

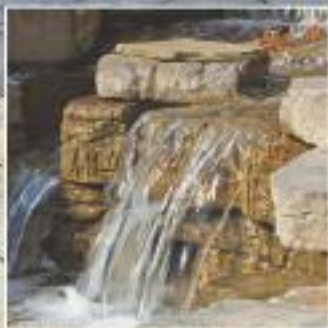
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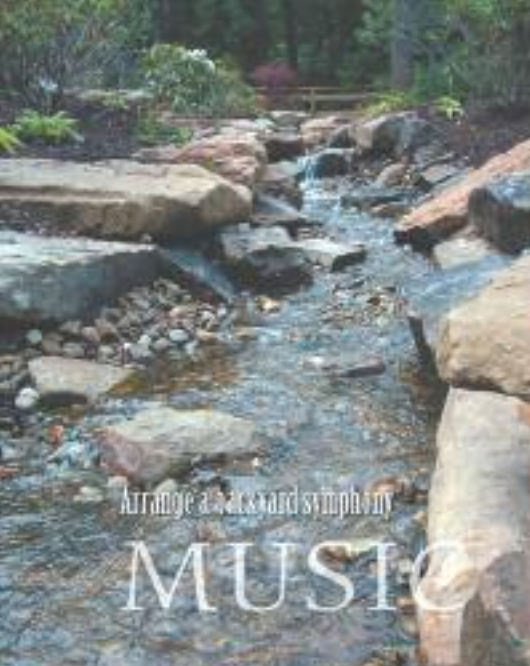
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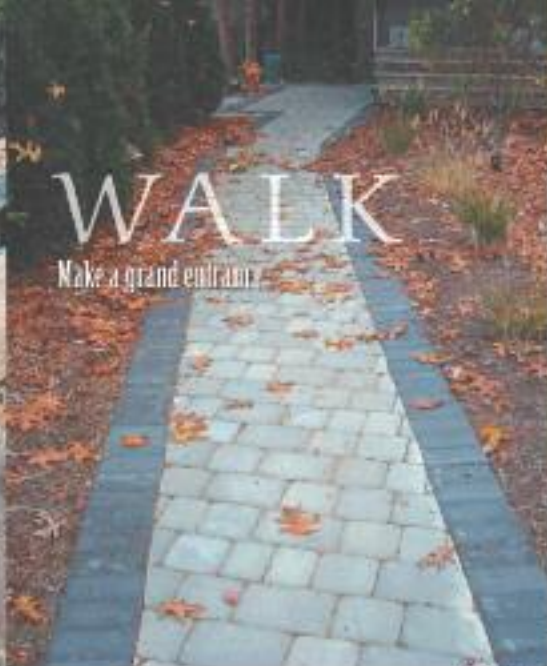
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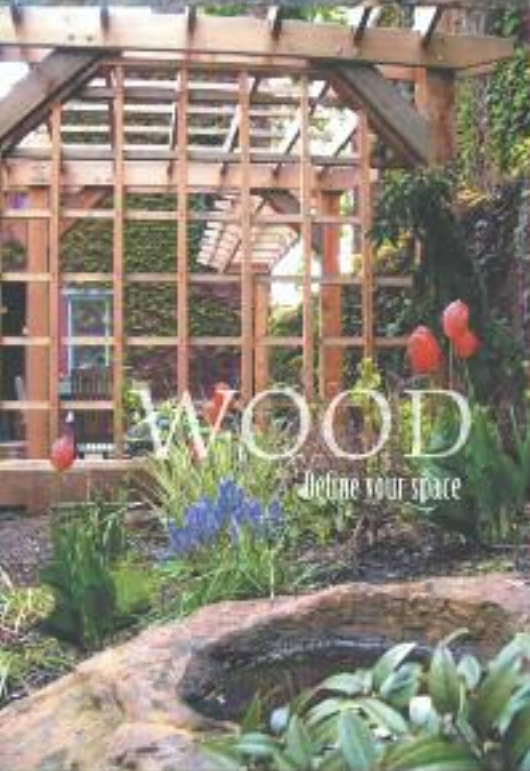
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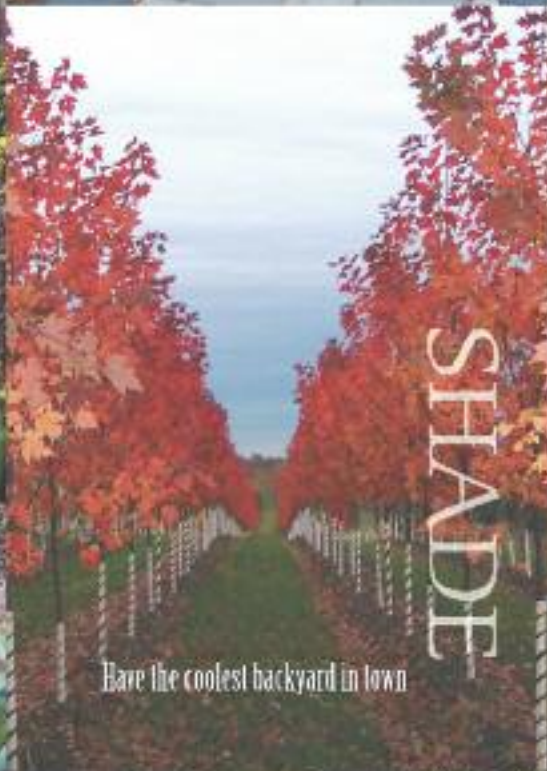
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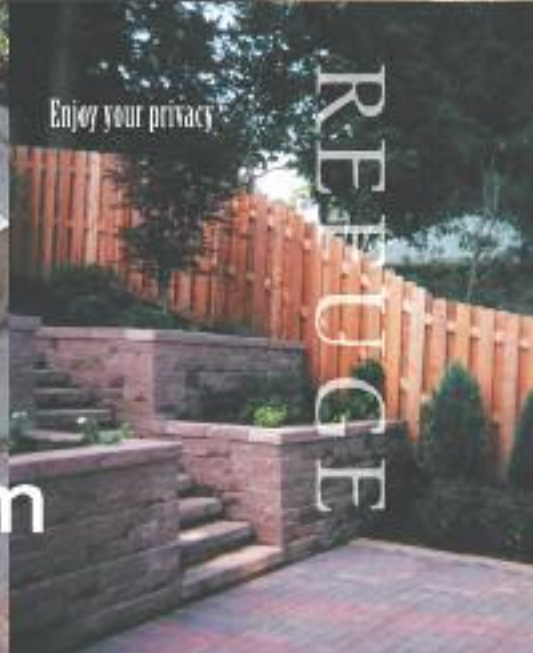
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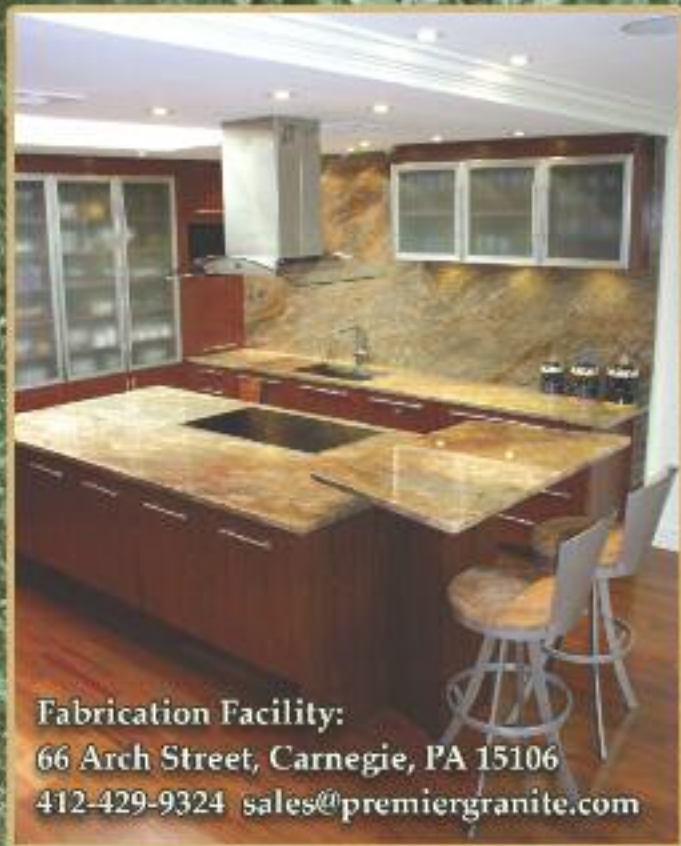
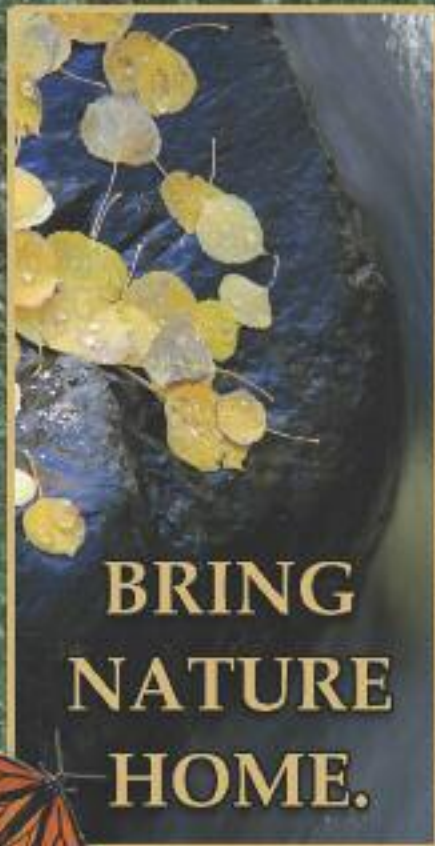


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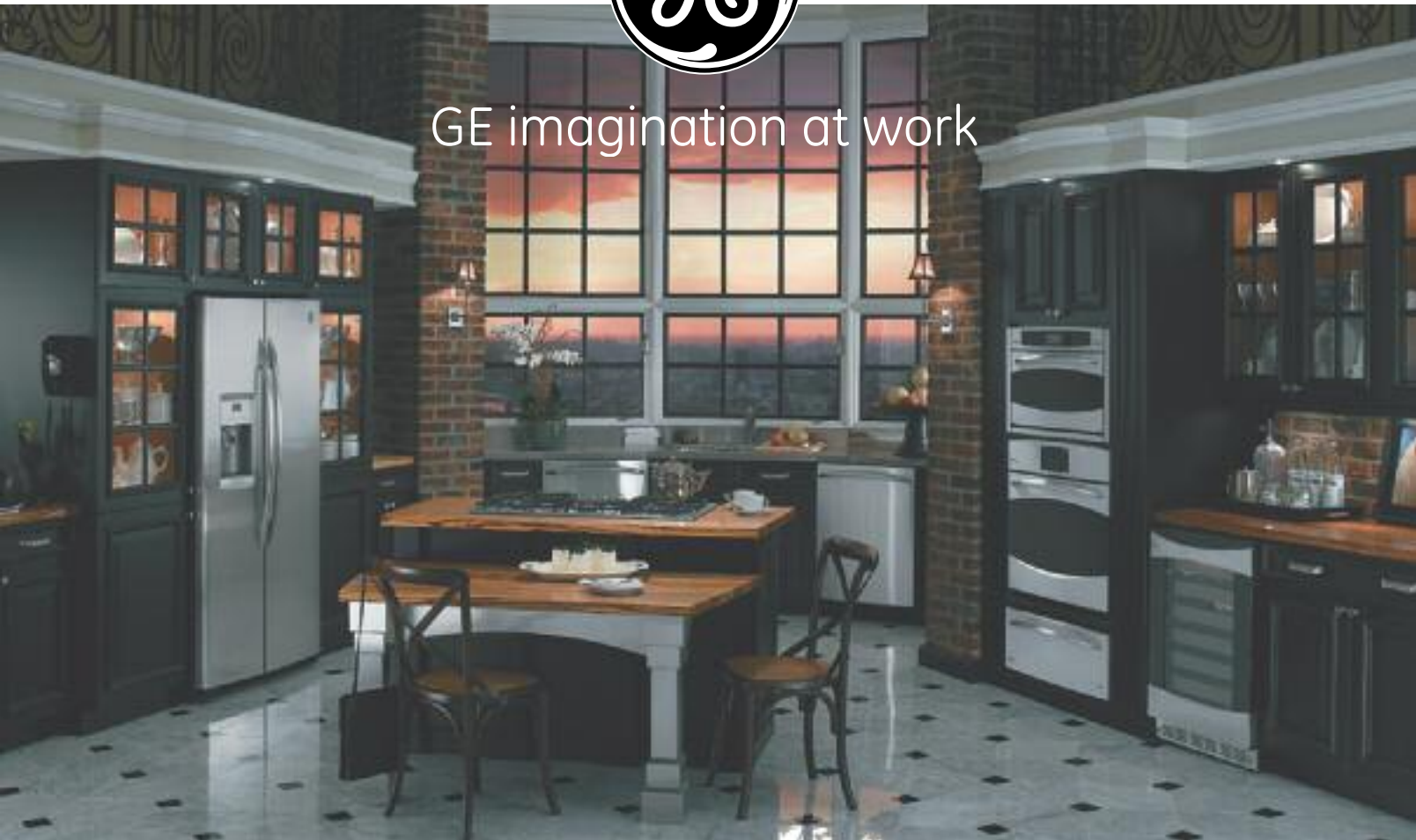
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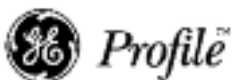


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Designing HOME Lifestyles

Summer Issue 2011

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In our last issue, we talked about how giving your landscaping a little T.L.C. can help you increase the value of your home and make it more attractive to potential buyers. Now we're going to focus on one of the most important parts of your home: the bathroom.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA'S TOP CHEFS

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Welcome to our first installment of our new feature called Western Pennsylvania's Top Chefs. Every issue we will introduce you to some of the region's most talented Chefs. Our featured Chefs will share with you in each issue some of their incredible recipes and wine selections. We are honored here at Designing Home Lifestyles to be working with such a great group of talented Chefs and restaurants.

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To capture a subject's unique soul takes a most talented artist. This award-winning watercolor and oil portrait artist resides right here in Pittsburgh and her life-long interest in art, graphic design and illustration has led her to her current vocation as a prominent portrait painter.

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The dachshund is one of the world's most recognized dog breeds and Siamese cats may be the most recognized cats of the feline world. Read more about these 4-legged friends of ours. Don't let fleas and ticks ruin your best friends fun. Common questions are answered here on how to control flea and tick problems.

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On The Cover:

The finest of craftsmanship, a commitment to continuous innovation, and the highest standards of efficient performance are keystones of the R.I. Lampus Company's strong customer service credo. They offer it all, from concrete blocks in residential and commercial applications, to an innovative collection of hardscaping products. See pages 13-17.



A man and a woman are standing in the wooden frame of a house under construction. They are both smiling and looking at a large set of blueprints that the man is holding. The background shows the interior structure of the house with wooden beams and studs.

Financing New Construction

There are basically two ways to finance construction of a new home; a Construction Loan or an End Loan. Both accomplish the same thing with different methods of disbursing the funds.

Construction Loan

A Construction Loan is essentially two loans, the Construction Loan and the Permanent Loan, often referred to as a "Construction/Perm" mortgage. The Construction portion of the loan is financed with payments or draws made to the builder as different phases of the construction are completed. The builder will provide the lender with the construction agreement and the plans at the time you apply for the mortgage, allowing the lender to appraise the property and determine the amount they are willing to lend.

The total amount needed to complete the home including the down payment is then placed in an escrow account with the lender at the time of closing. No payments are due until funds from the loan proceeds are disbursed. During the construction period you make interest only payments on the amounts drawn. Once the home is complete, you will begin to make regular monthly mortgage payments.

The appraiser, or a bank inspector, will inspect the property prior to any draw disbursements to verify the work has been completed based on the original plans and specifications.

The Permanent or "Perm" Loan begins after the home is complete. This is when you begin making regular mortgage payments. The term of this portion of the loan will be the remaining number of months after the construction period.

If you are purchasing the lot at the same time as closing on the mortgage (this is very common), a portion of the mortgage loan may be used to secure the lot. The deed is then transferred into your name prior to construction. The amount

drawn from the loan to secure the lot will be considered a draw and interest-only payments will begin.

