



At Home

INTERIOR DESIGN ■ DIY ■ GARDENING

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Accents

Rose whispers

How does a rose become an All-America winner? Not easily. If you review the process of All-America Rose Selections, the winners emerge after two years of review in 21 test gardens



around the country. The 2003 winners include two colorful Floribundas (Eureka and Hot Coco), a showy grandiflora (Cherry Parfait) and a sophisticated hybrid tea (Whisper, pictured here).

According to the All-America Rose Selections of Chicago, the copper-apricot flowers of Eureka are spectacular when fully open and will attract rose growers.

The roses will be available online, through mail order catalogs and at garden centers, nurseries and home centers for the 2003 growing season.

Rose lovers can learn more about rose gardening by attending a meeting of the Rose West Rose Society of Novi. It meets 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 4, at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 W. Ten Mile Road (west of Novi Road). The society will present "City Rose Gardens." Diane Schmitt of Birmingham will present a slide program of rose gardens. The meeting is free and open to the public.

For details on meeting American Rose Society members and about the program, call (248) 449-4626.

Make impact

Homeowners often wonder whether to start a small and inexpensive project or undertake a project requiring a major financial commitment.

"Even a small change can deliver a large visual improvement and give your spirits a boost," said Adam Helfman, president of Fairway Construction Co. of Southfield.

The following are some popular, yet smaller, home improvement ideas courtesy of Fairway that may be considered by homeowners:

Painting is a common home improvement. Use colors that work with the overall scheme on the walls. Lighter colors can be used to highlight the more attractive features of a home.

Colors can be used to set moods (what colors can make you feel happy, peaceful or energized?), change space perception or give the illusion of light.

Paint one wall a different coordinating color than the others for an accent. Dull rooms can spring to life with the addition of wood molding.

Moldings add depth and interest to walls, ceilings, doors and cabinets and can be adapted to just about any area of home.

Housing additions don't need to be costly and time-consuming.

Enclosing an existing patio to make a garden room can provide additional space.



Gall and Mark Lobanoff, shown in the comfortable family room, are delighted with the decorating done at their home by Birmingham interior designer Cynthia Ohanian.

PHOTOS BY JOHN STOKWAND | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

History with style

Family finds unique way to display family treasures

BY MARY KLEMER
 STAFF WRITER

Mark and Gail Creighton Lobanoff are proud of their family history. The decoration of their Troy residence by interior designer Cynthia Ohanian reflects this, as well as the couple's friendly and pleasant nature.

Ohanian, of Cynthia S. Ohanian Interiors Inc. of Birmingham, arranged family heirlooms in rooms that have a comfortable, inviting feel from the colors, fabrics and furnishings she used.

"It turned out to be a comfortable, warm and meaningful house for the family and for their children to enjoy when they come home to visit," she said.

The Lobanoffs are delighted with the results and with having worked with Ohanian. Their house was decorated one room at a time.

"The nice thing is she worked with us over time, did it in steps," Mrs. Lobanoff said.

Work started in the dining room. Ohanian had the walls painted raspberry and trimmed in white.

"Painting the room gives the room a lot of character," she said.

The dining room contains 18th century English furniture, silk drapery and a Persian area rug that is a family heirloom. Along one wall is a breakfast, next to which hang a crest and name history of the Creighton family.

FAMILY TIES

The library was next. Here the pattern of the upholstery on two chairs and an ottoman, and on two throw pillows, is a lively design of green, raspberry and white. Hunter green striped wallpaper dresses two walls. A white built-in wall unit holds a TV, books and accessories.

A love seat, and a tea table with a top that can be used as a tray, are other furnishings in the cozy room.

"At Christmas when all the kids at home, this is a little conversation room," Gail said.

"It's very comfortable," Mark said.

Among the pieces on display in the library is an icon dated 1732 that was used in the baptism of Mr. Lobanoff's great-great-great-great-grandfather, who had the title of prince.

Mark Lobanoff, the first-born American in his family, can trace his family back 12 generations over 400 years. His grandfather, a colonel in the czar's army, left Russia in 1917, first going to Istanbul and then, in 1923, to the United States.

