

The Artists' Annex Stone House Pottery & Gallery Abe's Spring Street Guest House

Charles & Sandra Fach ~ 414-418 Spring St. (US Highway 20) ~ Galena IL 61036 ~ 815.777.0354 ~ www.GalenaBedBreakfast.com

Galena potter builds new studio with space for other artists, too!

GALENA, IL -- When Charles Fach came to Galena in 1971 to throw pots, the young artist needed a place to live, a place to work and a place to sell his art. He found all three under one roof when an old brewery on a busy highway came up for sale. Today, more than 30 years later, he's come full circle with the opening of The Artists' Annex, an impressive new addition to his business, where other young artists can live, work and sell their art, too.

Fach long ago outgrew his studio in the brewery building. Over the years, his business branched out to include specialized ceramics -- porcelain, bas-relief tiles and Raku (a Japanese style of pottery using three-color glazes) -- as well as prints and bronze sculptures. He simply needed more room. He owned the remnants of another brewery building two doors to the east, which he used mostly for storage. "It seemed a terrible waste of space," said Fach, "So the idea of The Artists' Annex was born."

He approached a local architect with the idea of building a new studio there, one that would incorporate additional income-producing space. It was a challenge, because beneath the remnants of the original structure were two barrel-vaulted limestone aging chambers from the 1800's brewery. "I really wanted to save them both." Fach explained, "And use them as part of my studio."

What emerged from the drawing boards was a large, three-story, multi-use facility. Construction began in the fall of 2001 with Fach as the general contractor. He moved into his studio the following summer. It occupies, along with the aging chambers, the entire first floor. It's a bright, sun-lit "fish bowl" of a room with big windows opening onto the street. Here Fach creates and teaches throughout the week, and conducts free pottery demonstrations for the public from 2 to 4 pm on Saturdays and 10 am to noon on Sundays.

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Upstairs are three spacious, individual studio/galleries, each with a loft, bathroom, balcony and private outside entrance. The largest is the domain of Patricia Lehnhardt, whose business, The Great Galena Cookery, highlights the creative adaptability of the space. Lehnhardt holds hands-on cooking classes in a state-of-the-art professional kitchen, and offers "Dinner in the Kitchen," reserved, *prix fixe* meals for eight every Saturday evening, plus a variety of other cooking classes and *prix fixe* meals throughout the week. It's perfect example of culinary "art".

The adjacent studio space just recently opened as Jamie's Wine Gallery, a business which complements the Cookery. The remaining studio is available for a turnkey studio/retail opportunity.

The studio spaces share the second floor with Fach's print-making studio and a spa room. The latter contains a sauna and hot tub, for use by resident artists, as well as by guests in the adjacent Abe's Spring Street Guest House, a two-suite bed-and-breakfast in the brewery's former ice house, operated by Fach and his wife, Sandra, a teacher. The unique suites are decorated with fascinating examples of Fach's bronze sculptures, paintings and ceramics.

The third floor of the Annex has a humidity-controlled storage room, plus a space Fach plans to use for an art library. The floor is reinforced with laminated wood beams to hold lots of weight.

For details about studio rentals...or more information about Fach's guest house and gallery, phone 815.777.0354 or log on to www.galenabedbreakfast.com.

Galena is a picturesque village tucked away in the scenic hills of northwest Illinois, where it meets Wisconsin and Iowa on the Mississippi River, about a three-hour drive west of Chicago and Milwaukee. For more information about Galena, phone toll-free 877.444.5850 or log on to www.galena.org.

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