End Loan

An End Loan closes when the home is complete and the entire construction amount is paid to the builder in one payment. The lot is typically still in the builders name as well and is also paid at the closing. The builder, prior to construction, usually requires a deposit in this type of arrangement. At the time of your mortgage application, the lender will require a copy of the construction agreement and the plans to appraise the home, much like a Construction Loan. The major difference is the disbursement to the builder. A Construction Loan is paid in phases, and an end loan is one payment to the builder.

Down Payment

Both financing options require some sort of down payment as well as funds for closing costs, taxes and insurance. These can be in the form of cash from savings, the sale of your current home or existing equity in the lot.

If you own a lot, you can use the equity in the lot as your down payment. The standard amount of equity used is the price you paid for the lot.

Closing the Mortgage

Construction/Permanent Loans have only one closing which occurs prior to breaking ground. An End Loan closes after construction is complete. At the time of closing, you will need to have a Homeowner's Insurance Policy which includes builder's risk coverage as well as replacement cost, vandalism, fire and hazard. Closing is when you will also bring any funds for the down payment and closing costs.

Paying Your Taxes

During the construction period, you will be responsible for payment of the real estate taxes. Typically the tax bills due during construction are based on the lot value. Once your home is complete, your real estate taxes will be estimated based on the calculations of your new home's value done by the local schools,



Typical Draw Schedule:

The Draw Stage	% of Total Construction Price	Usage
Draw 1: Foundation	10%	Excavation; footers; waterproofing; drains
Draw 2: Framed/Under Roof	15%	Framed and under roof; beams, sub-flooring; exterior doors installed; windows installed; rough carpentry; roof papered; flashing completed
Draw 3: Rough-Ins	20%	Rough plumbing, wiring and heating
Draw 4: Exterior	20%	Brick and/or stone and/or siding; all exterior building completed, including gutters and downspouts
Draw 5: Drywall/Plaster	20%	Drywall/plaster
Draw 6: Completed	15%	Fixtures; HVAC; final floor coverings; exterior/interior painting; interior doors installed; back fill; landscaping; septic system operable and ready for occupancy

municipalities, and/or counties. At this time you will begin paying 1/12 of your taxes with your mortgage payment into an escrow account for impending tax payments.

Building a home can be enjoyable yet challenging. Understanding the financing is just as critical as understanding the construction process. If you have any questions, contact a Dollar Bank Mortgage Expert at 1-800-344-LOAN (5626).

Mike Henry

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"Top Chef" section where
some of Western PA's
most talented chefs share
their recipes.

western
pennsylvania's
**Top
Chefs**

Check out pages 54-63 for some incredible recipes featuring lamb

INSPIRED SOLUTIONS FOR OUTDOOR LIVING



Manufacturing excellence accurately defines the various lines of concrete products made by R.I. Lampus Company - from the concrete blocks in residential and commercial applications, to an innovative collection of hardscaping products.

"We are proud of the legacy that my Father started in 1924. A strong determination and dedication to delivering quality products enables us to keep pace with his vision and commitment to continuous innovation, striving to offer our neighbors and customers the best types of concrete products to feature at their homes," said Don Lampus, Sr., Chairman, R.I. Lampus Company.

The best of craftsmanship, a commitment to continuous innovation, and the highest standards of efficient performance, are keystones of the R.I. Lampus Company's strong customer service credo. "We conduct extensive product research and development to insure that we are providing our customers with the most inspired hardscaping solutions to their outdoor life and style," said Don Lampus, Jr., President, R.I. Lampus Company.

You may know R.I. Lampus Company as a local manufacturer specializing in concrete masonry units, providing a strong foundation to many homes, high-rise buildings, and commercial structures in western Pennsylvania. You may know

R.I. Lampus Company as the innovative hardscape manufacturer introducing OMNI-STONE® interlocking concrete pavers to western Pennsylvania in the 1970's, and VERSA-LOK® segmental retaining wall systems during the 1990's.

Most recent product introductions include the manufacturing of eco-friendly, LEED eligible products including: ECO-TEK® permeable paving system, for situations where controlling storm water runoff is specified; VERSA-GREEN® wall systems, combining segmental retaining walls with the beauty of flowering plants; and concrete masonry units, manufactured with recycled materials. R.I. Lampus Company has also become the exclusive western Pennsylvania manufacturer of the ROSETTA® line of hardscaping products, combining the rugged attractiveness of natural stone with the dimensional consistency and engineered benefits of precast concrete. The ROSETTA® products include the Outcropping and Belvedere collections, perfect for waterfalls, garden and retaining walls, outdoor kitchen and fireplaces, and stairs, all accentuating the look and feel of nature.

"In addition to new product introductions, we have also kept pace with continued research into the most efficient production processes so that we can meet and exceed consumer expectations and demand

for our products," said Don Lampus, Jr. To assist production efficiency, R.I. Lampus Company has four manufacturing and distribution locations throughout western Pennsylvania.

Or you may simply know R.I. Lampus Company as the name on many Little League team uniforms, local community parks, as supporters of local education endeavors, and sports venues throughout the area. Western Pennsylvania has proudly been the home to R.I. Lampus Company, the Lampus family, and the Lampus family of employees for the past 87 years.

Pictured below are Don Lampus, Sr. and Don Lampus, Jr. beside the original block machine, used in the beginning manufacturing process of concrete masonry units, commonly known to western Pennsylvania as cinder blocks. "The original production process started by my Grandfather, Ralph Ira Lampus, in Springdale, Pennsylvania, resulted in the manual manufacturing of 800, 8 inch cinder blocks per day," said Don Lampus, Jr.



Also pictured is the courtyard at the R.I. Lampus Company, featuring a variety of OMNI-STONE® pavers, VERSA-LOK® retaining wall systems, ECO-TEK® permeable pavers, and ROSETTA® hardscaping collections. Stop by the R.I. Lampus Company office in Springdale to tour the courtyard for ideas that will enhance your outdoor living experience, or visit Lampus.com for inspired solutions for outdoor living.

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Rosetta[®] is cast in molds taken from actual weathered stone, giving it a rich, textured surface that captures the look and feel of nature in every block. Manufactured in the Pittsburgh area, Rosetta[®] blocks feature multiple coloring options that compliment the natural stone and soil hues of our area, allowing walls to appear as though they were born, rather than built.

With Rosetta[®], you have design flexibility to create a truly unique hardscape for your home. From the large scale Outcropping



The Outcropping Collection

- 12 large unit sizes - dimensions vary from 24-72 inches wide, and from 6-24 inches tall
- 24 unique, natural stone textures
- Perfect for retaining walls, water features, tiered walls and more



The Step Collection

- Consistent, uniform rise
- Two shapes options - Dimensional and Irregular
- Easy installation
- Perfect for free-flowing staircases, formal stairways, landings and more



The Belvedere Collection

- 64 unique stone textures on smaller-scale blocks
- Textured on two sides for freestanding walls
- Installs in half the time compared to natural stone
- Perfect for garden walls, freestanding walls, water features, fire pits and more

Collection, to the smaller Belvedere Collection - you can create retaining walls, patios, seat walls, fire pits, outdoor kitchens and much more. And with the Rosetta® Step Collection, you can create gorgeous staircases with a consistent rise that is safe and comfortable. The diverse products available from the Rosetta® lines give you endless options to create a landscape that will take your breath away. R.I. Lampus Company manufactures these Rosetta® lines in the Pittsburgh area.

Since 1924, R.I. Lampus Company has been creating quality concrete products in the Pittsburgh area. For design inspiration, photos, project case studies and more information, visit Lampus.com today!



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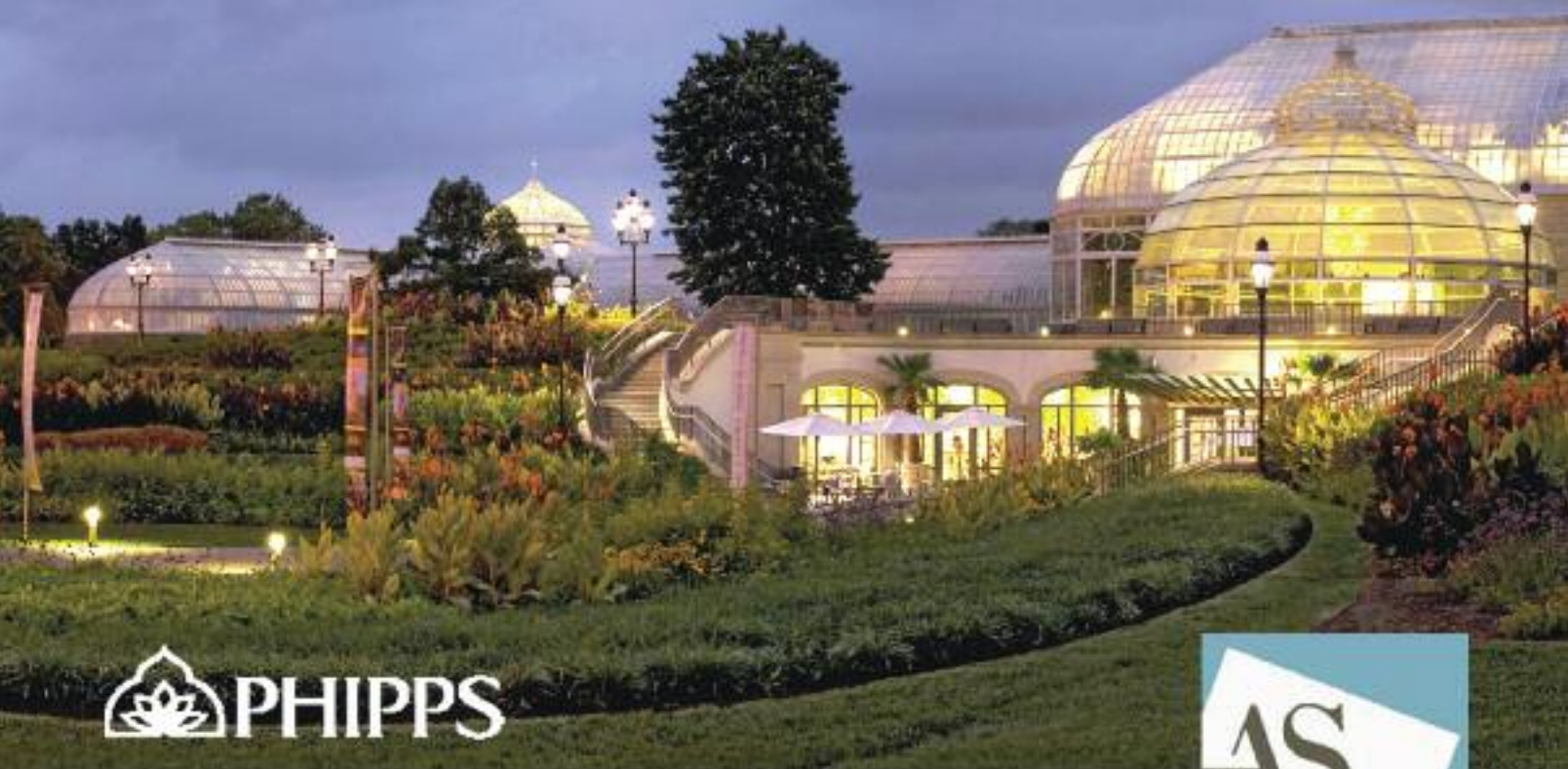
Inspired
COLORS

Rosetta Hardscapes accurately creates the look and feel of nature in any application you imagine. This boutique line of landscape products truly amazes even the most discerning craftsman or homeowner. The textures, colors and shapes of these stones are like nothing else on the market today.

By crafting Rosetta stones with architectural-grade wet-cast concrete as opposed to the much more common dry-cast concrete, Rosetta Hardscapes captures a level of detail in texture previously unavailable in landscape block materials. Also, the use of wet-cast concrete allows Rosetta to offer significantly improved durability over most competitive products.

Thank you for taking the time to review the Rosetta line of products on the following pages. Imagine the possibilities of a Rosetta solution for your next project! Let Rosetta be the catalyst that inspires your creative process.

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Living HARMONIOUSLY WITH *Nature*

Eight Local Interior Designers take on Phipps' Popular annual Summer Flower Show



What do you get when you take some of the region's best interior designers and partner them with Phipps' landscape architect and horticulturists?

Meticulous gardens, dripping with style. Haute couture in full boom. A fashionably fresh culmination of passions that toys with the unexpected and blurs the line between living space and landscape. **Summer Flower Show: Living Harmoniously with Nature (Runs through Sept. 27, 2011)** is like nothing regional audiences have experienced before.

Conceived by Becky Jarold of B. Jarold and Co. LLC, the show is the result of a challenge Phipps posed to Pittsburgh-based interior designers: Propose a design that will cross boundaries and display sustainable material in a new way. The winning designers worked with Phipps' horticulture, education and facilities staff and landscape architect Scott C. Scarfone, ASLA, of Oasis Design, to bring the concepts to life. Every room will incorporate vibrant summer flowers such as dahlias, hibiscus, impatiens, zinnia and lantana.

The Pennsylvania West Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID PA West), is proud that six of its professional members have been selected to show off their design talents as part of the Phipps Conservatory 2011 Summer Show – “Living Harmoniously With Nature.” The show opened in May and runs through August.

MEET THE ASID DESIGNERS

Fran Colby & Anne Ditmanson: Incorporated low-energy lighting in their display in the Sunken Garden.

Bill Kolano: Used dried plant material as formal wear apparel in an exhibit featuring a Farm-to-Feast theme in a dining room setting.

Vicci Franz: Used reclaimed street signs to create a living wall and modern furniture.

Nancy Drew: Features reclaimed barn wood used for outdoor structures.

Nancy Barsotti: Displays a new twist on a traditional Victorian-era sitting room which includes a cool aluminum chaise with glass mosaic pillows and a soft water ring.



Exterior photo of Phipps was taken by Alexander Dennish.

“Traditionally, sustainable design has been thought of as stark, but the reality is that the quality of sustainable products is now often superior to conventional counterparts in function and appearance. We want to inspire people to make changes in the way they interact with the world, and we are excited to do that through this exhibit and with these talented designers.”

-Richard Piacentini, Phipps executive director



Above: Bill Kolano: South Conservatory



Above: Vicci Franz: Palm Court



Above: Nancy Barsotti: Victoria Room



Above: Nancy Drew: Serpentine Room



Above: Fran Colby and Anne Ditmanson: Sunken Garden



Photography courtesy of Phipps Conservatory
and Photographer Paul Wiegman

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A photograph of two women in a home setting. One woman, with dark hair and wearing a black shirt, is smiling and looking at a red fabric sample held by the other woman. The second woman, with blonde hair and glasses, is wearing a green top and looking at the fabric. They are surrounded by various items including a color chart, a laptop, and other fabric samples.

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Show Me The Money!
Some simple yet effective ways to
increase the value of your home



Part IV – Bathroom Remodeling

By Valentine J. Brkich

Last issue talked about how giving your landscaping a little T.L.C. can help you increase the value of your home and make it more attractive to potential buyers. Now we're going to focus on one of the most important parts of your home: the bathroom.

If you're a fan of HGTV, what we're about to tell you should come as no surprise. Turn on any one of their many shows on home buying or renovation and you're almost certain to hear that show's experts emphasize the importance of an updated, well-designed bathroom. Ask any Realtor and they'll tell you that homebuyers are most interested in the condition of the kitchen and the bathroom(s). And that's the main

reason why having a great bathroom is one of the best ways to increase the value of your home.

The first thing you need to do is take a good hard look at your bathroom. Try to see it through the eyes of a potential buyer. This is where you need to be brutally honest with yourself. Is the décor gaudy or outdated (i.e., a pink sink)? Are the fixtures in good condition, or



are they dull or covered with mildew and water residue? (Yuk!) What's the floor covering look like? Is your bathroom roomy or cramped? These are just some of the questions you need to consider. Once you've identified the problems, it's time to start addressing them A.S.A.P.

One of the things that keeps people from updating or renovating their bathroom is the fear that it will cost way too much. This is understandable, considering how on all those home-improvement shows the people are always dumping \$10-, \$20-, or sometimes \$50-thousand dollars into their renovation project.

