

A photograph of a wooden porch with a central door and a light fixture above it. The porch is made of light-colored wood and has a gabled roof. The door is dark wood with a small window at the top. The background is a dark blue or grey siding.

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN HOME

Check Out Our Two Featured Southeast Homes

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ON THIS PAGE: ANGELINI & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS • PHOTO BY JEFF GARLAND



environmentalist and interior designer Donna Newsom, along with her husband Jack Barrenfanger, had a vision of building a green home on a 10-acre site in the 132-acre equestrian community of Cobblestone Estates in Webster Township. For Newsom, along with her architect and builder comrades, building a home that earned LEED Silver certification was a feat of distinction few Michigan homes have achieved.

To fully understand LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a green building certification system developed by the United States Green Building Council in 2000, navigating the usgbc.org website offers the most detailed explanation of a rather complex process.

"I wanted to build a conscious home," says Newsom adding that one of the first considerations was a prescribed burn of the home's footprint. "The burn brings it all back to a natural state--it gets so beautiful and improves everything," explains Newsom, adding "We also kept the house low and most of the acreage natural--I didn't want to mow over frogs, turtles and bunny rabbits."

Partnering with architects Brad and Theresa Angelini of Angelini & Associates Architects and LEED certified builder Christopher Laycock of Christopher Laycock Design Build gave Newsom the confidence to hand over her criteria and layout. "The Angelinis are very meticulous—they design to the last nail and they are really nice people," notes Newsom. Designing to the last nail was particularly important since the foundation and walls are constructed with ARXX ICF or insulating concrete form technology. "It's like working with Legos—the concrete forms go to the second floor," explains Brad. "We had to know the location of every window, every door, all the electrical outlets—everything is pre-located and there are absolutely no changes during construction."

For the Angelinis who are known for award-winning design and an extensive portfolio of more than 300 projects from university buildings to new homes, designing a home for LEED certification was a first. "The goal is to match the client's needs and the LEED point system to achieve a design that is both sustainable and fits the owner's lifestyle" explains Brad. Points are even earned by the way the construction site is managed, including a limit on the waste that is generated. It's a culture that is created on-site above



and beyond building a good home.”
Theresa adds, “Materials should be obtained within a 500 mile radius from the site – tiles from Italy would add points.” Theresa also explains that additional points are given for a detached garage, which allows for more windows around the house and eliminates the possibility of fumes that seep into a home from an attached garage. A mudroom earns points for its purpose of removing shoes at the door instead of potentially tracking in harmful pesticides and other unwanted residue.

“The emphasis on this home is very high tech but it looks like a home,” explains Brad adding that Newsom’s skill in selecting textures, color and natural materials gives the home its modern yet warm feel. “I don’t think anyone walking into this house would have any idea it is a LEED certified home,” notes Theresa.

Newsom was not one to install every “green gadget” on the market. For this home, it was about constructing a healthy environment that is durable and sustainable with as small a footprint as possible. Newsom’s home is very sensible, elegant and comfortable.

For Newsom, a self-proclaimed architect wannabe and empty-nester, her contemporary farmhouse is a quiet retreat in a friendly community of both equestrians and non-riders. Located at the front of the development is Cobblestone Farms, a state-of-the-art boarding and event training facility where Cobblestone Estates residents have the option of boarding their horses and where Newsom’s 7-year-old horse named Spike resides. At anytime, Newsom and Spike can go for a walk around the two miles of shared trails that travel through the wooded estates and reveal in the peaceful setting with her neighbors. □

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PREVIOUS PAGE

LEFT: Fires are glowing at the height of autumn along the back roads of Webster Township.

TOP RIGHT: The low prairie LEED Silver certified home with minimalist landscaping fits seamlessly into its natural surroundings.

THIS PAGE

ABOVE: Woodmode cherry cabinetry, heated porcelain tile floors, granite island, engineered quartz and expert design achieve lustrous style in the contemporary kitchen.

BELOW: Sustainable bamboo flooring in the modest entry way combines warmth and continuous flow throughout the home.



While dining, the family often observes Sandhill cranes and Great Blue herons, and enjoys waiting to neighbors who ride along a partly owned two-mile trail.

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WINTER 2011



OPPOSITE PAGE: The heart of the home maintains warmth and comfort in an open area where kitchen and living space connect with 10-foot-tall ceilings specifically proportioned to the human body. The focal point is an original conformation portrait oil painting of Candor—a well-loved family horse.

