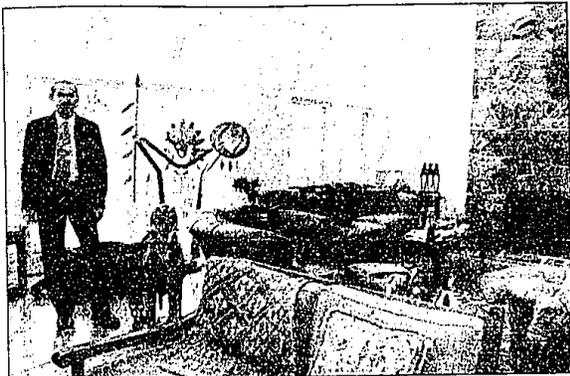


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Steven Schechter stands in the great room of his home, one of six residences on House Tour 2003, presented by Temple Israel Sisterhood. Pieces in the room include a carved wood moose head, antique wood horses and sculptures.

HOUSE TOUR 2003

What: A tour of six residences in Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington Hills and Franklin, presented by Temple Israel Sisterhood. Wear comfortable shoes. Shoe coverings will be provided. When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 28. Tickets: Cost is \$25 in advance (by May 19), \$30 at the door. For advance tickets, call Suzi Malach at (248) 661-0567 or Julie Stern at (248) 626-4288. For information: Call Elissa Kline at (248) 851-2505 or Bev Wolpin at (248) 626-2657.

MIX

FROM PAGE C1

Derocher. The interiors are by Schechter, Thom Van Buelow and Tom YerWest.

The style of the Southwest, where Schechter had lived, runs throughout the approximately 8,000-square-foot house.

The great room, for example, with a planked oak floor, features antique wood horses, a carved wood moosehead from 1912 over the American granite fireplace, a carving of a storytelling turtle, a metal floor sculpture of an Indian and a tabletop sculpture of a cowboy on a rearing horse.

Wheat bags are creative throws here and elsewhere in the house. A painted bronze sculpture of a cowboy by Ed Mell is in the foyer. A pair of garden totem poles stands inside on a landing. On one wall in another room is a framed arrangement of cowboy gear.

Also throughout the house are antiques, such as the desk and safe from the gas station owned by Schechter's grandfather. The desk is in the great room, under a Gulf Oil sign from the 1940s that almost fills one wall. The safe is in another room, now serving as a wine cabinet.

In the dining room, a large round reproduction oak farm table stands on an Italian limestone floor. A colorful print by Southwestern artist Linda Carter Holman is on



Some of the House Tour 2003 committee members take a brief break from their busy schedule in Steven Schechter's home. Schechter is shown with (from left) Beverly Wolpin, co-chair; Renee Bean, publicity; and Janie Roth, tour founder and adviser. Other committee members are Elissa Kline, Roth, tour founder and adviser. Other committee members are Elissa Kline, Roth, tour founder and adviser. Other committee members are Elissa Kline, Roth, tour founder and adviser. Other committee members are Elissa Kline, Roth, tour founder and adviser.

one wall, and a large decoupage vase by artist Janice Roy stands on the sideboard. A Chinese apothecary chest and a MacKenzie-Childs bench are other furnishings in the room.

Bright area rugs are placed around the house, including the roomy kitchen, which also features oak cabinetry, granite countertops and a center island with a bookcase on the side. A wood-burning hearth oven is in one wall. This takes four hours to preheat and will hold the heat for a couple of days, Schechter said.

The spacious lower level has a definite contemporary tone, with such elements as an array of colored lights, resembling giant jelly beans, on one wall. Behind one door is a wine cellar, with bottles resting on rods. Windows show the beautiful grounds. An actual old railroad crossing sign from up North is also displayed on one wall.

COMMUNITY EVENT

The tour, now in its 10th year, offers different styles of homes.

It's a real team effort, with volunteers working on the event for a year. Dozens (there are 115 for the 2003 tour) are trained, outlines are prepared and traffic patterns are planned.

Janie Roth of Bloomfield Hills originated the event, modeling it after tours of mansions in Newport, R.I.

"We really try for variety," she said.

The featured homes have different attractions. It can be the architecture, the gardens, or how the family has arranged or organized elements, for example.

"The focus is not to blow you away and impress you, it's to see what that family did ... and see it with that family's eyes," Roth said.

"It's a real fun day for the community."

House Tour 2003 will also present a New England style country manor, a new home with a panoramic view, a 100-year-old farmhouse, a 1928 cottage and a contemporary home.

