



The living room contains leather and wood furniture from Italy. Glass shelves hold glass and shell collections.

**KORAB**  
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INTERIOR ARTISTRY

In the house, the kitchen is a comfortable combination of country and contemporary, with a brick floor, plain ceiling and cabinets, and wood molding around the perimeter.

Work done by the Korabs here includes replacing the old plaster walls, moving a sink from a corner, and arranging cabinets that had been scattered around the room closer together. The island in the center of the room is big enough for a cooking range and places to sit.

The dining room, which also has a brick floor, features a glass-topped table on a colorful area rug.

A weathered 17th-century statue from Florence, given to Korab in appreciation for his photographs of the 1966 flood here, stands at one corner of the room near the front door. Along one wall is an unusual angled wooden table by Doug Hoppa.

The Korabs lived in Italy for two years. Their living room contains a sofa and chairs of



Balthazar Korab works out of his studio/office that was originally a barn. The famed photographer and his wife renovated the structures and did the landscaping on the site of their Troy home.

leather and wood by the designer Scarpa, prototype pieces from a gallery in Florence.

An art work by Glen Michaels is on one wall. Glass shelves house two collections: Balthazar's shells and Monien's glass. She arranged the shells in or near glass items that are similar in shape or color.

"I'm very proud of her artistic touch," Balthazar Korab said. Monien's artistic touch includes her needlepoint, which is found around the house.

Examples are the window-seat pillows with designs of poppies, drawn from photos by Balthazar, and the cushions with a pattern resembling that of the Bertoin steel chairs on which they lie.

**PRIVATE THEATER**

Balthazar Korab calls the landscape a "private theater." This has drawn acclaim of its own and is featured in a recently published book, *Grounds for Pleasure: Four Centuries of the American Garden* by Denise Otis.

The site was relatively flat when the Korabs bought the property. They have added berms and rolling hills, saving three century Michigan white pines in the process.

Wildflowers adorn the grounds; poppies ablaze with color have stopped traffic. Among other plants are black walnut, cottonwood, myrtle, pachysandra, nasturtium, monardella, trillium, choke cherry and sumac.

In addition, the landscape features objects that Balthazar retrieved from roadsides and other locations and turned into art, such as large cable spools that had been abandoned, hand-hewn beams from a nearby barn that was torn down.

Discarded porcelain sinks were made into large outdoor vessels.

Large stones were placed for aesthetic effect. Logs sliced into round steps dot the site.

The house - scheduled to be featured in *Architectural Digest* in a couple of months - and grounds indeed show Korab's "passion for nature's lessons and man's interventions."

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**Maintain compressor to extend refrigerator's life**

Several million refrigerators are sold every year in this country.

A small 30-minute job may prevent you from having to add to that statistic by dishing out your hard earned money to purchase a new refrigerator or go through a very expensive repair. You don't need to be a trained appliance repair technician to do this job. In fact, most consumers can do the job themselves.



**Appliance Doctor**  
Joe Gagnon

A dirty condenser or compressor area can cause the unit to run under extreme high heat temperatures and eventually burn out the compressor.

A replacement compressor installed on your beautiful refrigerator can exceed \$500. Quite often a dirty condenser is the prime cause for such failure.

What do you think about making sure it doesn't happen to you? The following necessary step in refrigerator maintenance should be done three times a year and all you need is a little muscle.

The first step is moving the refrigerator out away from the wall, using care not to damage the floor surface. If there is a water dispenser, make sure there is plenty of slack line to allow movement without snapping the line.

Once the product is moved and you have plenty of room to kneel down behind it, get out the vacuum cleaner and a long handle condenser brush available from your local hardware store. Remove the cardboard backing piece at the bottom rear section which is held in place by clips or screws.

Pull the electrical plug out of the wall and get on the back side or underneath the refrigerator. Using the vacuum attachment and the long condenser brush, clean it out as clean as you can. Make sure you don't bend or hit the fan blade and bend it, but do make sure the blade surface is free from lint or hair buildup.

Remove the front toe plate and clean from the front area as well. If the drain pan is removable, take it out to the kitchen sink and wash it with soap and detergent and sprin-  
gle can peroxide in it before you put it back into place.

Remember that the cleaner the underside of your refrigerator is, the less the compressor runs, thereby saving you costs in energy consumption. The refrigerator will keep much better temperatures and the compressor will last a lot longer.

The cardboard cover you removed may look quite a bit dingy, but please put it back on when you are finished cleaning. It was installed to deflect the air in a certain direction and you do not want to disturb that air flow.

Without proper air flow and an overheated compressor, the cost of operating the refrigerator can increase by as much as \$10 extra per month. If you have linoleum and you discover a brown spot on it under the refrigerator, do not be concerned. This is due to the oil in the linoleum being drawn to the surface. It is not a fire hazard.

After you have the job done, slide the refrigerator back into place. Adjust the front legs so that the front of the box is 1/2-inch higher than the rear. This will allow the doors to close by themselves and give you a better door seal.

This wasn't such a big job after all, was it? You can consider how you may have just added several more years of life to your product and feel pretty darn good about doing it. We have had a cold hard winter but it won't be long before the refrigerator compressor has to compete with its worst deadly enemy, high kitchen heat.

Keep that refrigerator running at optimal levels by keeping the condenser clean. Just think about how many people in this country who don't know what you do right now. That half hour didn't really cost you anything, it saved you a lot of money so take out this special person for dinner and tell them how smart you are. Stay tuned.

Joe Gagnon can now be heard on WWJ-950 and WXYT-1270. He is a member and past president of the Society of Consumer Affairs Professionals. His telephone number is (248) 455-7281.

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**Vinegar helps paint last longer on concrete**

BY MORRIS AND JAMES CAREY  
FOR AP WEEKLY FEATURES

If you've just painted your garage floor and now the paint is peeling, here's a tip that will make paint on concrete stick the next time you paint.

When you paint concrete, you can keep the paint from peeling off by washing the floor first with warm water; then rinse, and let the floor dry

thoroughly for at least a day.

Using a clean paint brush, apply a coat of white vinegar as a pre-paint primer.

Once it dries, it will increase the bond, and the paint you apply will hold and last much longer.

This works on most things made of concrete, and benefits many other types of surfaces, too, such as metal, wood or plastic.

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