Most people can't imagine spending even a fraction of that amount on their renovation. And that's just fine. You don't have to spend a ton of dough to create an updated and inviting bathroom.

There are two ways to approach a bathroom remodel. One being a cost-effective way such as installing a bathtub liner and acrylic walls right over your existing tile and tub

or even converting your tub to a walk-in shower. **Luxury Bath of Pittsburgh** specializes in bathroom design, bathroom remodeling, installation, bathroom upgrades and accessible bathrooms at an affordable price! **Luxury Bath of Pittsburgh** is the leader in tub to shower conversion. Visit their website at www.luxurybathpgh.com to learn more.

There are also a lot of simple, quick fixes you can do. What kind of flooring do you currently have? If you have carpet...tear it out, for Pete's sake! (Don't laugh. My first house had carpet in the bathroom.) If it's laminate and it's looking a little dull or worn, swap it out for some tile or stone.

Do you have a large bathroom with a Formica countertop? If so, consider replacing it with a solid surface top and an integral sink bowl. Granite is expensive and may not be a good choice unless you can get a remnant piece. Be cautious because if you go for granite, you may end up paying for a whole slab. Check around at your local

Continued on next page



"Doing things like mulching and planting a good ground cover can not only provide some additional color to your yard, it can also cut down on maintenance time, which will be an attractive feature to many homebuyers."



Photos courtesy of Patete Kitchen & Bath Design Center





Photo courtesy of Luxury Bath of Pittsburgh

bathroom design store. They can give you various options based on your particular project and budget.

Another way to update your bathroom is by replacing your old, outdated sink and shower hardware. Today the law states that shower heads only use 2.5 gallons of water per minute, so all new shower heads are now considered “low flow.” Consult a professional remodeler or master plumber to upgrade your bathtub/shower fixtures. Many older faucets in your shower or tub areas have 2 or 3 valve diverters and cannot be changed to a single control, which is the now the CODE for all new builds. Sink faucet sets come in many styles and choices of finish. Just make sure your new sink faucet matches the style of your shower hardware and even your towel racks. Keeping everything uniform shows off a well-planned upgrade.

Of course, one of the easiest ways to update your bathroom’s look is to give it a fresh coat of paint. Just be sure to use a neutral color. Bright, flashy colors might be your taste, but they can scare off a potential buyer.

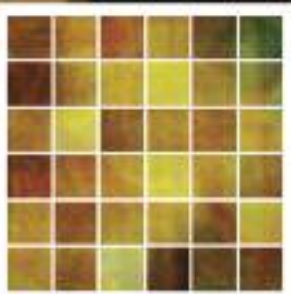
If you have the budget for a larger renovation, you may want to consider increasing the size of your

bathroom. This is especially true if your bathroom is more like a powder room. Today’s buyers want a little more space to move around. One way to do this is to expand your bathroom into an adjacent room. Taking up a portion of an unused room or closet is the easiest solution to increasing the size. Consider adding a separate clear glass shower with spa-like features like a rain showerhead, body jets or for even the more spa-like renovation, a steam shower. Of course, you’ll want to hire a professional for such a large undertaking.

We here in the Pittsburgh region are fortunate to have a place like **Patete Kitchen and Bath Design Center** and **Luxury Bath of Pittsburgh** to help with bathroom additions and renovations. Located on Washington Avenue in Carnegie, Patete epitomizes the idea of a “family” business.

More than likely you’ve heard Patete’s president, Steve Erenrich, talk on the radio and on TV ads,





and you may have even talked to him personally at their design showroom or at the annual home shows. His is a recognizable voice that you've come to know and trust. Steve's son, Barry, serves as Patete's Vice-President, and he's

just as integral to the company's success and solid reputation. Steve also manages their other company, Luxury Bath of Pittsburgh.

Patete has become one of the most trusted and respected kitchen and bath design centers in the region because of the dedication that both father and son have for the business. Their staff of experts guide you through each and every phase of your project, from custom creation through

expert installation. They pay attention to details and take care of every aspect of your job. At Patete, they believe in getting it right the first time, and the way they work closely with you throughout the entire process reflects this.

"We want you to be completely satisfied," says Barry. "That means we'll do whatever it takes to help you create the custom bath of your dreams."

Continued on next page



Photos courtesy of Patete Kitchen & Bath Design Center

Patete's designers come to your home to measure and take a complete survey of your project. Next, they return to their showroom and combine your specifications and your suggestions onto the drawing board in order to conceptualize a "custom creation" of your project. Then they share this design with you when you come in for your appointment. Throughout the entire process, they continue to work with you until they make it a perfect fit for you and your lifestyle.

"It's a personal, individual-focused approach to the bathroom design process," says Steve. "It's just the way we do business."

For more, visit them online at patetekitchens.com.

One important rule to remember is that, although you may think you have a great sense of style (and maybe you do), not everyone has the same taste. That's why it's important to stay neutral with

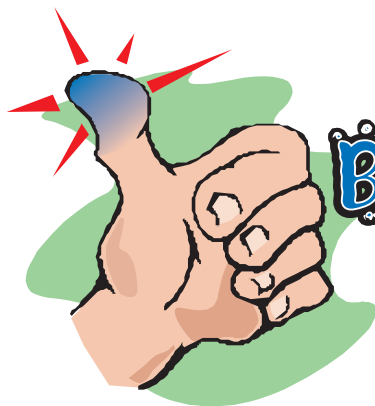
paint colors and remove any objects and accessories that might be a little to style-specific.

So to summarize, here are a few things to keep in mind when you begin your bathroom remodel:

- Keep it neutral
- Make it modern, but match the rest of your home's décor
- De-personalize and declutter
- Keep it clean
- Trust the professionals
- You get what you pay for (i.e., don't cut corners)

Remodeling or updating your bathroom is a simple, effective way for increasing your home's value. Just remember these few simple tips and always consult a professional before any big project. If you do this, before you know it you'll have the bathroom of your dreams! ❖

Next up, Kitchen Remodeling. Stay tuned....



BLUE THUMB GARDENER

By David Plantowski

Planning Your Vegetable Garden for 2011 **PART 4**

Have you ever seen the face of someone who just picked a fresh, ripe, one-pound tomato from his or her garden? They looked like a proud parent, didn't they?

If you've followed my past few articles, hopefully you are about to bear the fruits (tomatoes) of your labor. This issue I'd like to share a few growing tips for June and July, as well as an incredible salsa recipe from our publisher—Tom Poljak.

If you've followed the advice we've offered in past issues—placement of plants, good quality soil, plenty of sunshine and water—you should be just fine. Just remember the following tips so that you get a great return on your investment.

WATERING: Water your tomato plants at the base of the plant. Avoid using an over-head sprinkler. Keep the plants well watered but avoid over-watering. Some say the best time to water is in the morning before the sun is too hot. This gives the soil some time to warm up from the night before. Others swear that early evening is optimal during the warm summer nights. I say water at a time that works best with your schedule, and try to stick to that schedule. What's important is that you remember to water.

FEEDING TOMATOES: Just as you need to avoid over-watering, the same goes for feeding. If your soil is good to start, you'll need less feeding throughout the season. If your leaves show signs of yellowing, on the other hand, feed your plants. Get to know your plants, and if you

think they need a little feeding—go for it. Just remember to go easy.

STAKING: We've talked about this in past issues. Some say not to tie your plants, and others say it doesn't matter. There have actually been studies that say you can yield more fruit with cages or fencing as opposed to tying plants. I personally like tying plants to keep them organized and to help keep the fruit off of the ground. Experiment and decide what you think is best for you.

PULLING WEEDS: While it is important to pull weeds and grass from around your plants, be careful that you do not disturb the shallow roots from your plants. Weeds can host insects and diseases, so remove as often and as soon as possible.

Nothing is more rewarding than a fresh-picked tomato from your personal garden. I can remember the first time my mother made me a tomato sandwich. Toasted white bread, butter, a few paper-thin slices of onion, salt and black pepper—that taste had me hooked! Try it and you'll be surprised how satisfying this sandwich can be. Most consider a slice of tomato as only a complement to a sandwich. Try making it the star!

As a finale I couldn't let you go without giving you an opportunity to experience the salsa recipe featured in our 2005 Fall issue again. I usually do not like a cooked sweet salsa, but this one is special. As our publisher always says at the end of the foods he features—enjoy!

Salsa Recipe on page 29

ATTENTION DESIGNING HOME LIFESTYLES READERS

Designing **HOME** *Lifestyles*

Next Issue (Fall 2011), *Designing HOME Lifestyles* will no longer be distributed at Giant Eagle. We are switching to Direct-mail only and at select advertisers places of business.

If you would like to receive a **FREE** Subscription to our publication, please fill out the coupon below and mail it before **September 1**.

Requests for subscriptions after September 1, 2011 will be added to the next mailing in December.

The Fall issue will be mailed during the month of September.

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BLUE THUMB GARDENER

Back by Popular Demand

When it comes to interesting and bold foods from "South of the Border," nothing is more famous than Salsa. In fact, salsa has become so popular it outsells ketchup as the number one selling condiment in America.

The key to great salsa is using only the freshest ingredients. The great thing about this recipe is the simplicity and ease of making it to taste so good – even for the amateur! So go right ahead and have yourself a little fiesta – Enjoy!

- 10 Medium Tomatoes (Concasse)
- 1/2 Cup Green Peppers (finely chopped)
- 1/2 Cup Banana Peppers (finely chopped)
- 1 Cup Onion (finely chopped)
- 6 Fresh Jalapeño Peppers (finely chopped)
- 2 Tablespoons Fresh Garlic (minced)
- 3/4 Cup White Vinegar
- 3/4 Cup Sugar
- 2 Tablespoons Salt
- 1/2 Tablespoon White Pepper
- 2 Ounces Olive Oil

1. Tomato Concasse (skinless, seedless tomatoes cut into small squares).
Method: (1). To remove the peel from the tomatoes, take out the core and cut an "X" on the opposite side of the tomato. (2). Place tomatoes in simmering water for about 40 seconds or until you see the skin slightly separating from the pulp. (3). Remove tomatoes from the water and place them in ice water until cool. (4). Use a knife to easily peel off the skin. (5). Cut tomatoes in half and gently remove the seeds by softly squeezing the tomato and using your fingers. (6). Cut tomatoes into small diced squares. (7). Hold until the recipe calls for them.
2. Sauté peppers, onions and garlic in the olive oil.
3. Add tomatoes and remaining ingredients.
4. Bring all ingredients to a boil, then reduce to a simmer for one hour.
5. Remove from heat, place in an airtight container and refrigerate until ready to serve.



What's Hot

WHITE HOT

Great design takes its cue from the fashion runway for colors and inspiration on the horizon. White is the hot color being used as either an accent or as background to striking color. White is bold, bright and dramatic. White is glamour that can be backed by classic color. It can work in any environment from contemporary to classic, and pairs perfectly with everything from bright yellow, orange and red to traditional browns, blues, grays and blacks. White plays well with shiny metallics as well as rich woods and will always remain a classic in any mix.

DRAMATIC DETAILS

The old adage is true...attention to detail makes a difference. Case in point would be all of the details that define your space and your look. Dramatic tables with interesting shapes, lighting that lights up a room in every sense of the word, and unique accessories that add drama and "finish" your space DO make a difference! Understanding what separates interior decorating from interior designing is in the broad scope of the details. Interior decorating helps to make a space aesthetically pleasing. Interior design is the difference between simple aesthetics and what makes a space functional as well as beautiful. Interior design is therefore seen as a worthwhile investment in the whole property development process, from start to finish. Invest in your home portfolio...make an appointment with one of our award-winning designers and add value and beauty to your home!



*The Annual June 50% Off Sale
Now Through July 1st*

Come in to receive 50% off of the retail price of everything in the showroom. Enjoy even greater savings on green tag items!
Sale Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM and Saturdays 10AM-3PM

What's In



HISTORY REVISITED

Great design revisits elements of signature pieces found throughout the ages. These pieces contain elements of timeless design, which is restrained, balanced and never obvious. The historical antiques of today are fused with a modern, fresh viewpoint that blends the best of the past with the present. Some of these products are sure to rewrite design history. Add furnishings that possess these elements and you too will create a timeless, never obvious style that is completely yours.



"PARLEZ-VOUS FRANCAIS?" FRENCH ACCENTS ARE IN!

Heirloom quality pieces with French accents and motifs are all the rage! Paris Metro designs and inspirations put together a look that is part heirloom, part flea market and completely captivating! The warmth and simplicity found in old hotel silver takes us on a voyage back in time to a period of romance and grace. Perhaps it is the simple yet elegant shapes found in these Parisian accents that lend an aura of sophisticated charm to any space. Travel the world when you purchase items that years of history have inspired!

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ALL PRODUCTS SHOWN CAN BE PURCHASED THROUGH THE BLIND SIDE

Metro delivers on retrofit concept



When Bill Wessner, Jr., was in high school, in the 60's, Metro Heating and Cooling was already installing air conditioning in homes with radiators, and he was helping the family heating and air conditioning business grow. Back then, they carried lists of names of customers who benefited from their work for new customers to call for references. Today, those lists are now swaths of zip codes, and Metro is known as one of the region's top specialists in the field. Part of that popularity comes from the fact that Metro can retrofit your home with an air conditioning unit even if it has radiator heating system in place.

"It's not a new concept, but it's a concept that homeowners stumble over for several reasons," Wessner explained. "First, they think it can't be done. If they do think it can be done, they think it's going to cost them a fortune. Lastly they assume doing it will trash their house. All three of those are incorrect. I'm here to tell people that it can be done, neatly and cleanly, and it's not expensive as they may think."

Installing whole house air conditioning in homes with radiator heat entails working from the top down with an air distribution system. These systems give the homeowners the advantage of having all floors of their home cooled to the same temperature, something that can't be achieved with conventional systems.

"We never take out the existing heating systems, because radiator heat is so comfortable," Wessner said.

Because of the age of homes in the Pittsburgh area, Wessner said the retrofits have been extremely popular in areas such as Mt. Lebanon, Dormont, Point Breeze, Squirrel Hill, and Sewickley.

"We've done more than 1,000 of these in the last 15 years or so," he said. "We get letters all the time on how neat and clean our employees are and have a stellar rating on Angie's List. Anyone who wants to look us up can see our reviews there."

Most of Metro's systems carry a 10 year parts and labor warranty, and Metro guarantees satisfaction with every job. Metro also installs air cleaners on their systems for indoor air quality, which cuts down on allergens in the air such as dust and pollen.

They also install a lot of high-efficiency boilers for existing radiator systems, which can save homeowners a lot of money in the long run.

"Most hot water heating system are running around 60 percent efficiency," Wessner said. "The ones we install now are 95 percent efficient and there is a Federal tax credit that goes with that right now."

While the products and technology have changed from 1953, when Metro was founded, the Wessners and their staff attend regular training and

workshops to maintain an up-to-date knowledge of their industry. The Wessners are active in the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA), where Bill Jr., Bill Sr., and Tom have served as president.

Metro has grown to be one of the area's most respected heating and air conditioning companies because of reliable and dependable service. They are located at 951 Banksville Rd. For more information, call 412-561-7330 or check out their website at: www.metroheatingcooling.com.

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Due to the expense of producing such a lengthy booklet (and offering it for free), we have prepared only a limited number of copies. Please understand that requests will be fulfilled while supplies last, so don't delay!



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50 Ways to Get a Greener Home

Start with One Step

Here's your guide for making your household a few (or, if you're up to it, 50) steps closer to green.

"If you do just one thing, recycle," says Mindy Pennybacker, author of "Do One Green Thing: Saving the Earth Through Simple, Everyday Choices." "We each produce our own weight in garbage every month. But don't just think about your 'out' bin — think recyclable and recycled when bringing items into your home, too."

Luckily, these products have never been easier to find — or easier on the eyes. As it's time to replace and upgrade, here are some items to cycle in — and some wasteful habits to cut out.

Read more at Wholeliving.com: Green Home Buyer's Guides: Eco-Friendly House and Home Products — Whole Living

Cut Back On Your Paper-Towel Habit

Washable viscose cloths are far more absorbent than paper; they can soak up 10 times their weight in liquid.

Super Amazing kitchen cloths, \$4 for 2; traderjoes.com for stores.



