

STYLE



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AmazingSpace

Interior designer Barbara Gaber renovates an award-winning home.



Matte black chairs, covered in black raffia, surround a stainless steel Breuton dining table. They sit atop a custom rug in a Frank Lloyd Wright pattern. The living room sofas, upholstered in black wool flannel, are flanked by leather lounge chairs. Accessories include African vessels and a framed ceremonial Kuba cloth.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LASZLO REGOS \ BY CARLA SCHWARTZ

From the street, drivers observe a rusted steel barrier. Once inside, guests and visitors experience an awe-inspiring, majestic sight. Architecture becomes sculpture when massive windows form a V-shape intersection in the foyer of an ultra-contemporary home where many of the rooms enjoy a lakefront view.

Enter Royal Oak interior designer Barbara Gaber. She has the creative task of making an award-wim-

ing home by architects Dirk Denison and Adrian Luchini reflect the new owners' personalities. "It gave me a showcase for what I could achieve," says Gaber.

Most of the furnishings are from the Michigan Design Center (MDC) in Troy and Gorman's in Southfield. The owners met Gaber while she was working at Gorman's and were impressed by the fact that she guaranteed to work within a set budget.

Gaber added to the dramatic

foyer by designing a matte black asymmetrical shelf built by Greg Bartelt of Vogue Furniture in Royal Oak, and placed three wood veneer vases from MDC's Beacon Hill showroom on top. The owners worked with a photograph in *Style* magazine of a rug from Azar's in Birmingham, and ordered a custom carpet in earth tones.

They also commissioned two Schumacher custom rugs with a Frank Lloyd Wright motif for the

dining room and living room.

The artwork throughout the home is eclectic. Most of the pieces are from Danielle Peleg in West Bloomfield and Batista Gallery, formerly the Anderson Gallery, in Birmingham. The African pieces complement the bold architecture. "The contemporary lines went well with the primitive art," adds Gaber.

Working with Birmingham architect Kevin Akey of AZD Associates-



Architects, the owners requested a 60-foot indoor lap pool. Akey deftly created the pool out of the crawl space. He also enlarged the master bedroom.

While the front of the home is unassuming, boaters on the lake have a breathtaking sight of two modern wings of a three-level home cascading down a 22-foot drop to the lake.

Spectators and visitors agree with Gaber's assessment — "You couldn't ask for a better canvas."



Kevin Akey, of AZD Associates-Architects in Birmingham, designed the 60-foot lap pool in space below the master bedroom to accommodate the owner's daily exercise routine. The lap pool was built by Paddock Pools of West Bloomfield.



A V-shaped window wall provides a dramatic focal point in the foyer.



Top: A custom-color area rug from Azar's complements the bold architecture of the foyer.

Left: The enlarged master bedroom enjoys a wide-angle lake view. Mohair shams and throws accent the bed. The construction company was Thomas Sebold and Associates of Birmingham.

Above: Barbara Gaber designed the matte black shelf in the foyer to echo the angled walls and windows.