



# At Home

INTERIOR DESIGN ■ DIY ■ GARDENING

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## Accents

### Clarification

Besides those listed in an At Home article Aug. 29, there are many more community gardens and home gardeners participating in Plant A Row for the Hungry who donate to various food-gathering organizations other than Forgotten Harvest. If you would like to make any size donation to an organization near you, such as a church or food bank, call your county extension agent: Martha Ferguson at (248) 858-0900 (Oakland County), Sandra Richards at (586) 469-6440 (Macomb County), or Kristin Kendall-Holiday at (313) 833-2925 (Wayne County). Every donation, wherever it is given, will feed a hungry person.

### Antiques show

The Women of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Hills will present their 39th annual Bloomfield Antiques Show Friday-Saturday, Sept. 6-7. Proceeds from the show benefit many local and international missions. A total 35 dealers will display their treasures in the Gordon H. Light Family Life Center at the church, 1100 Lone Pine Road, at the northwest corner of Lone Pine Road and Telegraph. Hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Representatives from Dumouchelle's Art Galleries of Detroit will give verbal appraisals 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Cost is \$5 per item for up to three items. Call (248) 646-5886 for more information.

### Bags To Go

Royal Pet Inc. has introduced Bags To Go, the first portable scoop bag dispenser. The new product resembles one of those round plastic containers used to hold rolls of photographic film. It dispenses durable black plastic bags for picking up after pets. A detachable tethering clip

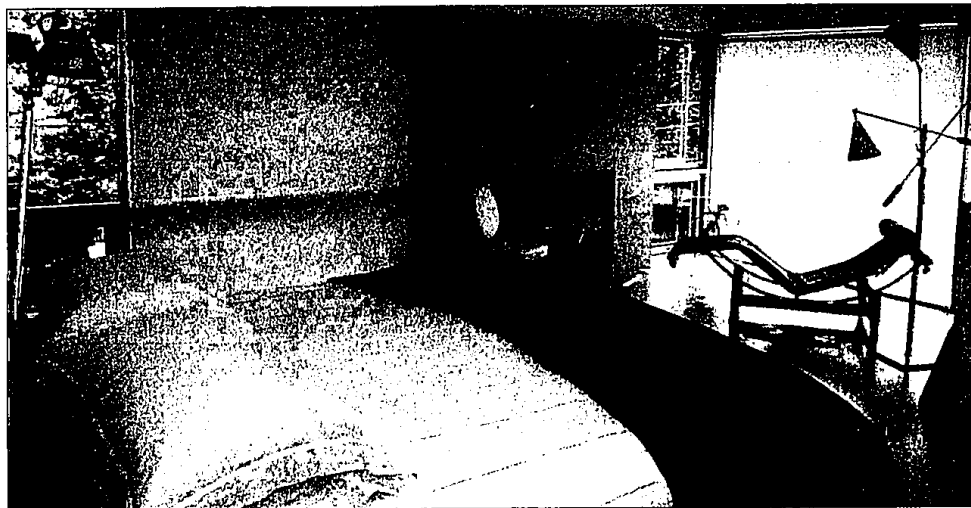


makes it easy to attach Bags To Go to a belt loop or the handle of a dog's leash. The item can be used on travels or on daily walks at home.

Bags To Go comes as an all-in-one unit featuring dispenser and bags. Royal Pet also sells Bags To Go dispenser refills in 36- and 72-bag sizes.

The product is available at Petco, Target and other leading stores. Suggested retail prices are \$5 to \$6 for the dispenser with 24 bags, \$4 to \$6 for the 36-bag refill and \$12 for the 72-bag refill.

For more information, call Royal Pet toll-free at (888) 717-1150 or visit [www.royalpet-inc.com](http://www.royalpet-inc.com). The bags can be used to pick up waste directly. However, the company offers a rake-like Super Scooper with a telescoping handle.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER/ECCENTRIC

No doors close off the master bedroom, and except for a panel where the fireplace is located, windows comprise the entire south side wall.

## Falling walls



BY NICOLE STAFFORD  
STAFF WRITER

Novel design has a way of pushing through personal taste and making an impression.

Janice Steinhardt's loft-style townhouse, one of six residences featured in the upcoming Birmingham House Tour, qualifies as both inventive and affecting.

"People with traditional taste who felt they might find the home cold, like it," said Steinhardt, an interior designer for several years and chair of the Sept. 17 tour.

"They like the flow and the set-up," said Steinhardt. "They say they could see themselves in it."

### FUTURE IN VIEW

The fact visitors don't have trouble envisioning themselves in the three-floor, 3,500-square-foot home, constructed mostly of concrete and steel, gets right to the point about the structure's place in the context of architectural design, which many believe is rapidly evolving in response to changes in how we live and occupy our homes.

"Life has become more informal and more of a blur," said Michael Poris, the townhouse's architect, of McIntosh Poris Associates in Birmingham.

By blur, Poris means the line between public and private activities has been grayed by such lifestyle trends as home offices and home gyms. The Steinhardt residence reflects some of these design directives and the flavor of this significant shift in architecture.

PLEASE SEE WALLS, C2

## Discovering the 'un-private' house

BY NICOLE STAFFORD  
STAFF WRITER

The notion of an "un-private" house sounds frightening. But the book *The Un-Private House*, available locally from Borders or directly from the publisher (\$35, Distributed Art Publishers), takes some of the edge off the idea.

The book is the companion to a 1999 architectural exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City that identified and explored the concept.

With an essay by Terence Riley, curator of the exhibit and MOMA's chief curator of architecture and design, the book makes clear that the "un-private" house is a by-product of contemporary lifestyle and changed living patterns in the home, rather than isolated architectural theory

or idealistic notions about openness.

Photographs, plans and drawings present 26 contemporary residences in the United States, Europe and Japan — those featured in the original MOMA exhibit — all examples of an "un-private" house.

Key to understanding the concept is the origin of the private house: 17th-century Europe and colonial New England. The private house had contained rooms and defined boundaries between public and private space.

Most of the homes built in 19th-century America abided those principles, said Michael Poris, architect at McIntosh Poris Associates in Birmingham. Only in the 20th century did architecture begin to change.

Today, with people setting up home offices, working out in home gyms and letting in so much of the outside world

via television, the Internet and other media, those divisions have disappeared.

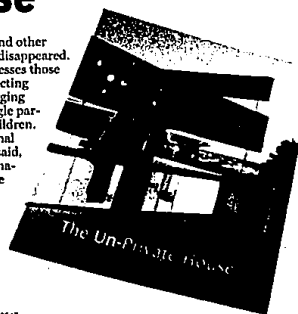
*The Un-Private House* addresses those trends and other factors affecting architecture, including changing demographics like more single parents and couples without children.

Life at home is also informal and fast-paced today, Poris said, offering an additional explanation for the emergence of the "un-private" house.

"When were houses built with gyms before?"

To order *The Un-Private House* from Distributed Art Publishers, call (212) 627-1999, or visit [www.art-book.com](http://www.art-book.com).

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