

# Modern furniture softens its edges

(AP) — "We're thinking of calling it Biedermeier under glass," quipped a Thayer Coggin employee, showing off Milo Baughman's latest collection of modern tables during the fall furniture market in High Point, N.C.

Once, modern meant unadorned, straight line pieces.

But Baughman's tables, with honey color maple wood and black bases, and his upholstered furniture recall the 19th century Biedermeier period. They could easily be described as friendly — a catchword for most of the market's modern pieces.

"Modern is retreating from crisp, unemotional and forbidding furniture that you don't want to touch to a softer, more touchable feeling," says John Mascheroni, whose tables for Swalm Originals feature a new metal finish that imitates the patina of an old sword.

SOME HAVE tops of unpolished limestone, complete with all the natural flaws.

"It's a look which five years ago you couldn't give away," says Mascheroni.

"We are always trying to make modern as charming as antiques are," says Vladimir Kagan. In his table designs for Directional, he used faux marble and made textured lacquer finishes to resemble malachite and other minerals in rounded, organic forms. One table resembles a fanciful dole.

"The trouble with the more austere modern," he says, "is that it is a dead end for designers today because it has already been done perfectly, and you can't improve on it."

In place of the straight lines and oblique angles, hard edges and shiny surfaces, which are synonym-

mous with Eurostyle design, the American modern shown at the market features rounded shapes — oversize half- and three-quarter circles in sectionals and sofas — and soft edges.

INSTEAD OF shiny chrome finishes on tables and sofa legs, pewter and bronze and other antique finishes and real or faux stone are favored. Where lacquer is used, it is likely to have a pattern and a wash of color rather than to be stark shiny black.

This year, as usual, traditional furniture dominated the wood pieces, known in the trade as case goods, but a contemporary look dominated upholstered pieces.

According to a trade publication survey of furniture retailers, contemporary was the fastest-growing style in 1988.

Though only about half the data for 1989 are in, Kay Anderson, director of market research for Communications Today, says, it appears the same will be true for 1989.

"My sense of it," says designer Charles Pfister, "is that there is a need for a modern that is friendly and has a lot of recall to historical design."

His new modern furniture for Baker has many echoes of the past. Specifically, a dining room cabinet could pass for an 18th century Swedish piece and a round commode has decided Russian overtones.

## Houses more affordable as prices fall

(AP) — An index measuring the ability of the typical American family to buy a house rose in August to the highest level in four months, a housing industry group said Monday.

The National Association of Realtors said its index rose to 102.2, meaning that a family with a median income of \$33,992 had 102.2 percent of the income needed to buy a median-priced existing house costing \$94,900.

The association said the increase reflects both falling

house prices and mortgage interest rates.

It was the highest level since the index read 103.2 in April.

The median means that half of the families earn more and half less, or that half the houses sell for more and half for less.

The NAR said the median price for existing houses fell from \$96,700, while interest rates dropped from 10.39 percent to 10.11 percent.

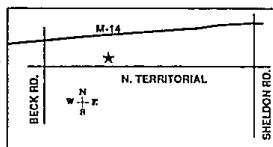
**Eaton Estates**

Luxury Condominiums for the Discriminating Buyer-From \$243,500

Enjoy Plymouth's beautiful country setting, in a unique condo concept. Unusually private!

7.95 fixed rate or zero closing costs available

- Luxury 2 and 3 bedroom units.
- Cape Cod Model 2800 Sq. Ft. Plus Walkout Lower Level.
- Two Ranch Models 2045 & 2415 Sq. Ft., Plus Walkout Lower Level



Eaton Associates

455-4220

Model Hrs.: 1 pm-6 pm, Mon.-Sun. Closed Thrus.



### Alliance Building Co.

1035 S. Millford Rd., Highland MI 48031

Largest Selection Homes Priced From \$60,000 to \$120,000

- Ranches
- Colonial
- 1 1/2 Levels
- Cape Cods

Larger Custom Homes Available

Your Design or Ours

TRUSTED HOME BUILDER (313) 685-8405

### 2 Great Choices IN FARMINGTON HILLS COUNTRY RIDGE & FARMINGTON GLENS

priced from \$190's

Models Open Daily 1-6 • Closed Thursday Phone 661-5801

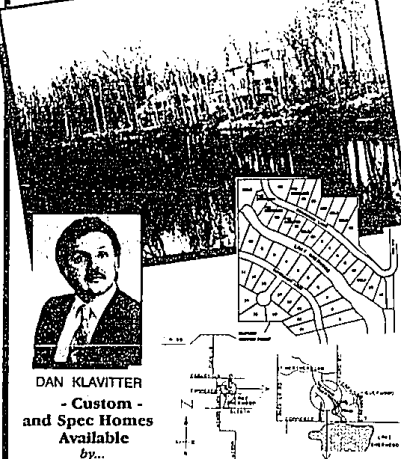


Roux and Associates, Inc. Homecare Building Co., Inc.

West of Halstead Rd. North off of 13 Mile Rd.

### Wooded & Waterfront Homes & Lots

### Lake Sherwood Forest



DAN KLAUITTER - Custom and Spec Homes Available by...

Woodcraft Homes starting at...\$186,900

Wooded & Waterfront lots from \$51,500

CENTURY 21 AT THE LAKE 2602 UNION LAKE RD.

MODELS OPEN: SAT. & SUN. 2 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

DAN KLAUITTER

Office 363-1200

Model 685-3273

### BRIDGETOWN CONDOMINIUMS

Located in the quaint Village of Chelsea 13 miles west of Ann Arbor on I-94, north 1/2 mile to light, left 1 block.

Models Open 7 Days 12 pm-5 pm

475-7810

2-3 Bedroom, Townhouses & Ranches These condos have full basements, 2 car garages, gas fireplace, air conditioning, Andersen windows, GE appliances & more.

From...\$119,000

Maintenance Fees: \$48.50/mo.

"For Lush Living At It's Best Come to Bridgetown."

A LLOYD BRIDGES DEVELOPMENT

Question: Where is the Number One place to find the home of your dreams?

Answer: You're Reading it! The Observer & Eccentric's Creative Living Section. Right here every Monday and Thursday!

# Sneak-A-Peek At Copper Creek.

Incredibly low prices for beautiful new homes — \$109,990.

Come to our Greenpoint Sales Office and feast your eyes on Copper Creek's most affordable new homes. Those who buy now — during pre-construction — will get a pocketful of savings on these gorgeous, 2 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath condominium homes.

Just look at all you get — brick exterior, private patio, full basement, wood-burning fireplace, central air, refrigerator, dishwasher, oven and range, dramatic vaulted ceilings, sensational master suite with lavish master bath, even a 2-car garage.

Outside — pure pleasure. With swimming and tennis right outside your door and golf next door.

Looks like you just found the perfect home. Hurry — prices will be going up s-o-o-n!

Townhomes and Ranch-Style Homes Pre-construction Priced From \$109,990!

**Greenpoint** Condominiums at Copper Creek

Phone: 661-4422

Sales Office Located on Fourteen Mile Rd. and Halstead. Models open daily 11-7, Saturday and Sunday 12-6.

