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Home Life Style



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Old Barns Witness to History

BY CAROLE DELL

Some of Potomac's oldest barns can be found clustered in an area of Potomac near Travilah and Dufief Mill roads where in earlier years the Potomac Hunt could be seen riding to the hounds.

One in particular is a familiar sight to passersby as it hovers over Travilah Road. It is the bright red timber-frame bank barn that has been a fixture there since 1885 and it has found a new life.

In 1999, when Jack Devine and his family bought the property, he constructed an art studio and business space of glass and steel in a section of the barn to house his company, Artists Circle Fine Art, an art-consulting firm. It is a beautiful space inside that has not altered the integrity of the barn, he said.

According to Devine, the barn has a well-known and interesting history. The Ward brothers bought the land from the Dufief family right after the Civil War, he said. In the mid-'40s, Hal Poole and his family of five daughters moved in and used it as a horse farm and riding school. The *Almanac's* Cissy Finley Grant rode there as a young woman, said Devine. The Pooles have returned to visit the property.

Too pretty to be called a barn, a yellow and white stable not far



Beautifully restored, the Travilah Road barn owned by the Devine family is a picturesque reminder of Potomac life in the early century. The silo, built to hold grain for the animals, is in remarkable condition for its age. "I don't know what to do with it," said Jack Devine. "Maybe a library inside with spiral staircase." The outside cannot be changed because of its historic significance.

PHOTOS BY CAROLE DELL



This yellow and white stable, built in 1941 by Robert Hanson, is unusual with its two wings off a central barn area. Imagine lovely horses, their heads looking over the yellow and white dutch doors. Draped over the railing, a saddle's patina glances in the sun. On the second story, hovering above the horses, square dances took place during the war years, according to Robert Hanson. "We had a wonderful dance floor and I remember the many dances there in the '40s," he said. There is also an office with a fireplace. The screen is a reminder that the field, where horses once grazed, is now used for soccer. The original Hanson house and this barn are now owned by the Pace family.

SEE BARNs, PAGE 16

Newly retired, Nimi Trehan now focuses on painting from the comfort of her converted basement-art studio.

Minimal Design, Maximum Art

BY AARON STERN

When Nimi Trehan retired from her job as an interior designer at Walter Reed Army Medical Center it gave her the opportunity she had wanted for years to focus on her art. An avid amateur painter, Trehan was finally able to focus on her oil and acrylic paintings that often explore themes of nature or the culture of her native India. In preparation of her retirement, Trehan remodeled her previously unfinished basement into her own private art studio and gallery. In addition to a guest bedroom and ample floor space, there is also a fully-fitted wet bar from which to entertain and behind a row of folding closet doors are Trehan's art supplies and a sink to clean her various palettes.

"It's really a multi-purpose area," Trehan



The workspace area of Nimi Trehan's Avenel home art studio-gallery. After working for years as a commercial interior designer, Trehan retired earlier this year and now focuses on her personal passion – painting.



Nimi Trehan and her husband Avtar beneath Nimi Trehan's painting "Light" in their living room.

PHOTOS BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC



"I believe in minimal furnishings so the focus is on the art," Trehan said.

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In preparation of her retirement, Nimi Trehan and her husband Avtar converted their basement from an unfinished storage area to an art studio where she could both produce and display her artwork.

Design

FROM PAGE 4

said, one that her husband also uses. “He plays cards and has his friends over for coffee.”

She held her first show in mid-October that showcased her work, much of which she had done since leaving Walter Reed earlier this year.

“It was very nice, it was my first in a long time,” she said. Many of the works drew interest and some she sold.

Sometimes art and design achieve their highest levels through accident, and Trehan’s intersection of painting and home design is no different. The centerpiece of her home’s first floor is a vertical painting over the living room fireplace that is prominently visible as soon as a visitor steps through the home’s front door. Trehan had the space designed intentionally when the home was built so that she could put one of her works – “Light,” based on an Indian poem of the same name – above it. Once the home was complete and the painting was installed, she realized that at different times of day



PHOTOS BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC
From the foyer of their home one can see the painting “Light” that hangs above the living room fireplace and is the centerpiece of the downstairs layout. The Trehans had the first floor built with the painting specifically in mind.

the light filtering into the high-ceilinged room cast the painting in different ways that brought out different qualities in it.

“It makes it entirely different” depending on the time of day, Trehan said.

