

# TOTAL HOME

Advertising Feature of The Markham Economist & Sun/Stouffville Sun - Tribune

## Small size - Big impact

In Japan, gardens are considered to be miniature versions of nature and are greatly influenced by Shintoism and Buddhism. In the last few decades, these two philosophies have also influenced western gardens to a great extent.

Certain rules apply when it comes to creating a Japanese style garden. Above all, colours should be subtle and work harmoniously together. That's because Japanese gardens should promote self-reflection and meditation as well as provide a calming environment. Often these gardens

will include bonsai trees, which grow very well outdoors, dawn-redwoods and Japanese larches as well as various flowering trees such as small-fruited pear, cherry and plum trees.

A typical Zen garden is primarily made up of stones, large patches of sand and plants with various shades of green, and sometimes even red. The stones represent the ocean. Not only are these gardens easy to maintain, but they also offer unparalleled beauty. What's more, they have an incredible ability to relieve stress.

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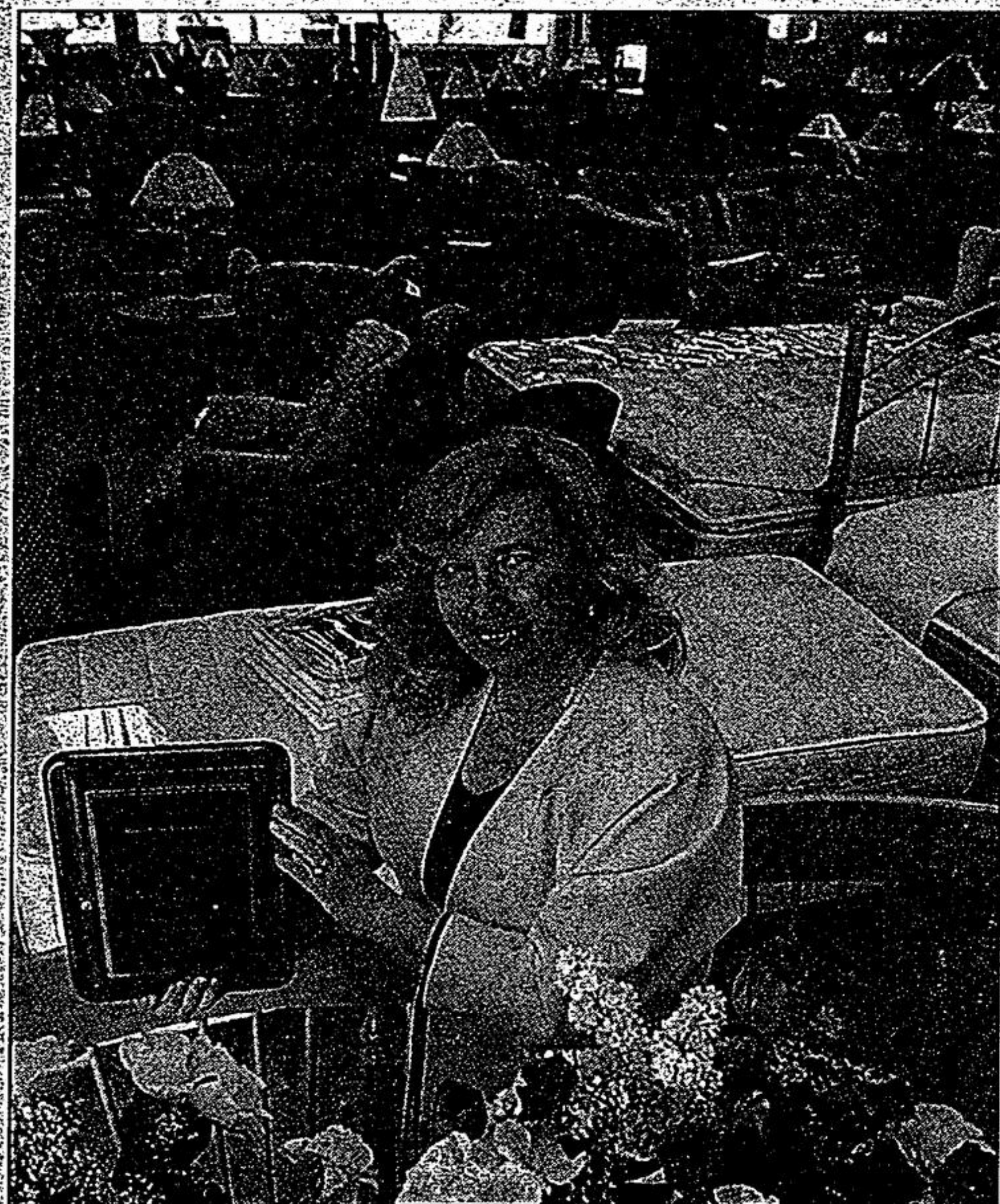
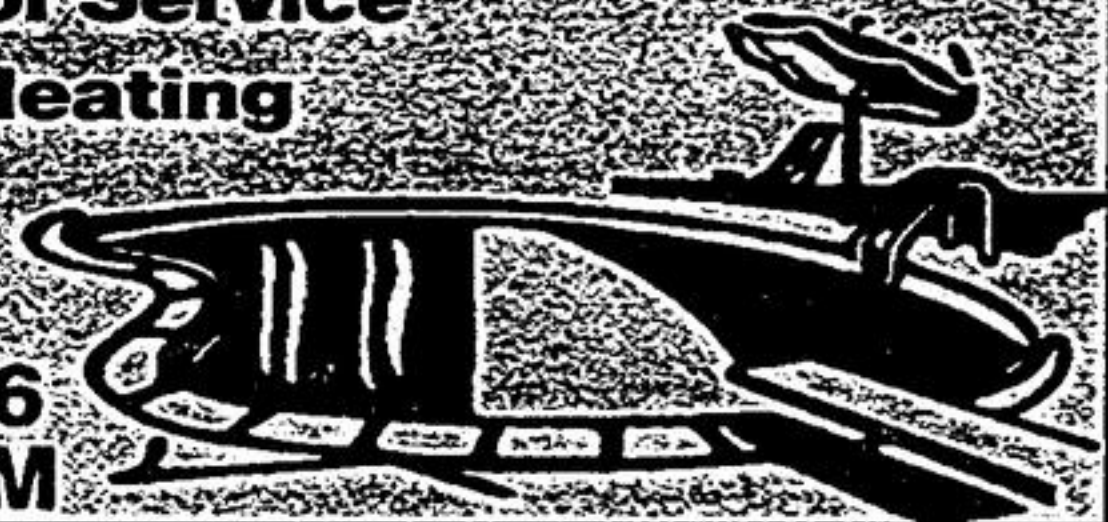
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## Downtown gem