Keep Your Freezer Full

"Use bags of ice to fill the voids, and your freezer won't have to use as much energy to stay cold," advises homekeeping guru Martha Stewart.



Toss Your Teflon

Nonstick ceramic is a healthier choice — and chicken breasts still lift right off.

Cuisinart GreenGourmet cookware, \$275 for 4 pieces; vivaterra.com

BYO Bag

This one balls up easily (really!) into its stretchy pocket.

24-7 shopping bag, from \$7; flipandtumble.com



Use Glass Containers for Leftovers

They're safer to use in the microwave than plastic, which can leech chemicals.

Round storage bowl set, \$20 for 4; crateandbarrel.com

Be Counter-Intuitive

If you're replacing countertops, consider recycled glass over quarried stone.

From \$110 per sq. foot (installed); vetrazzo.com



Buy Green Cleaners

Rid your home of fume chemicals by replacing surface, glass, toilet and floor cleaners with plant-based brands.

Martha Stewart Clean products, \$4 to \$18; Home Depot stores nationwide or at marthastewart.com



Give Up Your Garbage Disposal



If you aren't composting food scraps, Kate Heyhoe, author of "Cooking Green," says it's better to throw them in the trash than to grind them in the disposal. Food sent down the drain often winds up in the landfill after the sewage treatment plant, so save the electricity — and 2,000 gallons of water per year.

Put Cork Underfoot

The miracle material has natural antifungal properties and a soft, slip-free surface.

Gaiam All-Natural Sustainable Cork bath mat, from \$24; amazon.com



Get a Lifetime Brush

The Source toothbrush has a sturdy handle made of recycled dollar bills, flax or wood and has a replaceable plastic head.

\$7 each; radiustoothbrush.com

Conserve H2O

Evolve's Roadrunner low-flow showerhead saves about eight gallons per five-minute shower. The water slows to a trickle when it's fully heated, letting you know it's time to step in and pull the tab for a full-strength spray.

From \$40; evolveshowerheads.com



Keep Your Water Heater Warm

"Cover your hot-water heater with an inexpensive insulating blanket," suggests former Vice President Al Gore, whose latest book is "Our Choice: A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis." The



blankets generally cost \$10 to \$20 at hardware stores and can reduce heat loss buy up to 45 percent.

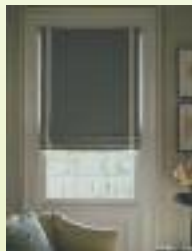
Tweak Your Toilet

"If you don't have a low-flow toilet, place a half-gallon jug filled with water in the tank," advises Thomas Kostigen, author of "The Green Blue Book." "Simply displacing the water could save a family more than 4,000 gallons a year."



Draw the Curtains

"The average person can save 25 percent of heat in the winter and air-conditioning in the summer just by using the added insulation of widow shades," says Kostigen.



Pass Up Toxic Toys

Sprig's Eco-Trucks are made from recycled wood and reclaimed plastic.



Dump truck, \$15; sprigtoys.com

Don't Forget Fido

Keep dozens of soda bottles out of the landfill by letting your dog sleep on a bed made of 85 percent recycled plastic.

Eco Nap, from \$28; ecosumo.com



Get Smart About Electricity



You probably already know you can save energy by plugging charges and other "vampire" electronics into a power

strip with an on/off switch. But how often do you remember to flip that switch? Mindy Pennybaker recommends buying a Smart Strip that turns itself off when it senses that appliances are idle.

About \$30; amazon.com

*Reprinted, in part, from: <http://www.wholeliving.com>.
For the remainder of the 50 Ways to Get a Greener Home list, visit www.wholeliving.com/photogallery/50-green-home-tips*

File Digitally

Save trees (and your sanity) by keeping important records electronically: Just make sure they're backed-up on a hard drive. If there are some files you simply must print out, conserve paper by using both sides.



Go Solar

Let the "Sun Jar" charge on the windowsill all day, and it can glow for hours as a nightlight.

Search the Internet for Sun Jar.



Air-Dry Your Laundry

"As often as possible, hang your laundry on a line outside or a rack inside, instead of using a dryer," says Pennybaker, Whole Living's Econundrums columnist. You'll save 4.4 pounds of carbon per load."



**"What did you do this summer?"
Inevitably someone will ask, so make
certain that your answer doesn't
include emergency trips to the doctor
or personal health disasters.**

**Here are some healthy travel tips
to make your summer vacation
memorable for all the right reasons.**

Step One: Be a Master Packer

Mind the security

Look closely at any of the prescriptive or non-prescriptive medications you need on a daily or regular basis. If these medications are in liquid or gel form and are in containers larger than 2.4 ounces, you will need to either pack them in your checked luggage or mail them ahead of time to your final destination. I've seen many medications in the refuse bin at airport security. For pills and tablets, it's best to keep these on your person rather than in checked luggage to make sure that they get there with you.

Be a clock-watcher

If your medications are timed throughout the day and you are traveling to a location outside your time zone, make sure you keep a watch set at your home-time so that your regimen remains the same.

Make copies

Take along photocopies of your insurance ID card as well as the names and phone numbers of your pharmacist and

health care providers and a complete list of all the medications you are taking. If you are traveling to a country where English is not frequently spoken, consider having a list of any chronic medical conditions you may have translated into the native language.

Remember the basics

Take sunscreen, hat and sunglasses (people always seem to forget these things).

Step Two: Don't Spoil That Long-Awaited "Trip of a Lifetime"

Know before you go

Talk to your insurance company to see what they will and will not cover in the event that you are sick or injured while away.

Are you covered?

Consider traveler's insurance if you are going abroad.

Take a shot

When traveling to an underdeveloped country, make sure that everyone in your traveling party is adequately immunized against any infectious disease you might encounter. The Centers for Disease Control maintains updated advisories and immunization requirements for travelers to all parts of the world at their website: www.cdc.gov

Water works

When traveling to less economically developed countries, don't drink the water if you want to avoid the risk of diarrhea. Remember the ice may also be contaminated if there is concern about the water quality. Bottled water may

be safe, as long as it is factory-bottled. Traveler's diarrhea can also result from drinking beverages that contain ice. Bottled carbonated sodas, beer and wine (without ice) are safe.

Mind your diet

Those roadside stands and market kiosks are very tempting, but be cautious. Cooked foods are usually safe, but raw foods and salads (lettuce, raw vegetables, fruit with peel, unpasteurized milk, milk products, undercooked seafood or meat) may lead to gastrointestinal problems. Eat in restaurants that have a reputation for safe cooking.

Prepare in advance

If you are visiting an area where diarrheal illnesses are common (Mexico, for example), speak with your health care provider about getting a prescription for antibiotics. Fill the prescription and take it with you as a precaution.

Step Three: Use Prevention for Protection

Get the 411

Upon arrival, check the local emergency number. Not all communities use 911.

Teach your children well

When traveling with children, make sure that they know the name and telephone number of your hotel in case they get separated from you. Give them enough money to make a phone call, and make sure they know how to use the phones if you are in a foreign country.

Read more at Wholeliving.com: Healthy Travel Tips

Part IV

It's Not So Easy Being Green



Green – The New Color of Primrose Homes

By Valentine J. Brkich

THE FIRST EVER NAHB CERTIFIED SPEC HOME IN THE REGION.

Over the last few issues, we've been highlighting Primrose Homes and their journey to completing the area's first National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Certified Gold Green home. It's a project that Primrose Owner Jeff Martin is very proud of, and *Designing HOME Lifestyles* has been there every step of the way to document the progress.

Well, now the project is finally finished, and the members of Primrose have had some time to reflect on this adventure and what it means for them moving forward.

Adam Stickle serves as operations manager for Primrose Homes. "It was exciting as we were putting the finishing touches on the inside and outside of the home," he says. "Finally, after many months of hard work, we got to see this impressive home come together.

Blackwood & Associates Inc., a residential design/build company located in Southpointe, has been creating beautiful and unique homes, gardens, interiors and outdoor living environments in western Pennsylvania for nearly 40 years.



Owner Pete Blackwood was happy that Blackwood & Associates could be such an integral part of this project.

“This project has been unique in a number of ways,” says Blackwood. “The rain, project changes, and installation challenges have affected not only us, but every tradesperson on site. As a result, we have developed methods to communicate more clearly, be more flexible to scheduling, and pay close attention to detail.”

Blackwood & Associates provides design and consulting services such as complimentary one-hour design consultation; master site, planting, and outdoor living plans; specification and installation of furniture, fixtures, fabrics, window treatments, area rugs, and accessories, and much more. They also offer various construction services, including excavation, drainage, and grading; driveways, patios, porches, decks, and walkways; waterfalls, ponds, and fountains; swimming

pools and spas; pergolas, pool houses, and gazebos; outdoor kitchens and built-in grills; plantings, irrigation, and even custom landscape lighting.

Visit them today at blackwoodandassociates.com.

Benaiah Tucci serves as project manager for Primrose Homes, handling everything from ordering to scheduling to quality control and more.

“Primrose may be finishing up this particular house, but we’re really just starting to open the door for this kind of innovative building in the future,” he

Continued on next page



*Benaiah Tucci (Project Manager), Adam Stickle (Operations Manager),
Jeff Martin (Owner)*



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says. “We started this house as the first spec of its kind with this certification, and we had a lot to learn.”

Throughout this project, says Tucci, they have seen what it takes to build a home of this magnitude and have realized, once again, that it’s the little things that count.

“So many builders continue to do things the way they always have, simply because it’s convenient,” he says. “We spent a lot of extra time on this project planning and thinking of ways to be ‘green.’ And although it has been inconvenient and costly at times, it has provided us another way of breaking



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the mold and driving value into our homes for our clients.”

Tucci says it’s the planning that counts.

“So much of the green building concept is thinking ahead, understanding the ‘green’ impact (or lack thereof) of what you are doing, and having strategic

reasons for everything that you do,” he says. “Something as simple as only having trucks bring deliveries with full loads may not seem like much. But over a 12-month project, with hundreds of deliveries, those things add up. If I can

Continued on next page



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plan my deliveries so I don't have fifty 2-x-4s coming on Monday, 25 more on Tuesday, and 30 sheets of plywood on Wednesday, and instead send them all out on Wednesday, ultimately it saves our company money. In turn, it allows us to cut costs and drive more value into the home, not to mention the obvious green benefits of the limited trips."

Tucci says he is proud to have been a part of this project for many reasons.

"Mainly, I am proud to be part of a company that doesn't just go about business as usual; one that is willing to take risks, try new things, and be innovative in its approach to the home-building process each and every day; one that thinks about the families who will ultimately be living there and strives to create not only a luxurious home but one that will be efficient for them and the environment in the long run."

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See page 67 for a list of the award winning projects from the 2010 Housing Excellence Awards.

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Understanding the steps between conceptual design and project installation.

By Pete Blackwood,
Blackwood & Associates, Inc.

In the spring 2011 edition of *Designing Home Lifestyles*, we wrote about how professional landscape design adds value to a home. The article focused on the numerous design elements that should be considered as a landscape design is conceptualized. In this edition, using a current project as an example, we will discuss how those considerations begin to take shape.

As the design developed, the owners and the designers decided to focus on producing a very naturalized design. The topography is typically Western Pennsylvania flat, with a 30 foot elevation change in the front of the home. The rear yard, however, is surprisingly flat enough for a free-form swimming pool, a very large outdoor entertainment area and a flat lawn area big enough for some great flag football games.

and therefore had to be removed, a fair number of sugar and autumn blaze maples will take their place. White pine will be introduced to help add privacy and year-round color.

We recommend natural boulders for slope retention along hillsides and as accents in planting beds, in this case around the future pool. The driveway, walkways, patios, and pool deck are very organic in shape and consist of a combination of exposed aggregate and textured, colored concrete, installa-

Although many of the trees on site were green ash

tion techniques chosen to enhance the natural feel of the site. The grill area and mailbox structure are designed to incorporate the same combination of stone and brick that are present in the architecture of the home.

The plantings chosen for the project are for the most part native and or low maintenance. We typically use an array of trees, shrubs, ground covers and perennials that will create interest throughout the year, and we try to utilize plantings that will only grow to a specific size, requiring minimal pruning and preventing overgrowth.

Also, we recommend small mass planting so that plants completely fill in an area, covering the ground and requiring much less mulch and or weeding. Deer are usually a huge consideration in this region, but at this particular site, there are many natural forage areas surrounding the area. The deer are more of an annoyance than a severe problem. Subsequently, we have a much larger range of plant selections from which to choose. The naturally occurring white dogwood and sugar maples, although small in numbers and size, provide a great starting point for additional planting.

The first step in the execution of our plan is tree removal. After initially laying out the design on site, decisions are made as to which trees to keep and which to remove, based on the health, location, and species of the tree.

The dead or dying green ash and certain wild cherries will be removed, and will be replaced with sugar maple, dogwood, and white pine, providing an abundance of shade throughout the entire lot.

Some final grading was required to accommodate the boulder-retained slopes, pool, outdoor entertainment area, and the flat lawn requested by the owners.

We have created a large, bermed area at the rear of the property to act as a privacy screen. The height and shape of the berm varies and resembles what is typically used in golf course construction around bunkers, greens, and tees. With permission granted by the land owners at the rear of the lot, the berming takes place on their property as well, creating privacy for both homeowners. A very large pile of topsoil was stockpiled by the excavation contrac-



Continued on next page





tor when the building was first started. This would be one of the first things that would have to be moved in order to accommodate the placement of the swimming pool.

We took delivery of about two hundred tons of boulders for slope retention. Fortunately the work on the house is nearly completed, meaning there are few contractors working on site. Two hundred tons of boulders spread across a 1.75-acre site may take up a lot of room, but this is a necessary step in individually selecting the right boulder for the right location. A 35-ton excavator and 5-ton loader are required to move and place these boulders and in about 2 weeks the bulk of them are in place.

The placement of the boulders allows for interesting spaces in which many varieties of ground cover and perennials can take root.

The pool, pool deck, driveway, and front sidewalks are currently under construction but the exceptionally wet weather this spring has really slowed the process. Until that work is complete, the topsoil, plantings, and bed preparation are on hold.

As we wait for the weather to improve something unusual develops. A neighbor with a shared property line along our site has questioned the survey from which we have been designing and working since day one. He shows us a stake that he understands to be the property corner, but it is

located about 75 feet from what we originally understood the property corner to be. According to the neighbor's understanding, we may have removed a number of trees from his lot. Fortunately, the surveyor contracted for our project expeditiously returned to double-check his work, proving that we were in the right. The neighbor had referred to an old, unverified survey and he was satisfied with our surveyor's work.

In the next issue, as the weather improves, we will address the balance of the job including planting bed preparation, planting, mulch, irrigation, landscape lighting, and the structural elements like the grill, mailbox, and fence.

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*The Word of God: Helène Aylon, The
Liberation of G-d and The Unmentionable*
Now through June 26, 2011

Helène Aylon (1931 – present) is a New York based eco-feminist artist. Aylon's works, spanning over four decades, have primarily addressed biological, ecological and theological issues from a feminist perspective. Her work is featured, in the series *The Word of God*, because of its focus and commentary on the Hebrew Bible. *The Word of God: Helène Aylon's The Liberation of G-d and The Unmentionable*, continues Aylon's ideas of how G-d has been confined by human translation.

Helène's art has shown itself to be a unique mixture of performance art, installation art, process-based works, and protest art. The G-D Project is a continuing project. It began in the 1990s and continues into the present. The original goal of the project was to examine the Torah and philosophical teachings with a feminist eye, but with the turn of the century the work has become more autobiographical about her own experiences as an Orthodox Jew.

The Liberation of G-D is part one of a four-part installation titled, *Trilogy and Epilogue*. *The Liberation of G-D* features a series of books—multiple copies of the five books of Moses, which form the Torah. In each book Aylon has highlighted passages which offend her feminist and humanist outlook. "I highlight over words of/vengeance, deception, cruelty and misogyny,/ words attributed to/G-d/...do not change the



The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

text/but merely look at this dilemma," writes Aylon about her process in a proclamation scroll. The books are all displayed on a wall behind a set laid out for viewers of the exhibition to examine. Beside this display is a video of Hel ne Aylon completing the actual act of highlighting each passage by hand. The video shows only her hand, and allows you to hear the marker across the page and the crinkling parchment as she highlights words in pink. "I ask," writes Aylon, "When will/G-d/ Be rescued from/Ungodly projections/In order to be/G-d?"

