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## Homesaturday



The unique, contemporary home is located in Mallard Lake Estates, Bloomingdale.

## Listing of the week

By JEAN MURPHY  
Daily Herald Correspondent

This large contemporary-style brick and cedar Bloomingdale home is truly one-of-a-kind. Located on one-acre in Mallard Lake Estates, it is undoubtedly the fantasy of every car lover and cross-country traveler with a recreational vehicle, and still has plenty of space for family living.

The original part of the house was a split-level with a walkout lower level. When it was renovated, a huge heated and air-conditioned garage was added with much more living space above the garage and on the second and third floors.

The elevated main level features a carpeted living/dining room, great room, ceramic-tiled kitchen with eating area and three bedrooms. There is also a two-story foyer with hardwood floors that gives access to all levels of this interesting home. The uppermost level has two more bedrooms and a loft. Mini-kitchens also grace both wings of the house.

The walkout lower level could accommodate a home business but currently it features a sixth bedroom, bathroom, family room with fireplace and sitting room. Outside there is a large deck, a balcony and a shed.

Throughout the home there are special touches like skylights and vaulted or cathedral ceilings. Listing agent Branka Poplonski offers more details:

with hardwood floors that gives access to all levels of this interesting home. The uppermost level has two more bedrooms and a loft. Mini-kitchens also grace both wings of the house.

## What is this home's hidden gem?

"It is a custom-built home with exquisite rooms and a one-of-a-kind garage with room for up to nine cars and/or an RV."

## What would your perfect buyer look like?

"This home would be ideal for either a large family or a car collector/restorer."

## What is the coolest thing about living in this neighborhood?

"This neighborhood offers complete privacy in a picturesque, country-like setting."

## Which celebrity can you picture living in this home?

"Jay Leno could bring part of his car collection to this home."

## What is one adjective that you would use to describe this home?

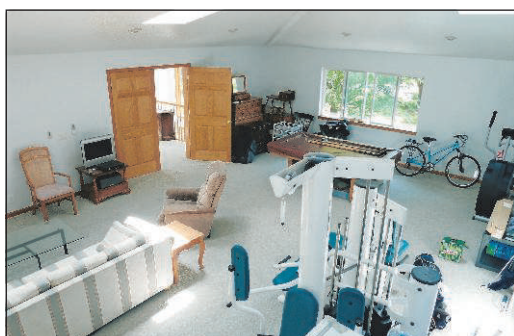
"Unique."

## Name three trees, shrubs or plants featured in the yard.

"Oak, willow and maple trees abound throughout the property."



With an abundance of garage space, the home is ideal for any car collector.



The home features a large great room that is part of a later addition.



SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE PHOTOS

This new master bedroom is stunning and it passes the practicality test.

## Function and style meet in attic bedroom

By CANDICE OLSON  
Scripps Howard News Service

Colleen and Jamie live in a gorgeous old home with loads of charm and character. But old homes being what they are, there wasn't a lot of storage space in the couple's second-floor bedroom. Just getting ready in the morning was a challenge, with half of their clothes stored in adjacent rooms.

The couple decided the simplest solution was to move up in the world, by swapping spaces with Jamie's third-floor attic office.

The attic was roomy and filled with natural light, and it even had a bathroom. It was full of potential — the only problem was that Colleen and Jamie weren't sure how to make the most of the possibilities presented by this space. They needed a plan that would combine form with function, and storage with style.

The soon-to-be master bedroom featured typical sloped



Before its conversion, this attic was roomy and filled with natural light. However, the problem was how to make the most of the possibilities presented by the space.

attic ceilings, with the walls a mere 40 inches tall in some places. In addition, this attic is accessed via a narrow staircase, which meant we had to find some pretty compact furniture.

Just outside the en suite bathroom I positioned an elegant glass-topped makeup vanity with

a spacious drawer to accommodate Colleen's jewelry. The white wood of the table and its smooth, elegant lines provide a nice contrast to the smoky-gray walls.

And speaking of color, I wanted to push Colleen and Jamie a little bit in that department. I knew the rest of their

house was fairly neutral, so I decided to make a bold statement with a contemporary graphical wallpaper on the room's largest wall. The gorgeous blue-and-white pattern is crisp and elegant. It's a big departure from this couple's typical style, without being overpowering in the slightest.

We made the most of the largest wall by installing a tall wardrobe and flanking it with dresser drawers to provide lots of storage space. On the wardrobe's white doors, we replicated the wallpaper design using a light gray vinyl decal.

Shelving above the dressers provides a functional surface for displaying photos and other accessories. This multilevel storage system is exactly what Colleen and Jamie needed to get organized, once and for all.

As for the bed, there just wasn't room for a box spring, so we went with a platform frame and

See **BEDROOM** on **PAGE 4**

## Industry Insider

## Glass, mirrored surfaces personalize a home

By JEAN MURPHY  
Daily Herald Correspondent

No one wants a cookie-cutter house. They want to inject their own personality into the place they call "home."

Some people do that by choosing the newest, trendiest items they see in European catalogs. Others choose to be ultratraditional, liking the look they knew when they were growing up.

Still others do it by having their monogram, name or a special artwork or scene etched into glass to be a focal point.

