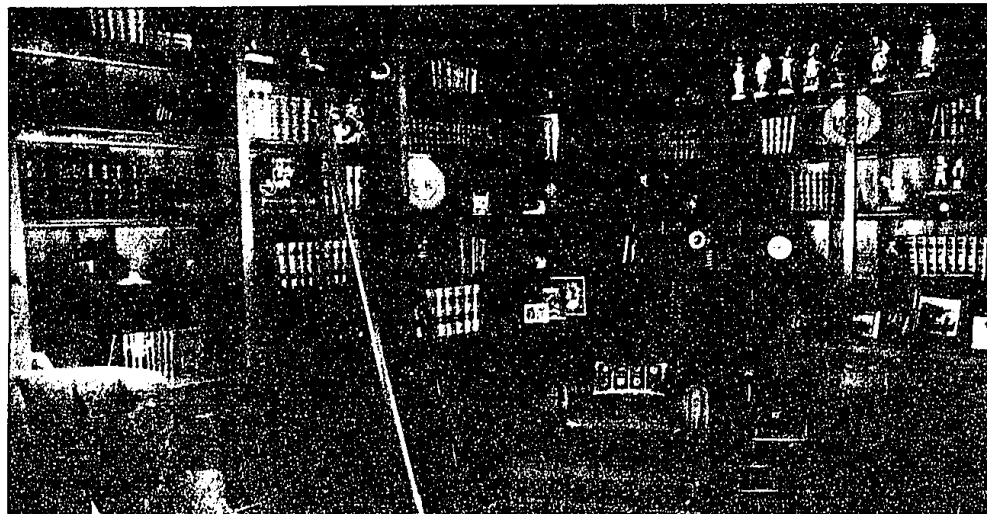
The design showcase is open to the public and funds raised will help support concert and educational activities of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are \$20. Advance tickets are on sale now at the Orchestra Hall box office, Suite 25 at Michigan Design Center, the Somerset Collection, Conger, Big Beaver Road and Coolidge in Troy; Blossoms in Birmingham; Hagopian in Novi; all English Gardens locations; and the League Shop in Grosse Pointe Farms. Tickets can also be bought by calling (313) 576-5101 or visiting www.detroit-symphony.com.

A gala opening is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. tonight, with a cocktail reception and buffet supper catered by Opus One, and chamber music performed by OSO members. Gala tickets are \$400 (benefactor), \$250 (patron) and \$150 per person (donor). For tickets, call (313) 576-5154. Guest speakers will present a series of design-related lectures: Carlton Varney, who designed the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island and who is head of Dorothy Draper & Co., the oldest established interior design firm in the country, 2 p.m. March 7; Jim Coughman of Baker Furniture, speaking on Furniture, Fashion and Music in the 18th Century, 11 a.m. March 8; and designer Mariette Himes Gomer, 2 p.m. March 8. Guest speaker tickets are \$15 in addition to general admission.

The 24-hour design showcase information hotline is (313) 576-5155.

WANTED: YOUR REMODELING PROJECT

Do you have a home improvement project that you boast about to relatives, friends or neighbors? Did you transform a room into something totally different or some thing brand new and bright? Or did you run into a major headache and how did you resolve it? We'd like to write about your do-it-yourself project and share your story with our readers. Please submit your project to Ken Abramczyk, At Home editor, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009 or e-mail him at kabramczyk@homecomm.net.



TON NICHOLSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Nowhere is the influence of antiques more apparent than in the Ghesquiere's library, where Patty's husband, C.J., has filled the room with his favorite antique collectibles, creating a space that contrasts the rest of the home's more feminine aesthetic.

Pivotal objects

Antiques set the tone

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

Patty and C.J. Ghesquiere's fieldstone farm colonial, like many houses constructed in the 1930s, came with built-in shelves in practically every room.

"When we moved in eight years ago almost all of them were completely bare," said Patty.

Fortunately, the couple had started collecting antiques, and would be able to fill the shelves inside their Birmingham home.

"Today, antiques pilot decorative decisions. 'It's true for all the rooms,'" said Patty, co-chair of this year's Community House Antiques Festival, one of the Ghesquiere's favorite buying sources.

"We pick the accessories before we decorate."

The festival, which is slated March 14-16 with a preview night on March 13, benefits The Community House.