Contemporary Magic: A Tarot Deck Art Project

Now through Aug. 7, 2011

That Old Black Magic



The Tarot deck is many things: revered diviner of knowledge, feared revealer of hidden secrets, and critiqued promoter of quackish myth. Regardless of one's take on Tarot card reading, it is certain that the history and imagery of these mysterious cards is ripe territory for contemporary artists to come up with their own interpretations of the 78 personas that make up the standard Tarot deck. And that is exactly what my divine colleague Stacy Engman set about doing as she assembled a group of some of today's most dynamic artists and asked them to

submit a new work based on a tarot card personally assigned by her.

The resulting images are just as whimsical as the readings that emerge from an actual reading of the cards. The amazing group of artists included in the project created cards in a range of media (photography, painting and collage) and each infused an additional sense of allure and magic into this already heavily charged lam of mystery. Not only may viewers enjoy the actual works in the exhibition of the original cards, but they may also take them home in this unique catalogue in the form of a deck of Tarot cards in and of itself!

Mixed Signals: Artists Consider Masculinity in Sports

Now through Aug. 17, 2011



One American stereotype that has never faltered from its aggressive, hypercompetitive, sexual brand is the male athlete. *Mixed Signals: Artists Consider Masculinity in Sports*, an exhibition of contemporary art that deals with the subject of the male athlete, features 17 artists. Some of the artist included in the exhibition are Matthew Barney, Catherine Opie, Collier Schorr, and Sam Taylor-Wood to emerging talents such as Shaun El C. Leonardo and Joe Sola. These artists as well as the others included in the exhibition expose elements of wit, sarcasm, and controversy, challenging cultural assumptions that gender is ever natural or innate. Instead, they emphasize the many ways masculinity is performed and socially constructed. Another theme of this exhibition pertains to the materials, symbols and regalia of sports, which often signify the prowess of the wearer. *Mixed Signals: Artists Consider Masculinity in Sports* is a traveling exhibition organized and circulated by ICI (Independent Curators International), New York. Guest curator for the exhibition is Christopher Bedford. The exhibition, tour, and catalogue are made possible, in part, by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation and the members of ICI. *Mixed Signals* is an expanded

The Summer Lifestyles Section of *Designing HOME* Lifestyles Magazine is dedicated to promoting the growth and development of Cultural and Tourism related businesses in Western Pennsylvania. Please contact us at info@DesigningHomeLifestyles.com for information on how to participate in future editions. Dates and pertinent information of events are subject to change. Please contact each organization directly to confirm all dates, times and availability. The included events are only a portion of cultural events in Western Pennsylvania. For additional information and other events try visiting The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust at www.pgharts.org.

version of Contemporary Projects 11: Hard Targets – Masculinity and American Sports, and exhibition curated by Mr. Bedford and organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. A 72-page illustrated catalog accompanies the exhibition and is available at The Warhol Store.

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Summer Flower Show:

Living Harmoniously with Nature

Now through Sept. 27, 2011

Eight local interior designers artfully incorporate sustainable textiles, architectural elements and decor into Phipps' indoor gardens. Summer blooms, including dahlias, hibiscus, impatiens, zinnia and lantana are woven seamlessly into these green scenes.

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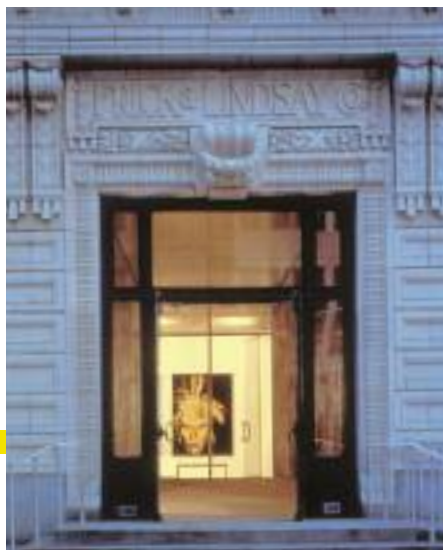
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Andy Warhol Museum



western pennsylvania's Top Chefs

Welcome to the first installment of our new feature called Western Pennsylvania's Top Chefs. *Designing HOME Lifestyles* is proud to introduce you to a sampling of some of the most talented Chefs in our region. Our featured Chefs are going to share with us each issue some of their incredible recipes.

Pittsburgh has a great tradition of famous Chefs and this new breed of young and talented chefs are keeping that tradition alive. Our "Top Chefs" have a passion for food and will introduce you to some unique and interesting food and flavors. You'll be able to share some of that passion each issue.

Our featured Chefs encourage you to cook at home and try some of their tested recipes. They also invite you to come visit them at their restaurants to experience first hand the incredible talent they offer.

Each issue our "Top Chefs" will feature a different food. The first food we are featuring is Lamb. Lamb is a wonderful meat that is raised by skilled and caring farmers. Nothing beats its flavor and tenderness.

As you'll learn from our Chefs the most important thing to remember when cooking lamb is to not overcook it. Lamb's natural incredible flavor is best served with some pink inside. To achieve the best results and to make sure the lamb is cooked to your desired temperature, make sure you use an accurate meat thermometer. A good and calibrated thermometer is essential for a perfect desired level of doneness.

Our Chefs are also going to suggest some of their favorite wines that pairs well with lamb. They will offer a complete description of the wines suggested.

Designing HOME Lifestyles is honored to be working with such a great group of talented Chefs. Please visit them often at their restaurants and make sure you tell them that you are following them in our publication. Each of our Chefs will be glad to serve you an outstanding meal.

Meet Our "Top Chefs" and experience their favorite Lamb recipes and wine pairings on the following pages...

Rack of Lamb

Grilled Marinated Lamb Racks with Mint Pesto

INGREDIENTS

2 each Lamb Racks (About 8 or 9 ribs each)	3 sprigs Rosemary (Fresh)
1/2 cup Olive Oil	4 sprigs Thyme (Fresh)
3 T Garlic (Chopped)	To taste Salt & Pepper

1. Clean the rib bones well by scraping the meat off with a small knife. Cut between the middle bones to make 4 bone racks. Mix olive oil and seasonings in a bowl. Add the lamb & coat well. Wrap tight and marinate 24-48 hours.
2. Preheat grill
3. When ready to use, scrape the lamb of any seasonings that may still be on them.
4. Wrap the bones of the rack with foil to stop the bones from burning during grilling.
5. Grill racks until the internal temperature of the meat is 125-130 degrees (medium-rare).
6. Take racks off and let them sit for 5 minutes. Cut between each bone to make lamb chops.
7. Serve with mint pesto.

Mint Pesto

INGREDIENTS:

2 cups Mint (Fresh and Chopped)	1 t Salt
1/2 cup Basil (Fresh and Chopped)	1/2 t Pepper
1/2 cup Pine Nuts	1/3 cup Olive Oil
2 T Garlic (Chopped)	

Recipe Provided by:
Chef Orrie Rockwell III
Rockwell's Red Lion Restaurant

Place all ingredients in food processor and mix well. Serve chilled with lamb chops



DiSalvo's Station
John Holzer – Executive Chef

DiSalvo Station has a rich history of incredible chefs. John is the current culinary leader with the owners Certified Executive Chef Gaetano DiSalvo AAC and Joseph DiSalvo to assist when needed. DiSalvo's has a team of culinarians' like no other. John graduated from Pennsylvania Culinary in 1997. He worked at various kitchens while learning his profession and his first chef position was at Longue Vue Club. John's talents, knowledge and love for food make him the perfect fit for this famous landmark restaurant. The experience is like nothing you can imagine. The restaurant includes a full-sized dining railroad car with an incredible menu.



Paris 66
Larry Laffont – Executive Chef

Although Chef Larry Laffont is not a native Pittsburgher, his decade-long, award winning career as chef here sure makes him right at home. He started his career in Bordeaux, France where his classical French training began. Since moving to Pittsburgh in 1998 Chef Laffont has won numerous awards at the restaurants where he was Executive Chef; 1998 – Le Perroquet (Best New Chef and Best French Rest.), 2002 – Osteria Italian Tapas (Best Restaurant), 2003 – Mallorca (Best Spanish), and 2005 – Ibiza (Best Tappas). In January 2011, Larry brought his award-winning talents to Paris 66. It is no surprise that in his first year as Chef, Paris 66 was awarded Pittsburgh's #1 Best French and #3 Best Brunch.



Seviche
Max Charles Scribner – Executive Chef

Max grew up in Somerset, PA where he worked at various local restaurants. His father taught him a lot about the culinary world including how to grow a garden and many basic skills needed to become a chef. It was those early days with his father that he realized that he wanted to be a chef. In 2009 he moved to Pittsburgh to train at Le Cordon Blue. He worked his way through school and ended up working at Seviche. His hard work paid off becoming Executive Chef of one of the best restaurants in the heart of downtown Pittsburgh. "I've always been grateful of my opportunities and I always take full advantage of them!"



Grilled Jamison Farms Merguez Lamb Sausage with Blackeyed Pea Ragu and Anson Mills Grits

Lamb Sausage:

1 Lb. Grilled or Pan Seared

Ragu:

INGREDIENTS:

2 Cups Blackeye Peas (Soak in water overnight)
2 Cups Canned Diced Tomato
2 Cups Chicken Stock
1/2 Cup Celery (Small Dice)
1/2 Cup Onion (Small Dice)
1/2 Cup Bell Pepper (Red, Green, or Yellow) (Small Dice)
1-1/2 Tbls Lemongrass (Minced)
2 Tbls Chiffonade Basil
1 Tbls Chiffonade Mint

Grits:

INGREDIENTS:

1 Cup Anson Mills Coarse Ground White Grits
3 Cups Water
1/2 Cup Buttermilk
1 Cup White Cheddar (Shredded)

SAUSAGE METHOD: Grill or pan sear desired amount of sausage links. Recommend at least one pound cut into four inch segments.

RAGU METHOD: In a sauce pot (1 gallon) over high heat, sweat down peppers, onions, celery, garlic, and lemongrass until translucent. For this step you may use a fat of your choosing, vegetable oil, butter, etc.

Next, add your chili flakes, smoked paprika, mustard seeds and ground allspice. Saute until spices have a lightly toasted aroma.

Add the remaining ingredients except for Tabasco, kosher salt, and pepper.

Bring liquid to a boil and reduce to low heat. Simmer until beans are tender and sauce thickens. If sauce thickens too rapidly and your beans are still al dente, simply add more chicken stock to compensate.

Once sauce is finished make it as spicy or salty as you desire with salt, pepper and Tabasco.

Recipe Provided by:
Chef Dan Calve
Nola on the Square

1 Tbls Garlic (Minced)
1 Tsp Chilli Flakes
1 Tbls Smoked Paprika
1 Tsp Mustard Seed
2 Bay Leaves
Dash Ground Allspice
To Taste Tabasco
To Taste Kosher Salt
To Taste Black Pepper

To Taste Salt and White Pepper
To Taste Tabasco
1 Tsp Lemon Juice

CHEESY GRITS METHOD: Begin by adding grits and water to the same pot. Agitate the grits with your finger tips to rinse thoroughly. Skim any impurities that float to the top.

Place your grits on a low to medium low flame, stirring every two to four minutes. These grits take some time to cook (at least one hour) so plan ahead. When grits are cooked they will not have any crunch to them. Depending on how often you stir, and your level of heat, you may have to add water along the way to reach desired consistency. When fully cooked your grits should be a little on the thick side to accommodate for the buttermilk.

Once cooked, stir in buttermilk, cheese, lemon juice and desired amount of salt, pepper and Tabasco. Let rest on counter top (off of heat) for around five to seven minutes. This will allow the grits to thicken slightly.

Ladle grits into shallow bowl or onto a plate. Top with grilled lamb sausage, desired amount of ragu and a garnish of fresh basil.

EAT! Serves Two



western
pennsylvania's
**Top
Chefs**
cooking with
Lamb



Stuffed Grape Leaves

Lamb Stuffed Grape Leaves, Creamy Goat Cheese, and Pickled Cucumber and Onions

Makes about 24 grape leaves

Recipe Provided by:
Chef Janathan Holzer
DiSalvo's Station, Latrobe, PA

INGREDIENTS:

2 lb. Ground Lamb 2 cups Cooked Basmati Rice 1lb. Ground Pork
3 Eggs Salt and Pepper To Taste
24-30 Grape Leaves, Jared or Fresh Blanched

METHOD:

Place all ingredients, except grape leaves, in a large bowl and mix by hand until mixed well. Mixture should be slightly moist in consistency. Lay out the grape leaves removing the stems on a clean surface. Place about 3oz of the mixture in the center. Fold outer leaves in then roll to seal.

To cook, place grape leaves in a bamboo steamer for about 20 minutes. They can also be baked in a covered dish for about 45 minutes at 325 degrees F, add some white wine or water to the dish before baking and make sure the dish is well sealed to keep the moisture in. Remove and plate with the sauce and pickled vegetable salad or eat as an appetizer all by itself. Enjoy!

Creamy Goat Cheese

Makes about 3 cups

4oz Soft Goat Cheese 1 T Wildflower Honey
8oz Greek Yogurt Zest from One Lemon

Combine all ingredients in a blender, blend until smooth. Hold until ready to plate – can be made several days in advance.



Pickled Cucumber and Red Onion Salad

2 each Cucumbers (Peeled, seeded and cut on thick bias)
2 each Red Onions (Sliced thin)

Place in separate containers. Pour pickling liquid over while still hot, strain out peppercorns and bay leaves. Place in refrigerator overnight and hold until needed for service.

Simple Pickling Liquid

2 cups White Balsamic Vinegar (Or your favorite good quality vinegar)
1 cup White Sugar
1 T Black Pepper Corns
1 T Kosher Salt
3 each Bay Leaves

Bring to a quick boil and remove from heat. Stir to make sure sugar is dissolved.



Ibiza

Armand Colarusso – Executive Chef

Armand grew up in Mahopac, New York. He discovered his passion for food in high school and further developed his skills here in Pittsburgh at Pennsylvania Culinary, which he graduated from in 1998. He worked at the Hyatt Regency at the Orlando International Airport and Greenwich, Connecticut. He also spent time working at the prestigious Abigail Kirsch Catering Company in New York. His family brought him back to Pittsburgh and Ibiza. He's been working at this Award-Winning restaurant since 2007. "I love the people and friendly atmosphere at Ibiza. It's fun creating a different cuisine with an Asian Flair."



Rockwell's Red Lion Restaurant

Orrie Rockwell III – Executive Chef

Orrie is a fourth generation businessman from Borough of Elizabeth, PA. He was born and raised in Elizabeth and attended Johnson and Wales College in Providence, RI. He graduated in 1988 with a Bachelor Degree in Food Service Management. After working at various establishments to gain additional experience, Orrie returned to his family's restaurant in 1992 where he took over as Executive Chef. His love of food and service injected a new excitement into the restaurant. With his creative menu and interesting food, his family restaurant transformed to a very successful upscale restaurant. Rockwell's Red Lion attracts guests from all over the Pittsburgh area.



Nola on the Square

Dan Calve – Executive Chef

Dan is 31 years old and was born and raised in Eastern Pennsylvania. He's been working in the food and beverage industry since he was seventeen. It was those early days when he inspired to be a chef. He worked in Denver and Manhattan to learn different cuisine and to hone his skills. His first Sous Chef position was with Yves Carreau's restaurant group. He has worked in three of his restaurants being promoted to Executive Chef at Nola. "I enjoy my work, and I'm excited to continue to grow with our company. Can't wait to see what our next concept will be. Can it get any better than this?"



Lamb Enchiladas

1 can diced tomatoes
1 6oz can tomato paste
1 can tomato sauce
2 T of cumin
1.5 T chili powder
2 T salt
2 T pepper
2 T oregano
1 pkg of corn tortillas (about 12oz)
About 8oz of shredded manchego cheese
1 large Spanish onion
1-1/2 lb of braised Lamb (cooked separate)



PREPARATION:

In large sauce pot, saute onion and diced tomatoes in 4 tbs of olive oil until onions are translucent. Add tomato sauce and all other spices. Cook for 10 minutes. Add shredded manchego cheese and stir until melted. In a 9 by 12-inch pan, layer corn shells, sauce, braised lamb and shredded manchego cheese until pan is filled. Top with more cheese and bake for 20 minutes until cheese is golden brown.

