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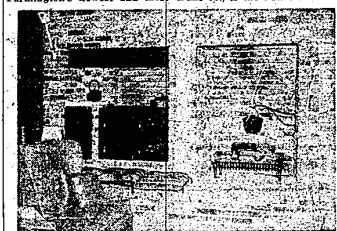
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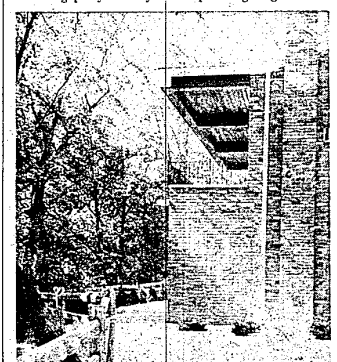
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# Apartment Living Reaches New Heights At Brookdale

By JOY STINSON  
A little bit of plagiarism, keen eye for a good idea and acting in accordance to personal wishes is the formula on which Farmington's newest and most



luxurious apartment buildings were constructed.  
So says the 35-year-old Thomas A. Duke, who along with his brother George A. Duke Jr., is the new Brookdale



Club developer, builder and owner.  
"I believe in plagiarism," Duke says. "I don't copy exactly, but I'll always keep a good idea in mind when I see it and later put it to use."

The torches that flare at the Brookdale Club entrance were seen by Duke at the Holiday Inn in Battle Creek. Brilliant golden treads carpeting that covers the walls of the apartment's community room (as well as being decorative it serves as a sound deadener) admittedly wasn't Duke's original idea. He saw it done once before.  
When it comes to building an apartment, the Duke brothers are not conformists to present trends.

"When I was a bachelor I lived in an apartment. I often wished it had an indoor swimming pool, convenient washer and dryer, community room where I could get out and meet people in the evenings—and so that is what I have put into Brookdale Club," Thomas Duke said.

"I built the apartments as I would want to live. And you'd be surprised how the indoor pool and community room have been accepted."

A community room complete with carpeting on the walls, washer and dryer in each apartment, indoor pool and locker rooms, built-in vacuum system and a stream and rustic ravine view right in the midst of town—these probably are all foreign ideas to apartment dwellers but ones that appealed to Thomas Duke for his Brookdale Club project.

Brookdale Club is a 104-unit luxury structure completely air conditioned, located in the heart of Farmington on Grand

River. The site, approximately four acres, includes a heavily wooded ravine area with a rambling stream at the bottom. Across the valley from the stream stretch wooded lots of private residences so that the view never be marred by commercial construction.  
Prospective tenants have their choice of two buildings, each in a quaint Williamsburg architecture. A U-shaped structure overlooks a courtyard centered with a \$1,000 solid bronze sculptured fountain imported from Italy. At night the fountain is tastefully lighted to provide a pleasant view from each of the apartments in this building.

The second building houses the community room and pool with apartments at each end on three different levels. These overlook the wooded ravine and stream area. First level apartments have sliding glass doors which open onto a patio area at the brink of the ravine.

One of the unique features of Brookdale Club is the community room located on the upper level overlooking the ravine. Popular with both young and older tenants, it provides a place to meet, play cards or games, read, watch color television or listen to hi-fi. To carry out its elegance, after 6 p.m. all men must wear suits and ties and women dresses when in the room.

The massive community room with a two-story beamed ceiling—was decorated by Thomas Duke himself in Early American furniture accented by three large wicker wheel chairs.

One end of the community room is all glass sliding doors which open onto a porch built into the air overlooking the valley and stream.

Using his imagination in decorating and copying the use of carpeting on the walls, Duke has tastefully carried out a brilliant golden yellow color scheme accented with original oil paintings on the walls.  
A large brick fireplace is a focal point with six built-in barbecue pits for use at summer barbecues. A Christmas tree-trimming party already in the planning stage. To further use the management also hopes to arrange pot-luck dinners for residents three or four times a year.

Other community room catchers are a grand piano and a gold wall unit (storage and bookshelves) which stretches over half the length of the room.  
Plans are being made to have a piano player on weekends to provide music for dancing or just listening.

