

## ART FOR ART'S SAKE

# Neighbors Protest Against Creativity

By CAROLYN HALL  
Special Writer

A columnist owes it to the readers to be controversial now and then. So I've decided to take a stance on civil rights.

Artists' civil rights are being abrogated. To protect artists and creative people from even further harassment I shall mention no names, just cases.

Case one deals with an area painter who has, in following (or leading) the trend to "pop art," combined miscellaneous objects into sculptures. These she placed on her lawn.

Her neighbors, perhaps uneducated but not enlightened, objected. They called the fire marshal. "Make her get rid of that crazy stuff," they insisted. "It doesn't go with our bird baths or picture window lamps."

THE FIRE marshal closed in on this unwary artist. "Sorry, ma'am, you'll just have to put this stuff inside. The neighbors are complaining."

"I've never complained about their unimaginative, un-aesthetic, poorly designed bird baths, nor their follow-the-herd type picture window lamps, have I?" she might have asked.

She didn't. She just said, "I haven't room in the basement." The fire marshal viewed her busy clutter and overflowing basement workshop. He condemned her basement, too.

Case two deals with a local designer who, in an attempt to be a better than the average dad, built a striking and well designed playhouse for his children. The neighbors complained.

"That is an accessory building and not acceptable under the deed restrictions in our area," they self-

righteously stated. "You'll just have to take it down."

HIS MISTAKE, of course, was in being too creative. If he had put up a Cape Cod playhouse, or a Mother Goose-type house, he might have made it.

Of he might have sneaked with a whacked-up type that the kids make for themselves.

Which bring up case three. Somewhere is a delightful playhouse that some kids and a dad have made. It is so appealing that I thought a picture of it would be nice to go with this column.

The city official that I consulted suggested that I not use it because somebody would complain and the

poor little kid would have to take it down. He described a marvelous doghouse a man had built of expensive materials and impressive design. The neighbors complained. It wasn't ordinary.

THIS IS the point. What is so vital about being mediocre? Zoning boards never object to one more mediocre house, or even an abysmally designed one, but they view with alarm imaginative innovations. The same ideas that 20 years hence will be seen row on row (in boiled down versions).

With the populated world closing in on us all, I beg for more lenience, more tolerance to a neighbor's right to be different.

I treasure the artists and creative thinkers. They put up with mediocrity philosophically but aim for the best in spite of the odds. Their creative discoveries are for your future.

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## Sketched for Charlevoix

Sketch by architects Begrow & Brown, Inc., 51 W. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, shows proposed Holiday Tower Hotel covering three acres, on Lake Michigan, in Charlevoix. The resort was first suggested by James P. Monahan, 400 E. Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, owner of a Chicago engineering firm. With several other sponsors, including a Birmingham doctor, Donald A. Schubert, the Great Northwestern Land Development Co. was formed. Ground breaking for the \$1,400,000 project will be held in September; the resort is expected to open in July, 1965.

## Movie Guide

Parenteen Committee  
Birmingham P.T.A. Council

MOVIE	Green Sheet	National Legion of Decency
How the West Was Won	*GA	*A-1
The Quick Gun	A-MY-Y	A-2
Hey There, It's Yogi Berra!		A-1

\* recommended as superior entertainment especially for children

**GREEN SHEET**  
These audience symbols are intended as broad guides to selection, and do not indicate either recommendation or non-recommendation of the films to which they are applied.

**A** Adults  
**MY** Mature Young People  
**Y** Young People (12 years to 18 years)  
**C** Children (unaccompanied by adults)  
**GA** General Audience

**NATIONAL LEGION OF DECENCY**  
**A-1** Morally Unobjectionable for General Patronage  
**A-2** Morally Unobjectionable for Adults and Adolescents  
**A-3** Morally Unobjectionable for Adults  
**B** Morally Unobjectionable in Part for All  
**C** Condemned  
**SC** A separate classification is given to certain films which, while not morally offensive in themselves, require some analysis and explanation as a protection to the uninformed against wrong interpretations and false conclusions.

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\* Overbrook

**MAX BROOCK INC.**  
MI 4-6700

\*West Long Lake and Lahser Roads

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Dream View - of the Lake

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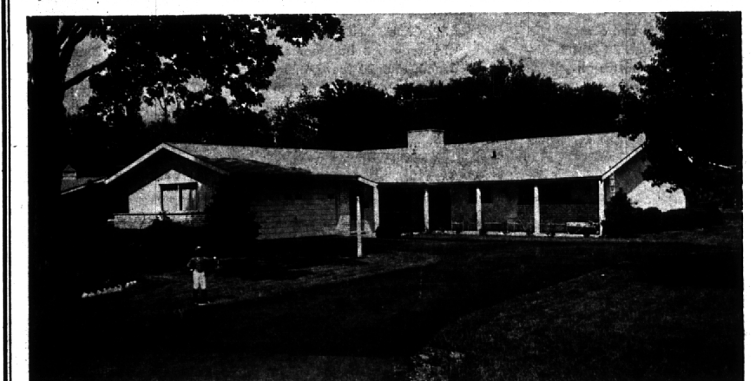
Lower-level is entirely soundproofed. Family room with fireplace opens to the sweeping lawn. There is a lake-water sprinkling system. All floors are oak and parquet, and entry is slate.

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