



REPOSITORY STAN MYERS

**VIEW FROM THE ROAD** This is the view passers-by get of the Sancic home in Pike Township.

# Everything new is old

Pike Township home built from reclaimed materials

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**PIKE TWP.** If a house could talk, Tommy and Mandy Sancic's home could speak volumes about its history.

The Sancics' home on Elson Street SE is new, with a twist. It is built with reclaimed materials — mostly from barns — from the foundation up.

"My husband has been doing this since he was little," Mandy said. "Everything but the drywall is reclaimed. The drywall is new."

The soapstone countertops are not considered a renewable resource and are not regarded as green, but they are a natural resource, she said.

"We were going to use concrete, but I like the look of the soapstone," said Mandy, who noted the downside is that it scratches easily.

The couple own Olde Wood Limited in Malvern and have access to numerous types of woods and stone. The company reclaims old barns and other structures and turns them into

antique flooring and timbers for today's homes. They also have a large selection of antique barnstone, antique slate, antique hand-hewn timbers and antique brick.

## RECLAIMING VS. RECYCLING

Recycling is taking something through a series of changes and adapting it to a new use. Reclaiming is rescuing something from an undesirable state and adapting it to a new use, which is what the Sancics did in building their new home, salvaged from old barns.

The house, in southern Stark County, overlooks a pond on 13 acres of land.

"People always ask why we would build an old home," Tom said. "I tell them it is new construction, old home."

## ON THE WEB

See the photo gallery at [www.cantonrep.com](http://www.cantonrep.com)



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**COUPLE** Tommy and Mandy Sancic stand in the kitchen of the home they built with reclaimed stones, bricks and wood. The kitchen cabinets are made from hickory, the countertops with soapstone. The backsplash is tile made from barn slate.



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**BIRDS-EYE VIEW** This view of the home shows the siding, slate and tin used in a variety of barns over the years.

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# RECLAIMED: Materials from 10 to 15 barns were used

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The sandstone blocks around the fireplace were washed, then treated with a concrete sealer to keep the stones from flaking off and landing on the floor. The timbers used on the ceilings were from the Fostoria Glass Factory in Moundsville, W. Va. It was the first manufacturing building built in the 1880s. The first- and second-floor joists in the house are made out of the Douglas fir beams.

"We used a sponge and water to wipe down the stone," Tommy said. "(The beams) were bigger, and we cut them down. They have a lot of history to them. The beams were 12 by 15 feet.

"Dismantling barns has been in my blood practically all my life, and we've never found beams like this," he said going back to the fireplace. "These are actually hand-hewn white oak octagon beams.

"We've dismantled probably 700 or 800 barns in our career, and we've never come across octagon beams."

## OPPORTUNE OFFER

The house was nearly built when a man from a neighboring street called to see if Sancic was interested in a barn.

"What was weird was, we were just completing the house when the guy called," he said. "I walked in that barn, and the first two posts were these octagon posts. I told him I had to have it. We ripped those beams out, and we used those for the posts at the fireplace and in the master bedroom."

All doors in the house are made of wormy chestnut wood. The kitchen floor, which came from interior and exterior boards from old barns, are distressed chestnut. The deck on the front of the home is made from reclaimed redwood from California.

"It isn't very pretty yet, because we haven't put a finish on it," Mandy said. "It was actually siding on someone's home in Lake Mohawk, and we used it for our deck."

Tin from a barn roof surrounds the tubs in the house, and bricks from a factory building in the Flats in Cleveland were used for the chimneys. The antique-barn slate used for the roof of the house weighs 80,000 tons.

It took two years to build the



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**COFFEE, ANYONE?** This coffee table in the living room is a former lumber cart.



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**HAND-HEWN BEAMS** The hand-hewn white oak beams used on the barn sandstone fireplace are octagon-shaped. The fireplace is the focal point of the living room at the Sancic home.

home, and there is still work to do, said the young couple. It took 10 to 15 barns to complete the 4,100-square-foot home, not including the basement,

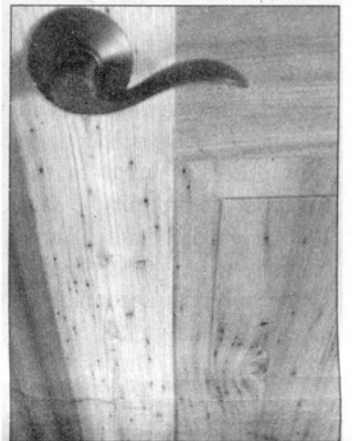
which is not finished. It is 7,100 square feet.

"He and I have such similar tastes," said Mandy, who said she and her husband started



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**BIRDSHOT FLOORING** This piece of flooring in the guest room was given its ambiance during a bird-shooting mishap when the wood was being used as siding for the former Pennsylvania Railroad depot in Magnolia.



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**WORM WOOD** Closet doors at the Sancic home are made from wormy chestnut wood.

their business when they were 17. "We designed it together."