With her focus now squarely on her art, Trehan will continue to push herself and to explore new ideas, she said.

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Barns

FROM PAGE 3

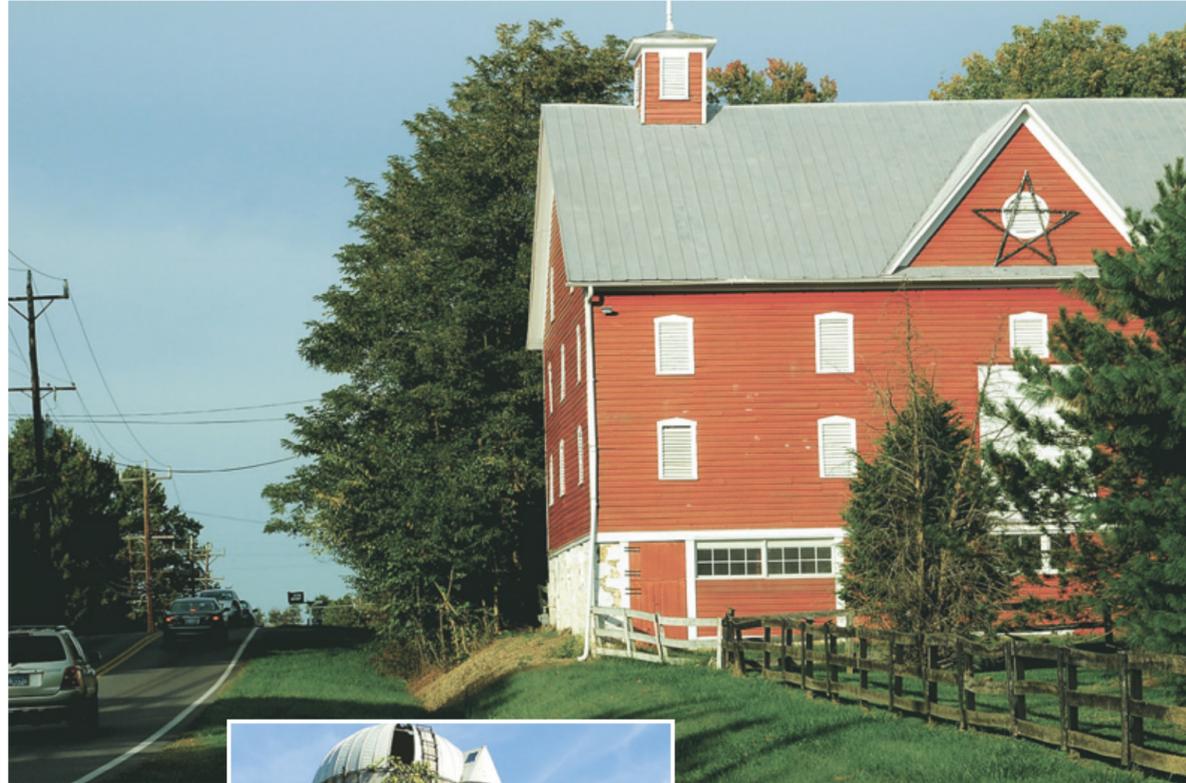
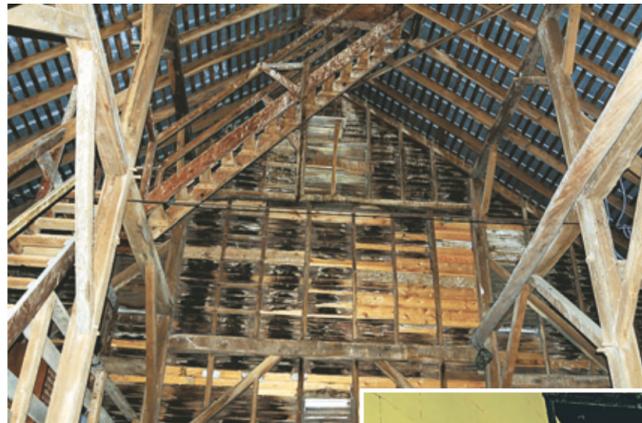
away sits back off Dufief Mill Road and it is unusual in that it has two wings that extend from the center aisle.

Former owner Bob Hanson, who now lives on an adjacent 200 acres, said that as a teenager he helped design the barn. Over the middle of the center aisle, they built a dance floor. "This was the center of our youth activities during the war," he said. "We had square dances every week." Today, the barn is owned by the Pace family.