Temple Israel Sisterhood uses the money raised by the tour for community projects.

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HOME AND GARDEN CALENDAR

HOME AND GARDEN CALENDAR

Plant sale
The Beverly Hills Garden Club will have its annual Plant Sale 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at the Beverly Hills Park Pavilion, on Beverly Road between Southfield Road and Evergreen and between 13 and 14 Mile.

Hostas
Hostas, companion plants, perennials and rock garden plants will be sold at the Metro Detroit Hosta Society's Annual Spring Plant Sale noon-4 p.m. Saturday, May 17, at Birmingham Congregational Church at Woodward and Cranbrook. Sale will be conducted rain or shine.

Plant swap
Would you like to trade in your extra daisies or daylilies for something new? Then come to the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission's Spring Plant Swap 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 17, in the city hall parking lot at 11 Mile and Orchard Lake roads.

All gardeners are invited to bring perennials and seeds to swap with other gardeners. Gardeners may want to bring garden gloves, labels to identify plants, and pots, boxes or a wagon to help transport them.

The Beautification Commission local garden club members and master gardeners will be on hand to answer questions and share advice. Coffee and doughnuts will be served.

For information, call (248) 473-9543.

Royal Oak in Bloom

More than 50 vendors will participate at the 10th Annual Royal Oak in Bloom, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, May 18 to create an open-air market filled with a spectacular selection of garden treasures.

This colorful event will take place in the Williams Street parking lot located in front of City Hall. Farmers from as far away as West Michigan and Canada will be bringing an impressive array of annuals, perennials, herbs, hanging baskets, vegetables and more for local gardeners to plant. Iron works, stone pavers, statues, bird feeders and more will be available to decorate the garden.

Royal Oak in Bloom is free to the public. Parking is available at the Farmer's Market and on streets and lots surrounding the Williams Street lot. For information, contact the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce at 248-547-4000.

Plant auction

The public is invited to bring extra perennials, all potted and labeled, to the plant auction of the Evening Primrose Garden Club of Troy 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, May 20, at the Troy Community Center, 3173 Livernois (north of Big Beaver Road).

Master gardeners will be available to answer questions. Bring slightly used garden tools, bags of fertilizers, and garden books to donate to Habitat for Humanity. Visit the boutique shop before the auction. Enjoy refreshments, and raffles throughout the evening. Admission is free. You can register as a member.

Attracting Hummingbirds

Michigan School of Gardening instructor Sue Grubba will talk about plants and garden practices that will help attract hummingbirds and butterflies to your garden. 7-10 p.m. Wednesday, May 21, at the Community House, 380 S. Bates St., in Birmingham. \$35. For registration call 248-644-5832 or go to www.communityhouse.com.

Plants for Planters

Edward Eaton of Eaton Nursery in West Bloomfield will lecture at 10 a.m. Friday, May 23, at the next meeting of Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester. Eaton will discuss on the use of potted plants for year-round container gardening. Soil types and use of fertilizers. He will have a display of containers and explain how to select the right one. Reservations are not required. There is a \$5 non-member club donation. Garden Club member silent plant auction will follow the meeting.

School of Gardening

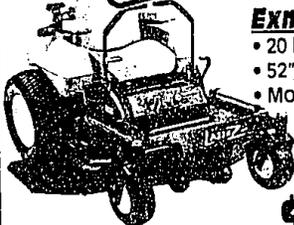
The Michigan School of Gardening offers a variety of classes. Register early. Seating is limited. Some classes have pre-requisites. For more information, call (248) 4-GARDEN or visit www.michiganmagdorm.com. The schedule includes these classes, which meet at Golden Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road in Pontiac, south of Square Lake Road and east of Telegraph. Effective Hand-drawn Design (fee, \$12), Thursdays, May 15 to June 5, the Two-session Photography Workshop (\$82), beginning Saturday, May 17. Best Foot Forward Entry Gardens (\$40), Monday, May 19.

Home decor

Haberman Fabrics, 905 S. Main in Royal Oak, presents home decor classes for a range of sewing experience levels.

The schedule includes Duvet Cover (fee, \$80, bring measurements of duvet filler), Wednesdays, May 21 to June 11, or Thursdays, May 22 to June 12. Fabric-covered Boxes (\$20), Thursday, May 22, and Lampshades (\$80, bring a wire frame), Thursdays, May 22 to June 12. Registration and payment are required in advance. Space is limited. For information, call (248) 541-0010 or visit www.habermanfabrics.com.

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