Ruth Hultz

ld-Whig Staff Writer

The spacious William and Mary Berghofer house at 217 S. 14th was built circa 1892 and was, according the Quincy Preserves' 1993 Fall Tour ide, "all that Europeans admired about e modern American house: simple illed woodwork, a minimum of hall ace and above all, a plan that flows eely between the rooms."

The house's first owner, William F. erghofer, made tin ceilings and cornices d later dealt with steel ranges and oultry supplies.

And this "modern American house" as been the perfect home today for hyllis and Rod Snodgrass, their three rls and Phyllis' mother, Eva Shults.

When the couple decided they wanted buy an older house, they chose to buy ie large Queen Anne home from Shults. he had lived there since her childhood.

The house has had just four owners and been in only two families. Kathryn Mitchell, the Berghofer's daughter, bought it from Mary Berghofer and lived there until the Shults family bought it in 1956. The Snodgrasses became its owners in 1991.

Since then, they have done a monumental restoration. Luckily, Shults already had stripped all the trim on the main floor and most of the decorative stairway baluster, as well as its three unusual newel posts with hand-carved curvilinear patterned finials.

Mrs. Snodgrass stripped the rest of the staircase and the upstairs rounded balcony balustrade. Shults had started stripping some of the upstairs trim and the couple finished the rest.

Throughout the house, profiled native butternut trim creates interest, with plinth blocks and tiny bull's eye paterea incorporated in the trim. The dining room has an interesting built-in china cabinet and there are several sets of double pocket doors.

Two four-window bay areas create an airy feeling in the house, with an additional bay area in the second-floor landing. All bay windows still have their original shutters. There are transoms above all the bedroom doors and closets are quite plentiful for a late 1800s home. The original house had wood burning stoves in each room rather than fireplaces.

The Snodgrasses got right to work making some major changes to create a workable home for two families. They had Danny Leeds gut, enlarge and update the kitchen first. That included making a half bath from the butler's pantry and enclosing a porch to create an eating area. The third floor attic became a delightful bedroom hideaway for the two oldest girls. A brick privy in the backyard was torn down and an inground pool was added.

The Snodgrasses worked on their project into the night almost daily. Mrs. Snodgrass particularly enjoyed making a laundry room from the maid's quarters.

After a few years of continuous work, Snodgrass said they "crashed" and since then have just tried to enjoy their home.

The original home was clapboard on the first floor with shingles on the second floor and decorative work on the third floor gables.

Today, many of the home's original exterior Queen Anne features are missing, but the style is identifiable in the attic windows and the corbel bell on the chimney, and its unique metal roof.

Three magnificent stained glass windows remain — the foyer transom window being especially noteworthy for its shaded pink handpainted and fired English muffle glass. Mrs. Snodgrass, owner of The Glass Works, used Victorian pattern books to design and make stained glass windows for the stairway landings, front doors and kitchen.

vides little control over where the fresh air leaks indoors. Fresh air inlet-only designs, like Therma-Stor's unit, bring fresh air into the main air return duct.

Installing a window or whole-house heat recovery ventilation (HRV) system is your overall best option for healthy indoor air quality. These can be attached to your existing furnace/air conditioner ductwork or separate ducting can be added for homes with hot water or electric baseboard heat.

An HRV is a simple device. One fan pulls fresh outdoor air through a heat exchanger into the house duct system. Another fan sucks stale air out of your house through the same heat exchanger. The two air flows do not mix. Easy-to-install window units accomplish the same effect without ductwork.

In the winter, the outgoing stale warm indoor air preheats the incoming fresh outdoor air as the two streams pass through the heat exchanger.

Up to 80 percent of the heat is saved. The fans use less than 150 watts of electricity. In the summer, the stale cool indoor air precools the incoming fresh air.

You can select either a standard or enthalpic heat exchanger design. Standard ones are often made of aluminum and just transfer heat.

Enthalpic designs also allow some moisture to pass between the two air flows for better comfort. Another primary difference among the various models is the comfort controls.

Look for ones with three to five fan speeds. A programmable control, that operates the HRV continuously on a low speed while your family is home is most effective. Simple timer controls are the least expensive option.

Adding a dehumidistat control can help especially in the winter. When the indoor humidity reaches a high level (sweating windows), the HRV automatically switches to high speed. Send $3 and a business-size SAE to: James Dulley, The Quincy Herald-Whig, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45244.

For an instant download, visit James Dulley's web site at www.dulley.com