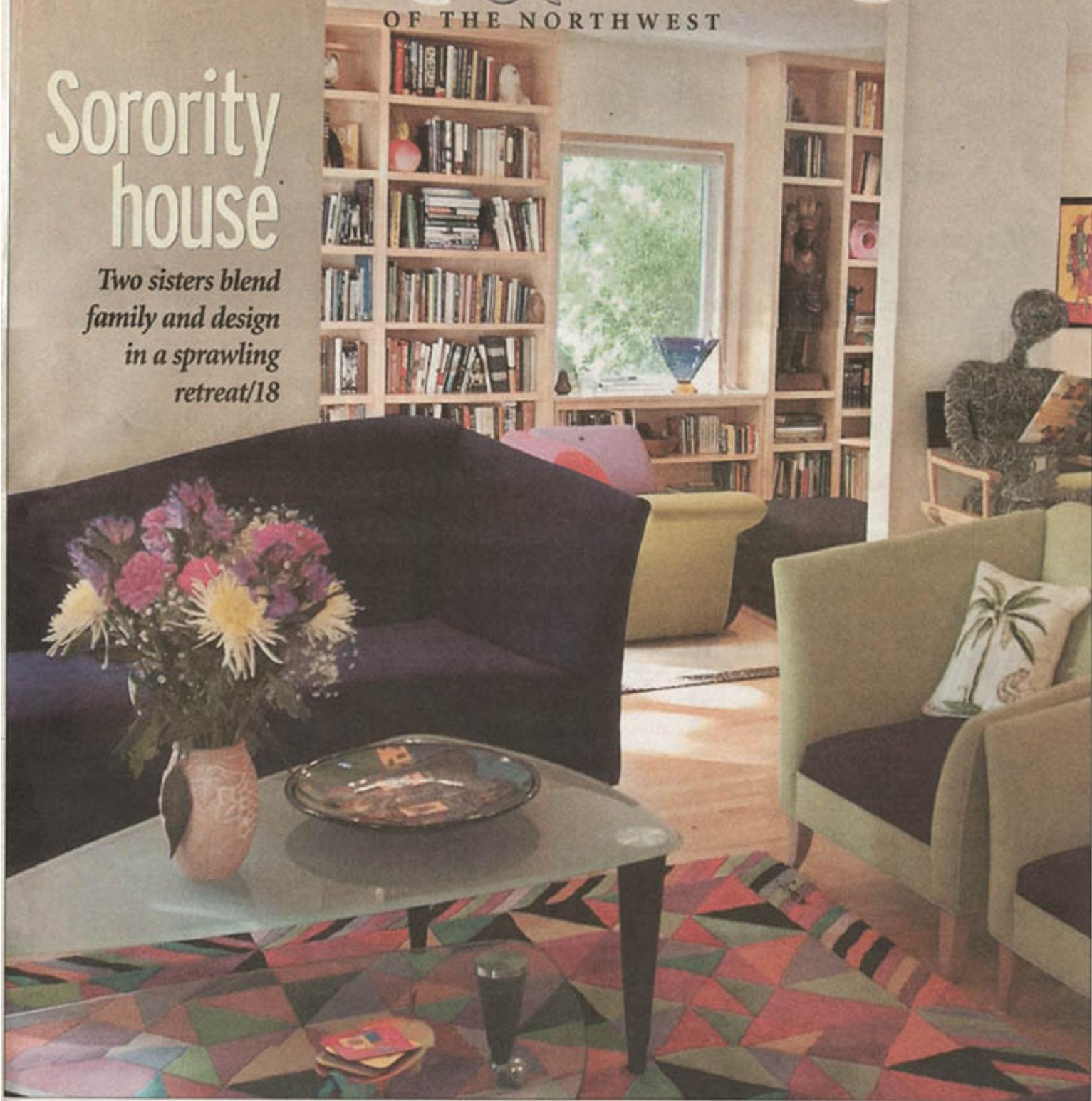


# HOMES & GARDENS

OF THE NORTHWEST

## Sorority house

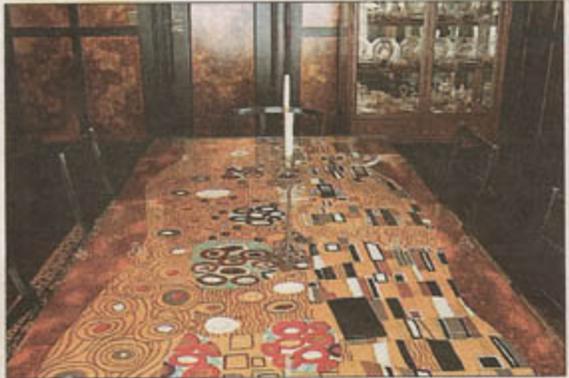
*Two sisters blend family and design in a sprawling retreat/18*



◆ DAVID KOBÓS' INCREDIBLE GARDEN/12

**FOLLOW-UP**  
LAST VISIT: OCT. 9, 2003

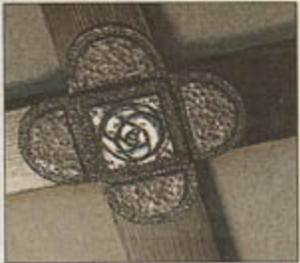
# Dedicated to detail



ABOVE: C. J. Hurley took inspiration from Gustav Klimt for his dining table, set against hand-painted, canvas-covered walls.

BELOW: Hurley accented the built-in buffet, once painted white, with stained-glass panels and copper accents. The hand-painted frieze is also vintage Hurley, as are the custom-designed sconces with hand-hammered metal detailing.

**T**oo many homeowners sacrifice architectural detail in their lust for square footage. Not C.J. Hurley. Since he and his wife, Barbara Pierce, bought their rambling Laurelhurst Foursquare three years ago, he has brought an artist's eye — and a historian's passion — to virtually every room. There are hand-painted friezes, period furnishings and a stunning series of gesso panels. Hurley, who always admired the early-20th-century artist/architects, such as Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Frank Lloyd Wright, has designed everything from the rafter tails down to the silverware.



Hand-hammered ceiling medallions embellish a half-timbered ceiling covered in burlap. In keeping with early-20th-century style, Hurley painted all the wood trim black.

**LATEST CREATION:** They call their dining room "The White Rose," and it's not hard to see why. A bed of roses thrives just outside the window. Inside, Hurley hand-painted a stylized frieze of white roses and rain with 12 thorns representing the months of the year. He