

Home with '70s vibe features heated floors, 127 windows

BUYING, FROM G-4

energy-efficient house.

If you get a 1970s vibe from the house, you are not wrong. Architect Aris Georges, who works in the style of Frank Lloyd Wright, designed the house.

"It does have a bit of that '70s feel," Cohen said. "It is that post mid-century modern design."

He noted that the house has 127 windows, including a the 22-foot wall of windows.

"The great room, which includes the living room, dining room and kitchen with an 11-foot quartz waterfall island, features two stories of just pure glass at a 90 degree angle and you look at the trees and foliage and the creek behind," he said. "There is just nothing else like it."

"I grew up in northern Wisconsin and love all the elements of nature," said his wife. "So I wanted to incorporate that into the design from the exposed cedar beams to the stone and the fire in the fireplace."

The radiant heated floors are on concrete-like slabs imported by Porcelanosa, a Spanish company. Radiant heat keeps the home comfortable when temperatures drop.

The family was looking forward to cozy winters watching the snow fall and the squirrels scamper.

The house is also wired with Focal speakers throughout so you can set the soundtrack of your life every day, enjoying music while admiring the views and modern interior.

"The house comes alive with sound," he said.

"Being in that great room and looking out and seeing the seasons



The front hall of 409 Fox Chapel Road in Fox Chapel.



A set of shelves behind the stairs.

change was just an idealistic dream we had," mused Witt.

Another small feature she was very pleased with was the second-floor laundry room.

"I am big on function and having



Samer Abdelahad/Hommati 170 Pittsburgh photos

The island in the kitchen has a higher dining area and a quartz countertop.

that on the same floor as the bedrooms was critical for me," she said.

There is also a second laundry in the mudroom off the garage.

The property is assessed at \$199,300. There is no building assessment yet. Over the last four years, three homes have sold in the 400 block of Fox Chapel Road for prices ranging from \$560,000 in

June 2022 to \$799,000 in April 2019 (www2.allegheycounty.us/RealEstate/GeneralInfo.aspx?).

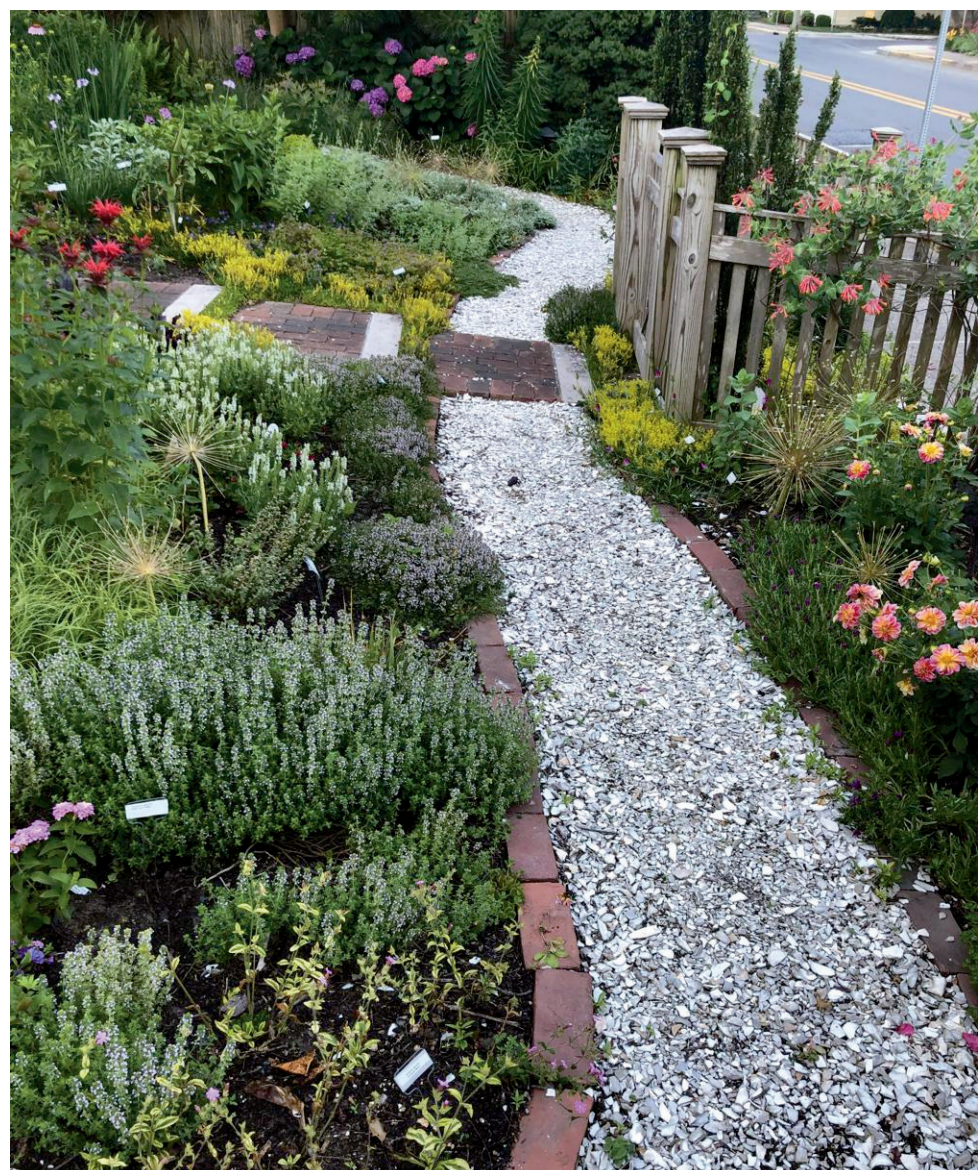
The landscaping was also carefully thought out.

