

BUILDING SCENE

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MARILYN FITCHETT, EDITOR
953-2102

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BUILDING SCENE'S NAMES & PLACES

Chairman Renwick

Putnam Renwick, vice president in charge of vinyl building products for Livonia-based Wolverine Technologies, will chair the National Association of the Remodeling Industry's convention committee. Renwick, with 16 years in the building materials industry, has been with Wolverine since 1985. He serves on NARI's board of directors and is a member of the National Member Committee and Manufacturers Council. The convention will be entitled, "America's Remodeling Marketplace."



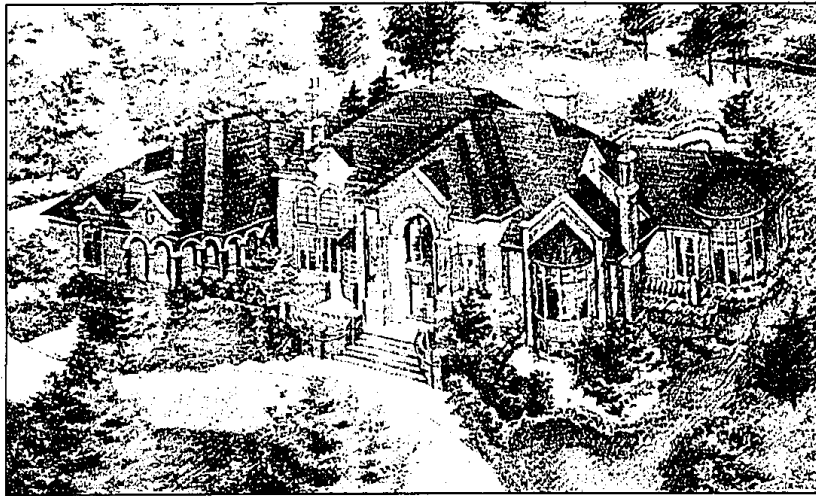
Renwick

Rossetti on judge panel

Louis A. Rossetti, president and CEO of Birmingham-based Rossetti Associates Architects, will serve on the jury for the IAKS International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities design awards in Cologne, Germany, this month. Rossetti won an IAKS award in 1991 for their design of The Palace of Auburn Hills.

ABSC board in place

John J. McManus, organizer of the new Affiliated Building Services Contractors in Michigan association, has put together a board of directors that includes two local building contractors. Steve Ray of Livonia-based Distinctive Maintenance Inc. and Lewis Small of West Bloomfield, president of Standard Building Maintenance Corp., were named to the 10-member board. The association was set up to educate its members on matters of mutual importance, communicate concerns and foster the professionalism of the industry. Information for inclusion in this column should be sent to Marilyn Fitchett, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48160.



Viva la France: Home buyers are getting tired of the neo-classical architecture commonly found in southeastern Michigan and are turning toward classical-influenced plans like this elaborate Country French designed by Bryce and Palazzola.

Country French: quiet civility

By GERALD FRAWLEY
STAFF WRITER

It's stately elegance with a touch of rural ambience. It's sophisticated, yet casual. It's urbane, not urban. It's Country French style architecture and it's gaining a foothold among area home buyers. Bob Bryce, a partner at the West Bloomfield architectural firm of Bryce and Palazzola, said the de-

mand for Country French architecture is keeping his firm plenty busy. "We're doing about 300 homes right now and the largest single category is what we call Country French." Country French influenced styles are predominantly found in the upper strata of houses — custom residential homes built for affluent clients — but Bryce said some hints of the Country styles is beginning to creep down into more moderate houses.

He has had so many requests for Country French that he recently spent several weeks in France studying actual examples of homes along the fringes of Paris. Truth to tell, he is not designing what an architect would call a pure Country French home. No one, he said, has asked him to design a stucco-walled, thatched roofed house. "What we're really talking about is the influence of Country

French." Country French influenced architecture is a more relaxed, less formal type of housing, he said. "It's really a state of mind." When clients come in and inquire about Country French, it usually begins a discussion along the lines of "Just what do you mean by that?" How accurately the homes Bryce

See COUNTRY FRENCH, 3F

Practical and affordable home control systems on display in area sub

If you want to get a glimpse of the future of home control systems, check out the new Mystic Pines community development in Brighton. These homes, built by Old Town Builders, are the first in the area to feature Honeywell's TotalHome system, a system that integrates a home's controls — security, temperature, lighting and appliances, in a single, easy-to-operate panel.

Old Town Builders are offering the system as an option in 29 homes in Mystic Pines, which is located off Brighton Road across from the Oak Point Country Club. The luxury homes start at \$300,000. Old Town will be showing off the system at its model home, 5151 Pinewood Drive, from 1-5 p.m. on weekends and from 8-9 p.m. on Tuesdays through August. You can make an appointment by calling 227-7400.

Here's a typical TotalHome scenario: A family wakes up to a warm house, coffee already brewing and the hallway leading to the bathroom already lit. When leaving for work, the home owner selects a new mode called, "At work." This ignites the security system, shuts off appliances for safety, adjusts the temperature and turns the lights on and off to give the house a lived-in look. The system can be activated from outside the home via touch-tone phone.

A typical TotalHome system featuring 10 points of security control, 10 points of lighting and appliance control, and remote phone access is around \$4,000.

Endowment to HFCC
Henry Ford Community College recently received a \$20,000 donation from the Michigan Metal Fabricators Association to establish an endowed scholarship fund to support students studying steel detailing in HFCC's Architectural Tech program. Two scholarships will be awarded each year. Preference will be given to steel detailing majors. Applicants must have high grade point averages and show financial need. "This gift for an endowment

ROUNDUP

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creates a lasting tribute to the members of the Michigan Metal Fabricators Association that will provide earnings to benefit HFCC students for many years to come," said Gregory Palka, HFCC executive director of development.

Promotion winners

Farmington Hills-based Creative House Advertising was three-time winner in the 1992 Drummer Awards Competition, a 31-year-old contest sponsored by Building Supply Home Centers that recognize the best in point-of-purchase merchandising and selling aids.

Creative House won a gold in the audio-visual category for their creation of the Aristokraft frameless cabinetry installation video and in the materials category for the Aristokraft Kitchen Planning Kit.

Creative House won a silver for best individual selling aid for its design of the Thermo-Tru product catalog.

Wood basements

West Bloomfield Architect Robert Bryce of Bryce and Palazzola Architects and Associates has called wood basements one of the hottest home building trends of the 1990s.

If you want to know more about it, you might want to tune in Glenn Haego's Handyman Show 10 a.m. Saturday on WXYT Radio (AM-1270). Haego's guest will be Warren Koch, a wood basement designer, and Livonia builder Jim Nawrot who will answer all your questions.

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