

# Habitat

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## HOME IS WHERE THE ART IS

MMoCA fundraiser emerges as a calling card for the arts, downtown living and more

By Jennifer Garrett

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRUCE FRITZ

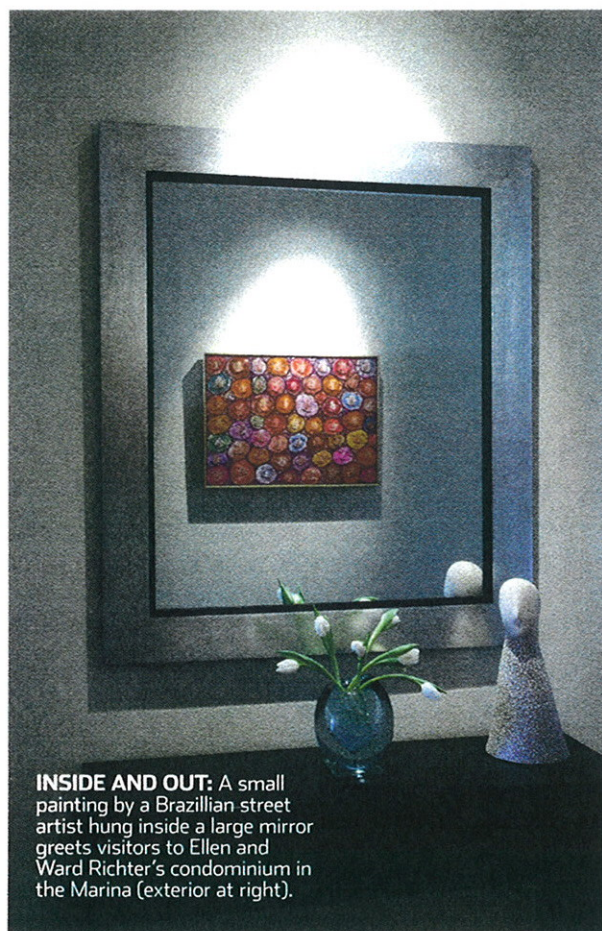
**THE ART & ARCHITECTURE TOUR IS BACK!** The Art League of the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art again presents the popular event, this year stopping at the Marina, the metal-clad condominium tower on Wilson Street. Six units will be on display for three separate tours that is expected to draw nearly three hundred visitors on Sunday, May 20.

Although the event is contained within one building, it showcases a wide range of architecture and artwork. Two of the units span the width of the building and offer incredible views of Lakes Mendota and Monona along with the downtown skyline. High-end finishes from wood to slate to granite along with custom cabinetry and furnishings are found throughout the meticulously designed spaces. Also, age-old African tribal textiles, Norman » CONTINUED ON PAGE 120



**HANDSOME HALLS:** Linda Greene's art-filled condo is one of six on display during MMoCA's Art & Architecture tour on Sunday, May 20.

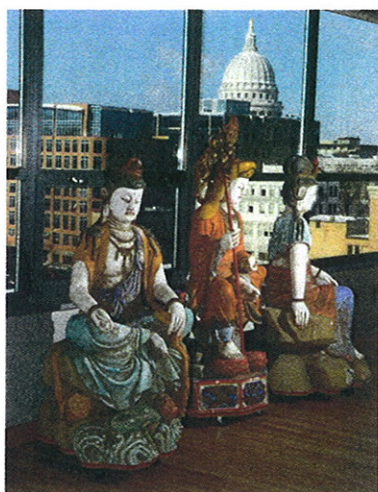
Ellen Richter worked with local artists, retailers and other professionals as much as possible. Her long list includes architect Colin Godding of Architecture CSG, Denise Quade and Dan Luck of Bella Domicile, Tim O'Neill of Artisan Gallery and more.



**INSIDE AND OUT:** A small painting by a Brazilian street artist hung inside a large mirror greets visitors to Ellen and Ward Richter's condominium in the Marina (exterior at right).



- Don't miss the fourth installment of the **Art & Architecture Tour on Sunday, May 20**. The event typically raises more than twenty thousand dollars for exhibitions and education programs. Tour co-chair Alicia Nordness says The Art League skipped the tour last year because they were celebrating the museum's opening at Overture Center. Next year's fundraiser is scheduled to stop at another high-profile downtown condo tower, Nolen Shore.
- **Tickets**, which must be purchased in advance, are available at the museum Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Regular tours (\$50) run at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. A special third tour starts at 4 p.m. and includes a post-event reception (\$125).



Rockwell classics and contemporary paintings by local artists will be on display.

Ellen and Ward Richter's first-floor condominium, which is hosting a patron reception after the last tour, has a wrap-around balcony, a den that converts into a theater room and a guest room with the aid of a large-screen flat-panel television and a Murphy bed, and a sauna. Their commanding view of Lake Monona is evident just inside the front door.

Most of the furnishings and artwork were commissioned or purchased for the new condo, as the Richters' previous home was traditional, not contemporary, and filled with heirlooms and antiques. "It was a family home. It was very eclectic," Ellen says of the Nakoma home she and Ward owned for thirty years. But the condo, she says, called for a change. "In my mind, it needed to be modern."

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And as much as the Richters love their new space, they really love their new real estate. Ward, an attorney, walks to his office on the other side of the Capitol. Ellen, a volunteer with the Madison chapter of Komen for the Cure, hardly ever uses her car. "We have an instant community," she says. "I love the bike

path and the farmers' market. That's what Madison is."

**Several floors up, Linda Greene, a law professor at UW-Madison**, equipped her condominium with a museum-style art display system that allows her to hang paintings, prints and photographs without pounding nails. The flexibility was critical for the avid collector, who regularly rotates and rearranges the pieces of her vast collection.

Greene started collecting art as a young attorney in New York City in the 1970s. Her first purchase was a numbered, limited edition Norman Rockwell print that cost as much as her monthly rent.

Since then she's added to her collection whenever and wherever she could. She has traveled all over the world, and she picks up interesting pieces whenever she can. Her varied acquisitions include Czech crystal, Hmong wedding crowns and African camel bags. "I'm always on the lookout for interesting artists wherever I go," she says.

Greene, who is also a member of the MMoCA board, is an impassioned arts advocate. She is opening her home for the tour because she believes the event is one small way she can champion arts locally. "I really want to work to make arts an integral part of the Madison scene," she says. "Whatever we do to support artists makes for a better community."

**Jennifer Garrett** is associate editor of *Madison Magazine*.



**WANDERING EYE:** Linda Greene loves traveling and collecting art. Her two passions are on display in her home.