

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

IT seemed like a perfectly sensible plan at the time. Glynis Berry and Hideaki Ariizumi's popular little art gallery, Art Sites, in Greenport was too small to hold all the work they wanted to show, so the couple decided to move to bigger premises.

Priced out of Greenpoint and Mattituck, they bought a beat-up cinder-block building, which had once housed a Jeep dealership, on two acres of land next to the Peconic River outside Riverhead. Being architects, they figured they would fix it up themselves.

That was three years ago.

"Everything that could have gone wrong with the renovation pretty much went wrong," Ms. Berry said in a recent interview. She stood in the finished space that now holds the gallery, the original roughly hewn pine floor planks freshly stained and coated with a layer of thick urethane varnish. An acrid smell lingered.

"It took 20 months to get the various building permits, we both had serious accidents working on the renovation, and later we found industrial pollution on the property that had to be cleaned up," she said. Another time, the police put the work on hold after a car abandoned on the property one night turned out to have been involved in a crime, Ms. Berry said.

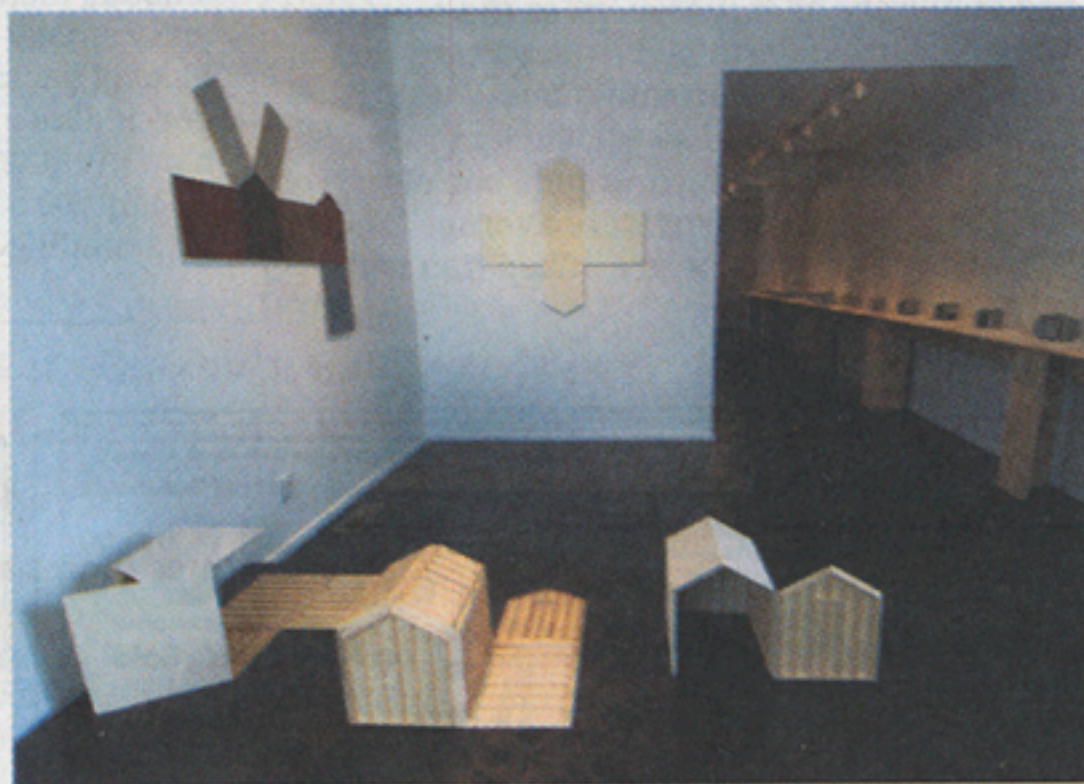
But with all that behind them, Ms. Berry said, the couple is again looking forward to showing art. "We hope to present 10 to 15 group and solo artist exhibitions a year," she said. "National and international artists will be shown, but also artists from the East End. We will also continue showing a lot of ceramic art."

Ms. Berry spent five years designing exhibitions for museums across the United States, including the Museum of Natural History in New York, but she was always more interested in exhibiting art, she said. Six years ago she and Mr. Ariizumi, who live in Orient, started Art Sites in a 220-square-foot storefront in Greenport. In 2003, they shut it down to concentrate on renovating the new space.

The new, 1,800-square-foot gallery opened in July. About three-quarters of the floor space is dedicated to three discrete galleries, with the rest used as an office for Ms. Berry and Mr. Ariizumi's architectural practice; right now they work mostly on the East End, designing for private and public institutional clients.

Their present suite of exhibitions is devoted to works by Lidya Buzio and Allan Wexler, each of whom create architecturally based works in different mediums.

Ms. Buzio, who is originally from Uruguay but now lives in Greenport, is a ceramic artist whose works are held by several museums, including the Brooklyn Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Victoria and Albert Museum,



Photographs by Maxine Hicks for The New York Times

**ART SITES** Left, a painted earthenware vessel by Lidya Buzio, and paintings and sculptures by Allan Wexler, including "Re(searching) the House," in Riverhead.

London. She shapes open-form earthenware vessels by hand, then paints scenes of industrial and urban sites reminiscent of the work of the Italian metaphysical painter Giorgio de Chirico on them. For this exhibition she is displaying a new series of works influenced by Greenport and local fishing scenes.

Her ceramics are deeply sensual and beautiful. Not only are the ceramic forms unusual and intriguing, but the painting is exceptional — Ms. Berry said that Ms. Buzio had developed a palette of more than 100 colors. She paints her ceramic forms before firing, which gives the images an immense subtlety of tone.

Mr. Wexler dabbles with different materials and art forms to make work that blurs edges between art and architecture. Here he takes a simple shelter structure and, with paintings and sculptures, examines issues of perspective, scale, function and construction. Avoiding beauty, they appeal more to the mind than the eye.

Ms. Berry said that in the future she hoped to use the riverfront property to display outdoor sculptures. "It is something we thought about when we bought the property," she said. "To be honest, we have to recover from the renovation first. But it gives us something else to play with."