

Architect from page 1F

credit practices following an overhaul of the tax laws in 1986, and the aftermath of the savings-and-loan crisis, both of which severely curtailed new building prospects.

"The orders began picking up in late October, and new programs from auto makers and suppliers are starting to perk up, but some of these, like emission testing labs, are being driven by government legislation," said Skog, a Bloomfield Hills resident.

"Right now, our firm is in the hiring mode. Some projects which were shelved by the state are just now loosening up, and in the future we'll see more university projects, due in part to major fund-raising campaigns."

Skog was speaking to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, which recently announced a major fund drive. Partners in Leadership—that will attempt to raise \$1 billion over the next five years. Other state universities have announced similar campaigns.

Meanwhile, area residents can expect to see several new buildings break the skyline of state-based universities. A \$38 million science and technology building is planned for Oakland University in Rochester. Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw is expected to open a \$18 million building for the business school,

while Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant has proposed a building for the music school.

All of the projects are being designed by Harley Ellington, which has 155 employees and affiliated offices in Denver, Orlando and Los Angeles. The firm was founded in Detroit in 1908, with one of its most famed designs the headquarters for the original Stroh's Brewery Co.

Skog, who succeeds Robert Ziegelman, chairman of Luckenbach Ziegelman and Partners, Birmingham, said he plans to create stronger ties with architects of the future by encouraging more student-professional interaction at schools like Lawrence Technological University in Southfield.

"We also want to be more responsive to our membership, especially among smaller firms, which often have different needs and interests than larger firms, as well as providing continuing education programs," said Skog of the 1,000-member Detroit chapter.

Currently, the AIA is lobbying legislators in Lansing to bring more uniformity to building licenses. There is also a great need to streamline code inspections, as many cities and communities have cut back on inspectors due to financial considerations.

Chemicals pose disposal problem

You may have more hazardous substances in your home than you think.

Leftover paint, household cleaners, bug spray and weed killers are examples of hazardous wastes. Flushing them down the drain can damage sewage treatment systems. Putting them out with the garbage sends them to the landfill where they eventually seep into ground water.

If you can't use up a potentially hazardous product, think of someone who can, such as schools, neighbors or churches.

Call your local health department, recycling center or environmental agency to see if they organize collection drives. If they do, make sure the wastes are in sealed, watertight containers. If a container is rusting or leaking, put it in a larger, secure container.

If your community doesn't have a collection drive, call the local health department or your county's Cooperative Extension Service to find out the best way to dispose of hazardous products.

Always follow state regulations in disposing of hazardous materials. You can also reduce the amount of these substances in your home by buying only what you need; if possible, choose alternatives that are known to be less toxic.

Keep abreast of information about the disposal of hazardous materials. Always follow disposal directions on package labels.

Here's how you can discard common household products that may be hazardous in your own garage:

- Empty aerosol cans and abrasive powder cleaners can be thrown out with the garbage. Rinse containers with water before disposal. Aerosol cans should go out only with garbage that will go to a sanitary landfill instead of being incinerated.
- You can dilute small amounts of certain chemicals with plenty of water and pour them down a drain or toilet—but not if you have a septic system. These include lye drain and oven cleaner, phosphate paintbrush cleaner, and phosphoric acid rust remover.
- Some substances or items should be wrapped in newspapers and plastic before going into household refuse. In this category are mildew cleaner containers and warfarin-type rat- or mouse-poison packages.
- Certain substances can be allowed to evaporate before disposal but be sure this is done away from

children or pets. These include gasoline, solvent- or water-base glue, mineral spirits, turpentine, paint, paint remover or thinner, and spot remover solvent. When evaporated, double-wrap in plastic and dispose with household refuse.

- Leftover latex paint, can also be solidified by adding an absorbent material such as cat litter, sand, charcoal or sawdust. When it's dry, wrap the container twice in plastic and then place it with household trash.

There are a host of wastes that should not be discarded with your regular trash:

- Save degreasing chemicals, fi-

boglassing substances (after solidifying or evaporating), flea collars, and fluorescent lamp ballasts that are pre-1978 or without a label saying they contain no PCBs for a special collection day or consult your local Cooperative Extension Service.

- Varnish, mothballs and flakes, solvent-type paintbrush cleaner, oil-base (alkyd) paint, run-inhibiting paint, garden insecticides, roach and ant killer, arsenic-type rat and mouse poison, weed killer, solvent-base furniture polish, and wood preservatives or stains should also be saved for a special collection day.

Building class set

The Michigan Builders Institute of Rochester Hills will be offering classes in constructing your own house in Farmington, Troy and Wayne-Westland in January and February.

"The class is for those who are working with a contractor as well as those who want to do all or some of the work themselves," said Bill Lawson, principal and faculty member of the school.

Classes will be held for eight three-hour sessions over four weeks held in conjunction with community education divisions of local school districts.

"The course is really a course in preventive strategies," Lawson said. "It helps the consumer avoid pitfalls and helps people talk the same language as building professionals so there are few unpleasant surprises."

How to estimate materials in terms of price and quality, building codes, construction lien law and state regulations will be covered.

Farmington class begins Jan. 18; call 489-3333. Troy class begins Jan. 26; call 879-7682. Wayne-Westland class begins Feb. 2; call 728-0100. Preregistration is required.


For information about other building classes, call the builders institute at 651-2771.

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