"We planted what will be a 10-foot hedge-wall along Fox Chapel Road and there will be total privacy," he said. "Even now when you are in the house you don't hear anything."

They invested a lot in the landscaping to get the right mix of trees to grow together to create the wall of green. They were planted planted 12 months ago.

For people who appreciate modern design, there really is nothing else like it nearby," Cohen said.

Patricia Sheridan: psherdan@post-gazette.com.



Osamu Shimizu

A historic garden path made from seashells at Holly Shimizu's 1730s house in Lewes, Del.

Holly Shimizu is expert on how to create 'Garden Design with Herbs'

QUEST, FROM G-4

She learned while curating the National Herb Garden and growing hundreds of herbal plants that maintenance could vary based on a plant's habit and heat tolerance.

A frequent question she got was: "Where are the flowers?" Shimizu explains that sometimes there are no flowers, just foliage color, texture, shape or variegation.

A meaningful garden design should be an expression of what you care about, she said. Shimizu likes to blend herbs into a landscape, where they mingle with perennials, annuals, natives and pollinators.

"To me, this is a more natural presentation, one which is easier to maintain," she said.

In her personable and exuberant style, Shimizu will walk us through a recent project, creating a new garden at her 1730s house in

Lewes, Delaware. A historically accurate wooden fence frames the garden.

"We interpreted and put in our own dooryard garden, which includes culinary and herbal plants," she said.

Historically, the larger vegetable garden was further away from the house, with a dooryard garden containing medicinal plants near the house.

"The design we have now feels right for the house," she said. "We worked on our garden to give it a sense of belonging, to the neighborhood and the house. We wanted it to look like it had always been there."

The addition of a crushed seashell path offers yet another visual link into the home's historic past.

Rounding out the short course schedule are talks by local herbalists on using herbs in teas and body care. A limited enrollment workshop on "Herbal Salve Making" will be offered by Jessica Graves on July 27 from

7-8:30 p.m. at Phipps Garden Center in Mellon Park, 1059 Shady Ave. 15232. Registration for this workshop is \$65. Participants will make their own herbal salves to take home.

The fee for the Summer Short Course is \$105. The event takes place at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, One Schenley Park, Oakland (15213).

Registration includes coffee and a lunch buffet with vegetarian and gluten-free options. To register or for more information, go to www.phippsconservatory.org or call 412-441-4442 ext. 3925.

Mickey Stobbe is a Penn State Master Gardener. This volunteer program supports the outreach mission of Penn State Extension and provides research-based information on best practices in sustainable horticulture and environmental stewardship. Information: alleghenymg@psu.edu 412-482-3476.

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