

# Creative Spaces:

## Area Artists and Their Studio Homes

By Dena Crosson

Photos By Jeffrey Katz

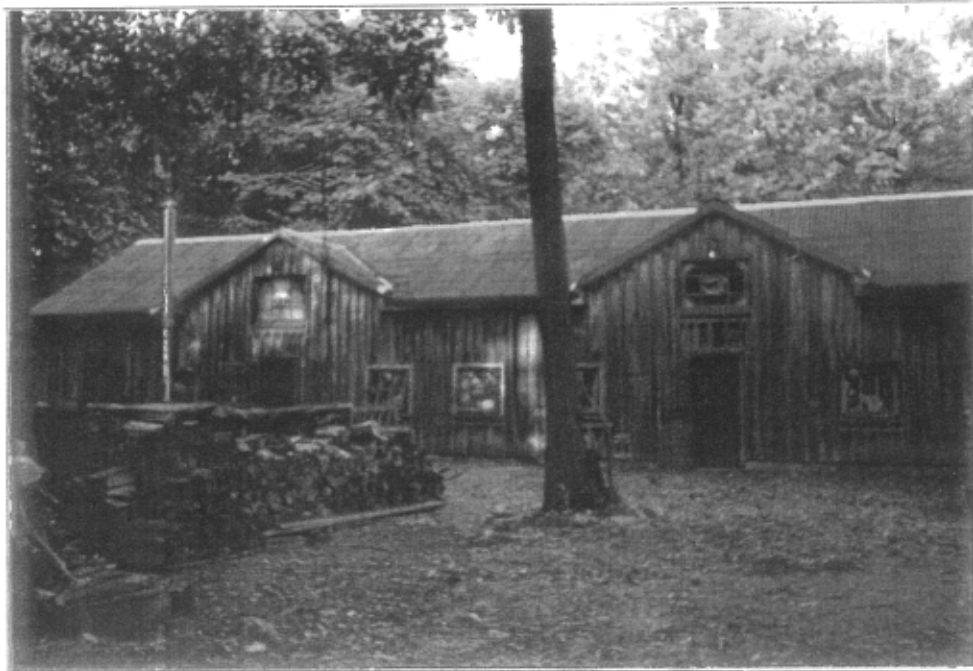
*These at-home work places are as interesting and unusual as the artists and the work they create*



*Locicero  
creates unusual images in  
an unusual place: an indoor  
swimming pool in a  
country cottage.*



Artists find inspiration in all kinds of places, whether



PATRICK LOCICERO lives up a steep dirt road on a hillside near Walkersville in Frederick County. His rented house, constructed entirely of found barnwood and other recycled wood, contains an unusual element for a country mountain cottage: an indoor swimming pool. The owner built the pool inside the house on a whim but the pool has never been used for its intended purpose. It took an artist to figure out what to do with it.

The space—a five-foot deep pit approximately eight-feet-by-30-feet—makes a perfect place to paint.

"I didn't want a garage in the suburbs," says Locicero. "I needed a space that had height and ventilation. I needed to be able to step back pretty far [from his work in

progress]." The pool fit the bill perfectly. Carpeted and painted white, it is a distraction-free workplace.

Locicero moved to Frederick County from San Francisco last year. He wanted to be closer to the East Coast art world—New York, Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia—while living in the country. California was just too far away from what Locicero sees as the most important part of the country for the arts.

Locicero paints collaged imagery using old Sears and Roebuck catalogs from the 1930s and 40s as a source. Women's hats, men's shoes, and other old-fashioned clothing take on a different identity in Locicero's carefully worked canvases. He is represented by the Marsha Ralls Gallery in Georgetown and plans to stay in the pool painting at least through next year.