Rising sometimes 50 feet in the air, the beams of this 1885 barn create a large open space which can be converted to many uses.



This old corn crib still standing from the late 1800s, maintains an ancient dignity as newer structures slowly move closer.



The old barn on Travilah Road has looked down on the steady urbanization of its surroundings since 1885. Intact and stunning in its preservation, it may nudge passersby into a reverie of nostalgia, but inside, the cows and horses are gone. Its massive beams now look down on a new enterprise: an art gallery.

PHOTOS BY CAROLE DELL

Artists Circle Fine Art, occupies this space within the larger space of the Travilah Road barn. It was designed by property owner Jack Devine and gives new purpose and life to the old structure.

Devine is also president of the Montgomery County Historical Society and the barn is registered with them.

Surprisingly, there are several silos remaining in the Potomac area that still stand tall in defiance of their encroaching surroundings.





Luvie Court, Potomac, \$3,395,000

Wrapped in seclusion by mature trees, gardens and 1.61 acres of grounds with views of the Potomac River, this home exhibits Old World influence, and the masterful imprint of architect Bobby McAlpine. Detailed with paneled ceilings and designer flooring, the interior features a grand salon, a magnificent kitchen and dining room, a Mahogany-paneled porch, and first-floor owner's suite. The grounds include flagstone terraces and a secluded infinity pool. Situated on Merry-Go-Round-Farm, an equestrian community, an adjacent .73-acre lot is offered separately for \$795,000.

Contact Nancy Itteilag at 202.905.7762 or itteilag@aol.com for more information.



Black Riffles Road, Great Falls, \$4,300,000

Built on a parcel once known as the Black Riffles Equestrian Farm, this home sits on five acres just west of Great Falls and River Bend parks, deep in the Great Falls woodlands near the Potomac River. The European Porte-cochere marks the entrance to a flagstone motor court which accesses four of the eight garage bays set within a stacked two-story wing.

Towering windows surround the main level, where formal rooms are dressed in Brazilian Cherry and Travertine. The master wing is luxurious with a bath fit for royalty. Surrounding an upper level library-study area, the bedroom offers world-class luxury. There is an upper level party room, a fully finished open-space lower level, an in-law's wing, swimming pool, and a fully equipped home gym. Six-plus bedrooms, 13 bathrooms, five fireplaces, Web-enabled security monitoring, geothermal system, an emergency backup generator.

Contact Said Zangeneh, Weichert Realtors, Great Falls, 703-855-1819.



Beall Mountain Road, Potomac, \$3,450,000

This Beall Mountain Road home offers a stunning setting and the luxury of privacy. Sited on six acres with a meandering stream and gorgeous woodlands. Only the best materials have been used and all with a designer's eye. Go outside and relax at the serene rock outcropping overlooking the stream, frolic in the pool or crank up the competition in the barn-styled sportsplex with a full-court indoor basketball court and batting and golf cages.

Contact Anne Killeen, Washington Fine Properties, cell 301-706-0067, Office 301-983-6400



North Monroe Street, Arlington, \$2,399,000

Completed in 2001 this six bedroom, five-and-a-half bath home combines a sophisticated architectural design with a rare wooded backdrop. The open architectural layout is both spacious and light with vaulted ceilings and two stories of glass. This property features a multi-tiered heated pool/spa/patio area while maintaining ample yard for children's enjoyment. The main level features include a two-story foyer and living room, master bedroom suite with private handicap full bath, additional half bath, dining room with wooded vistas, kitchen/breakfast room with cherry cabinetry stainless steel appliances and granite counters, plus a two-story great room with gas fireplace. Upstairs are three bedrooms each with private bath and walk-in closets, an additional master suite with master bath with Jacuzzi tub, separate shower and water closet. Walkout lower level has two additional bedrooms, fifth full bath, a recreation room with gas fireplace, and exits to patio/pool and oversized two-car garage.

Contact Jonathan Prove, Realtor, RE/MAX Allegiance, 703-522-1940 office, 202-489-8169 cell.

Dining at Tower Oaks Lodge offers patrons a rustic respite courtesy of partners' obsessive design and shopping.

