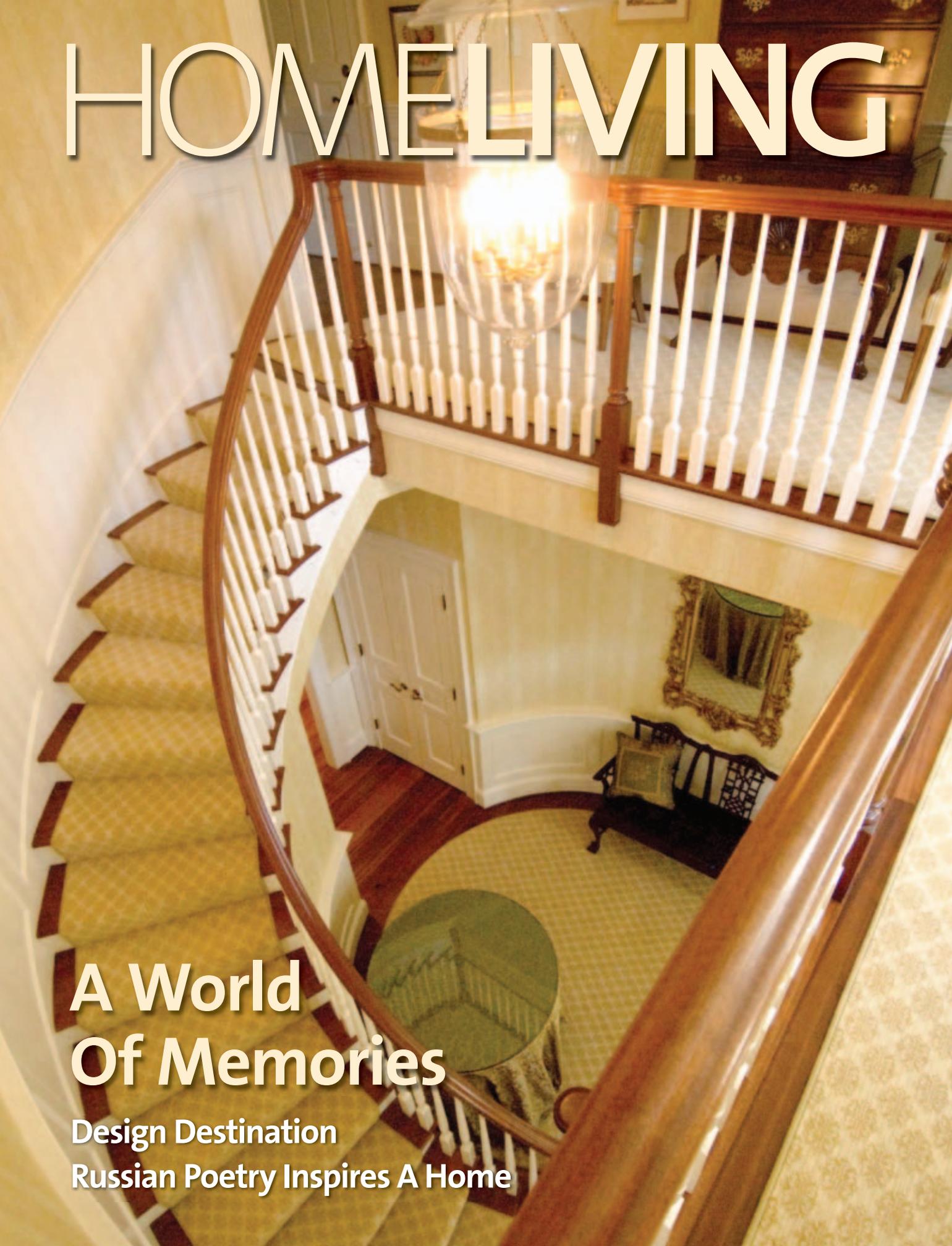
