

NEW JERSEY'S HOME & DESIGN MAGAZINE

# designNJ

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2010

## bathrooms

*inspiring ideas from the experts*

## Public Sculpture

Artistic experiences move outdoors

BY JOHN ZEAMAN

IT SOUNDS LIKE A HUGE undertaking. First you have to get the use of some land. Then you have to obtain a dozen or more big, outdoor sculptures, all of which have to be moved and installed on foundations. You need a sign to explain what this is all about. If you want to do a fine-class job, a nicely designed catalog with color photos and well-written essays will add a finishing touch to your sculpture park.

Sounds like you'll need a lot of money, doesn't it?

These were my thoughts when, in 2006, a group in my town — Leonia — proposed an outdoor sculpture program and asked me to join the cause. I was skeptical. Art, in my experience — especially big art — is a luxury commodity. The people who make it generally want to get paid.

The more I thought about it, the more potential problems occurred to me. What about insurance? Wouldn't lawyers be needed? From a practical perspective, displaying art — especially monumental outdoor art — seemed a job best left to well-endowed museums or multinational corporations with large green lawns.

Where would this art go anyway? The suburbs of North Jersey, especially those close to New York City, are densely populated. Land is expensive, and open land is scarce.

But the group's two leaders, Mary Martini, a ceramic artist, and Barbara Mitrani, a former councilwoman, were undaunted. They saw lots of little nooks and crannies in town that could accommodate some sculptures. And they were confident about overcoming the various obstacles.

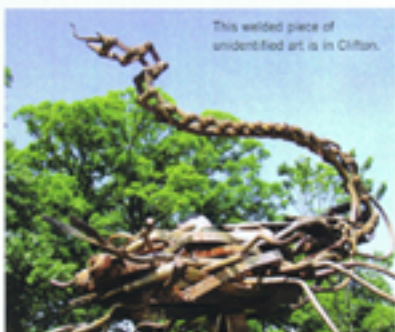
As they envisioned sculptures sprouting up all over town



"Dancing in the Rain" by Herat Sommerhoff in Leonia.



"The Thinker" by Michael Baroffi in Leonia.



This welded piece of unidentified art is in Clifton.



"Self Portrait" by Joel Grassler in Clifton.



Erika and David Boyd at the dedication of the sculpture garden bearing their name. David Boyd died earlier this year.



"Yellow Structure" by Tony Padovano in Leonia.



**THE ERIKA AND DAVID BOYD SCULPTURE GARDEN  
LEONIA, NJ**