

# Chicago style

Edited by Bonnie Miller Rubin



Tribune photo by John Krings

Interns Christine Earley (left) and Birte von Somnitz, hone their skills at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

## Digging some dirt

It's a dirty job, but Christine Earley is glad she gets to do it.

Earley, of Mt. Hood, Ore., is one of 12 interns working at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe this summer, doing everything from planting and pruning to weeding and watering.

Internships, for college students and recent college graduates, last from three to 12 months.

"It doesn't feel like work, because I'm doing something I love," Earley said. "Although I admit that weeding for four hours on a 90-degree day isn't my idea of fun. The best part is learning from experts who are willing to share their knowledge so freely."

Earley has a degree in biology and is halfway through a master's thesis in prairie ecology. She says it will lead to a

career in conservation and resource management.

"There's so much to learn that it's overwhelming at first. But by working here every day I've started to get a real grip on the gardening and restoration process."

Birte von Somnitz of Namibia, or South-West Africa, is here for six months. "I worked in a botanic garden back home and knew this program had a wonderful reputation," she said. "We're not just used as plain labor, but treated as a team member by the curators."

Interns live with nearby families, who provide housing in exchange for yard work, household chores and/or nominal rent.

For more on hosting interns, call Cynthia Baker at 708-835-8300.

Julie Morse



Imagine the Oktoberfest bash you could throw in your own German house.

## A bit of Bavaria to go

Joachim Wolf missed the architecture of his native Germany, so he found a way to bring it here.

Wolf, of Annalisa Wolf Antiques in San Francisco, disassembles authentic German houses and moves them to sites in the United States.

He says it's not as hard to do as it sounds.

"You simply take it apart piece by piece like a jigsaw puzzle," says Wolf, who grew up in Paderborn, which is more than 1,200 years old Charlemagne's. "But you already know the solution because each piece is marked and you've made a drawing of the frame."

Wolf's first import, a 9,000 square-foot home from Lübeck, is now getting a second life as an antique store and a Viennese cafe outside San Francisco. A few more orders are en route to Colorado and he has several orders waiting to be filled. "They're really perfect as a guest house or a ski lodge," he says.

Any size is available, starting at 2,000-square feet. Costs depend on size, but are "no more than \$350,000" to dismantle, ship and re-erect. Wolf says it's less expensive to import than build from scratch because timber today costs so much "and it will never have the character. Anything else would look like a replica."

Stables, barns, manor houses and granaries are available. To buy your very own, call Wolf at 415-931-6236.

Tina Marie Armstrong

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August 30, 1992

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Taco pottery chosen by Mia Cha Rubin  
from John Toomey Gallery, Oak Park

CHICAGO TRIBUNE  
HOME SECTION  
8-30-92

Coming  
Wednesday  
in Style

Coats: A long winter's  
waiting.

Sunday  
in Home

It's sewtime: There's  
a place like home for which  
up some specialties of  
house.