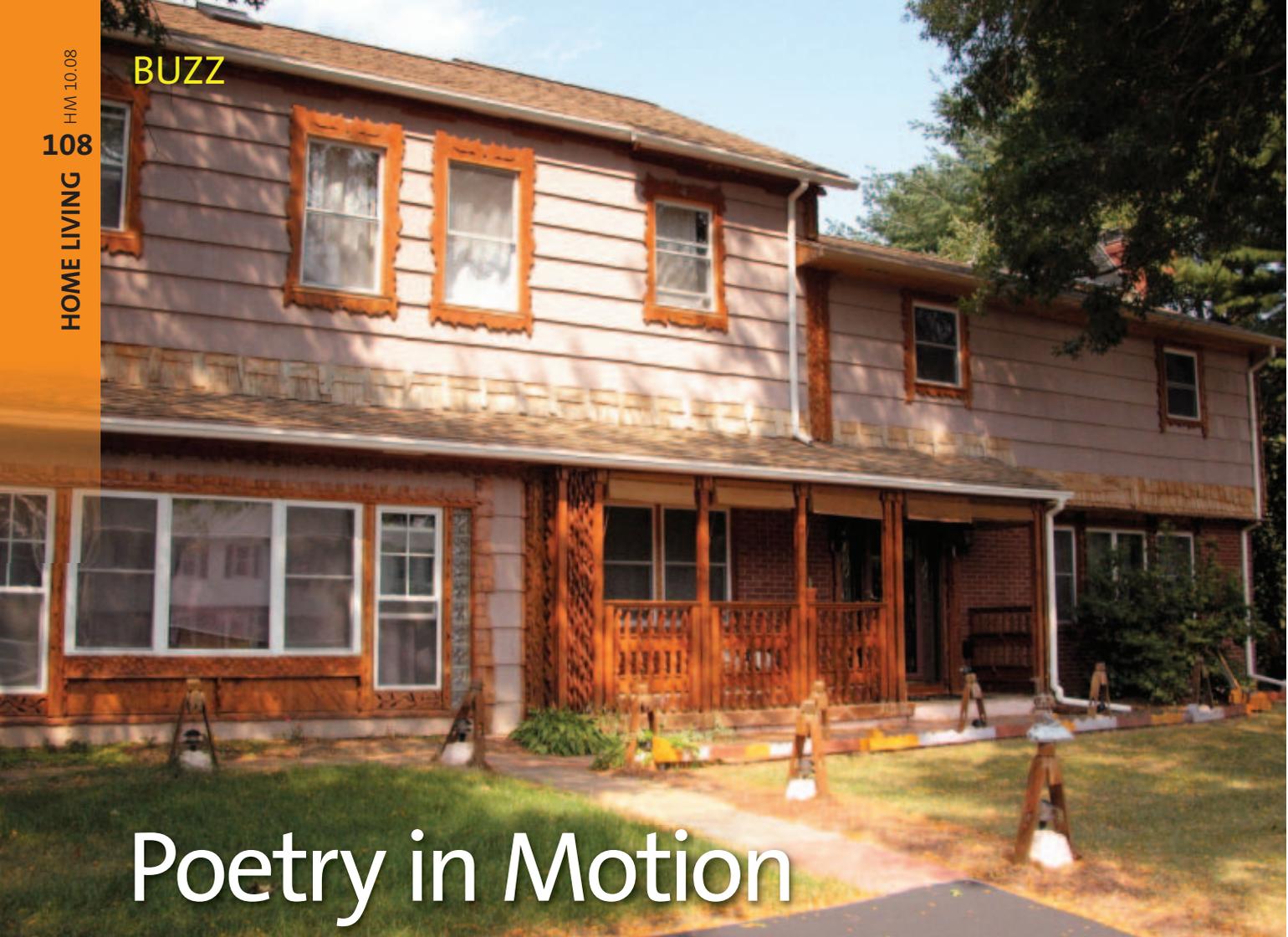


