

Creative Living

Marie McGee editor/591-2300



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Details lure older buyers

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

HOUSE LOOKERS and buyers have grown accustomed to the look and style of Robertson Brothers Co. houses in this part of Oakland County.

And the newest developments, Hickory Glen of Bloomfield Hills, Bingham Pointe of Bingham Farms and Village Pines of Beverly Hills all have that well-designed, conservative, quietly affluent style that has come to be a Robertson Brothers' trademark.

Not that other builders don't do similar things — it's just that the Robertsons have covered a lot of ground in recent years.

Changes are subtle, but present. This is a company that watches its market as closely as good traders watch stocks.

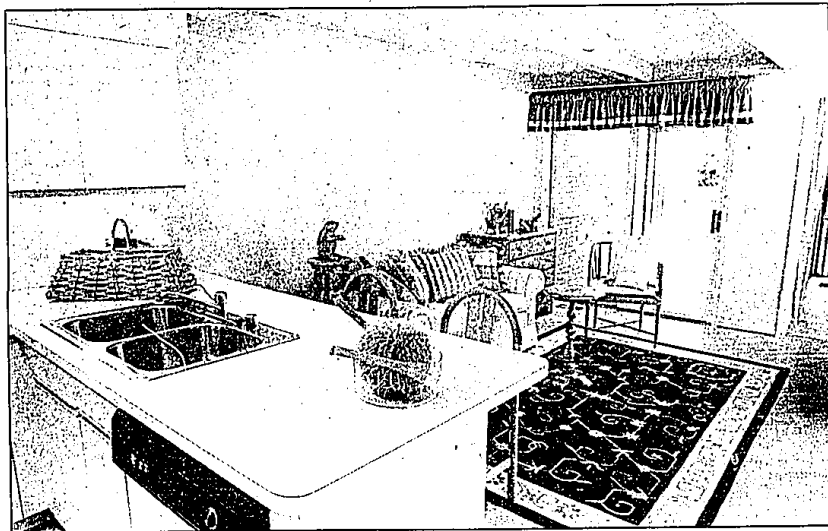
Catherine C. Dew, general sales manager for Robertson, said many of what are often considered extras are included in the base price, adding that sales people are usually uncomfortable dealing with a lot of ex-

tras, "and, we do not like to surprise our buyers with fine print exclusions."

So, Hickory Glen buyers, targeted as older singles and empty nesters, will have a travertine marble fireplace in the living room, travertine marble counter in the powder room, customized master bedroom walk-in closets, quite a few choices concerning Formica, stair rails and foyer floor plus some elegant fixtures and appliances. These aren't the only extras now considered standard, but they are among the most popular with buyers.

WITH THE EXCEPTION of the furniture, much of what people see in the recently opened Hickory Glen models is what they get for the base price. And that happens to range from \$219,900-\$247,900.

Paul Robertson Jr. and his associates have always had an eye for attractive chunks of land and the 14 acres on which the 41 Hickory Glen units will be located (not all are up yet, but models are open) come complete with gently rolling terrain, a meandering stream and a view of an Albert Kahn designed estate.



Kitchen/breakfast nook area in the Glenstone models has oak-lined floors, woodwork and ceiling beams which work together to create a freshly scrubbed country look.

The extension of a picturesque stone wall along Hickory Grove, the addition of large rocks in the landscape maintain the continuity of the English countryside look from the estate into Hickory Glen. The architecture of the condominiums also reinforces the continuity — the half-circle topped windows in the living room, the traditional brick and frame exterior, high ceilings, graceful lines.

While floor plans from model to model vary, and a second floor with bedroom and bath is an option, the basic plan includes large master bedroom suite, living room, separate dining room, library or bedroom, kitchen, large breakfast area, powder room, first floor laundry and two car garage.

WITH THE FIRST phase of Village Pines already sold out, the 24-

unit second phase, to the south on Lahser between 13 and 14 Mile, is well under way. Prices on these are \$219,000-\$259,000.

The Bingham Pointe houses, larger than their relatives in Bingham Woods, also have some features such as greenhouse-effect windows and customized closets. This group is at 13 Mile and Bingham Road, Bingham Farms. With their exterior of cedar and reclaimed brick, an at-

tractive brick entrance off Bingham Road, closely related in style to those of the nearby estates, Bingham Pointe houses blends easily into that picturesque area.