The Indian Weathervane

BY AARON STERN AND
GREG WYSHYNSKI

In 2002, the Clyde's Restaurant Group opened the Tower Oaks Lodge in Rockville, an eatery inspired by the "great camps" of the Adirondack Mountains at the turn of the century. There was the Saranac Room, with its stone fireplace and its conversation-starting Indian weathervane. There was the Tack Room and the Boathouse Bar; and there was the majestic Great Room, constructed from a 200-year-old barn from Vermont. These and other rooms in the Lodge gained immeasurable character from the items that adorned their walls and the furniture that graced their floors. Finding those touches is one of the greatest challenges for Clyde's President John Laytham and Executive Vice President Tom Meyer.

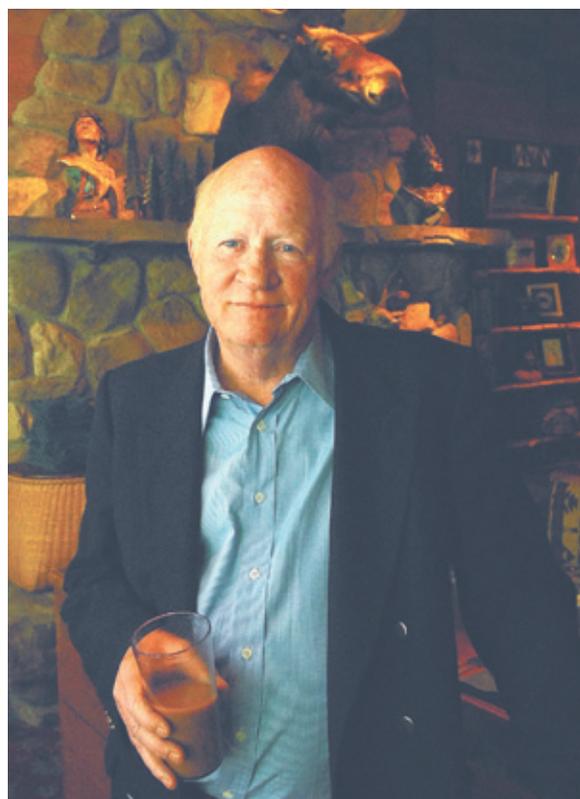
A stuffed mountain lion, fishing lures, a birch bark canoe, wicker baskets for carrying fish – it may seem more like a hunting lodge than a restaurant, but then that's exactly the point. Tower Oaks Lodge in Rockville, one of 16 restaurants run by the Clyde's Restaurant Group, was built in 2002 with the soul of a northeast hunting camp firmly in company president John Laytham's mind.

"We always try to do something in relationship to where we're going to be," said Laytham as he and Meyer strolled through the

SEE ADIRONDACK, PAGE 11



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION
The Boathouse Bar in the Tower Oaks Lodge celebrates life by the Chesapeake Bay.



John Laytham, president of the Clyde's Restaurant Group in the Great Room at the Tower Oaks Lodge in Rockville.





PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER

11208 RIVER VIEW DR (6 BR, 5 FB, 3 HB) in Marwood sold for \$2,400,000 on Sept. 30, 2008

In the area, 56 homes sold for \$1 million or more, eleven are in POTOMAC.

- ❖ 11208 RIVER VIEW DR (6 BR, 5 FB, 3 HB) in Marwood sold for \$2,400,000 on Sept. 30, 2008
- ❖ 9848 AVENEL FARM DR (6 BR, 4 FB, 2 HB) in Avenel sold for \$2,225,000 on Sept. 3, 2008
- ❖ 12616 TRIBUNAL LN (6 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Palatine sold for \$2,200,000 on Sept. 5, 2008
- ❖ 12908 THREE SISTERS RD (6 BR, 7 FB, 1 HB) in Beallmount Grove sold for \$1,750,000 on Sept. 18, 2008
- ❖ 10401 JOINERS LN (5 BR, 5 FB) in Potomac Outside sold for \$1,735,000 on Sept. 10, 2008
- ❖ 10417 BOSWELL LN (6 BR, 6 FB, 2 HB) in Glen Mill Knolls sold for \$1,572,500 on Sept. 12, 2008
- ❖ 12412 COPENHAVER TER (6 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Copenhaver sold for \$1,330,000 on Sept. 8, 2008
- ❖ 9901 BLUEGRASS RD (6 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Potomac Village sold for \$1,270,000 on Sept. 8, 2008
- ❖ 7816 LAUREL LEAF DR (4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB) in Fawsett Farms Manor sold for \$1,178,000 on Sept. 19, 2008
- ❖ 7820 MARY CASSATT DR (4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB) in Willerburn Acres sold for \$1,070,000 on Sept. 23, 2008
- ❖ 9908 HALL RD (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Potomac Village sold for \$1,050,000 on Sept. 18, 2008

Five are in GREAT FALLS.

