

Looking from the foyer into the living room gives a sense of the height and space which interior designer Dick Tolbert was working with. The accessories are large, strong and graceful. The neutral palette, beige, camel, white and charcoal is sophisticated and upbeat.

Welcome change Tailoring a contemporary look

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

All Fern and Arthur Harris brought with them to their new condo in West Bloomfield were the family photographs.

"After 15 years of marriage, we wanted a totally different approach," said Mrs. Harris.

Interior designer Dick Tolbert, working with Englanders, was well acquainted with the couple and their lifestyle. He had done a previous home for them.

Mrs. Harris was prepared to trust her decorator's judgment implicitly and that's what it takes with Tolbert, who is a pleasing combination of laid back and positive.

Mrs. Harris said at first that she wanted her new environment done in neutrals with black as one of the dominant colors.

"It is done in charcoal, white, beige and camel, no black," said Tolbert with a smile adding, "The beige is transitional, everything is

played against the patterns of the wallpaper."

EXCITING use of wallpaper is one of Tolbert's hallmarks. In this home, he used at least seven different patterns in the charcoal, white, beige and camel color theme. And doors and woodwork as well as walls are covered with paper, but not ceilings.

Tolbert said, in the living room alone, 88 rolls of the textured string wall covering was used. These condos, built by the Herman Frankel Organization, have soaring ceilings and strong, contemporary architectural lines.

For the walls of the library, easily visible from the living room, he chose a charcoal gray vinyl suede cloth. This blends nicely with the wall covering, an abstract print on a charcoal background, in the breakfast room and kitchen. Tolbert had the same print vinyl coated for the breakfast room chairs.

The continuity from room to

room is artful, yet each has its own personality and function.

The atmosphere is sleek, contemporary and luxurious. For instance, Tolbert used mirror on the fireplace wall, clear rather than tinted, because he thinks the latter distorts color.

He is adamant about ample storage space and provided so much in the counter to ceiling beige Formica cabinets in the kitchen that Mrs. Harris swore she's never fill them, but she did.

One wall of the breakfast room if also beige Formica cabinets which function as a pantry. These, too, filled, as if by magic.

THE SOFAS in the living room, modulars, covered in a tightly woven camel wool, are complemented by the beige travertine marble of the fireplace and the coffee table.

The scale of the accessories is unusually large, Tolbert said, explaining that small items would be dwarfed.

Tolbert bought the white ceramic sculptural pieces on charcoal pedestals along the interior wall of the living in Italy. The large vase on the coffee table was intended as an umbrella holder, but, because of graceful shape and size, Tolbert gave it a more glamorous role.

The dining room chairs, finished in charcoal lacquer, exactly matched to the shade of charcoal used throughout the home, are covered with the same beige wool as the modulars.

The verticals used at all of the windows are covered with a white textured fabric and this textural treatment softens the light which filters into the rooms.

There is a great deal of drama in this environment which has a lot of variety within the subtle color scheme. The family pictures, reframed to coordinate with the rest of the furnishings, hang on a den wall — an interesting photographic gallery which the Harris' thoroughly enjoy.

Staff photos by Jerry Zolynsky



The dining table and the coffee table are both travertine marble which blends with the camel wool of the modulars and the seats of the dining chairs and the white carpet — coordinated, but not boring. Books, TV and stereo equipment in the library, below, are in the travertine formica cabinets of the library. Beyond is the breakfast room.



Council hosts 8th 'Art at Meadow Brook'

Ever since the Creative Council gave its first show at Somerset Hall in 1973, it has been actively providing support, camaraderie and market opportunities for the membership.

The Council, made up of women artists, many of whom teach, grew out of a program at the Oakland University Continuum Center in the late 1980s.

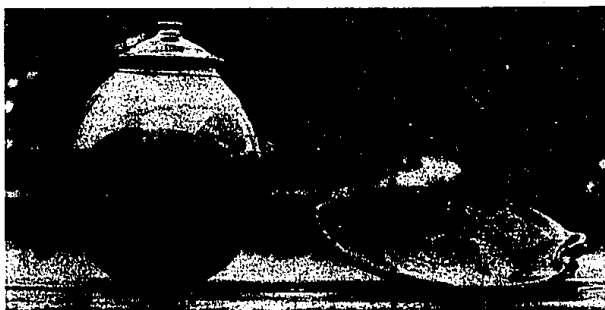
Now, with more than a decade of art show experience behind them, Council members are tending to the last minute details of the "Art at Meadow Brook," with a kind of low-key expertise. The show is Saturday and Sunday on the grounds around Meadow Brook Hall.

There will be more than 100 artists from Michigan, Ohio, Illinois and New York in the two-day invitational which includes things such as soft and hard sculpture, fiber, quilting, photography, pottery and basketry as well as painting.

Booths set up by the artists will ring the circle drive and courtyard of the stately mansion that was once the home of Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of auto pioneer, John F. Dodge. It was built in 1925-29 at a cost of \$4 million.

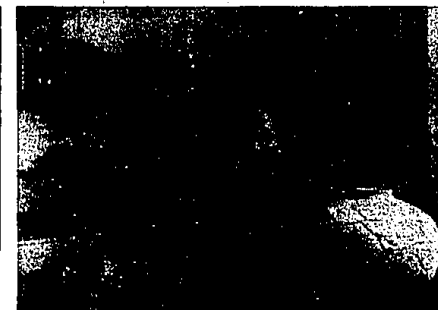
Refreshments will be available and the Meadow Brook Hall tea room will be open to those attending the show.

Admission is free. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. Entrance to Meadow Brook is West of Adams, south of Wallace Blvd. or take I-75 to University Drive and follow the signs to Oakland University and Meadow Brook Hall.



Farmington Hills potter Jeff Robinson is one of more than 100 artists from four states participating in "Art at Meadow Brook" Saturday and Sunday. He makes both functional and decorative pieces, likes to use a lot of color and prides himself on a special glazing technique. He is

just now getting into carving on porcelain. A former resident and full-time potter in the Gulf states, Robinson has lived in this area for about 1 1/2 years. Above are samples of his functional pieces and on the table in his studio, at right, is a large bowl, showing the new carving technique.



Staff photos by Randy Borst