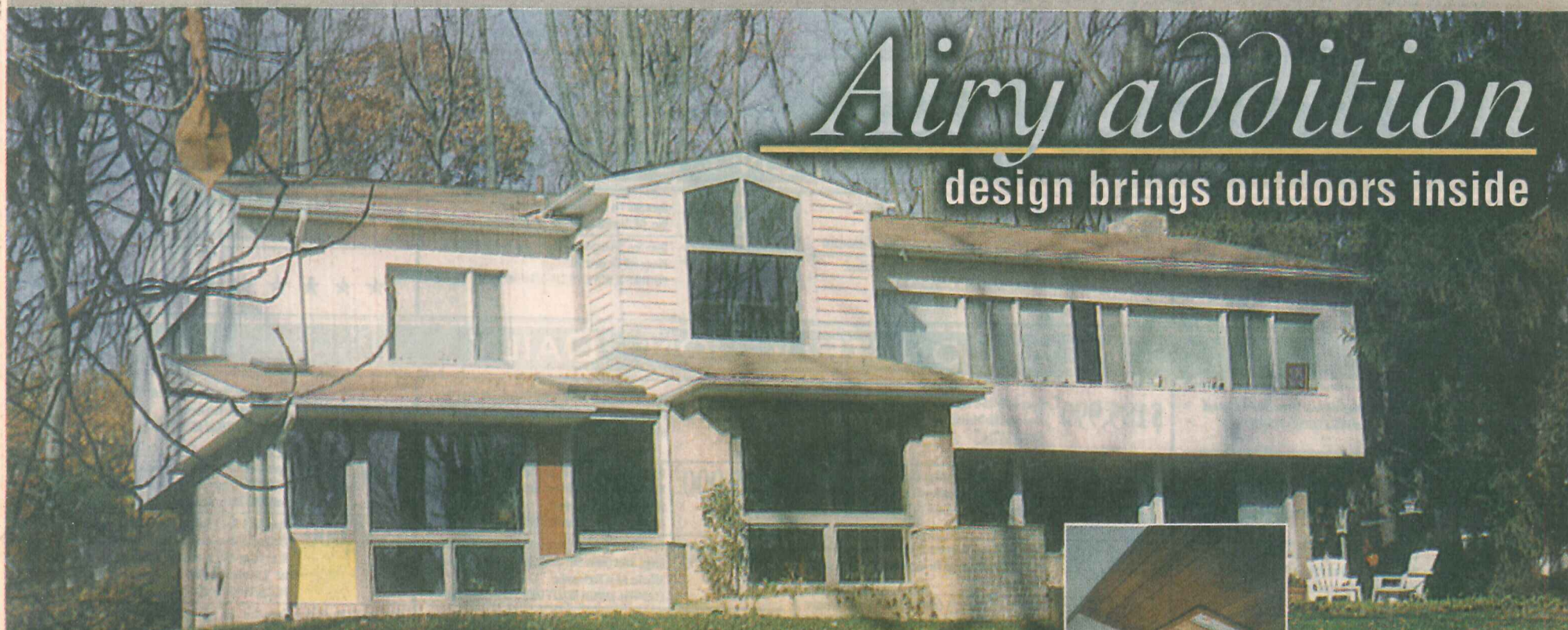


# REAL ESTATE

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## *Airy addition* design brings outdoors inside



### By Nancy Mortimer O'Brien

When Michael and Marianna Sullivan decided to build an addition onto their 50-year-old Rydal home, the couple agreed it was important that the design was both energy-efficient and environmentally sensitive.

The Sullivans selected Paul Macht Architects of Rydal, who have been specializing in designs sensitive to the local environment since 1989.

The original house was built in 1952 by architect Arthur B. White on the style of Rieveltd, an acolyte of Frank Lloyd Wright.

"There were lots of panels of Piet Mondrian colors on panels on the outside of the house," said Michael. "One feature of the house which was later removed was a 'butterfly' roof."

The Sullivans have about 60 or 70 mature trees on their one-acre lot. It was very important that any addi-

tion take advantage of the dramatic view.

"Paul Macht spent many hours with us talking about our feelings about the house and how much we enjoy looking out on all those trees," said Michael. "He came back with five or six architectural sketches for us to choose from."

"I can't say enough good things about how hard the architects worked to bring our wishes into reality," said Marianna.

"It makes you feel like you are living in the backyard rather than looking out at it," said Michael.

When the Sullivans were first discussing their plans with Macht, they had no intention of remodeling the upstairs. They acceded to Macht's suggestion to convert a second floor deck into a spacious sunlit Jacuzzi alcove and lavatory. The windowed gable adds a touch of drama to the rear facade.

The first floor addition included enlarging the

kitchen and eating area, as well as providing an office space. This addition extends into the garden, breaking the barrier between house and landscape.

"It was a very interesting challenge to design an addition for this modern house," said Macht. "The garden wall is in a semicircle which is partially inside the house. The plantings are next to the wall and continue outside."

Large areas of glass, a skylight over the garden bed, and suspended book shelving in the study niche further reinforce an airy, outdoor feeling. Both areas are warmed by a direct vent gas fireplace as well as solar collection in the flagstone flooring. Some of the flagstones from the old patio are used inside the house.



*Behind: addition blends in with exterior of the home, while above: glass and design bring backyard into the interior, providing an airy feel.*

The kitchen floor is white pine and some old wood has been worked into the Corian countertop.

"We also had a kitchen table made of this old wood which we use all the time even for informal entertaining," said Marianna. "In the upstairs bathroom, Macht repeated the themes of the panels with Mondrian colors."

The Sullivans also had high praise for the contractor who executed Macht's designs.

"Allen Entekin is a rare craftsman among contractors," said Marianna. "The skill of his workers and their willingness to cooperate was essential to the success of our project."