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## Sculptor FREDI COHEN Opens Her Home As a Work of Art

By Debbie Tuma

East Hampton architectural sculptor Fredi Cohen is the first in the area to design and create her home in the Northwest Woods as her own art—in form and function.

Called "Archsculpt Studio," her home incorporates her many forms of built-in sculpture, from a massive, hand-carved fireplace, to hand-designed, tiled countertops, sinks and bathtubs, to a floor-to-ceiling running waterfall, to custom-made, tiled coffee and end tables.

"There are over 5,000 carved and sculpted miniature works of my hand-created tile art throughout my home, in addition to the sculptures and furniture," said Cohen, who spent three years designing and creating her special home as a work of art in itself. "I created and built the first house to begin what I hope will be a long, overdue movement in architecture out here—to build art expressing the major issues of our time into the architecture."

Last summer, she opened her personal show house to the public for the first time during the Artists Alliance Studio Tour, and got an amazing turn-out of over 200 people touring her home. She will be on this tour again next July.

"Since all my sculpture is built into my home, people really have to come here to see it, and I prefer this to exhibiting in an outside gallery," Cohen explained. "I wanted my home to be an expression of my art, and also a place of healing and feminine energy."

The two dominant themes running through Cohen's "Archsculpt Studio" are this healing and feminine energy through art, which touches the soul, and celebrating the earth, nature, and all its life forms. Many of the tiles decorating the steps to the front door are designed with sea creatures and animals, and this theme continues on the tiles around the backyard pool and patio.

Throughout the kitchen, are hand-designed, tiled countertops of foliage, fruits, flowers and vegetables. The high ceilings and huge, high windows allow for beautiful lighting, which enhances the artwork.

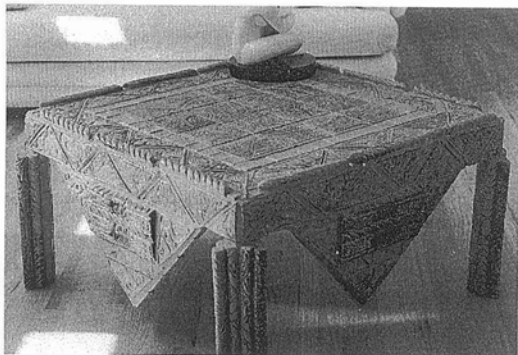
"The feeling I get in the Hamptons is to expect beauty and pleasure to show up in all kinds of unexpected places, so I wanted to build and live in a house that gives all of my visitors and myself that same experience," she said. "People who come here get to experience hand-crafted beauty even in places that are typically mundane, like steps."

Cohen opened her unique home to visitors during the East Hampton Chamber of Commerce 15th Annual Holiday Tour of Inns, B & B's, and Special Places, on December 13. She is also interested in offering her home for charity benefits, and has approached such local organizations as the Retreat, for victims of domestic violence in East Hampton, the Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons (ARF) and the STAR Foundation, an anti-nuclear group of East Hampton.



"I wanted my home to be an expression of my art, and also a place of healing and feminine energy."

-Fredi Cohen, pictured left



"My home is perfect for any groups related to women's issues, nature, animals, and the environment," she said. "I would also like to open my home for gatherings of poets, musicians, and artists, as a sort of Salon."

Cohen's home was recently featured on two television shows; on both LTV's "Hello, Hello" show, and on WVVH-TV's "The Art of Home Improvement" show. Artist Haim Mizrahi, a producer at LTV, has expressed an interest in televising some of the upcoming Salon nights which Cohen is organizing at her home.

"I would like to donate my home as a sort of Salon for groups that want an inspirational alternative venue that honors the earth, to use it for meetings or fundraisers," said Cohen. She also hopes to invite visitors to come to a sort of Mini-Architectural/Sculptural Museum to get ideas about how to transform elements in their own homes or work spaces into reflections of what they wish to express. Also, she wants to invite builders, designers, and people who are building or renovating their own homes to come and get ideas.

"If anyone has a need, and an inspiration, for how my house can be used to serve the community, please contact me, so perhaps we can collaborate and make magic happen together," said Cohen. "Archsculpt Studio" can be reached at (631) 324-3049, or at: archsculpt@aol.com.