

# Creative Living

Corinne Abatt editor/644-1100



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when all is said . . .

Corinne Abatt

## Good Ideas start here

**I**N THE American school curriculum, the arts have traditionally been last to show, first to go. When the budget slumped, the arts were the first to be cut. The "frills" rationale for this action was the rallying cry of macho, no-nonsense types who touted the importance of the three "R's" as vital to the student's and nation's future above all else.

How could we compete in space with the Russians if our kids couldn't pass Story Problems III or read instructions on how to put a K mart bookcase together? How could we meet and solve problems in the future without the three "R's"?

I don't intend to question that, even though I am an algebra II drop-out. What I do want to point out here is the elemental importance of art in our lives, starting in kindergarten or before, and continuing on ad infinitum.

Art, in the hands of good teachers, is problem solving, decision making, awareness and opinion building that carries over into every facet of adult life. The child learns quickly that there is no one way to solve a problem, no strict right or wrong.

IN ART classes, opinions are encouraged, a child can express his feelings through his work and about it. He can say, "I like this, but I don't like that" without fear of recrimination. That kind of security serves well as he comes to grips with the temptations of life later on.

A tree can be green or blue or pink or orange. A car doesn't always have four wheels, a plane can be shaped like a gull, a kite, a bee or a piece of flying debris. A chair can take a myriad of forms. Houses can be built in cliffs, under the sea, on deserts and in outer space.

And with this kind of early training, we nurture our creative thinkers - product designers in fields as diverse as furniture and textiles to automobiles, aerospace and toothpaste containers.

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Art fosters the awareness and application of knowledge from one discipline to another. Mathematics is an integral part of the weaver's art and chemistry relates closely to ceramics and photography. Product designers

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need a broad understanding of wide variety of technical skills.

Nationally and locally the champions of art education in the schools are growing stronger.

A national conference convened by the Alliance of Independent Colleges of Art in cooperation with the President's Committee for the Arts and the Humanities was held at the Aspen Institute Wye Plantation, Md. last November with sculptor Louise Nevelson as honorary chairman.

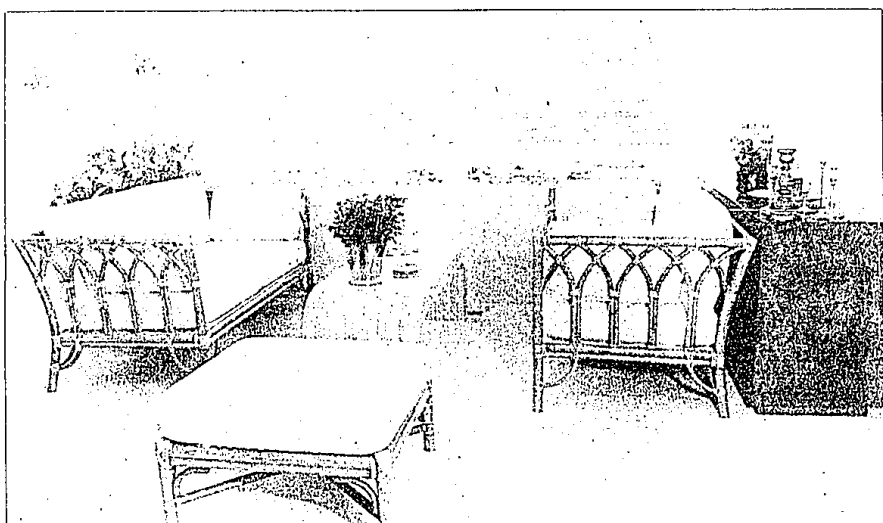
**CENTER for Creative Studies** - College of Art and Design held a satellite conference in support of visual arts education earlier this month.

As one of the speakers in the tight, well-organized series of presentations, industrial designer Walter B. Ford spoke of the demand for industrial designers which is far greater than the supply. Ford is also chairman of the board of Center for Creative Studies and chairman/chief executive officer, Ford and Earl Design.

Colin Clipson, director, Architecture and Planning, Research Laboratory, University of Michigan, said, "Arts of designing is all about translating the needs of society into visual things, and sharing a favorite quote said, 'The designer shapes the planet for better or worse'."

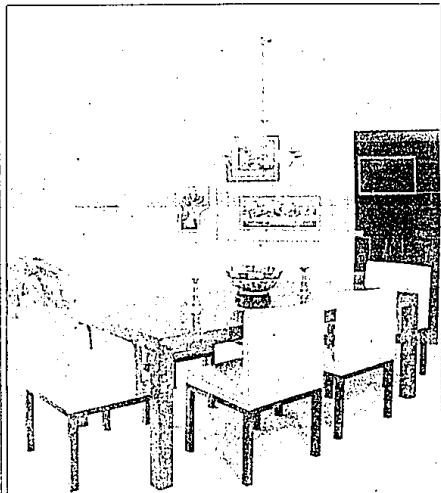
**JEROME GROVE**, CCS president, said the effort in Michigan to establish a statewide, arts advocacy program, will continue with this meeting as the first in a project called BASIC (Basic Arts Support in the Curriculum).

