



Old World charm: Jeffrey King of Jeffrey King Interiors of Birmingham (at left) decorated the Giancamilli residence to give it a little bit of Italy. Here in the living room, drapes with gold and navy stripes convey an Old World feeling. Wanda Giancamilli (at right) looks at a book in the kitchen.



A LITTLE BIT OF Italy

Design puts new spin on Old World look

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Andy and Wanda Giancamilli's Birmingham residence puts a new spin on Old World charm and atmosphere.

The Giancamillis wanted a little bit of Italy in the interior design, said Andy, who is president and chief operating officer of Kumart. The work by designer Jeffrey King of Jeffrey King Interiors of Birmingham fashioned a comfortable combination of classic and contemporary throughout the four levels of the house.

An Old World flavor blends smoothly with modern innovations and creative use of space. Delightful details display the family's distinctive personality.

"The thing about Jeff is he really listens to you," Wanda Giancamilli said. "It's your home. You don't feel you moved into someone else's home."

"They said what they wanted, and run with it," King said. "They were wonderful clients."

The Giancamillis and King are also connected through The Snow Ball, a charity event taking place next week (see related story). Andy and Wanda are honorary chairpersons of The Snow Ball. King and Linda Jennings of Wixom are its co-chairs.

The house has a captivating structure. In some places one level looks onto another. Small staircases are gently winding. Along one is a custom handrail by Gonzalo Rodriguez of Rochester Hills.

Almost every room is an example of the beautiful design balance achieved with such features as antiques and antique appearance, earth tones and natural elements.

The lower level was almost completely remodeled. Much of the area is a family room. Here are large, inviting sofas and chairs, some dressed in distressed leather for an antique look. Wooden doors also feature distressed surfaces. Slate floors, the woven leather backs and seats of the chairs along the bar, and glimpses of brick in parts of the walls, are other elements that suggest Old World. Technical Specialties of Sylvan Lako did the Italian distressed brick faux painting. Scones and recessed lighting give soft but plentiful illumination.

The glass-topped table with thick metal legs, and an arrangement of giant gears on one wall, convey earth textures and hues.

Yet comfortably ensconced here is an entertainment center in the family room, a sauna in the bathroom, and a cork-board bearing photos of family and friends. The bar has plenty of storage and organization room, including compartments for garbage.

There is a cigar room for Andy Giancamilli with a barrel vault ceiling, cedar walls and recycled brick. The circulation changes the air here every 2-1/2 hours.

Heavy drapes in gold and navy blue stripes are displayed in the living room, where again the furniture is big and welcoming. Cream molding was added here and elsewhere.

Nearby is the kitchen, with a nook containing a chandelier with a charming floral design. The "floral fresco" ceiling is by Angela Kilcullen, formerly of Royal Oak. Large architectural accents from an older house bring historical character. The foyer is crowned with a chandelier that hangs from a creamy painting of a blue sky. A "dusk sky" is depicted on the

dining room ceiling. Both murals are by Elizabeth Frankland.

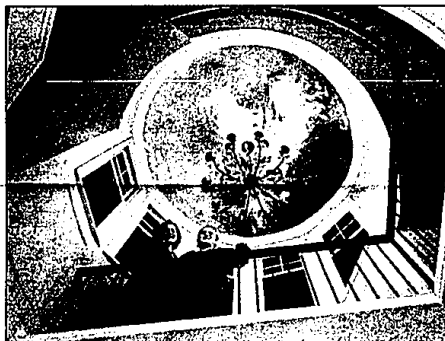
Sisal carpeting, and walls covered in Ralph Lauren suede finish paint (which doesn't show fingerprints, King says), are found throughout upstairs rooms.

These rooms include the office, which features a dark, narrow antique table, a bright, kilim style ottoman, and a lampshade adorned with a petal design. A computer and TV are nestled amid the white shelves.

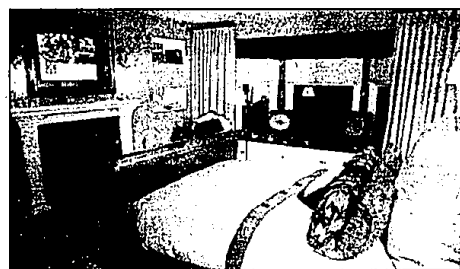
The master bedroom contains a sleigh bed. A one-way mirror above the fireplace conceals the TV when not on.

The master bathroom features his and her vanities, each with cabinet space large enough so that nothing has to be left out on counters. An old pharmacy cabinet that unfolds, and an Italian cherry cabinet from the 1920s to 1930s are also here.

An exercise room is on the top level. Other activities are done here, with neat storage space for anything from a sewing machine to gift wrapping supplies.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JERRY ZOLTHORY



Imaginative and innovative: Wanda and Andy Giancamilli (above) stand on an upper level in the foyer of their Birmingham home. A daylight sky is painted on the ceiling. The master bedroom of the residence (at left) features a one-way mirror that keeps a TV out of sight when not in use.



Great smokes: Andy Giancamilli relaxes in his cigar room. A circulation system changes the air every 2-1/2 hours.

Warm hearts help Snow Ball benefit

The Snow Ball is a black-tie dinner with dancing, festivities, entertainment by renowned orchestra leader Simone Vitale, and a live auction of fantasy packages. The theme for this year's event is a 1940s supper club as well as "White and Snow." Presented by Variety - The Children's Charity, The Snow Ball will take place 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Townsend Hotel Ballroom in Birmingham. Tickets per person are \$225, \$300 (patron) and \$500 (benefactor). For information, contact The Variety Office, 30161 Southfield Road in Southfield, phone (248) 258-5511.

Among the fantasy packages are:
■ A tour of Hollywood and Disneyland with model/actress Kathy Ireland
■ A Paris dream vacation
■ A custom design and constructed playhouse built like a real house (designed by Victor Saroki and decorated by Jeffrey King)
■ A Portugal vacation
■ An opportunity to rehearse and perform with the Simone Vitale orchestra at a real "gig" like a real member of the group (as musician or singer)

■ An opportunity for a child to appear as a model in a Kumart circular on location

Founded in 1929, Variety has 59 chapters around the world and 15,000 members.

Detroit's chapter touches the entire southeastern Michigan community. Its volunteers and friends raise money for local charities benefiting children with special needs, including:

- The Variety Myoelectric Center at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan
- The Variety Cardiology Center at Children's Hospital of Michigan
- Detroit Institute for Children - Variety Computer Resource Center
- AIDS Consortium of Southeastern Michigan
- Women's Survival Center
- Williams' Syndrome Association
- The Children's Center
- Police Athletic League
- The Teen Ranch
- Hospice of Southeastern Michigan, Pediatric Care

JOE GAGNON

Time to talk

Home shows allow the Appliance Doctor a chance to talk with consumers in more detail about ranges and refrigerators.

See Home Work, Page 2

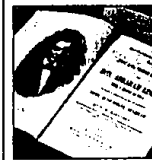


MARTY FIGLEY

Room to grow

Sprout a plant from an avocado pit or a sweet potato by following these tips.

See Garden Spot, Page 3



HOMETOWN LIFE:

Black history:

William Tyndale College celebrates black history month in prayer, song and lectures. See HomeTown Life, page 5