

Visions from page 1D

topographic, some painted. A waterfall of yarn and metal streaming down will greet visitors further along.

Between the forest and the waterfall, transparent water colors by Gilbert delicately color a Japanese garden and a close-up view of Milles' grand sculpture, "Beckoning."

Gilbert, who has worked in watercolor 25 years, paints Chinese elms for the imagination to dream by. Whether you're familiar with the grounds of Cranbrook, or a first time visitor, he provokes you into experiencing the Cranbrook environment, tempting with sketches of serenity.

When it comes to Cranbrook, he's an amateur historian tempting you with tidbits about founders, George and Ellen Scripps Booth as well as Cranbrook resident architect Saarinen, who used to walk the grounds with legends like Frank Lloyd Wright.

"The Cranbrook complex is an

artistic, theatrical experience. Everything was designed with what the Greeks referred to as the golden means or golden section, a rectangular measurement, a naturally pleasing shape to the eye," said Gilbert who's been weaving since the late 1960s.

Three self portraits, photo-alk screens and three images of "Europa and the Bull" by Milles will trigger thought and a longing for discovery.

"I've fallen in love with the place," said Gilbert as he led a tour of the Cranbrook grounds. "Traditional tapestries and weaving are part of the history."

Down a path toward the lake a Japanese garden complete with an island in its midst leads to a waterfall. The garden is like a maze, each path wrought with stepping stones, enticing the visitors with yet another winding path. There's a peacefulness to the grounds here. The well-thought-out architecture meant to

stimulate the art community fascinates unlike anywhere else.

"There are many secrets to find," Gilbert said. "The beauty is discovery."

Gilbert, who earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in ceramics from Center for Creative Studies in Detroit and a master of fine arts degree in fiber design from Cranbrook Academy of Art, first came up with the idea for the show after former Livonia arts commissioner Jack Olds approached him to exhibit his work.

Gilbert created the aerial fabric sculpture "Nebulae Terraqueous," suspended in the atrium of the Civic Center Library. He was

commissioned in May 1992 after a statewide search by the Friends of the Livonia Library of which Olds is a member.

Not until September, when an inspiration struck him in the night, did Gilbert finally realize a method for actualizing his concept for the exhibit.

"I wanted it to be a Cranbrook experience, to get people curious, intrigued, to get them thinking," Gilbert said.

Livonia Civic Center Library hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday.

Lecture to explore design

Michigan Design Center in Troy welcomes the public to its ongoing ViewPoint lecture series Thursday, Feb. 3, to introduce the book "Showcase of Interior Design, Midwest Edition II."

This exquisitely prepared, full-color book highlights Michigan and metro area designers' backgrounds, design projects and photos of their work. All attendees will receive a copy of the book, a \$35 value.

For reservations, make a \$35 check payable to Michigan Design Center and mail it along with

your name, address and phone number to MDC, 1700 State Drive, Suite 25, Troy 48064. Reservations must be received no later than Friday, Jan. 28. Call 649-4770 for information.

The keynote speaker Feb. 3 will be Elaine Markoutas, former design editor with the Chicago Tribune, and currently a field editor for Meredith Corp., publishers of Better Homes and Gardens and Traditional Homes. Her syndicated columns appear weekly in newspapers nationwide.

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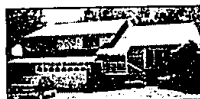
The Heathers is located off Square Lake Road between Opdyke and Adams.

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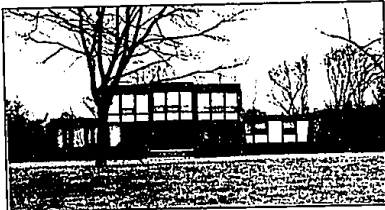


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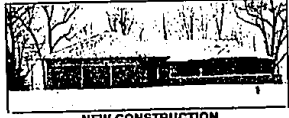
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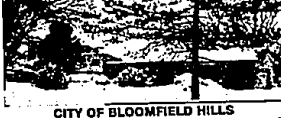
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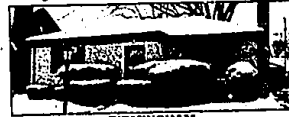
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