Recipe Provided by:
Chef Max Charles Scribner
Sevichi, Pittsburgh, PA



Sonoma Grill

Jason Huzzard – Executive Chef

Chef Jason graduated from Pennsylvania Culinary Institute in his native Pittsburgh before moving to Boulder, Colorado for eight years. There, he explored the diverse indigenous culinary culture and achieved his first Chef position. After moving back to Pittsburgh, he continued to refine his skills at several esteemed restaurants in the city. He started at Sonoma Grille in 2008, and eventually earned the title, Executive Chef. He has helped to cultivate the Farm to Table concept at Sonoma, and his focus continues to be on fresh, local, and sustainable foods. He says, "Sourcing food from local farmers brings a sense of community back to the culinary world."



Cioppino

Greg Alauzen – Executive Chef

Heading the creative team at Cioppino Restaurant and Cigar Bar is Executive Chef Greg Alauzen. He was formerly the Executive Chef of the Steelhead Grill and nationally lauded for placing Pittsburgh on the dining map. He's a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, in Hyde Park, NY and alumna to several high profile New York restaurants, including Aureole in Manhattan. Alauzen's work has been praised in Esquire, Pittsburgh Magazine, The Wall Street Journal and the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. Chef Alauzen's menu draws from the Italian tradition of seasonally prepared dishes featuring local ingredients. His unique approach to food is creating quite a buzz in Pittsburgh.



The Original Fish Market Restaurant

Sean Davies – Executive Chef

Executive Chef of The Original Fish Market since 2009, Sean Davies has kept the downtown Pittsburgh restaurant true to its concept of delivering fresh fish flown in from around the world daily. Davies, who has 20 years of culinary experience, sources sustainable seafood through diligent research, personal travel and dialog with fisherman, and association with organizations such as Monterey Bay Aquarium's renowned Seafood Watch Program and Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium's Partnership Program. He seeks out seasonal ingredients from local growers to enhance his international seafood discoveries and deliver the fresh taste and socially conscious menus that modern diners crave.





2005 Conn Creek – Anthology Napa Valley Red

Review from Sonoma Grille – Chef Jason Huzzard

This complex wine opens with an alluring aroma of ripe black plum, warm berry pie and caramel. Supple and elegantly structured, the flavors build on the black fruit and silky spice core. A long finish is accentuated with ripe berry flavors and crème brulee richness. “If these “Winemaker Notes” don’t make you want to try this wine, nothing will. This complex wine is perfectly suited for lamb. You’ll find this wine very enjoyable.”

Available at:



2009 Maipe Malbec Mendoza

Review from Ibiza – Chef Armand Colarusso

This wine is produced from grapes grown at the foothill of the Andes Mountains at an altitude of 3,000 feet above sea level. You’ll find a lot of different red fruit flavors in this wine, including plums, cherries, currants and raspberries. A reddish purple color will be found in the glass with an earthy nose and round tannins. Its intense color and aromas are an expression of the soil and sun that give it birth. “I enjoy this wine and I think it goes very well with Lamb. Try opening the bottle and allowing it to breath in the glass a while before drinking.”

Available at:



Wine pairings for lamb

200 Jarvis Cabernet Sauvignon

Review from Cioppino – Chef Greg Alauzen

This wine offers 100% Cabernet Sauvignon and with it comes rich ripe flavors of a complex variety of fruit. The twenty-four months of aging in new French oak barrels contributes to the incredible toasty vanilla character and its rich raspberry aroma. Once bottled, this wine received an additional three years of cave aging, allowing it time to develop in the bottle and making it ready to drink upon release. “This wine is awesome. When asked which of our wines paired best with lamb, this is the one that without hesitation I choose. I’m sure you’ll enjoy this wine with your favorite lamb dish.”

Available at:



2008 Bourgogne Pinot Noir Domaine Bernard Moreau

Review from Paris 66 – Chef Larry Laffont

Chef Larry Laffont from Paris 66 says that this is a perfect wine for most Lamb dishes. It is a medium bodied wine that is well balanced. You’ll notice the aroma of vanilla with a hint of cherry in the taste. We chose this wine because it is a wonderful wine from Burgundy, has a magnificent flavor and because it has a great value. “This is one of the more popular wines at Paris 66. I’m sure you’ll enjoy it with lamb.”

Available at:



2009 Purple Paradise – Chronic Cellars

Review from The Original Fish Market – Chef Sean Davies

This wine burst with berries both raspberry and strawberry with a hint of white pepper, vanilla and sage. This wine has a deep dark purple color and is very smooth in taste. “This is an excellent wine that pairs well with lamb. Even though lamb is not a standard on the menu at The Original Fish Market, this wine goes well with lamb and beef and is very reasonably priced.”

Available at:





Great food, great cigars, great ambiance...welcome to the "Good Life!" Joey DiSalvo is your gracious host and welcomes you to enjoy your experience. The restaurant has been given The Award of Excellence from the Distinguished Restaurants of North America (DiRona). The restaurant is located East of Pittsburgh in Latrobe. If you looking for a romantic evening or a night out with "the boys" downstairs at Joey D's Cigar Bar. You're in for a treat at DiSalvo's Station.

325 McKinley Avenue
Latrobe, PA 15650
724-539-0500

www.disalvorestaurant.com
Hours: Tuesday – Friday 11am-10pm,
Saturday 4pm-11pm, Sunday 10am-7pm



Yves Carreau has done it again! Pittsburgh's hottest new restaurant is Nola on the Square. This new concept screams New Orleans with his Jazz Brasserie. It is located in the newly renovated Market Square. A breathtaking transformation of the storied 1902 Landmark Tavern, a Nouveau Creole menu featuring Bourbon Street cocktails, live jazz and blues music at least twice a week. If you've not experienced this "Big Easy" vibe you're in for a surprise.

24 Market Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-471-9100

www.nolaonthesquare.com
Hours: Monday – Saturday,
Lunch 11am-3pm, Dinner 5pm-11pm

Follow Our Top Chef's Blog at:



If you looking for the finest Fish and Seafood in downtown Pittsburgh – you've found it! This is a wonderful restaurant with a fun atmosphere. If you are a wine lover they have a Winekeeper that keeps wines fresh as the moment they were opened. This system allows the restaurant to offer fifty-two wines by the glass. This restaurant is a "must visit!"

1000 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh PA 15222
412-227-3657

theoriginalfishmarket.com
Hours: Monday -Friday 11am-1pm,
Saturday and Sunday 4pm-1pm



Welcome to a West Coast kitchen and wine bar, where food and wine are celebrated everyday. Sonoma is a sophisticated, casual restaurant with an airy dining room displaying vivid colors and a warm atmosphere. It has an international cuisine with a California twist. Each dish highlights local, organic or sustainable food in the peak of their season.

647 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-697-1336

www.thesonomagrille.com
Hours: Lunch Daily 11am-3pm,
Dinner 5pm-11pm



Fred and Lori might be the nicest couple that own a restaurant...period! Paris 66 is an ambient eatery focused on "everyday French cuisine" in a traditional bistro-style setting. Paris 66 is both a crêperie and bistro. Coming Soon! French Pastry Chef, David Piquard is arriving June 15th. He is bringing his award winning recipes straight from France. We don't know about you...but we can't wait!

6018 Penn Circle South
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-404-8166

www.paris66bistro.com
Hours: Monday – Thursday 11am-10pm,
Friday – Saturday 11am-11pm,
Sunday Brunch 10am-3pm



Located in a building dating back to 1906 that was originally a First National Bank. You'll find a quaint historic restaurant in the heart of Elizabeth, PA's business district. The restaurant is only a few hundred yards off of the Elizabeth bridge exit. The lower level is open on the weekends and features a wood-burning fireplace.

201 South Second Avenue
Elizabeth, PA 15037
412-384-3909

www.rockwellsredlion.com
Hours: Monday – Thursday 11am-9pm,
Friday and Saturday 11am-10pm



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930 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-697-3120

www.seviche.com
Hours: Monday – Thursday 5pm-12am,
Friday and Saturday 5pm-1am

www.DesigningHomeLifestyles.com/TopChefs



At this award-winning restaurant, they offer over 45 tapas from all around the world. As the seasons change, so does the dining experience. The seasonal menus showcase the freshest seafood, meat, vegetables and fruits you'll find anywhere. You'll be delighted by the flavors of European and South American regional cuisine.

2224 E. Carson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
412-325-2227

www.ibizatapasrestaurant.com
Hours: Monday – Thursday 4pm-1am,
Friday – Saturday 4pm-2am Closed Sunday




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2350 Railroad Street
At The Cork Factory
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-281-6593

www.cioppinoofpittsburgh.com
Monday – Saturday 5pm-11pm



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22 Housing Excellence Awards were handed out to local builders and remodelers. Here is a complete list of the winners in the 2010 categories:

BEST 50+ HOUSING, SINGLE FAMILY HOME under \$250,000: *Traditions of America*

BEST 50+ HOUSING, SINGLE FAMILY HOME over \$250,000: *Traditions of America*

BEST GREEN/ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME under \$500,000: *S&A Homes*

BEST GREEN/ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME over \$500,000: *Brennan Builders*

BEST MULTI-FAMILY HOME OF THE YEAR under \$250,000: *S&A Homes*

BEST MULTI-FAMILY HOME OF THE YEAR over \$250,001: *Brennan Builders*

BATH RENOVATION over \$50,000: *Master Remodelers, Inc.*

BEST KITCHEN RENOVATION under \$50,000: *TK Carpentry & Construction*

BEST KITCHEN RENOVATION over \$50,000: *Master Remodelers, Inc.*

BEST ROOM ADDITION under \$150,000: *Master Remodelers, Inc.*

BEST MULTI-ROOM RENOVATION under \$300,000: *Master Remodelers, Inc.*

BEST MULTI-ROOM RENOVATION \$300,000-\$1,000,000: *Aspen Valley Contracting, Inc.*

BEST MULTI-ROOM RENOVATION over \$1,000,000: *Aspen Valley Contracting, Inc.*

BEST SINGLE FAMILY HOME under \$200,000: *Bachman Builders, Inc.*

BEST SINGLE FAMILY HOME \$200,000-\$250,000: *TK Carpentry & Construction*

BEST SINGLE FAMILY HOME \$250,00-\$325,000: *Paragon Homes*

BEST SINGLE FAMILY HOME \$325,001-\$400,000: *S&A Homes*

BEST SINGLE FAMILY HOME \$400,001-\$500,000: *Heartland Homes, Inc.*

BEST SINGLE FAMILY HOME \$500,001-\$650,000: *Bachman Builders, Inc.*

BEST SINGLE FAMILY HOME \$650,001-\$850,000: *Primrose Homes*

BEST SINGLE FAMILY HOME \$850,001-\$1,000,000: *Sparkle Construction-SSP Inc.*

BEST SINGLE FAMILY HOME over \$1,000,000: *Primrose Homes*

www.PGHomebuilders.com



DHL Gallery:

By Valentine J. Brkich



PEGGI HABETS

When Peggi Habets works on a portrait, she's not just painting an artistic likeness of the subject; she's capturing the visual representation of a unique soul.

Habets is an award-winning watercolor and oil portrait artist whose studio is located right here in Pittsburgh. Her life-long interest in art and a career in graphic design and illustration eventually led to her current vocation as a portrait painter.

Habets is a member of the Portrait Society of America, Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, and the Pittsburgh Watercolor Society. She has been exhibiting regularly at galleries since 2002, and her work has appeared in galleries and exhibitions all over the Pittsburgh area and as far away as Baton Rouge, La.

Her paintings have won various awards, including Best of Show at Art in the Park (2007); 1st and 2nd Place awards at the South Arts Juried Exhibition (2006); the Juror's Award by the Pittsburgh Society of Artists Syncopation Juried Exhibition (2006), among others. Most recently, her painting "The Forest for The Trees" won Best of Show at the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh exhibition at Fallingwater.

Habets' artwork has been featured in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, *Best of America—Watermedia*, Vol II, *The Art of*



Mikal, 17" x 16"

the Portrait magazine, *Palette* magazine, *Best of America*, *Watercolor Artists and Artisans* book, *Watercolor Magic* magazine, and *Bethel Park Magazine*. This past February, her painting "Recollection" was featured in *Watercolor Artist* magazine, and was awarded second place in the Watermedia Showcase Competition.



The Tam Maker, 18" x 22"

What are the specific challenges of painting pets and people? Which is more difficult?

When painting pets and people by commission, there is a similar procedure that I follow. I meet with the client, discuss their expectations and needs, photograph and then paint. With pets there is less focus on an exact likeness and more on the personality of the pet. Therefore they are typically painted in a looser, more

colorful style. People are generally more difficult to paint. There is importance placed on creating a likeness. Things like skin tones and features need to be accurate, or you may lose the likeness you are seeking. However, when I paint people for gallery shows or exhibitions, and not as commissions for clients, I don't worry as much about the likeness. My focus is then about mood, character, and telling a story. I am free to experiment and push the boundaries of the medium.

When did you first realize that you wanted to get into painting portraits?

About eight years ago I took a workshop with an artist who is now a good friend of mine—Jeannie McGuire. She is a masterful figurative painter, and she first made me realize that portraits don't have to be traditional, formal, or boring.

Is there any one medium you enjoy working with over others?

Although I have worked in various media over the years, and enjoy many of them, watercolor is the one I return to over and over. The



TJ and Tilly



Hannah, 20" x 17"

spontaneous and fluid nature of watercolor is unmatched.

Who or what was your favorite/most interesting subject?

Although I generally love painting anyone who has an interesting face, personality or attitude, the elderly have been a recent favorite. Thelma, age 94, was a lot of fun. She is feisty, funny, and full of surprises. Every time I would visit with her, she had a new story to tell. I used to bring her pizza for lunch, which is her favorite food.

What part of painting brings you the greatest joy?

When you lay that first wash and watch the colors mingling and interacting, there is a great sense of joy and excitement. However, completing a painting and feeling that I have successfully communicated whatever story or idea I had about a particular subject, is probably the most satisfying.



Out of The Shadows, 26" x 18"



Disquiet, 18" x 22"



Wedding Gloves, 19" x 26"

Do you dabble in any other arts?

Visual arts has been my main focus most of my life. I took a variety of art classes growing up and in college, including sculpture, drawing, painting, mixed media, and fiber arts. I ended up working as a graphic designer for 15 years before pursuing painting as a career. I appreciate many other art forms like writing, music, dance, comedy, and theater because I know how much hard work, commitment and persistence is needed to be successful in any of the arts.

Do you have any other interesting hobbies?

You can always find me in my garden or hanging out with my family. I have a husband and three teenage boys, so right now my time is limited to family and art. When there's time, we like to do outdoor sports, like walking, hiking, camping,

and skiing. We look forward to our annual family vacations because we always try to visit someplace new.

What else would you like to share with our readers?

The arts community in Pittsburgh has been a wonderful source of encouragement, inspiration, and opportunity. We are blessed with having a wealth of talent in this city. I hope your readers will be motivated to seek out upcoming art exhibitions, take an art class, and visit outdoor art festivals happening everywhere. ❖

For more on Peggi Habets, visit her website at www.peggihabets.com, and her blog at www.peggihabetsblog.com

focus on custom home builders:



Location, Location, Location...and acres and acres of privacy.

Welcome to 258 Glasgow Road, a 26-acre Gentleman's Estate located at the Northern end of Allegheny County. The property sits on a quiet low traffic road, in a park-like setting and has a governor's driveway as well as 2 other separate driveways. Breathtaking views surround this masterpiece of a property. The views are incredible from every angle of this Estate, ~ beauty abounds as far as the eye can see!



A MAGNIFICENT 26 ACRE GENTLEMAN'S ESTATE

By Tom Poljak

Some believe in fate; others in destiny. Me, I'm not so sure. The only thing that's for sure about our featured house is a series of incredible coincidences.

Each issue here at Designing Home Lifestyles, we feature a different western Pennsylvania home builder. We love to showcase these talented companies and the beautiful homes they create. We had one lined up for this issue, but for some reason the builder we've been talking with over the past few months backed out at the last minute. Welcome to the magazine business.