ABOVE: An endless hallway of built-in bookshelves is nirvana for the bookshelves and avid readers in this home.

BELOW: Low energy lighting, heated porcelain flooring, low flow showerheads and dual flush toilets are a few of the green materials in compliance with LEED certification.

MIDDLE: Bruiser, the family dog, awaits his shower to wash away the day's grime from a jaunt through the backyard wetland.



Angelini & Associates Architects

PRINCIPAL OWNER (S):

Partners – Bradford Angelini and Theresa Luthman Angelini
Project architect for Cobblestone residence: Denise M. Close

NUMBER OF YEARS IN BUSINESS:

23

YEAR BUSINESS STARTED:

1989

EDUCATION:

Both partners have a B. Arch from Ohio State University, M. Arch from University of Illinois at Chicago, and second M. Arch from University of Notre Dame

BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:

We are committed to providing high quality architectural and interior design solutions for our clients, with excellent service.

WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?

Our design process is one that considers a wide variety of alternatives early in the process, so that the entire design process moves smoothly and the client is confident that the final architectural design will be the best solution for their investment. We use either three dimensional study models or computer programs such as Sketch-Up, to explore and communicate the design alternatives. We utilize Autocad for all drafting, so the project is seamless and development is efficient. We produce very complete construction documents that include drawings, specifications, and schedules so that the work is thoughtfully planned, the project can be bid accurately, and construction can proceed smoothly.

HOBBIES, VOLUNTEERISM, ETC. :

Brad enjoys live theater and music. Theresa actively volunteers to support the arts at the new Skyline High School in Ann Arbor. Both enjoy reading, gardening, entertaining friends, and working on their own home.

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:

For additional information, call (734) 998-0735 or visit www.angeliniarchitects.com.



ABOVE: A grand entrance to Cobblestone Farms—the event training and boarding facility nestled in a corner of Cobblestone Estates.

BELOW: Mary Barsan and her companion Mick pause for a moment along the Cobblestone Estates trail.



PHOTO BY JIMMY JOHNSTON

an Equestrian LIFE

BY JULIE FORD

north of Ann Arbor in Webster Township where the roads become a little less traveled and quiet farmland replaces busy subdivisions is Cobblestone Estates, a one-of-a-kind 132-acre equestrian community developed by Jim and Darlyn Deratony.

"My wife and I have five kids, four still ride and my wife is an avid rider," explains Deratony who doesn't ride, adding that in 2001 he and his family were initially looking for a 20-acre parcel to build an eventing course and found the 132-acre parcel instead. "I am a land developer and the only way we could make this work was to sell part of the land to build the barn," notes Deratony referring to Cobblestone Farms. That



PHOTO BY JIMMY JOHNSTON

Jack Barenfanger walks daughter Ayla Barenfanger down a picturesque isle on her wedding day.

same year, Deratony started the land development process. "It's complicated to work with the township, the county, and with horse people and to follow all the ordinances," explains Deratony adding that Webster Township liked the idea a lot.

For homeowners in the Estates, each is given the first right of refusal for one of 45 horse stalls at the Farms. "It's funny, most of the residents are not horse owners, they just like the setting," says Deratony. "It's only about 25 percent equestrian and owners have 100 acres of land to walk, jog, or cross country ski – there are no easements and all jointly own the two mile trail," explains Deratony. "The area is flat yet hilly and heavily treed." For those who love an equestrian setting, living

