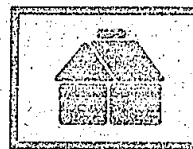


# Creative Living

Corinne Abalt editor/844-1100

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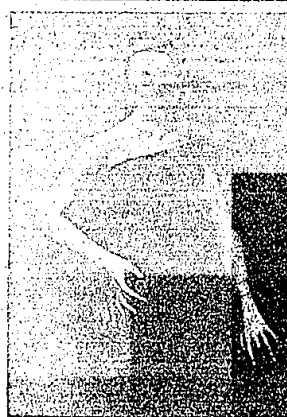


Marge Stanley chose a rich, emerald green for this hand-painted silk dress with its design of lavender, blue and purple lilies.



Marge Stanley works with commitment and intensity in her small home studio. She wears one of her own designs, has three more in the background and one in

process on the stretcher. The latter is in shades of green, blue and red.



One of Stanley's large square scarves became an instant dress illustrating how innovative she can be with a single square of hand-painted silk.

## French technique Artist/designer creates paintings to wear

By Corinne Abalt  
staff writer

Marge Stanley didn't know she was waiting for the perfect profession until it came along.

But, when she found it (or it found her), she knew what to do.

After graduating from Parsons School of Design in New York City in fashion illustration, Stanley worked successfully in several areas of fashion design and illustration.

Along the way she took time out to marry Robert Dean Stanley and raise a son and two daughters.

When a friend from France taught her the French art of handpainting silk, Stanley knew she had found a wonderful outlet for her many fashion/art-oriented skills.

She's been at this for six years making blouses, dresses, kimonos, purses, scarves and other accessories.

Not only does Stanley do all of the designing and painting on silk, she designs and makes the clothes as well and then merchandises them.

SHE SELLS "off the rack" from her studio/salon in her home in Bloomfield Township and does many custom pieces as well.

"I was never so thrilled with anything," said Stanley adding with a bright smile, "and I was never so good at anything."

All of her pieces start with white silk — more specifically crepe de chine or silk or satin charmeuse which she mounts on a frame.

Using a paper cone dispenser, she draws the outline of the design on the silk, in the French technique, with a substance called gutta that looks and acts like clear, rubber cement.

Then she fills in the design with paint which she mixes herself from French aniline dyes. The gutta keeps the colors from running into each other, but serves more as a boundary than total inhibitor, i.e. the paint must still be precisely applied with a stone-steady hand.

"The classic way is not to touch the gutta," Stanley said, adding, "It's very exciting to do a drawing and get it on silk, but, the painting, that's what I really like to do."

The technique of applying the paint affects the appearance of the finished piece. Stanley uses six to eight brushes with her old No. 14 sable as a standby for the broader strokes.

While almost any design is possible, Stanley leans to abstracts or flowers, particularly lilies, lilies and roses.

HER DESIGNS have a pleasing continuity because she continues the design theme on the front of a blouse or dress to the back without any kind of an abrupt break.

Once the painting is completed, the silk is removed from the frame, rolled in newspaper so none of the surfaces touch and put in a steamer for several hours. After this it is washed and pressed.

However, Stanley recommends that her clients have the pieces dry cleaned when needed rather than washed, which can be risky in the hands of anyone not well acquainted with the exacting procedure.

The inexactness of the dyes is another element which can produce both pleasant and unpleasant surprises. The steaming changes the colors.

Staff photos by Mindy  
Saunders

"I may spend one whole day steaming to test colors," she said. "Greens are awful. To get an olive green is like finding gold. And once you get that color mixed, there's no way to get that exact color again."

This makes it difficult when clients want her to match the color of an article of clothing they already have. She does it, but it sometimes requires a lot of test runs.

She can and does work in other techniques such as faux batik, in which wax is used, and others in which salt or alcohol are applied on the paint to spread the colors.

But, her strength is in the painting and it is that which produces the greatest satisfaction.

To contact Marge Stanley, call 626-7889.

## Vaughan Ridge — blend of town and country

The 16 units which will soon make up Vaughan Ridge, a condominium development just west of Woodward and immediately south of Lone Lake, are designed for a elegant lifestyle.

But, like good design and fine architecture, Vaughan Ridge isn't overly flamboyant or showy. It's just there, secure, sculptured and permanent like the many great boulders which have been brought in to add interest along the thickly wooded, hillside landscape.

These sculptural brick residences, by Abbey Homes, in English Tudor and French Norman style, by architect, Ron Mayotte, are on nine acres with a variety of sites. Of the 16 units, 10 will be totally free standing with the others sharing only a common garage wall.

There are three basic floor plans — one model is up and open. The second model was sold and is already occupied and three of the lots have been sold and work has begun on these.

The approximately 3,600 feet, two floors plus a full basement, includes a luxurious master bedroom suite, library, dining area, kitchen and breakfast area on the first floor and two bedrooms and bath on the second floor.

PLEASING to those who move to these residences from a large home will be the abundance of storage space. There also many options which allow each house to be tailored to the residents.

For instance, the 10 by 12-foot dressing room, with two immediately adjacent walk-in closets, could be equipped as an exercise area. The large master bath immediately beyond with full ceramic tile has a six foot Caribbean whirlpool tub in a tile deck and an overly large stall shower.

The fireplace can be located in either the library (about 16 by 20 feet, depending on the floor plan) or in the great room which opens to a deck in the back of the house.

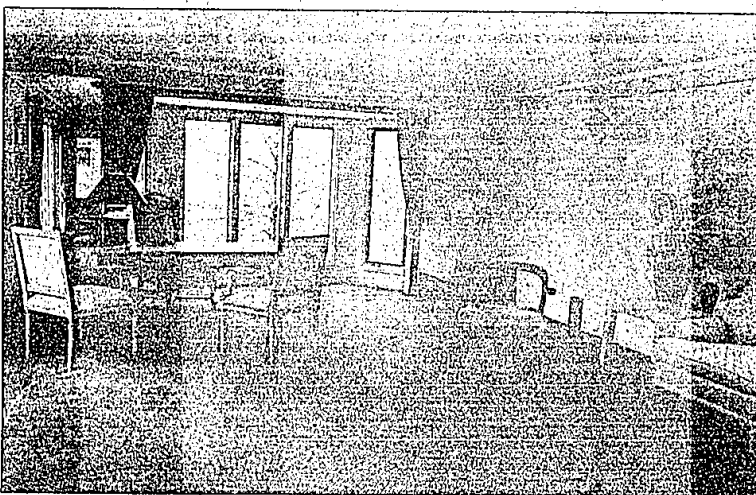
Interesting about this floor plan is the feeling of spaciousness. The great room is two stories high on the interior side with the ceiling sloping toward the door walls.

The pane ceiling and expansive bay window in the library create that same feeling as does the cathedral ceiling in the 16 by 21 master bedroom.

The beautifully equipped kitchen with the island service counter and convertible cook top, has a well-planned traffic pattern for preparing for either intimate dining or elaborate entertaining.

The price range for these homes is \$345,000-375,000, depending on lot, floor plan and options. The model is open daily except Thursday.

The mirrored fireplace in great room of the Vaughan Ridge model reflects the door wall leading to a large deck and wooded scene beyond.



The bay window of the spacious library, above, furnished by Perlmutter & Frankel of Franklin, makes the beauty of the outdoors a part of the interior of this elegant home. At left is an exterior view showing the rolling terrain. The owners exercised an option and elected to have the fireplace in the library at the front of the house.