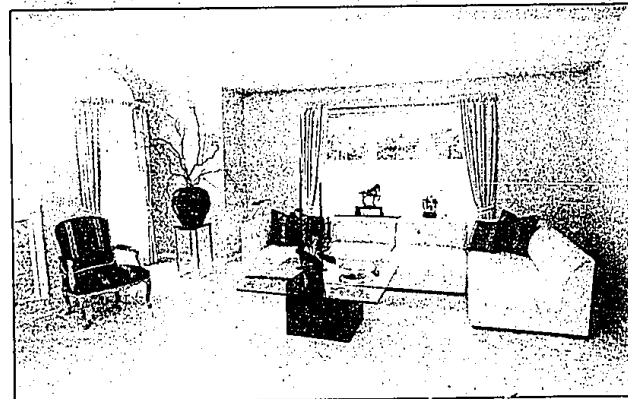
While many condo designs make ample use of decks to expand the spatial horizons, the atrium in one of the Bingham Pointe models is a little jewel of a private area.

Models in all three developments are open noon to 6 p.m. every day.

The master bedroom combines practicality with style. In addition to the room's customized walk-in closets, a master bath with a steeping tub is just steps away.



Staff photos
by Dan Dean



Interior designer Carl Freiwald of Perlmutter & Freiwald uses a corner of the living room of the Glenstone model to show how vaulted

ceilings, tall half circle windows and interesting design details, create a feeling of spaciousness.

Artist manipulates stripes and shadows

By Marlene Melgaard
special writer

In the window facing the boardwalk at the Irving Feldman Galleries on Orchard Lake Road are two decidedly eye-catching compositions.

One is a colorful collage mounted on wood of puppets, clowns, celluloid and china dolls (one consisting only of a head, another only of an arm) plus a photograph of an attractive blonde lying on a bed, hugging a teddy bear. The other is an acrylic on canvas painting which is an exact replica of the collage. These 42-by-31-inch pieces are titled "Marionette." The photograph transposed into a painted image is of the artist, Jeanne Norman Chase. If you find this interesting, step inside.

Again in acrylic on canvas, the artist has painted seven large, super-realistic paintings. Three of these, approximately 47-by-62 inches and the largest, 45-by-78 inches are of the same model wearing four different and becoming straw hats, in varying tones of soft yellow and beige, and blue and pink tones.

content is submerged in other issues such as composition, color, light, shading and meticulously detailed paintwork. The sunlight filtering through the weave of the hats depicts an unusual effect of stripes and shadows on the top half of the model's face. It seems that Chase is concerned with the way things look — taking her cue from billboards, the beach, themes that are spectacular, pleasing and seemingly easy to read.

The artists also has an obvious feeling for beautiful fabrics and interesting faces — or glimpses of interesting faces. In "Pensive," a young woman is draped in multicolored lengths of floral, striped and patterned cloth. In "Floral Scarf," yet another model looks over her shoulder with only the middle part of her face visible; the rest is obscured by flowing black hair and a head scarf in vivid blue. Stripes predominate in "Beach Patterns," where this time the model's face isn't visible as she sits with head bent in her arms on a striped beach lounge with a striped beach towel.

The accent on sun in these paintings is no mere coincidence. Chase grew up in California and now resides in Florida. An artist of consid-

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erable reputation, she teaches and lectures on one of her favorite subjects, "Women and Their Art."

She is included in "Who's Who in American Art," and "Female Artists in the United States," and has exhibited widely in several of the southern states as well as Massachusetts, Utah, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan. Her work also has been exhibited in Spain.

A "Self Portrait" collage in acrylic, including a portrait of herself, a poster of Bob Dylan and another from Paris, a Picasso dove, a pin of J.F. Kennedy and a handwritten anti-war pamphlet would seem to establish Chase as a feminist and a no-nukes advocate as well as an innovative figurative artist.

The exhibit runs through July 19 at Irving Feldman Galleries, 6017 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday.



"Patterns," an acrylic on canvas by Jeanne Norman Chase, is an example of the artist's studies of stripes and shadows and her feeling for fabrics and faces.