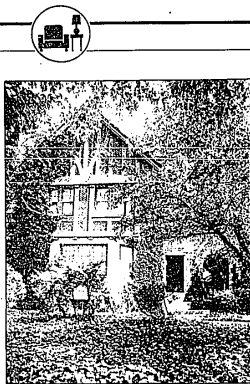


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Louis Chernoff residence featured in house tour

## 7 homes on display in Birmingham tour

"100 Years of Design Excellence" will be apparent on Sunday, Oct. 4, during the Birmingham House Tour, sponsored jointly by the Detroit Chapter/American Institute of Architects and the Michigan Chapter/American Society of Interior Designers.  
The theme is especially appropriate since the Detroit AIA chapter and the Michigan Society of Architects are celebrating their 100th anniversaries this year.  
Seven houses dating from 1885 to 1985 will be displayed.  
The tour begins at Southeast High School, at the corner of Lincoln and Cranbrook Road in Birmingham. From there, shuttle buses will take tour participants to some of Birmingham's most elegant entrances.  
Tickets for the house tour are \$25 and may be purchased in advance by calling 963-4102, or at Hudson's Northland and Southland Interior Design Studios and Pearson Interior Design Studios at Summit Mall.  
A limited number of tickets may be purchased the day of the tour at Southeast High School. The tour takes place rain or shine.

Staff photos by Laura Castle

## Vintage decor

### Balancing character and quaintness

By Marie McGee  
Staff writer

ONE OF THE most complete events anyone can pay to attend is the Birmingham House Tour, sponsored by the Detroit Chapter/American Institute of Architects and the Michigan Chapter/American Society of Interior Designers.  
Louis Chernoff residence at 315 Hamilton Road in Birmingham, is to say "it doesn't look decorated."  
As a matter of fact, it really isn't for the most part.  
What Brown, an ASD member who went for some design study, did was to "decorate" around the furnishings, the Chernoffs had stored in various spots (including a dumpster's porch) before having the much-discussed and extremely run down house with the walking distance of downtown Birmingham.

Because of its quaintness, "people know this house," says Brown.

The fruits of her efforts will be

on display during the upcoming Birmingham House Tour, sponsored by the Detroit Chapter/American Institute of Architects and the Michigan Chapter/American Society of Interior Designers.

THE 1920S HALF-PHANTOM Reg. Instyle house is filled with a mixture of antique furniture and objects of art that the Chernoffs have collected over the years, beginning with the ownership of their first house, and continuing after the was sold and the couple moved from first one apartment and then to another.

"We created a lot of things," Brown said with a smile. "Very little is new." She said her efforts of the vintage is evident in the collection of art that was refuted and reassembled to create a new look. Dramatic combinations of colors and fabrics and contemporary upholstery provide the

background, she said.  
The extent of the renovation included the master bedroom, created from two smaller rooms and dressing area from another. A "master-in-law" suite was transformed into a tented, mirrored dining room with its own vintage butler's pantry.

Many special touches include a shagreened fabric powder room and a flip-top shelf located in a hallway that can be used for large buffet dinners.

AN APPRECIATION for quality is apparent throughout. In the front bedroom drive the 1932 Bentley by Silver Cloud, and in the back garden is a 1940s "Vroom on the Hill" stands guard.

According to English author Judith Miller, Brown and the Chernoffs were on the right track in the decision to keep things pretty much as they were. Brown is co-author of

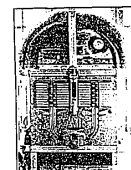
"Trend Details," a book designed to make it easier to achieve the "authentically restored" home.

While it is time-consuming and usually more expensive to decorate a period home in appropriate detail, the effort can be rewarding, Miller writes, in terms of psychic comfort.

A room, Miller said, that is true in most of its details to the period in which it was built has an almost indefinable right feeling. The aesthetic room contributes in a feeling of emotional comfort. Where decorating is not of character, on the other hand, there is often subtle discomfort.  
Brown puts it this way: "The house has so much character that I felt it was important to keep that. It's often hard to do that. If you do too much, you lose that quality. It becomes too quaint and looks out of place."



Love of the vintage is evident in the living room of the Chernoff residence. A black and white color scheme prevails with highly-polished floral chaise couch as the focal point.



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