- ❖ 853 NICHOLAS RUN DR (5 BR, 6 FB, 2 HB) in Grovemont sold for \$2,600,000 on Sept. 16, 2008
- ❖ 11553 TRALEE DR (6 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Tralee Estates sold for \$1,950,000 on Sept. 26, 2008
- ❖ 9708 MILL RUN DR (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Mill Run Acres sold for \$1,600,000 on Sept. 10, 2008
- ❖ 9020 BELCOURT CASTLE PL (5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) in Cheshire sold for \$1,400,000 on Sept. 29, 2008
- ❖ 974 MILLWOOD LN (4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB) in Offutt Home Tract sold for \$1,150,000 on Sept. 26, 2008

Eight are in MCLEAN.

- ❖ 8322 WOODLEA MILL RD (5 BR, 5 FB, 1 HB) in Woodlea Mill sold for \$2,500,000 on Sept. 12, 2008
- ❖ 1511 SPRING VALE AVE (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in West Mc Lean sold for \$1,745,000 on Sept. 9, 2008
- ❖ 1324 WOODSIDE DR (4 BR, 3 FB, 1 HB) in Woodside Estates sold for \$1,487,500 on Sept. 11, 2008
- ❖ 1880 VIRGINIA AVE (3 BR, 2 FB, 1 HB) in Franklin Park sold for \$1,475,000 on Sept. 15, 2008
- ❖ 1432 WAGGAMAN CIR (4 BR, 3 FB) in Salona Village sold for \$1,395,000 on Sept. 4, 2008
- ❖ 1880 VIRGINIA AVE (4 BR, 3 FB) in Franklin Park sold for \$1,300,000 on Sept. 1, 2008
- ❖ 6529 SOTHORON RD (6 BR, 5 FB) in Salona Village sold for \$1,300,000 on Sept. 30, 2008
- ❖ 1450 EMERSON AVE #502 (3 BR, 2 FB, 1 HB) in Palladium At Mclean sold for \$1,050,000 on Sept. 23, 2008



9848 AVENEL FARM DR (6 BR, 4 FB, 2 HB) in Avenel sold for \$2,225,000 on Sept. 3, 2008



12616 TRIBUNAL LN (6 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Palatine sold for \$2,200,000 on Sept. 5, 2008



11553 TRALEE DR (6 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in Tralee Estates sold for \$1,950,000 on Sept. 26, 2008



1511 SPRING VALE AVE (5 BR, 4 FB, 1 HB) in West Mc Lean sold for \$1,745,000 on Sept. 9, 2008

Adirondack Style

FROM PAGE 9

25,000-square-foot restaurant in July. Tower Oaks Lodge backs up to 24 acres of woods.

Meyer and Laytham were antiquing for the Clyde's Mark Center in Alexandria when the inspiration for Tower Oaks Lodge hit. They were staying at the Lake Placid Lodge, which Meyer described as a wonderful place built in the Adirondack style.

"It just blew us away," he said, "so we built one room like that in our Mark Center location, and we liked it so much that we did the entire restaurant like that in Rockville."

The restaurant cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$15 million to build, Laytham said, and nearly \$2 million of that was the cost of the decorations that took a year to collect.

Other rustic touches: ornamental birch beams in the ceiling in the back barroom, where table legs are small cedar trees and the bars stock shelves are supported by apple saplings.

The wicker baskets in the Great Room – perhaps the most popular place for diners to eat – are called creels and Laytham estimates that he has the largest collection of original, non-ornamental creels in the country.