So primary are objects of old to the home that color choices, fabric selection and even floral arrangements echo nearby antique pieces.

Patty's favorite collectible, Victorian-era Majolica pottery is, unquestionably, the main force in the family room.

"When I started decorating this room," Patty said, "it was really to match the Majolica."

Her pieces are sweet, washes of pink, pale green and yellow in whimsical designs made in the United States and England. About 50 in all, they line the shelves and sit on tables in the room. Their tones and light cheerful style inform the room's feminine furnishings and fabrics.

Patty loves pink and considers *Southern Living* and *Vermont* her favorite design magazines, so her Majolica fits her style perfectly, she says.

"I love them. They're definitely me. Pink has been my favorite color for forever," she says.

Patty collects more than Majolica, though, so other pieces sway the home's surroundings.

In the living room, for instance, a collection of Rose Medallion Chinese Export gives way to a pink chintz sofa and vases.

ANTIQUES FESTIVAL & PARTY

What: 13th Annual Community House Antiques Festival and Preview Party with strolling supper and silent auction to benefit The Community House.

When: Festival - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 14-15, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 16. Preview Party - 6-9 p.m. Thursday, March 13.

Where: The Community House, 380 Bates in downtown Birmingham.

Tickets: Daily festival admission is \$10; Preview Party tickets are priced \$55 to \$125. Call (248) 594-6403.

PLEASE SEE ANTIQUES, C2



PAUL HURCHMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Bill Rigstad works with leaded glass.

Woodworkers display love of craft at Livonia show

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Woodworkers give a special meaning to the phrase "wooden expression," a meaning that's quite the opposite of dull or lifeless.

Such objects as intricate scrollwork pieces, beautiful, functional furniture and delightful toys tell of the artistry, creativity and satisfaction involved with and derived from the craft.

"Wood is still a living thing ... It's constantly growing," said Rick

Boulard of Livonia, a chair of the Michigan Woodworkers' Guild special projects committee.

"It's very rewarding," he said of woodworking.

"It's a visual art." "I grew up with a father that put together a grandfather clock when I was a kid," said Farmington Hills resident Julie White, a guild officer at large.

"It always stuck with me, and I always liked how you can take a flat piece of wood that's kind of boring and turn it into a three-dimensional piece of art."

WOOD SHOW

Samples of woodworking skills will be featured at Wood 2003, a show presented by the Michigan Woodworkers' Guild Sunday, March 9, at the Livonia Senior Center (see related article).

"At a show, you're going to see a lot of different skills," said Bill Rigstad, past president of the guild and now an officer at large. "Wood turning, cabinet making, carving, miniature toys and large toys."

PLEASE SEE SHOW, C2

MARKET PLACE

Submissions

Do you have a special item you'd like to showcase in Marketplace on the front of At Home? We'd like to feature it!

Send a photo or slide of the piece, along with information, to: Ken Abramczyk, At Home editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Sweet dreams

Art Van Furniture is now offering the BackCare Kids® mattress, a line of bedding for children by Simmons®, a leading mattress manufacturer. Each BackCare Kids mattress addresses primary concerns of parents by featuring Allergy Care (fibers help eliminate bedding allergens), MoistureBar™ (non-chemical fabric protects against spills and stains), RiteHeight™ (provides shorter height mattress option to make beds safer for youngsters) and zoned Innerspring support. Art Van stores are located in Livonia, Novi, Southfield and Westland.

Brushing up

Wilsonart International has broken up saturated color into swirling, rhythmic patterns to build a new series of laminate surfacing designs called the Brush Series. This versatile series combines texture and finish with metal-inspired tones and elementary color, and can be used over large expanses without overwhelming the interior.

The collection includes the eight designs shown here: Woolamit Brush, a bright, mid-tone blue; Karatha Brush, a fresh, citrus orange; Beryl Brush, a metallic pattern with multi-tone effects in green and silver; Antique Brush, a warm metallic reminiscent of copper and bronze; Pewter Brush, a cool, black/gray metallic; Maroocy Brush, a sunshine yellow; Barcoo Brush, a fresh, mid-tone purple; and Ilawara Brush, a much-requested bright red. For more information, call (800) 433-3222 or visit www.wilsonart.com.

Find a home for your horse.

Rocking horse, household things, whatever...call today and sell them quickly with a classified ad—1-800-579-SELL