No matter what a particular homeowner chooses to do to personalize their home, Creative Mirror and Shower in Addison, with showrooms in Plainfield and Chicago, too, is able to accommodate them.

In business since 1972, the family firm has grown by leaps and bounds over the years to the point

## Focus on:

## Mark Pritikin, Creative Mirror and Shower

that they now occupy a 20,000 square foot design center where they design and fabricate shower doors, mirrors, stairway railings, mirrored or glass doors, room partitions and even glass kitchen backsplashes.

"We are in our fourth Addison location because we keep growing," said Mark Pritikin, president and son of the founder. "All of our core products involve glass, which we fabricate in-house. But we also work in close conjunction with several longtime vendors of decorative hardware and they will custom manufacture items to our specifications."

Their largest product line is shower doors and today those are generally frameless.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CREATIVE MIRROR AND SHOWER

Artists use a variety of techniques at Creative Mirror and Shower's artistic design center in Addison.

"Homeowners today want a clean, open, spacious look and they want to see as little metal as possible. Doors without metal are easier to clean and people like to show off the nice tile that they are investing in. This has been the trend in shower doors for awhile and it began in Europe," he said.

Those who want a more artistic look or want added privacy are generally opting for sandblasted glass. Privacy bands can be etched into the center of the doors to give the person showering a modicum of privacy, or artistic designs can be etched into the doors with just about any design someone chooses. Pritikin said all of these doors are one-of-a-kind and both designed and etched in-house in the company's artistic design center.

"Our artists are Old World

craftsmen who create their own personalized artwork and even hand-cut the graphics to insert into the sandblasting machine," he said. "It takes very special skills and we have really emphasized our artistic capabilities over the past decade or so. In fact, some of our work is now being exported for commercial applications. The new Hard Rock Café in Panama commissioned huge light cubes in which the glass sides were etched with special designs in our Addison plant."

The vast majority of its work, however, stays local with homeowners having their monogram or "Lee Family Pub" or some type of artwork etched into a mirror or a glass door.

Bathroom mirrors today are

See **INSIDER** on **PAGE 4**



This Chicago skyline was etched into a mirror for a customer.

A

## Insider: Glass, mirrored surfaces personalize a home

Continued from Page 1

generally framed and Creative Mirror has a huge selection of styles and sizes in its showroom, although some people still favor the large wall mirrors, Pritikin said. Wall mirrors are also popular in bar areas and exercise rooms.

Creative Mirror still makes plenty of mirrored doors, too, because "people still like to have a functional full-length mirror," Pritikin said. "Such doors also add an illusion of space in small rooms and we can make them in custom sizes."

A new take on this old tradition, however, is partitions between rooms that recede into the walls. These nouveau pocket doors are made of glass that can be clear, opaque, sand-etched with a design or even colored.

"It used to be that we could only apply silver color to the back of glass. Now we can use just about any color from white, to black, to bright red on any glass surface. It really gives the WOW effect," Pritikin said. "This is particularly huge overseas with people using colored glass as backsplashes in kitchens because it is much more hygienic and easier to clean than tile since it has no grout. In fact, in Australia they estimate that one-third of people have glass



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CREATIVE MIRROR AND SHOWER

**Frameless glass showers are easy to clean and showcase modern stone tile used in many of today's baths.**

backsplashes in their homes." Creative Mirror and Shower also makes glass stairway railings for commercial spaces and high-end, contemporary homes.

"We are a one-stop shop where we measure, manufacture and install products and because we take a project from start to finish, the customer saves money," Pritikin said. "In this economy people still want to buy, but they want a good deal and since we do great work and are competitively priced, we haven't had to lay off anyone. In fact, we



**Creative Mirror and Shower makes glass pocket doors and room dividers that slide open into the wall.**

have hired." For more information on Creative Mirror and Shower, call 1-800-SHOWERS or visit [www.creativemirror.com](http://www.creativemirror.com).

Its showrooms are located at 2141 W. Army Trail Road, Addison; 1281 N. Clybourn Ave., Chicago; and 16114 S. Route 59, Suite B, Plainfield.

## Bedroom: Function meets style in attic transformation

Continued from Page 1

finished things off with a gorgeous headboard covered in a leatherette fabric with intricate nail-head trim. On either side of the bed we installed sconces to provide light for bedtime reading. The colors in the bedding pick up the room's palette and include white, dark gray and a really fabulous mustardy shade, which is repeated in the small sofa positioned directly across from the bed in the lounge area. Two reclaimed-wood coffee tables, with the smaller one nesting inside the other, combine storage space with style.

Lighting in the new bedroom comes from overhead pot lights, the bedside sconces, a high-impact table lamp positioned beside the new couch and two wonderful

lighting fixtures placed on top of each dresser. We added an element of architectural elegance to the room with custom-made moldings, which were installed on the side walls as well as the sloped ceiling. Although these necessitated a lot of sawing and cutting, the end result was definitely worth it.

No matter how much space you have, you're never going to be pleased with it unless it actually works for you. There's no doubt that Colleen and Jamie's new master bedroom is stunning; but it passes the practicality test, too. This design is a marriage of function and style — a combination that will serve this couple well for years.

**Interior decorator Candice Olson is host of HGTV's "Candice Tells All."**

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