The kidney-shaped pool for year-around dips is on the lower level below the community room. The area is complete with locker rooms and bath facilities.  
A second fireplace and bath decorate this room. In addition to the blue lighted pool, red, yellow and green umbrellas tables and lounge chairs create a profusion of color against a backdrop of fishnet, anchors and sea shells.

One entire wall is made up of sliding glass doors that open onto an outdoor patio for sunning when weather permits. As for the apartment's themselves, all are one bedroom. They come with brown tweed carpeting and traverse draperies. Each has its own washer and dryer located conveniently in the bathroom and built-in vacuum system

## The Observer WOMEN

which cuts down residual dust and eliminates considerable dusting.  
Lack of storage space—a common complaint of apartment dwellers—has been eliminated at Brookdale Club. The living room boasts a large closet while the bedroom has a walk-in closet with built-in shelves. Locker spaces—located under the courtyard apartments—also eliminate the problem of storing little-used items and seasonal clothing and equipment.  
By special arrangement, space is available for large items such as pianos.  
Furnished apartments rent for \$167 per month while unfurnished are \$140. This price includes carpeting and draperies throughout, heat and water. To provide the greatest possible peace and quiet for residents, a silent electric survey picks up trash which is conveniently stored under the stairs. The same multi-room car also cuts the grass. Another additional feature in apartments is the area lighting system. From dusk until dawn 257 lights sparkle so that residents may wander about their seasonal confidence or come home late without returning to a dark parking area. Picturesque post lanterns wind their way around the buildings and beside the stream. They also light a walk at the ravine edge where barbeque pits are spaced for residents' use.

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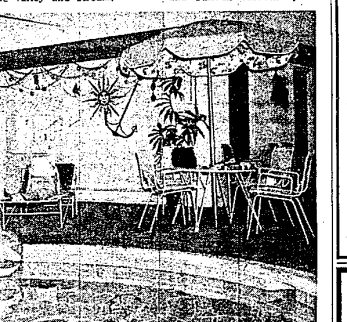
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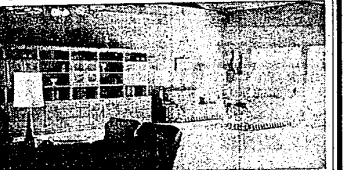
**Madonna Parents Meet**  
On Sunday, Sept. 20, the Parents Association of Madonna College will hold a reception for the parents and guardians of the incoming students.  
This will be an opportunity for the old members of the association to meet the new, not only to become acquainted, but also to find a common ground to work together for the benefit of their daughters. Co-operative effort is essential in the promotion of any enterprise, and even more so, in the meeting of the needs of a small but growing private college. By an active interest in the cultural, creative, and financial enterprises of the college, the Parents Association will be providing themselves with many interesting hours of worthwhile activity and at the same time insuring a better education for their daughters.  
One of the features of the evening program is the orientation to college life which will be given by the Faculty of Madonna College.  
President Sister Mary Baynola, CSSP, will speak on "The Objectives of Higher Education"; Registrar Sister Mary Remigia, CSSP, on "The Requirements for Admissions and Good Standing during the College Career"; the Reverend Leon O. Kennedy, on "The Place of Theology and Philosophy in the Curriculum of Madonna College."  
The parents will also be introduced to the pre-professional training provided by the college. Sister M. Martina, CSSP, will discuss Teacher Education; Sister M. Calasanta, CSSP, Nursing Education; Sister M. Joel, CSSP, Medical Technical; Sister M. Bridget, Home Economics; and Sister M. Dennis, CSSP, Dorm Life as Part of the Curriculum.

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COZY AND CARPETED (on the wall, this is). Something most unique at Brookdale Club is the gold tweed carpeting that decorates the walls of the community room as well as deadens sound. The massive wall unit is decorative as well as functional for storing purposes.

**Winter Gardening Told To Roosevelt**  
Roosevelt Home and Garden Club, Livonia, held their first meeting of the season Wednesday, Sept. 9 in the multipurpose room of Roosevelt School.  
The meeting was chaired by President Jean Murray. Plans are underway for a club cookbook. Program Chairman Bobbie Yarcho introduced Roy Frost from the Harold Thomas Nursery who talked to the group about "ready gardens for winter." He answered questions following his talk.  
Sue Taylor was hostess for refreshments—centerpiece of fall yellow and gold mums was made by Robin Schneider.

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