So, there I was, sitting in my office wracking my brain, with only a week left before we needed to send our files off to the printer. The situation seemed bleak. Then, out of nowhere, I receive an email from a good friend, Tina Cicero, who said she had just listed the most interesting home for 3.9 million dollars, and she wanted me to see it. I responded by telling her that I wanted to do more than see it—I wanted to feature it.

This is the second time in the past six years that we've actually featured a home that was for sale. Like I mentioned before, the main focus of this regular feature is to highlight some of Pittsburgh's most talented builders. But every once in a while it's nice to spotlight some of the more spectacular homes in our region. This is the first time that we are featuring such an old and classic home without knowing much about the builder.

Continued on next page

The dining room has crown molding, a heavily detailed decorative fireplace and 4 HUGE windows allowing plenty of light to pour in.





The 19x15 Master Suite is heavenly! A wood burning fireplace will warm you up on a cold night. The master bath has double sink bowls, a soaking tub, steam shower and a bidet. Hotel accommodations all the way. The master suite opens by an arched entry to a walk in 14x13 dressing room. This area is filled with built-in shelving; accommodating the most bountiful of clothing ever imaginable!



One of 5 upper level bedrooms, this one is located on the top floor of the property. 20x12 in size, it features a full bath, walk-in dressing room and 3 window seats. This is a perfect in-law suite or teenager's private apartment.



The breakfast room boasts rich Mexican ceramic tile flooring, heavy detailed crown molding and trim, and walks into a 12x6 storage pantry. The room adjoins a sitting area on one side and the kitchen on the other.



This sitting area is located between the many floors of the property. A great place to enjoy a quiet moment or nap. Perfect reading light pours into this area from the window at the front of the home.



Location, location, location—we've all heard it a million times, and here we go again. This beautiful home is situated on an incredible piece of real estate in the northern part of Allegheny County. To have 26 acres in such a desirable location is just another impressive feature of this gentleman's estate.

This particular property has a lot of history. It was originally owned by the Glasgow family back in the 1870s. The home itself was built in 1902 and was sold to two different companies during the 1930s. As a result it was always used as a corporate house. The current family has owned the house since 2001.

Situated on lush rolling hills, the home provides the perfect setting for riding horses in the open pastures and along the surrounding trails. Of course, since you'll need a place to keep your horses, the estate offers a six-stall barn and tack room just a short distance from the main house. This is one of the highlights of the breathtaking view you get from the back of the property. Of course, in every direction you look, you have 26 acres of privacy.

Continued on next page



Below Left: The coffered ceiling kitchen stands in the middle of the home. Cream cabinetry surrounds the space and a venetian gold granite island in the center is a great place to gather. The kitchen boasts Mexican ceramic tile flooring.





Steps away from the main property is a 6 stall horsebarn and tack room, large enough to also store heavy equipment and tractors.



Your horses can enjoy a blissful day in the wide open pastures located to the west side and rear of the property.



The 29x14 family room features a wood burning fireplace on a wall of stone and built-ins. This room runs next to a three season sun room, seperated by french doors. The availability to keep these doors open for entertaining makes this area more than unique!



With so much to enjoy on the outside of the home, you almost forget how wonderful the interior is. Almost. Inside the home you'll find many outstanding features that highlight what a good eye for detail the original builder had, like the stately crown molding that frames the rooms throughout the home. It also has some breathtaking fireplaces and plenty of windows to let in an ample amount of natural light.

The home's bedrooms are very spacious, with plenty of walk-in closets—not something you'd expect to find in a home of this age. It also includes a bedroom on the top floor that could serve as an in-law suite or older child's private apartment.

This estate also offers a 58 ft. x 40 ft. garage with three oversized doors, providing the perfect space for a car collector or someone looking for a spot for their workshop.

I really enjoyed touring this magnificent home and its surrounding property. (Thank you, Tina!) It's always nice when you find a home with such history and one that has so many desirable amenities. It's also nice to see what \$3.9 million can buy these days—not that I have \$3.9 million, or anywhere close to that. But it's fun to dream, right?

I hope you enjoyed the tour, too. Although our homebuilder fell through for this issue, we promise to search high and low to find another one to feature in our next issue. So please check back with us next time.

And have a great summer!

To arrange a tour of this magnificent home, please contact Tina Marie Cicero at Lock Box Realty, 412-973-0046.

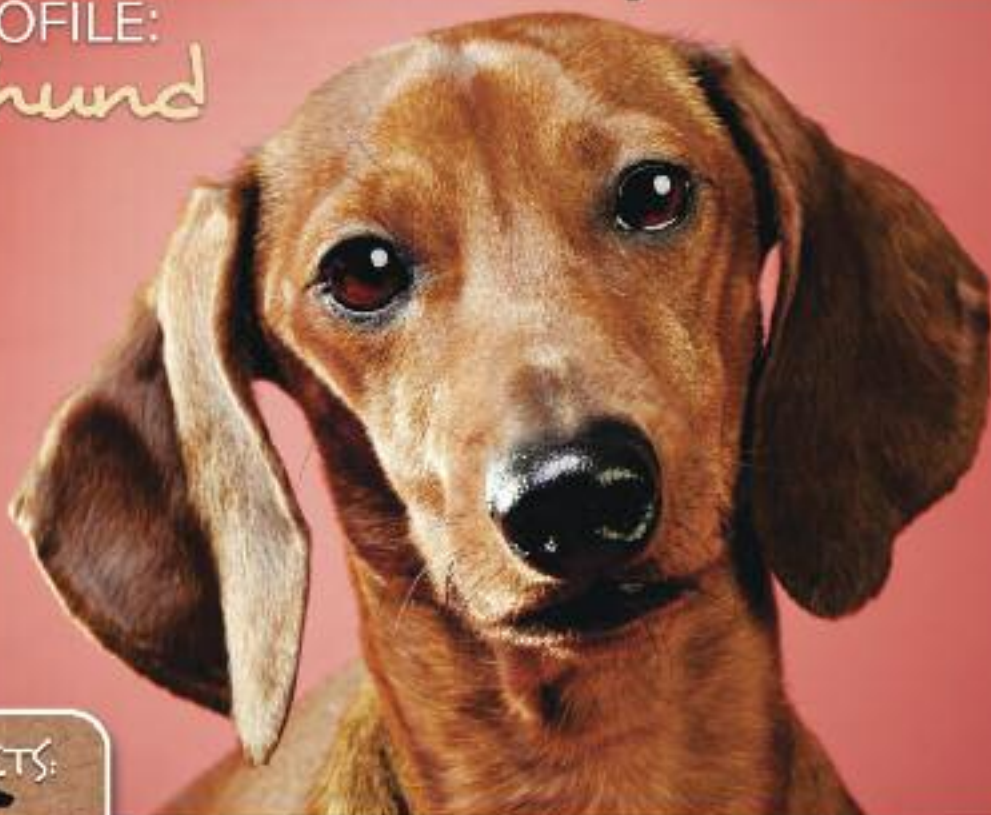
The 58x40 garage is like a small indoor parking lot. The garage has 3 oversized doors for entry and radiant heated floors. The area leads up to the game room above and has several other doors exiting to the yard.

DHL's

pet Lifestyles

By Renee Butor

BREED PROFILE: *Dachshund*



QUICK FACTS:



Country of Origin: Germany

Group: Hound

Life Span: 12-14 Years

Colors: Various

Coat: 3 Types; Smooth, Long-Haired
and Wire-Haired

Grooming: Moderate.

Depends on Coat Type

Height: Miniature, 5-6 Inches
Standard, 8-9 Inches

Weight: Miniature, Under 12 lbs;
Standard, 16-32 lbs.

Both young and old know the little fellow with the sausage body, stubby legs and friendly wagging tail. Whether selling slinkys, frankfurters, or appearing in boundless cartoons, caricatures and commercials, their presence is hard to miss!

The dachshund is a fearless performer who will do his own stunts, whether that be chasing game through small dark underground spaces, or climbing onto the table to get a bite of dinner. According to British and US Breed standards, the doxie is "courageous to the point of rashness." This can be traced back hundreds of years ago to its roots as a German hunting dog whose most important job was to locate and hold animals at bay that went underground to find safety in their burrows

To produce the long-haired version, the dachshund was mixed with spaniels, and to create the wire-haired version, with dandie dinmont terriers. Smaller sized doxies that were used to hunt smaller game probably eventually were established as miniatures.



Whether due to its amazing personality, or perhaps its unusual physique, the dachshund has always been favored by creative-types. Famous names such as Isabella Rossellini, Tracy Chapman, Madonna and Picasso can all claim to have been dachshund owners.

Due to the dog's distinctive long body type, sadly one out of four dachshund will develop a disc problem by the technical names of Canine intervertebral Disc Disease (CIDD) during its lifetime. CIDD can result in a lot of pain for the dog and heartbreak for the owner. Taking steps that prevent injury around the house is crucial, such as making sure the dog stays trim and fit, and watching they don't engage in risky behaviors such as jumping off furniture, and climbing too many stairs, which puts extra strain on their backs.

These are small prices to pay for dachshund groupies, who know their lovable, comedic natures will bring them years of unmatched joy and companionship.

**There is no doubt
that the dachshund
is one of the world's
most recognized
breeds...**



BREED PROFILE:

Siamese



QUICK FACTS:

Country of Origin: Siam
(Modern Day Thailand)

Life Span: 15-20 Years in
Good Health

Colors: seal point, chocolate point,
blue point, lilac point, flame point
& lynx point

Coat: Short and Glossy

Grooming: Gentle Brushing
Once or Twice a Month

Weight: Males - 10 to 15 lbs;
Females - 8 and 12 lbs



Siamese are medium sized cats with strikingly beautiful blue eyes. The most distinguishing feature of this feline is its uniquely patterned coat. Their body is mostly light colored, but pointing (darker coat pattern) covers the muzzle, legs and tail.

There are two different groups that Siamese cats are divided into: traditional and extreme. The traditional Siamese features a rounder head and body with a heavier build as opposed to the contrasting extreme Siamese, which has a wedge-shaped head and a slender elongated body. Both forms have a short and glossy coat. The CFA (Cat Fanciers' Association) only recognizes seal, chocolate, blue and lilac point coat patterns at this time, but the breed often exhibits other colors such as lynx, flame, fawn and cream.

Siamese cats are extremely intelligent and are always full of energy and life. The are

very playful and often demanding of attention from humans. One of the most unique attributes of the Siamese is their distinct and frequent vocalizations. Considered one of the most vocal of the domestic cat species, sometimes its wailing can even be mistaken for a baby's cry.

Since they require almost constant stimulation and attention from their owners, they do best in active homes with plenty of feline toys, scratchers and cat furniture available to them at their leisure. Most Siamese love to play with their owners as opposed to lounging alone away from the family. They are usually very tolerant of dogs and children, and may occasionally be a bit leary of strangers.

Their short glossy coat requires minimal grooming, and in good health they are known to have very long lifespans of over 15 years to share with the people that love them.



Siamese Cats may
be the most
recognized cats
of the feline
world...



Flea & Tick Control General FAQ

Q: What are the dangers of fleas & ticks?

Fleas can cause medical problems in pets including flea allergy dermatitis (FAD), tapeworms, hair loss due to scratching, and secondary skin irritations. In large numbers, fleas can cause anemia from blood loss, especially in puppies and kittens. Some pets have been known to die if the anemia is severe. Ticks can also transmit serious diseases, including Lyme Disease, Ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

Q: How can I tell if my pet has fleas?

The simplest way to tell if your pet has fleas is by finding the adult fleas or the flea feces (often called "flea dirt") on the animal. Brush your pet over a white sheet or paper towel and look for small dark specks. Flea feces contain digested blood and they will turn a reddish brown color when moistened with a small amount of water.

Q: Can't I just deal with a flea problem if it happens?

When it comes to fleas, prevention is the key. Ask anyone who has had a flea problem - they are now strong advocates of prevention. Controlling and eliminating an already existing flea problem takes a lot of time and effort. And it can become quite expensive if any of the steps are overlooked. We recommend monthly topicals as an easy and low cost way to protect your pets from the discomfort and disease fleas can spread, and to protect your house from possible infestation.

Q: How can I help reduce my pet's exposure to ticks?

Keeping pets out of grasses and woods helps to reduce their exposure to fleas and ticks. Removing leaves and clearing brush and tall grass from around the house and kennel areas can also help reduce the number. But any animal outside can easily pick up fleas or ticks so we recommend the preventative approach.

Q: Can I stop worrying about fleas and ticks once it gets cold out?

No. Remember that cold weather does not kill ticks. In fact, spring and fall are when the deer tick numbers are at their peak. As a general rule, we recommend using flea and tick products until after extreme winter conditions persist. In warmer climates, flea and tick protection should be provided year round.

Q: Can more than one flea and tick product be used at the same time?

Maybe. In most cases, one product should do the job. However, there are some situations in which using two products together can be more effective. Refer to our compatibility chart as a guide for which products may be able to be used together, and consult your veterinarian if you are unsure.



Q: Can I use dog flea products on my cats?

No! Ingredients in many flea products labeled for dogs can be harmful or fatal to your cat. An example of this is the ingredient permethrin. Products containing permethrin, or any product labeled "for dogs only" should NEVER be used on cats. Cats have a very sensitive metabolism, and using these products on cats or even allowing your cat close contact with a dog that has been recently treated can have disastrous consequences. Many other flea and tick product options are available for cats.

Q: How do I use my flea comb to check for fleas?

Start by combing around the hindquarters and head of the pet, common areas for fleas to hide. These same areas should be examined for "flea dirt."

I went on vacation, and since I've been back, my house is suddenly infested with fleas! No animals were in my house while I was gone. What happened?

Most likely, there were quite a few flea eggs and larvae in your house before you left, but so few adults that you didn't notice them. While you were gone, the adults laid more eggs and the eggs and larvae continued to develop. The complete flea life cycle, from egg to larva to pupa to adult, normally

takes about 15 days. However, under inhospitable conditions (e.g.; cold temperatures, or lack of a host) the pupa stage can become dormant. This dormant period can extend the flea's life cycle to over a year. When the pupa senses the vibrations, carbon dioxide, or warmth that tell it an animal host is near, it finishes developing into an adult and emerges from its cocoon. While you were gone, all of the immature fleas in your house developed to the pupa stage, and then stopped. When you came home, the dormant flea pupae quickly finished developing into adults and emerged. That is why you "suddenly" have so many adult fleas in your house. Now you'll need to be very diligent about treating both your pet(s) and your house to get the flea infestation under control. We recommend using a spot-on such as Frontline Plus® for your pets, and a product like bioSpot Flea & Tick Spray® for your house.

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Compatibility Chart: www.drsfostersmith.com/pic/article.cfm?dept_id=0&siteid=12&catid=176&aid=310



"There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face." – Ben Williams

"No matter how much cats fight, there always seem to be plenty of kittens." – Abraham Lincoln

"The difference between friends and pets is that friends we allow into our company, pets we allow into our solitude." – Robert Brault

"The greatest pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself, too." – Samuel Butler

"In ancient times cats were worshipped as gods, they have never forgotten this." – Unknown

"Lots of people talk to animals...Not very many listen, though... That's the problem." – Benjamin Hoff

"I have studied many philosophers and many cats. The wisdom of cats is infinitely superior." – Hippolyte Taine

pet quotes

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PITTSBURGH



**GLASS
CENTER**



THE **glass city?**

By Valentine J. Brkich

In a town known for the strength of the iron and steel it once produced for the world, it may be difficult to imagine us becoming known for something as delicate as glass. But if artists Kathleen Mulcahy and Ron Desmett have their way, in the future, when people think of Pittsburgh, they'll think of glass art.

Mulcahy and Desmett are co-founders of Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC), located on Penn Avenue in Pittsburgh's East End. PGC is a glass art gallery, school, and studio all in one, whose focus is "teaching, creating, and promoting glass art." Glass artists from around the world come here to work on new pieces and share their gift with others. And for the general public, PGC provides classes, live demonstrations, and a contemporary glass gallery that's second to none.

Continued on next page



"We offer exceptional resources and instruction in order to expand the skills and knowledge of our students and artists," says Mulcahy, a native of Newark, N.J., who came to Pittsburgh in 1976 to direct and build Carnegie Mellon University's glass program.