A painting that the family brought with them from Russia



Mark Lobanoff and Gail Creighton Lobanoff's dining room features raspberry walls, an heirloom Persian rug and 18th century English furniture. A crest and name history of the Creighton family are on the wall next to the breakfast.

PLEASE SEE HISTORY, C2

Builders Home Show hits Cobo this weekend

If the 60-degree temperatures this week has given you a little get-up-and-go for the spring weather, then take in the 85th annual Builders Home Show at the Cobo Conference Exhibition Center, Friday-Sunday, March 21-23.

More than 300 exhibitors will be offering the latest technology, products and services for spring home and garden projects at the show, sponsored by Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA), with presenting sponsor Standard Federal Bank.

Cobo Center is the place to be if you have a home or garden project planned for the spring, said Steve Perlman, BIA president. This show is the granddaddy of all home shows in Michigan.

Hundreds of the area's top experts will be on hand to answer consumer questions.

Making an appearance is Teresa Van De Veere Pratt, an award-winning faux-finish artist and muralist, who will demonstrate innovative painting approaches to revitalizing interior decor including walls, furniture, ceramics and picture frames.

Demonstration times are: Friday, March 21, 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

PLEASE SEE SHOW, C4

BUILDERS HOME SHOW

What: 85th annual Builders Home Show, part of the National Home and Garden Show series, featuring more than 300 exhibitors offering the latest products and services for the home. When: March 21-March 23; noon to 9 p.m., Friday, March 21; 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, March 22; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, March 23

Where: Cobo Center
 Tickets: Adults, \$7; seniors, \$6; children under 12 will be admitted free
 Features: The latest technology, products and services for kitchens, baths, doors, windows, remodeling, furniture, arts and crafts, home office, decorative accessories, spas, electronics, heating, cooling and appliances.

Other features:

■ Master painter/faux finisher Teresa Van De Veere Pratt presents faux finishing for home decorating "Hollywood style"

■ Parade of Homes, featuring a pictorial display of new homes

■ WXIV's handyman and Observer & Eccentric columnist Joe Gagnon, the Appliance Doctor

■ WJZ's Murray Gula will broadcast Saturday and Sunday.

■ Treasure Chest contest with daily prizes

For additional information, please call (248) 862-1019 or visit www.builders.org.



This icon, which is dated 1732, has been in the Lobanoff family for generations. It is one of the heirlooms displayed in the Lobanoffs' Troy residence. The Bible shown here has also been in the family for centuries.

MARKET PLACE

Submissions

Do you have a special item you'd like to showcase in Marketplace on the front of At Home? We'd like to feature it!

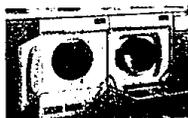
Send a photo or side of the piece, along with information, to: Ken Abramczyk, At Home editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.



Fashionable fabric

The Banyan cotton print, one of the Historic Deerfield Collection prints for spring 2003 by Brunschwig & Filz, was adapted from a man's banyan (dressing gown), circa 1775-85. The print design, shown here, reflects the European taste for paired curvilinear forms interspersed with floral motifs. The original of this intricate pattern was hand-stenciled and fashioned in India. For information, call the Brunschwig & Filz showroom at Michigan Design Center in Troy, (248) 649-0505, or visit www.brunschwig.com.

ASKO available



ASKO high-performance, stackable washer/dryer units that look great, take up less space and use less water and energy are available at Inframode, 400 Grand River in Detroit. The washers and dryers are made primarily of stainless steel parts and have stainless steel tanks. ASKO's washer uses its own heater that heats the water to more than 200 degrees and maintains a hotter temperature than regular units. Hotter water, and a special washing action that lifts and drops clothes into heated water hundreds of times during the wash cycle, requires less detergent. The wash cycle is a little longer than that of the average washer, but drying time is less because more water is extracted during the spinning cycle. The dryer is self-venting. Call (313) 964-6990 or visit www.inframode.com.

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