

# B'ham Designer's Work Becoming Recognized

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

Birmingham, the home of several well known artists, sculptors and professional people, also is the home of a young designer who is fast building a reputation for his work in contemporary design.

He is Peter J. Duenas, who has his studio at 551 Bates street. This young artist has been featured in the April issue of the magazine, "Living for Young Homemakers."

He has won several awards with his designs of candleabra, wall sconces and other pieces. Duenas works in various mediums and does commercial interiors, furniture and home decorative objects, called "accessories."

A candleabra, made of steel rods in a tripod design, holding three candles, is one of Duenas' pieces which was selected to be shown in the Akron Art Institute exhibit "Young Designers, 1953" which is being held from March 24 to April 29.

ONLY THE work of 32 designers were selected from hundreds of entries received throughout the country and Duenas was one of those whose work was chosen.

To be eligible for this exhibition, designers had to be 30 years old or under, and not yet nationally recognized. Their work had to be in production and within the price range of the average homemaker.

The candleabra centers pieces and other home accessories made of metal designed by Duenas are being produced in Pontiac.

In a 1952 Artist-Craftsman exhibit at the Detroit Art Institute, the Duenas designed silver-like candleabra were shown along with his space saving combination coffee table and magazine rack.

THIS WAS the only table shown in the crafts exhibit. The table

is constructed of black plywood in an oblong shape with a white plywood center for magazines. There is a wide rim around the table for coffee cups, glasses or decorative ceramics.

A Duenas designed coffee table was also chosen for exhibition in the Detroit Art Institute 1953 show of artist-craftsman work.

Duenas has won the 1952 AID (American Institute of Decorators) award on his sconce design. This piece was selected by the American Institute of Decorators to be included in the travelling exhibition. A second candleabra is being shown in an Ecclesiastical exhibit sponsored by the Scarva Club of Detroit.

Starting his industrial design career by attending the school of Industrial Arts, New York City, he attended classes and worked as a sculptor's assistant. Upon graduation, he was awarded the Saint-Claude medal for draftsmanship.

THE WAR intervened and during this period, Duenas prepared military maps for the Army Map Service, Corps of Engineers, and prepared technical illustrations for the Army Air Corps.

Duenas resumed his formal industrial design training at war's end at Pratt Institute in New York. After graduating from the Pratt Industrial Design class, he designed furniture and interiors for Edmond Spence, an internationally known furniture designer.

In 1948 Duenas became connected with General Motors and three and a half years worked as head of Postcard interiors; designing the interiors of custom-built cars for celebrities, Bing Crosby's included.

# Advise City Sell 14 Mile Property

Birmingham city planners have recommended to city commissioners that the city sell a parcel of property with a 1200 foot frontage on Fourteen Mile road at the northwest corner of the Cranbrook intersection.

The property has an average depth of 225 feet and City Planning Engineer Robert Bontman advised that the land should be sold for residential development. The property is directly south of the city's sewage disposal plant.

City owned property north of the disposal plant will undergo further study by the plan board.

NEED SOMETHING FOR YOUR HOUSE? Then locate it by reading or using the Classified Ads in The Eclectic each week.



PETER DUENAS WORKS FROM B'HAM STUDIO  
His designs have won several awards

## Gamma Globulin Answers Given By ARC Officer

Several of the questions parents ask concerning the use and availability of gamma globulin as a new and effective weapon against poliomyelitis have been answered by Dr. Ernest W. Bauer, of Hazel Park, chairman of the American Red Cross blood program.

Quoting the U.S. office of Defense Mobilization, which has charge of the distribution of this blood derivative, Dr. Bauer said parents wanting to know how to get gamma globulin injections for their children should contact family physicians for information.

Gamma globulin, however, is used under very special circumstances to minimize the crippling effects of polio," he said.

Answering a second question on how long these injections were effective, Dr. Bauer said, "The incubation of the immune serum would keep a child immune throughout the entire polio season, June, July and August. It gives partial immunization for about five weeks."

HE SAID the first delivery to states, including Michigan, will be about May 1. Deliveries will be based on accumulated records of polio cases during the last five years, with amounts being allocated according to estimated need. Further deliveries will be made from a national pool if and when conditions warrant it.

"This program is new," Dr. Bauer said. "Many factors involved

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