

# Building Scene

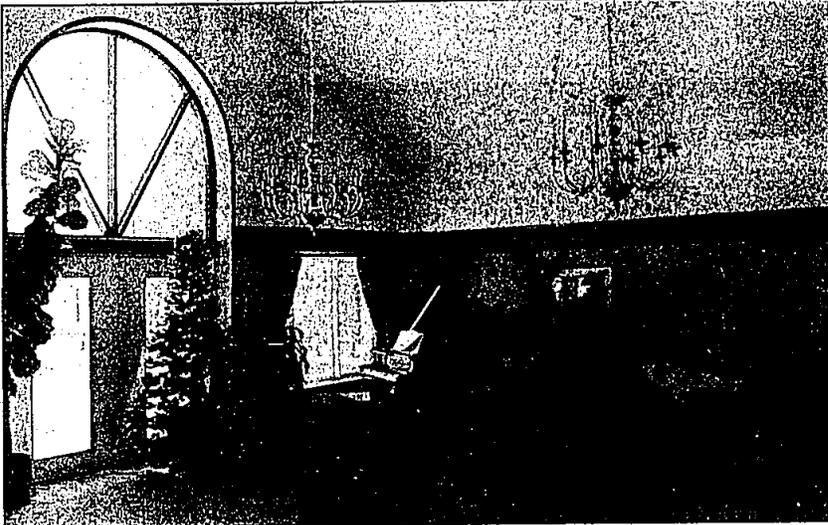
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Marilyn Filchett editor/953-2102

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photos by JIM RUDER/staff photographer

Buelah Buck strokes out on a sofa in the drawing room of Peachwood Inn/Borden Court.



The Bugatti Bar and Bistro is open several times a week to offer an alternative to regular breakfast and lunch to residents and their guests.

## Innovations win awards for senior care centers



Picadilly Lane, the "downtown" of the residence, provides gathering places such as a candy/card shop, hair salon, cinema room and "sidewalk" tables for socializing.

### Borden Court, Peachwood Inn receive honors

By Doug Funke  
staff writer

What makes for architectural and construction award winners? Innovation in use of space, design and decorations. Judging by the prizes garnered by Peachwood Inn and Borden Court, a nursing care and senior citizens assisted living residence in Rochester Hills.

The facility, opened in 1988, has received several honors including a Showcase of Excellence Award from the Construction Association of Michigan, Citation for Excellence Award from the American Institute of Architects, and Interior Design Award from Restaurants and Institutions Magazine.

Beyond the awards, the 100,000-square-foot building, home to 190, seems to be a great place to live.

"Peachwood is designed as a place for families to visit and residents to live," said Horace D'Angelo Jr., owner/operator/builder of Peachwood Inn. "It's not a warehouse area for sick, old people."

"We approached it as a new concept in terms of nursing homes," said Joseph P. Hoedley, project architect and a vice-president for Hobbs + Black Associates, who have every element of their daily life in there and patterns they're used to," he said. "We have neighborhoods as you move from one end of the building to another."

THE TREND, Hoedley added, "is becoming residential-mode driven rather than health-care driven."

D'Angelo coined the term "careful" to refer to life at Peachwood. Careful combines the amenities of a European residential hotel with the medical care provided in a hospital setting.

"This building took two years to design," he said. "This was not a quick job. We were breaking new ground all the time. There's plenty of spots other than a

bedroom for residents and their visitors to spend time.

- Places like:
  - Picadilly Lane, the main recreational corridor that features a candy/card shop, hair salon, cinema room, popcorn wagon, tables and chairs. Skylights, plants and sconce lighting further enhance the area into a boulevard. Staff refer to the corridor as downtown.
  - The Bugatti Bar and Bistro, a restaurant seating up to 30 where brunch is available for residents and their guests several days a week. Decorative beams in the ceiling, several different kinds of lighting fixtures, parquet carpeting and different wall treatments create an elegant atmosphere.
  - Three dining rooms with high ceilings, colorful trim and carpeting, skylights and large windows that look out to well-landscaped courtyards.
  - A drawing room with a piano, curio cabinets and other decorative furnishings, fireplace, cathedral ceiling and striking chandelier.
  - Three well-decorated activities rooms with large-screen TV, seating areas and card tables opposite nursing/attendant stations.
  - Several other elegant communal rooms: Grandma's Kitchen, Tavern on the Green, Fireside Room, Rumble Seat Room — for smaller, private gatherings.
- OTHER TOUCHES include brightly painted peach and blue corridors, wooden handrails, a lobby that looks like a hotel lobby, complete with grandfather



clock and luggage dolly, and a guest room for overnight visitors.

The project cost about \$12 million, D'Angelo said.

"It's a classic example of form following function... blending privacy, socializing and ability to socialize with family," he said.

"One of the rooms I love most and is the essence of Careful is Bugatti Bistro and Bar," D'Angelo said, adding that a restaurant in a care facility like Peachwood is quite rare. "What a great thing — a family comes to visit and they have lunch or dinner together."

"In the halls, we took great care. Lighting was designed so as not to strike the eye. Halls are flared at the end with seating so you can experience that as a living area rather than a tunnel to your room."

"This never could have been done by one person," D'Angelo said. "No one had enough talent. It was a combination of three factors — a humanistically involved operator; a skilled architect, Joe Hoedley, determined to excel; and a designer, Jeanne Snyder, working with other elements to use design to maximum advantage."

PART OF Peachwood's charm is that it doesn't look like a typical nursing home from outside. A rolling terrain and winding drive lead to a brick structure with several elevations, chimneys and pitched roof lines.

"The image of the facility starts when you turn in," Hoedley said. "We're proud of the fact that people driving up during construction asked how they could get into this condominium project."

Nursing care residents pay \$74-\$139 per day to live at Peachwood, assisted living clients \$2,500-\$2,920 monthly. There's a waiting list to get a room.

D'Angelo built two other senior residential care centers, Westland Convalescent Center 22 years ago and Applewood Nursing Center in Woodhaven eight years ago. What eventually became Peachwood evolved from both of those experiences, he said.

Fred Moeller Sr. takes a closer look at what's happening outdoors from the comfort of his room.

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