HOMELIVING



A World Of Memories

Design Destination
Russian Poetry Inspires A Home



Poetry in Motion

Inspired by a Russian artist and a desire for peace, one Avon family uses poetry-based design to create a one-of-a-kind home.

BY TARA GORMAN

NIKOLAY SYNKOV DOESN'T have a gazebo in his backyard—he has the landing wharf of the Inoks. And where most families have their living room, Nikolay displays the life and chronicles of Don Quixote. His dining room is the scene of a battle from the 17th century. His upstairs bathroom reflects television of the 20th century. And his attics are subway stations.

The house, located at 24 Brentwood Drive in Avon, is far from typical. It's the kind of house that people slow down for as they drive by, and curious children peer at without getting too close. The house isn't scary or threatening,

though. It looks almost friendly next to the crooked, hand-carved sign that stands out front, inviting people to take tours of the home.

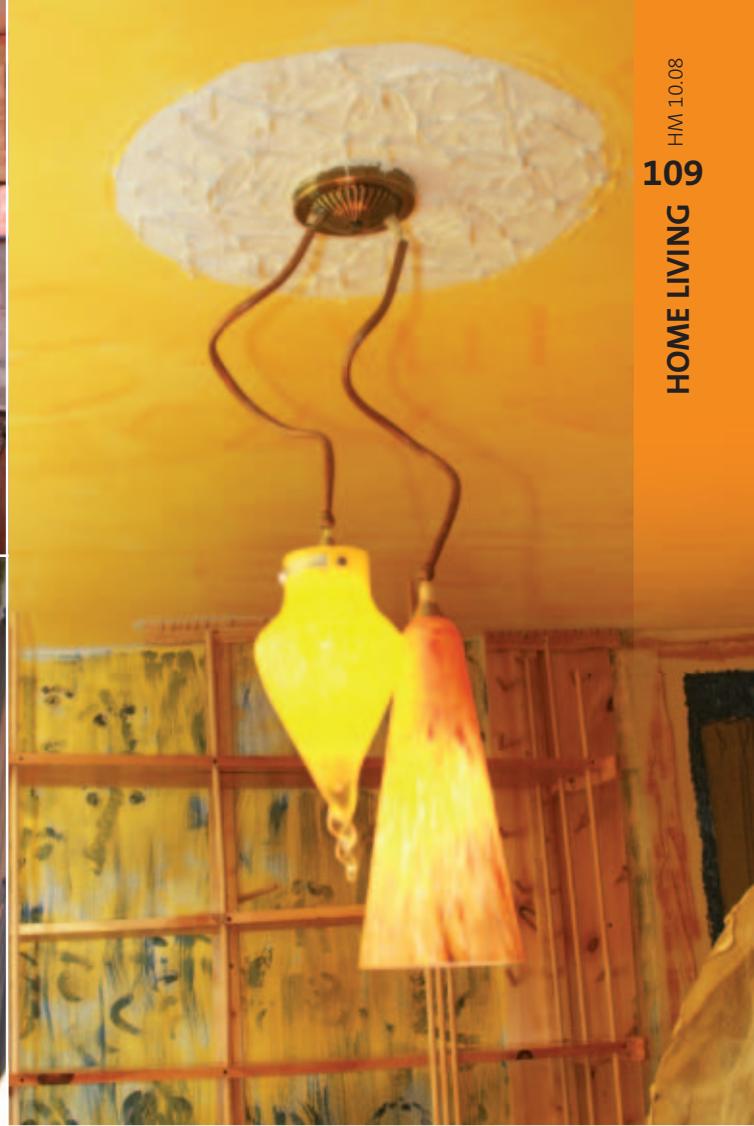
Originally built in 1961 and located on almost an acre of land, 24 Brentwood Drive was a simple, 11-room house until 2001, when it was bought by Nikolay Synkov and his wife, Tatyana. In addition to the decorative changes that were made to the interior and exterior, Nikolay also made structural changes between 2002 and 2006, expanding the house to almost twice its original size.

Nikolay, who designed and built the expansion, draws his inspira-

tion from the artwork and writings of Wassily Kandinsky, a Russian artist known for his abstract paintings. Kandinsky's influence is evident even before entering the house, in the peculiar, intricately detailed woodcarvings that frame all of the doors and windows.

The yard is also filled with abstract-looking wooden objects, each influenced by poetry.

In fact, the house, the yard and the rooms in the house were all created and decorated in keeping with poems written by Nikolay. These poems, which deal with everything from war to the future to politics to love, are based on



Kandinsky's beliefs. Nikolay said that the overall design of his house was inspired by the idea that peace is more honorable than the tragedy of war.

But, just like the well-known chicken or the egg dilemma, Nikolay does not know which comes first—the poem or the room. Instead, he said, “I think first.”

Nikolay and his wife Tatyana emigrated with their three children, Aleksey, Yelena and Mariya, from Russia to America in 1994 “for the better opportunities,” said Tatyana. Nikolay had worked as a shipbuilding engineer in Russia, and supported his family through the patents he acquired. But once he was living in the U.S., he was able to experiment

more with art and architectural design, two of his passions.

Nikolay, who speaks little English, receives a great deal of support for his projects from his family. His oldest son, Aleksey, helped his father build the expansion to the house. Tatyana handles the press. Daughter Yelena contributed her own woodcarvings to the house and is doing her final project for her Master's degree on her father's creation.

Yelena and her husband, Sean Cummings, also give free tours of the house every Saturday. Tatyana says they have had quite a mix of people come through their house—everyone from neighbors to university professors. At the end of each tour,

there is a discussion about what people liked and disliked about the house, and Nikolay writes a poem about each tour. Nikolay said he enjoys the discussions because “it's interesting how different people see different things.”

With rooms titled “Illusion of Marble in Squares” and “Threshing Accepted by the Walls,” the abstract design and symbolic poems that are linked to every room in the house may not appeal to everyone. Yet Nikolay takes great satisfaction in knowing that he has invested his money, years of his time, and his whole heart into a project that he and his family emphatically believe in. 🏠

For more information on the house at 24 Brentwood Drive and Nikolay's other projects, visit www.synkov.com.