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SECTION E
 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2010

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ECO-FRIENDLY ON ERIE

New Hyde Park
 condo building looks
 contemporary –
 mostly – inside and out

By Amy Howell Hirt
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Anyone who commutes past 2801 Erie – a contemporary condo development finished less than a year ago on the corner of Erie and Shaw avenues in Hyde Park – might wonder whether the modern elegance of the frosted glass balconies, cool gray stone and wood paneling carries inside to the 13 units.

The answer is yes, and no. Developed by Bloomfield/Schon+Partners, the project is LEED-certified and was designed by renowned architect Jose Garcia, who is known for his simple, modern designs and use of natural materials. As such, the U.S. Green Building Council's "green" requirements are artfully integrated throughout the poured-in-place concrete building.

The exterior stone and composite wood panels that form a rainscreen flow inside past frameless glass doors. A skylight-capped foyer provides daylighting, supplemented by LED can lights that use just four watts of electricity each. The below-ground garage features bike racks for those who like to ride around the Hyde Park neighborhood and motion-sensitive lights that flick on as needed.

Inside the condos, light pours over interesting angles and cabinetry and fixtures that seem to float.

The floor-to-ceiling windows are energy-efficient, and the rich, exotic hardwood on the cabinetry is just an eco-friendly veneer.

Enticed by the open floor plans, high-end finishes, proximity to shopping and restaurants and low-maintenance condo lifestyle, many of the residents, who moved in last summer and fall, downsized from suburban homes, but brought their traditional tastes into the modern space.

"Almost all of them are eclectic," says Brian Gibson, principal designer with DIGS, who worked with many of the owners.

The result is a view that's as interesting from the inside as from the street.



Photos by Amie Dworecki / The Enquirer



The main living area features wide open spaces and a futuristic entertainment unit designed by architect Jose Garcia in this unit at the new 2801 Erie condo development in Hyde Park.

Brian Gibson was the principal designer for DIGS, who worked with many of the new condo owners.

Inside

Brian Gibson made the most of wide open spaces; more information about 2801 Erie, F5

Jump start spring garden by planting seeds indoors



Provided

Children harvest sweet potatoes at Granny's Garden School in Loveland.

By Beth Burwinkel
 Enquirer contributor

It may not seem like it these days, but spring will arrive and it will be time to plant flowers and vegetables in the garden. And for people eager to get a jump start on the season, it is time to buy seeds and plant them indoors.

"People can do all kinds of things with starting seeds inside," says Roberta Paolo, executive director and founder of Granny's Garden School, which works with kindergarten through fourth grade students in Loveland.

For growing seeds inside, she recommends using a shop light with a fluorescent light. "Most of us don't have a south window that extends out," she says.

Use the light to mimic spring sunshine. If you use lights, start tomato seeds indoors in March. Cabbage and broccoli can be started now indoors under lights and transplanted outdoors in late March, she said.

At the garden school, students start planting seeds directly in the garden in mid March. Paolo says they plant peas in the ground in mid March. Kohlrabi and potatoes can be planted outdoors in March, she says.

Seeds can also be planted outdoors in cold frames, which are often made of windows, two weeks to a month ahead of nor-

mal outdoor planting times. Just monitor the plants, water and lift the lid on sunny days. Paolo says instructions for building a cold frame can be found on the Internet.

Before she started the garden school, Paolo used to fill old-fashioned wash tubs ¾ full with potting soil and use them as beds for planting seeds around April. She would set the tubs in the sun, plant the seeds in rows one inch apart, water and then cover them with clear plastic, using wood or lattice to hold down the plastic, but allow some air flow. She placed the tubs in a sunny location and when the plants germinated, she took the plastic off but left the trellis on top so that the young plants didn't get too much sun. She

was able to transplant the seedlings into the garden later, without acclimating them to outdoor conditions, a process called hardening off.

Mike Klahr, Boone County Extension Agent for Horticulture and an avid gardener, starts growing cool season crops like lettuce, spinach, broccoli and onions in January or February indoors under lights for transplant later outdoors. He uses fluorescent lights about five to 10 inches above the seedlings. He raises the lights as the plants grow.

In early to mid February, gardeners can start Brussels sprouts from seed indoors

IN THE GARDEN

See SPRING, Page E5

Roman shade recall

After a 3-year-old Colorado girl died last month due to strangulation by a window cord, the Consumer Product Safety Commission is stressing the voluntary recall of Roman shades and roll-up blinds, issued in December.

The organization has received reports of five deaths and 16 near-strangulations from Roman shades since 2006, and three deaths from roll-up blinds since 2001.

Some companies like West Elm are offering free pick-up of the shades and a refund of the total amount, including shipping, and some are offering repair kits.

In homes with children, cribs, beds and furniture should not be placed near windows, and loose cords should be made inaccessible. Free retro-fit kits are available from the Window Covering Safety Council, at kits@windowcoverings.org or 800-506-4636.

For a list of manufacturers that have recalled their Roman shades and roll-up blinds, see the December 2009 recalls at www.cpsc.gov.

Amy Howell Hirt



Enquirer file

To do in the garden

Continue to fill your bird feeder in the cold months.

Contact local horticultural organizations to volunteer for upcoming events.

Visit the library or bookstore for new gardening books and magazines. Many contain fresh design ideas and information on new plants.

Buy your sweetheart a potted plant this year instead of cut flowers. African violets, primrose, or cyclamen are nice choices with longer lasting flowers.

Julie Weinel Singer
 Cincinnati Horticultural Society



Provided

Find: Wright, revisited

Copeland Furniture, with the blessing and license of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, creates authentic reproductions of Wright's timeless designs but also adapts some pieces to deliver what today's customers expect.

For example, the high-backed chairs of the Dana Thomas dining room set – which Wright designed in 1902 for a home in Springfield, Ill. – are slightly angled for greater comfort, and the measurements for the original built-in buffet were translated into a free-standing piece.

The solid hardwood set retails for \$860-\$1,130 for side chairs; \$1,235-\$1,350 for arm chairs; and \$5,390-\$6,985 for the table. The Frank Lloyd Wright Furniture line is available through the Copeland Furniture Company Store: 802-222-5300. Visit www.copelandfurniture.com for more information.

Amy Howell Hirt