It was there where she met Desmett, born in Clearfield, Pa., who was an MFA student at the time.

Both Desmett and Mulcahy were familiar with the economic revitalization power of art, which they'd seen in decaying neighborhoods in New York City and northern New Jersey, and they knew it could work for Pittsburgh, too.

So, in the early 1990s, they began to brainstorm ways that they could use their backgrounds and talents in glass art to revitalize the community's that had been hit so hard by the decline of the steel industry. They envisioned a place that would attract top artists from around the globe and serve as a place where both novice artists and non-artists could come to learn the fundamentals of glass art.

"We wanted to create a place that would inspire people," says Desmett. "A place where people could come to appreciate the beauty of glass art and learn from the best artists in the world."

Finally, in 2001, with the help and support of the Urban Redevelopment Authority and William Block, a passionate art collector and businessman, Desmett and



Mulcahy saw their vision become a reality with the opening of the Pittsburgh Glass Center.

This year PGC is celebrating its 10th anniversary as one of the top glass art facilities in the country. And as a cornerstone of the Penn Avenue Arts Initiative, it's playing a major role in the redevelopment of an underutilized part of the city through the arts.

Since opening in 2001, PGC has served as a home to over 30 glass artists who have moved to Pittsburgh to live and work at the Center. World-renowned glass artists work and teach in the PGC studios because of its state-of-the-art equipment, comprehensive studios, expansive open air spaces, and, last but





not least, its supportive staff members and the personal attention they provide.

In addition, over 10,000 students from 42 states and 15 countries have taken classes at PGC, and a quarter of a million individuals have visited the center to take a class, create art in the studios, explore the gallery, or see a demonstration.

"It doesn't matter if you're an artist working in another medium, a collector, a college student, or just someone who's intrigued by the beauty of glass, we've got a little something for everyone," says Desmett.

PGC's classes are taught by both local and international professional artists. If you're a new student, they encourage you to sample a workshop or class first in order to find out which you like best. They offer everything from beginner classes, which give you a taste of the many different processes and techniques, to advanced courses, which encourage students to focus on techniques that interest them as developing glass artists, while still receiving direction and support for refining basic skills and methodology. In addition, they also offer one-week "Summer-Intensives" with world-renowned artists.

For high school students, PGC offers in-house classes.

"Where else can you take a class in one of the top glass studios in the U.S., with a furnace full of molten glass at 2,200 degrees?" says Mulcahy.

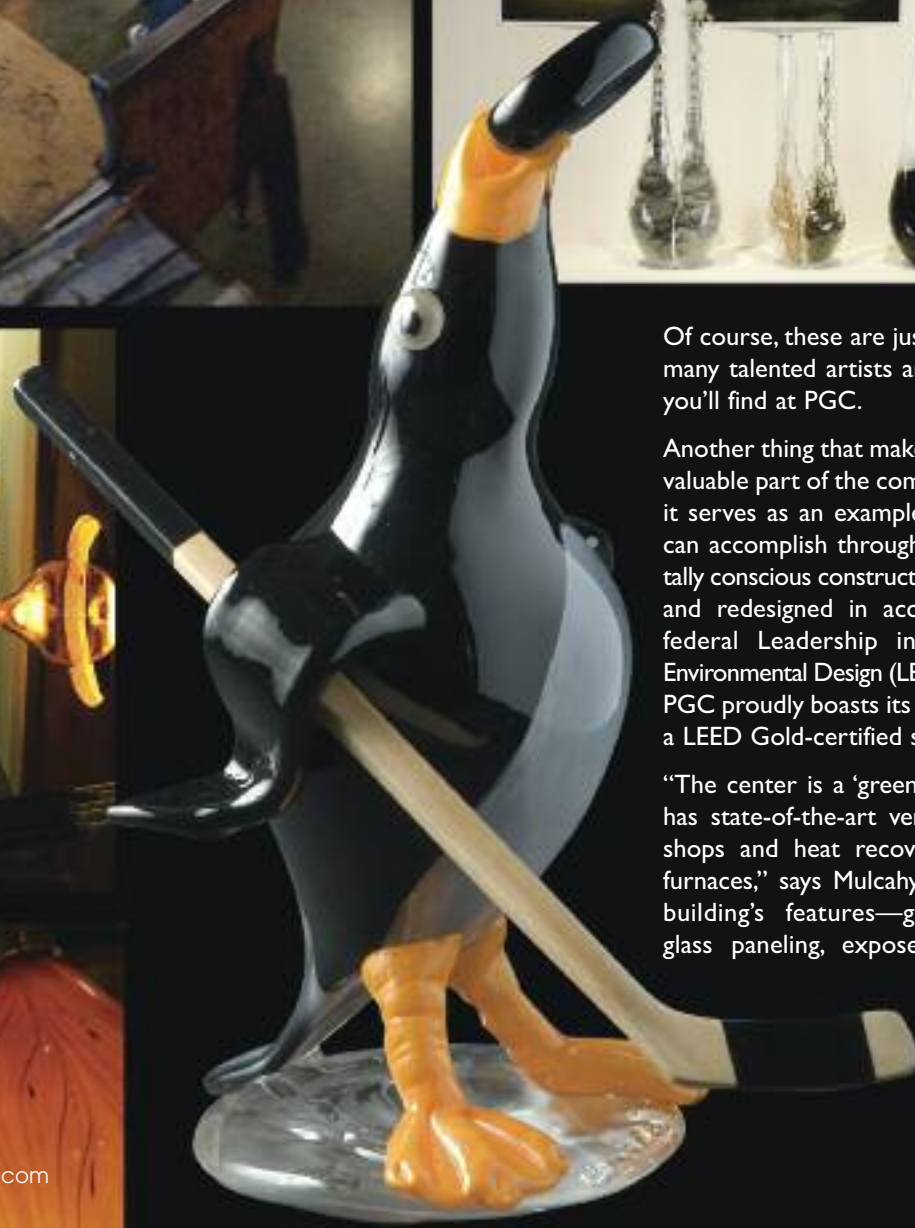
Students get their hands dirty right away as they create glass art at the furnace or torch, and by blowing or sculpting. They even offer scholarships for qualifying high school students.

A full course catalog can be downloaded at pittsburghglasscenter.org.

PGC has attracted some of the nation's best young artists to work at the studios and work as instructors. Artists like Jessica Amarnek, winner of the prestigious Steve Stormer Memorial Award; David Born, a self-taught flame worker who has exhibited in shows in Pittsburgh and in Louisville, Ky.; Jason Forck, who uses glass as a sculptural medium creating pieces that reflect his interest in nature and society; and Michael "Fig" Mangiafico, who teaches glass art seminars across the U.S. and who founded FiG Studios – Forms in Glass, which has work in fine art galleries around the country.

Continued on next page





Of course, these are just a few of the many talented artists and instructors you'll find at PGC.

Another thing that makes PGC such a valuable part of the community is that it serves as an example of what you can accomplish through environmentally conscious construction. Renovated and redesigned in accordance with federal Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, PGC proudly boasts its recognition as a LEED Gold-certified structure.

"The center is a 'green' building, and has state-of-the-art ventilation in all shops and heat recovery from the furnaces," says Mulcahy. Many of the building's features—garage doors, glass paneling, exposed brick—are



made from recycled elements and give PGC its unique urban/industrial edge.

PGC also offers seasonal classes and participates in "First Fridays," a community program that occurs on the first Friday of every month, which offers demonstrations and allows people to try out glass making.

PGC is always looking for new members to join their team and be a part of one of the most vital and influential glass art facilities in the country. Members access to a dynamic and creative community, along with benefits like 10% discount on classes and workshops, and special invitations and membership rates for select events.

"We cherish our members," says Mulcahy, "because through their support, we're able to maintain our facilities and to continue to offer classes and educational programs with world-renowned glass artists."

If you'd like more information on the Pittsburgh Glass Center and what they have to offer, visit them online at pittsburghglasscenter.org. ❖

Pittsburgh Glass Center

5472 Penn Ave.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
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www.pittsburghglasscenter.org



MT. LEBANON

By Pamela Palongue

The snow may never slush upon the hillside. By nine p.m. the moonlight must appear. In short, there's simply not, a more congenial spot, for happily-ever-aftering than here in Mt. Lebanon. Okay, maybe the original lyrics were actually referring to Camelot. But it's hard to imagine a more idyllic spot than Mt. Lebanon which exists within the natural realm.

One thing that makes this six-square-mile area so unique is its people. A lively cultural mix swirls together in an amicable blend that is enriched by its dissimilarities, rather than divided by it. The result is a suburban city with a strong urban vibe that offers diverse entertainment and has a deep appreciation for the arts.

A casual evening stroll down Washington Road will give you a choice of Greek, Italian, Moroccan, Chinese, Japanese, Irish and Lebanese eateries all within a couple of blocks. Each establishment has its own unique ambiance and world flavor. Molly Brannigan's lively Irish pub atmosphere and Celtic décor features bars, chairs,



mirrors and accent pieces imported straight out of the Emerald Isle.

Just across the street but a world away, the golden frescoed walls of Il Pizzaiolo might make you feel as though you've wandered into a Neopolitan café down a lonely side street. The calming Palladian style arches and glowing pizza oven have a way of quickly making a person feel at home. One of Mt. Lebanon's best kept secrets is Enoteca, the intimate little wine bar behind Il Pizzaiolo, a great place to start or end an evening. The Kous Kous Café is a relative newcomer offering Moroccan fare and although it is small in size, it's rocking the block with unique spices and flavorings.



What is it that goes with dinner? A movie! The recently acquired Denis Theatre will feature live entertainment and the screening of independent, foreign and classic films once renovations are complete. The same eclectic culture that has shaped the entertainment and cuisine of Mt. Lebanon has spilled over into the shopping choices as well with charming boutiques and unusual



retailers in the areas of Washington Road, Beverly Road and The Galleria. Moda Donatella, an upscale clothing designer resides comfortably within blocks of Avalon, a clothing re-sale shop. Resonance Violins' fine orchestral instruments play in perfect tune with hip guitar store Empire Music. Along the way, there are two coffeehouses, an Irish imports store, a Victorian gifts boutique and a unique fabric house all intertwined in blissful commerce. For more shopping, The Galleria is only a five minute drive and has over 30 more stores and restaurants to enjoy and Beverly Road shops are less than a mile away.

Author Thomas Merton once wrote, "Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time." An individual could easily lose themselves in the art galleries of Mt. Lebanon. There are at least seven within 8 minutes of each other, spanning the medias of watercolor, oil paintings, drawings, sculptures and glass. And Mt. Lebanon hosts an art festival every autumn called "Art in the Park" which draws artists from all over southwestern Pennsylvania.

Not all of the art Mt. Lebo has to offer is located inside a gallery. Beautiful Tudor limestone homes dot the neighborhoods and the municipal building is a unique 80-year-old art deco jewel. Many beautiful churches grace the tree-lined avenues, but one in particular is especially unique. St. Bernards sets at the corner of Washington Road and Bower Hill without much signage or fanfare, but its beautiful multi-colored tile roof and Catalonian architecture are herald enough for passersby. Stepping inside is likely to lead to a time-warp experience to 12th century France as the architect and church founders took the special pains of visiting Clairvaux to mimic the details of the area's ancient churches.

Mt. Lebanon also has 15 municipal parks which include a golf course, a swimming



pool, basketball and tennis courts, an ice rink, nature trails and even sand volleyball. No excuse for being inactive here.

If you like music, First Fridays between June and October are the place to be with local bands playing on Washington Road for free.

And last but not least, Mt. Lebanon schools have been awarded the U.S. Dept. of Education Blue Ribbon multiple times, ranking them as some of the best in the

nation, an important consideration when buying a home to insure that it retains its value over the long term.

In truth, the snow may occasionally slush upon the hillside and the moonlight sometimes fails to appear, but Mt. Lebanon is certainly a great place to live. ❖



MT. LEBANON
PENNSYLVANIA

cocktails at home:

CLASSIC COCKTAILS

TEN OF THE MOST POPULAR

In the days of ever changing times and fashions, few cocktails that exist today can be said to have achieved "classic status."

The appeal of the classic cocktail lies in the subtle combination of their limited, select number of ingredients. This allows the flavors of each ingredient to have a greater impact on each other. These recipes have frequently stood as a base for mixologists to concoct their new and trendy creations upon. The following are ten cocktails that we believe have passed the test of time.

Please Drink Responsibly.

Manhattan

2 parts whiskey 1 maraschino cherry
1 part sweet vermouth cocktail glass
1 dash bitters

Shake with ice and strain into a cocktail glass.

Side Car

1 cup water 1 cup brandy or cognac
2/3 cups sugar ice
1/2 cup lemon juice sugar for coating martini glass
1/2 cup Cointreau

In a small saucepan, combine the water and sugar and bring to a boil. Cook over moderate heat, stirring just until the sugar dissolves. Let cool.

Fill a cocktail shaker with ice and add 1/4 cup of the syrup, 1/4 cup lemon juice, 1/4 cup Cointreau and 1/2 cup brandy. Shake vigorously until quite cold and strain into 4 frozen sugar rimmed martini glasses. Repeat with the remaining ingredients to make 4 more drinks.

50-50 Martini

1 part dry gin
1 part dry vermouth
cocktail glass

Mix with ice and strain.

Fresh Cosmo

1 part citrus-flavored vodka 1/4 part lime juice
1/2 part Grand Marnier 1 splash grenadine
1/2 part sour mix cocktail glass
1/2 part cranberry juice cocktail

Shake all but grenadine with ice and strain into the glass. Place a few drops of grenadine in the center of the drink.

Miami Mojito

8 sprigs large fresh mint 1 cup golden rum
1/2 cups sugar 3 cups club soda,
1/4 cup fresh lime juice chilled
1 1/2 tsp freshly grated lime peel mint sprigs for garnish
4 cups ice cubes

Remove leaves from the mint sprigs. In blender, combine mint leaves, sugar, lime juice, and peel. Pulse until mint is chopped.

Fill pitcher with ice and add mint mixture. Pour in rum; stir. Fill with club soda. Pour into 6 glasses. Garnish with mint sprigs.

Mint Julep

6 leaves fresh mint 1/4 cup bourbon
crushed ice 1-1/2 tsp simple syrup or corn syrup

Place mint leaves in mint-julep cup. Using an iced-tea spoon, mash the mint.

Add ice to almost fill glass. Add bourbon and syrup. Stir to combine and pour into decorative glass, if desired. Garnish with mint sprig and serve.

To make Simple Syrup: In 1-quart saucepan, heat 1/2 cup water to boiling over high heat. Add 1 cup sugar and stir until sugar dissolves. Let cool 5 minutes. Store in airtight container, refrigerated, for up to 1 week. Makes 1 cup Simple Syrup.

Long Island Ice Tea

1 part vodka 1-1/2 parts sour mix
1 part tequila 1 splash Coca-Cola® or Pepsi®
1 part rum 1 lemon wedge
1 part gin Collins glass
1 part triple sec

Mix ingredients together over ice; Pour into shaker and give one brisk shake.

Pour back into glass and make sure there is a touch of fizz at the top; Garnish with lemon wedge.

Bellini Mimosas

Fresh peach slices Sparkling rosé wine, prosecco or
Peach nectar, chilled Champagne, well-chilled
Grenadine syrup

Put some fresh peach slices into wineglasses and add some chilled peach nectar to cover. Top with well-chilled sparkling rosé wine, prosecco or Champagne. Add a drop of grenadine syrup to each drink.

Italian Lemon Cordial

6 lemons 1-3/4 cups sugar
1 bottle (750-ml) 100-proof vodka

With vegetable peeler, remove peel from lemons (refrigerate peeled lemons for juice). Pour vodka into 8-cup measuring cup or large glass bowl and add lemon peels. Cover with plastic wrap and let stand at room temperature 1 week.

After 1 week, line sieve with paper towel and place over another large bowl. Pour vodka mixture through sieve; discard lemon peels.

In 2-quart saucepan, mix sugar with 3-1/4 cups water; heat to boiling over high heat, stirring. Boil 2 minutes. Cool completely. Add cool syrup to vodka mixture.

Pour cordial into small decorative bottles with tight-fitting stoppers or lids. Although it is not necessary to refrigerate cordial, it's best served very cold. We recommend storing it in the freezer where it can keep indefinitely.



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