designed every detail in the room, from the stained-glass panels in the built-in buffet to the custom-built sconces and a half-timbered ceiling with decorative aluminum medallions. "The challenge was to make the aluminum look like pewter," says Hurley, who taught himself an ancient metalworking technique called *repoussé* for the job. He applied his metalworking skills to the buffet as well, with a hand-hammered quote from Kakuzo Okakura's "Book of Tea": "The truly beautiful must always be in it."

**DRAMATIC BACKDROP:** It's a far cry from the standard white-painted woodwork and chrysanthemum wallpaper they started with. But Hurley was going for a classic early-20th-century look, so they covered the wallpaper with canvas and the ceiling with rough burlap. Then Hurley painted the woodwork black (a traditional trim color at the turn of the last century), and employed a *faux*-painting technique over the canvas-covered walls that involves multiple layers and colors of paint, topped with a wax finish. "I was going for the warm glow of wood or leather," he says.

**DINING IN STYLE:** Hurley transformed an ugly '70s trestle table bought for a song at a secondhand store into a Gustav Klimt-inspired masterpiece. He hand-painted the top in homage to the Austrian Art Nouveau artist's famous painting "The Kiss" and covered it with a protective glass top. The sunny colors and geometry of the piece echo the room's rigid symmetry and rich, golden tones. An original Art Deco light fixture found in a junk box in New Hampshire provides the crowning touch.

**FINAL WORDS:** "I came up with the theme shortly after we moved," says Hurley. "I wanted to tie the design to where we live." ♦

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