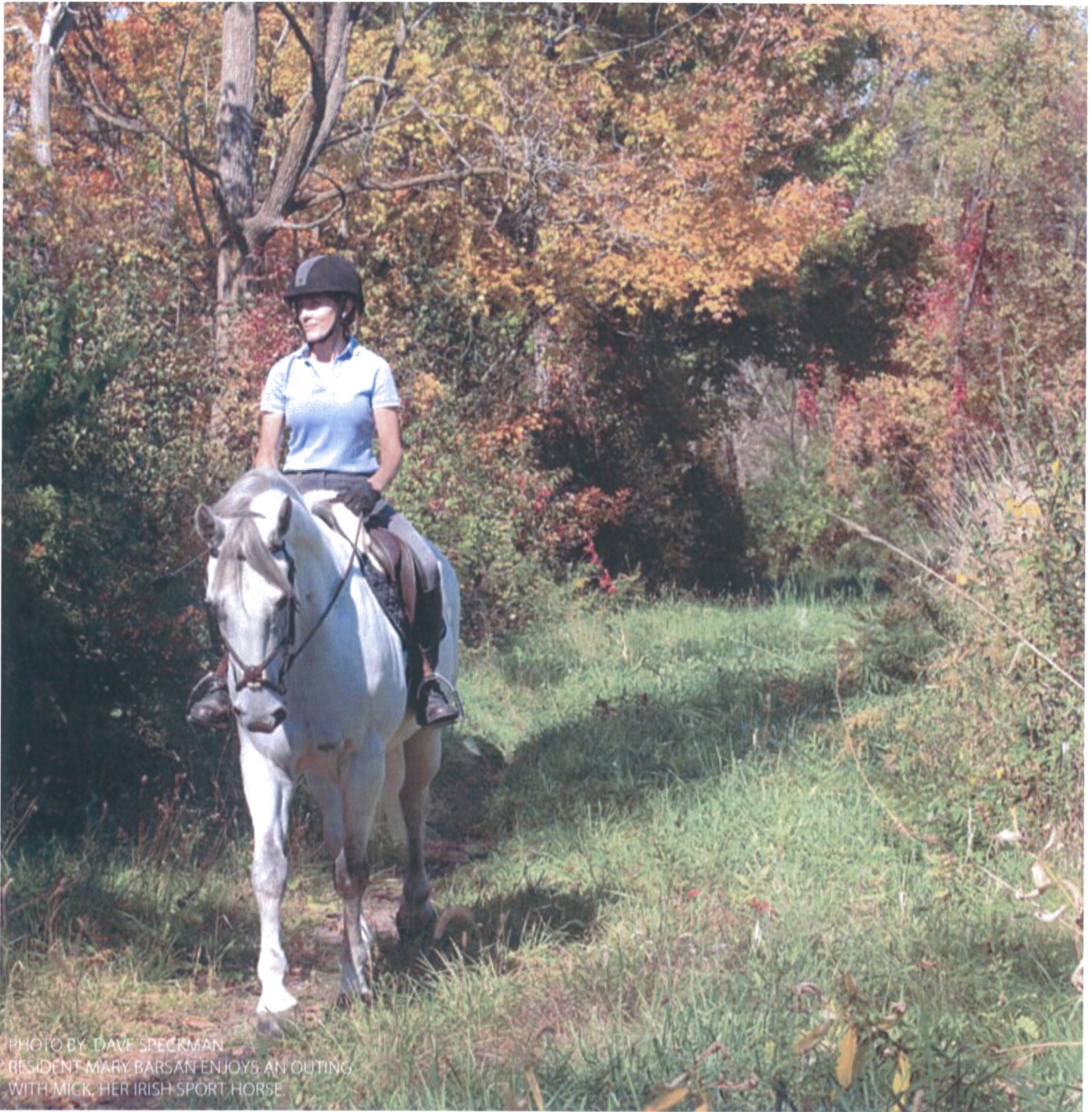


PHOTO BY DAVE SPECKMAN
RESIDENT MARY BARSAN ENJOYS AN OUTING
WITH MICK, HER IRISH SPORT HORSE.

in Cobblestone Estates— about 15 minutes north of Whole Foods and the University of Michigan—is the best of both worlds.

While owning a horse is not required, those who do enjoy the luxury of living within walking distance of Cobblestone Farms where horses are boarded and trained in eventing --the equivalent of a triathlon for horses. Eventing comprises dressage, cross-country, and show-jumping—a thrilling sport for both participants and observers. Training sessions and horse shows are frequent and Deratony mentions that Cobblestone Farms will be hosting national horse shows this May and July. Residents are encouraged to watch events at the Farms and to take a stroll around the grounds.

There's something pastoral about looking out a window to watch

horses quietly walk by and wave to the neighbors who ride. Perhaps the most intriguing part of this development is its sense of community. Each winter on an especially snowy night, homeowners gather their horses to visit neighbors on horseback in a progressive party while attempting to sing Christmas carols. In celebration of Halloween, neighborhood children climb aboard the Halloween Hayride and trick-or-treat from house-to-house. Nearby, is the Dexter Cider Mill, the oldest continuously operating cider mill in Michigan and a favorite "after training" and weekend gathering spot.

"I feel lucky to live in an equestrian neighborhood with friends who share similar interests. There is something for everyone out here," shares Cobblestone Estates resident Donna Newsom. □