

Model T Birthplace Preserved

The Piquette Avenue Plant, the first factory built by the Ford Motor Company and site of the development and initial production of the historic Model T, is slated to become a historic museum and automotive interpretive center. In May, the Model T Automotive Heritage Complex, a nonprofit organization known as "T-Plex," acquired the plant and plans to restore the historic structure and create within it a center that will celebrate the enormous impact of the automobile and the auto industry on American culture.

The three-story plant, located at Piquette Avenue and Beaubien Street, was built by Ford Motor in 1904. It was at Piquette that Henry Ford began formulating the moving assembly line techniques that revolutionized the American auto industry.

Information on the project is available on the web at www.hfha.org or by contacting Jerald Mitchell, president of T-Plex, at (313) 577-1526.

Detroit New Center Commons



Location: Delaware, north of West Grand Boulevard, west of Woodward

Asking price: \$249,900

Sold for: \$254,800

Days on market: 1

The house: Brick restored historic 3-story, 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, breakfast room, dining room, living room, 2-car garage. 2,250 square feet.

The extras: New kitchen, rebuilt leaded-glass windows, antique chandeliers, marble foyer.

Lot size: 40 by 106 feet

Year built: 1907

Estimated annual taxes: \$7,232

School district: Detroit

Listing agent: Jane Klatt, Prudential Chamberlain Stiehl, Royal Oak

Selling agent: Paul V. Stewart, Elmlands Realty, Romeo

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The Detroit Studio

Lawrence Technological University (LTU) has completed the first year of The Detroit Studio, a unique program that brings junior, senior, and graduate students to classes in its off-campus community studio located on two floors of New Center's Boulevard West Building. Founded in 1999 by LTU's College of Architecture and Design, The Detroit Studio provides an enriched educational experience through community-based architecture, urban design, landscape design, and neighborhood development projects.

Tom Barrie, LTU Professor and coordinator of The Detroit Studio, says that the off-campus facility is an ongoing commitment for the university because this unique urban laboratory brings students face-to-face with the real needs, problems, and potentials of communities in Detroit, Wayne County, and Southeastern Michigan. Barrie feels that this setting is one of the best ways to provide real world experiences for students while engaging the public and serving the community.

Students have just completed the Youth Village Urban Design Project for the area bounded by the Lodge Freeway on the west, Clairmont on the north, Oakland on the east, and Grand Boulevard and Euclid on the south. Issues studied included multi-use development, civic institutions and buildings, pedestrian accessibility, public transportation, parking, streetscapes, storefronts, lighting, parks and public spaces. The project included input from the community, research, workshops, a project walk-thru, and final presentations to both the community and design professionals who served as studio critics. The project's budget was funded by the Northern Area Association. A final report will be published in the fall.



General Motors Corporation and the New Center Council, Inc. provided assistance to facilitate the opening of the Detroit Studio.

