

La Volière

■ *The evolution of modern society, the unquenchable desire to return to nature, our concern for species' preservation and the environment The need to stimulate our physical and mental development in search of a longer, fulfilling life. These factors have influenced architects and designers to integrate open-air, sun-filled rooms, water gardens, aquariums and terrariums into our homes and gardens.*

"La Volière" is reemerging within our living space.

By: Jacques Therriault

When the great European explorers discovered the new world they saw the birds from exotics lands, with beautiful colours and wonderful singing melodies. They were charmed and brought some birds back as gifts to theirs masters.

Nobles, kings, princes, popes and lords ornated their castles with these magnificent birds. From finches to parrots, exotic species were introduced in the homes of the great and the elite. Their architects and artists created superb cages that they called "Volière" to incorporate and blend in the "décor" of their sumptuous dwellings.

Today, these wonderful creatures can be enjoyed by everyone, whether our living space is big or small. We can accomodate into our home the type of cage to fit our environment and life-styles.

Meanwhile, in certain European and Asiatic countries, where climate is more favorable than elsewhere for exotic species, they continued to build large flights. These flights were mainly built outdoors. This provided a more natural environment, (spacious, aerated, natural light permitting flight) thus creating a sense of freedom. A promenade in the gardens would be accompanied by the chants of songbirds and one could marvel at their ability to fly. Some of the most wonderful public gardens still have flights today.

Years ago, already passionate about birds, while I was sitting in front of an exercise flight for my fledgling chicks I started to contemplate on this historical époque. This brought about the idea, in 1985, to build huge flights, aviaries to install in public places. The vision of creating flights for geriatric homes and facilities for the physically challenged became an inspiration.

This dream became a reality. And throughout the following years I designed and built flights in various public spaces such as hotels, commercial centers, residence centers and private homes.

Initially, our breeding colony brought success to our conceptual design by meriting over 300 bird shows. Prices varied at each event. Undoubtedly, the beneficial result of being housed in large flights transcended in their appearance, feather condition, posture and general well being. This had a cascading effect and now indoor flights in homes and apartments are in vogue.

Advantages of providing a "Flight" for your companions

We now understand that the best way of achieving healthy living is to



One no longer needs to be royalty, aristocrat or a casino owner to have the pleasure of incorporating a flight in their home. The apartment flight 'La Volière' can be deigned and integrated in a modest or refined décor. My associate, also a passionate bird enthusiast and I have created Les Entreprises J.T.F.L. Our mission is to design and create such flights, determined to adapt these to creatures who were meant to fly.