The arts are our mental and physical survival - whether applied to how to serve an attractive budget meal, make a painting or a sculpture, plant a garden, decorate a room with no money, build a tool shed or design space capsule to circle Mars.



The living room of a Troy home, done by interior designer Sheldon Scott, with peach walls and carpeting gives the visitor a refresh-

ing, bright feeling. The buffet, formerly in the dining room, has been recycled to do double duty in the living room.



The angled dining room table actually seems to add space. The bay window is now, and it, too, expands the space beyond the actual footage.

Staff photos by Jerry Zolynsky

## It's a peach of a design

By Corinne Abatt  
staff writer

Like the fruit, the color peach can be rich and luscious or a trifle boring. Interior designer Sheldon Scott of Birmingham knows how to use peach so it's exciting and interesting.

He redid the house of a client and friend in Troy. Since Scott and his clients liked the parsons dining room table and chairs which they had chosen more than 10 years ago, they kept it as well as a large bookcase in the living room.

Dining room chairs were recovered and the buffet in the dining room was moved to the living room to do double duty as a table and storage area.

**CARPETING AND** walls are indeed a succulent peach. The new cane strapped in leather love seats in the living room are covered in a polished cotton by Stroheim, an abstract, pastel print in peach, salmon, pink, turquoise, sage green and lilac. The cushion style is soft, all have the new, rolling, puffy look.

The same fabric is used for the one inch pleated Roman shades at the mock bay window in the living room and the new bay window in the dining room. The polished cotton print is also on the window wall in the dining room.

**DINING ROOM** chairs and the stool in the living room are covered in a soft, peach background, multi-pastel chenille striae by Stroheim. The table, on the diagonal, actually creates more seating than would be possible with a more traditional placement, plus it opens up the corners and gives a fresh look to the room for the family who use it a lot.

All of the pastels, in more intense shades are repeated in the large arrangement of silk flowers at the entrance to the living room. The more intense shades are also in the large Chinese porcelain bowl on the dining room table, flanked by fat, brass candlesticks and in the base of the Chinese porcelain lamp in the living room, accented by an arrangement of brass candlesticks.

**SCOTT DESIGNED** the waterfall coffee table in the living room of for a in a strated bamboo look as well as a higher companion waterfall table in the entry with two matching benches underneath, so easily moved into the living room for extra seating.

The sophisticated colors in the upholstery fabric, the way they are repeated and picked up in the accessories and used for the Roman shades, plus the warm accents in brass, including wall sconces, give these rooms a friendly face.

## Combining the visual and performing arts



By Lisa Gilson  
special writer

Seated inconspicuously among chattering students and flying human masses in colored leotards, Jessica Sinclair, director of dance at the Kingswood/Cranbrook Schools, waits patiently for a group of students to take their places on the stage.

The inside of the Cranbrook Performing Arts Center looks like the set for a filming of the television show Fame. There a comfortable combination of teen-age excitement and confusion.

Above it all, one hears from every corner of the room, calls and questions directed to Sinclair. The students nonchalantly call out, Jess, Jessica, or Jessie, and Sinclair swiftly returns firm, supportive responses in every direction.

After 16 years of teaching at Kingswood/Cranbrook Schools, Sinclair's learned philosophy of teaching is, "To search for honesty in movement, because, for dance to be powerful, it has to come from a very genuine place inside."

She explained, "The thing I try to do is get students to feel comfortable moving first, then I try to give them a creative experience."

SINCLAIR encourages a portrayal of what's

Three dancers seen in Kingswood performances this year, Adam Weintraub, Jill Foronda and Amy Kelly, give a sample of Jessica Sinclair choreography.

inside the dancer, the way they feel, and who they are.

"Dance can be entertaining, but it's an art, and that's the way I teach it," Sinclair continued. "I'm not a dance trainer, I'm a dance teacher. My goal is to give as many students as possible a chance to dance."

Fortunately, every school year, dance students have the chance to perform regularly before the public. Frequent appearances and contact with the public are of great importance to the advanced dance program.

**THE STUDENT** company, known as The Kingswood/Cranbrook Dancers, appears locally at churches, shopping malls, music and dance festivals and in a variety of school concerts. In the last several years, their success has become international.

This summer, Sinclair and six dancers will travel to Gmunnen, Austria, to participate in the 1985 Traunsee International Music Festival. It is the third consecutive year the Kingswood/Cranbrook Dancers have been invited to perform. The prestigious Traunsee Festival features talented music and dance groups from North America and Europe.

Frequent exposure helps students with necessary skills such as projection and in learning how to connect with an audience, Sinclair said. The experience of performing provides young dance enthusiasts with an optimal outlet for their creativity.



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