Stouffville Fine Furniture proprietor Ville Papas and her husband George won Business Entrepreneur of the Year award at the Whitchurch Stouffville Chamber of Commerce awards night recently. She is photographed at their store in the former IGA at 6327 Main Street in downtown Stouffville.

**Inventory Sale On Now!**

## Award winners have big plans

The newest feature at Stouffville Fine Furniture is not for sale.

The new addition, the 2003 Entrepreneur of the Year award, will never leave the store in the heart of Stouffville's downtown.

The award, presented by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce, will be a permanent fixture, reminding everyone when it comes to business, store owners George and Ville Papas are tops.

The couple agree the award is priceless. It represents business smarts, the willingness to take a chance and a great deal of hard work. "The work isn't over," said Mrs. Papas. "We've got more plans for our store."

Mr. and Mrs. Papas joined Business of the Year award winner Bill Bobbi of Cooks Canada Inc. and Ambassador of the Year Jim Mason, editor of the Sun-Tribune and Markham Economist and Sun, at the awards dinner.

"We're thrilled to be named Stouffville's entrepreneurs," Mrs. Papas said.

"Since Stouffville Fine Furniture is a family business, we hope to pass the store on to our children," said Mrs. Papas. "We will be in Stouffville for many years

to come."

The couple's five children pitched in and helped get the store ready for its opening last July. Each family member takes pride in both the business and the family. Meanwhile, son Nicolas has joined Stouffville Fine Furniture, looking after the delivery service.

Stouffville Fine Furniture's move downtown started with an idea about 18 months ago. Mr. and Mrs. Papas stood back and took a hard look at their 10-year-old furniture store in Stouffville's west end. The need to double the size of the store prompted the purchase of the old IGA store.

Since the grocery store had sat vacant for more than a year and was fast becoming an eyesore, the downtown business community, municipal officials and residents alike welcomed the large furniture store with open arms.

Stouffville's Fine Furniture's 10,000-square-foot showroom displays high end, name brand furniture. In addition to tending to customers, Mr. and Mrs. Papas are spending time with an architect. "The renovation work on this store is far from over," Mr. Papas said. "When we fin-

ished, it will look great on the outside, as well as the inside."

Also, major improvements to the store's parking lot will be carried out soon.

The couple will expand their business holdings even further. Plans include building eight apartments above the store. Once the apartments are in place, the storefront will get a "much-needed" facelift, Mr. Papas said. He estimates the cost of future work on the property could run as high as \$1 million. That's business, Mr. Papas said.

After spending nine months at the downtown location, Mrs. Papas is extending a challenge to her neighbours. "George and I are pouring energy and dollars into the downtown. I invite hope the other downtown businesses to do their bit. If we work together, we can enhance our downtown," Mrs. Papas said.

Mr. and Mrs. Papas were born in Greece. Mr. Papas used to own a kitchen cabinet manufacturing business. "George knew quality and he taught me," said Mrs. Papas. "We're a team."

Aside from doing business here, the Papas family also lives in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

6327 Main St. Stouffville (905) 642-6774