The Great Room has plush leather booths and the massive stone fireplaces at either end ("It took us forever to find the right stone," for the fireplaces, said Laytham). The cavernous room is a reconstructed 200-year-old



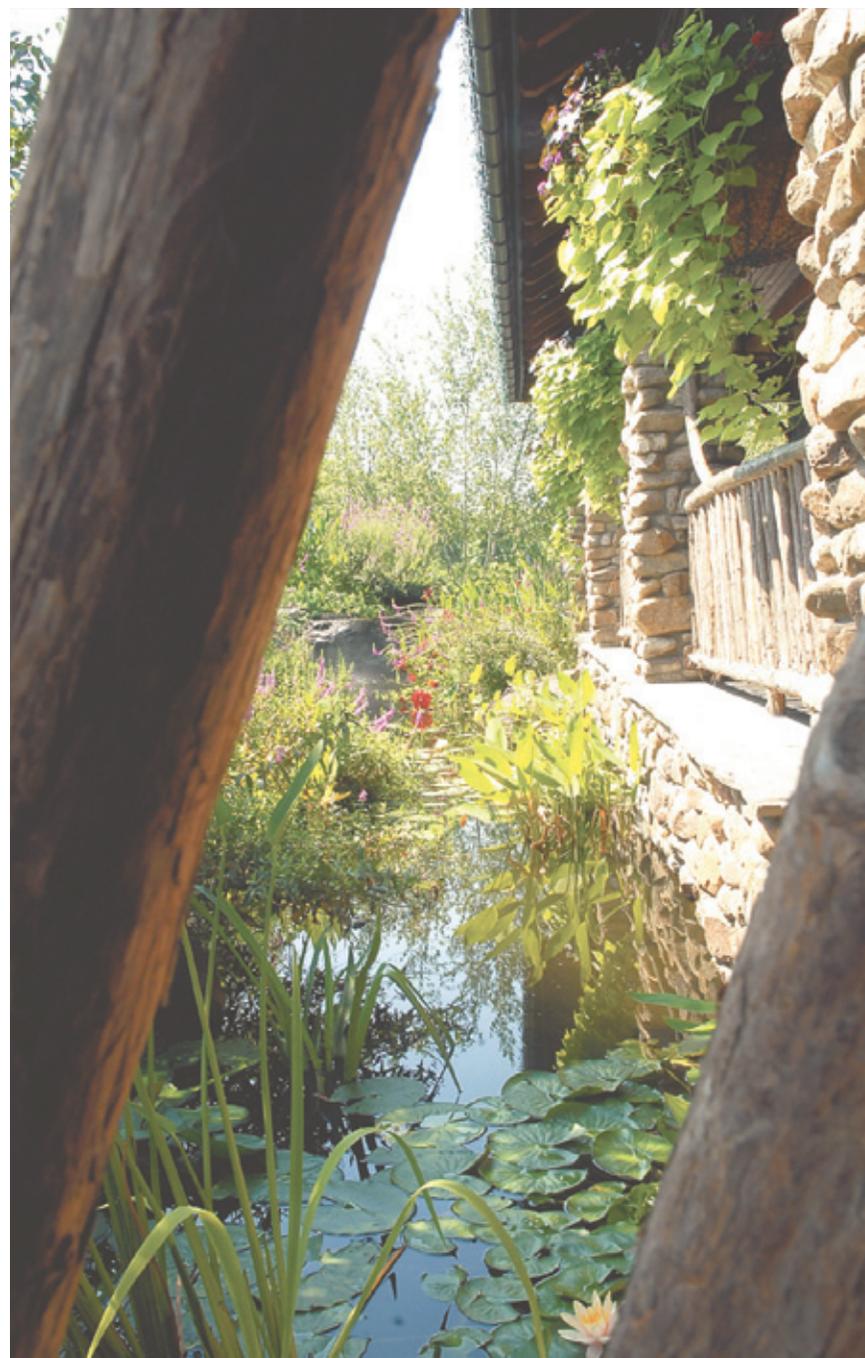
PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION
John Laytham and Tom Meyer.

Vermont barn that was deconstructed, transported, and reassembled piece by piece to complete Laytham's vision.

The look of every Clyde's is created through several factors: The antiques collected and purchased for the spaces; arts and crafts created by contracted artisans for the restaurants; and other touches added by the architects and designers who work with Laytham.

"We build things to last. Clyde's of Georgetown has been here since the owners first opened it in 1963. We figured if we spend a little money up front, it doesn't amount to a hill of beans in the long run," said Meyer. "We try to build 'landmark' restaurants. I hope that doesn't sound arrogant or obnoxious."

"Yeah, people try to buy [the antiques] all the time. It's usually a lot more money than they



A water garden comes alive beneath the footbridge that leads one into the Lodge in Tower Oaks.

think it is. It's usually 10 times more money than they think it is. It's usually very, very pricy.

Usually I say, 'We can't sell you this, but we can tell you where we got it.'

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