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Bio-Fusion Designs' work includes this arched tank created for a charity event; it's filled with a coral reef and exotic fish, all illuminated by underwater LED lighting.

## A coral reef in your kitchen? A rainforest in your den? If you can dream it, Bio-Fusion Designs can bring it to life... often literally

BY MARK HEMPSTEAD  
 TIMES UNION STAFF WRITER

Is there a coral reef in your living room's future? If Bio-Fusion Designs has its way, that tropical reef may have to make room next to the waterfall in your den. The Clifton Park-based business has made it its business to design and install one-of-a-kind, custom aquariums and other water-based creations, both inside the home and out. Owner Eric Czerw holds a degree in marine biology with an emphasis on wildlife management and wetland sciences. He's been contracted by the New England Aquarium to build a behind-the-scenes aquascape that was used for an American Zoo Association conference in 1998. He's also worked in environmental consultation for close to 15 years.

Czerw recently wowed attendees of last year's Showcase of Homes, where his custom, eight-foot-long installation featured a hand-terrestrial embankment was seamlessly integrated into the showcase Saratoga home's den.

The vivarium — combination aquarium and terrarium — replicated an Amazon rain forest, complete with South American plants and fish species and a waterfall with adjustable flow. Unlike aquariums behind closed glass, this vivarium was out in the open, where the plants and water invited viewers to reach out and feel.

The finishing touch? Periodic rain storms throughout the day, courtesy of hidden sprinklers. "Indoor ponds are something that's been a topic of interest that's been catching on; small ponds or indoor fountains with LED lighting to create accent points inside whatever design has been created," Czerw said.

One of Bio-Fusion Designs' clients was a snorkeling fanatic who spent every available vacation in Aruba. Czerw custom designed a 150-gallon bow-front aquarium. The five-foot long aquarium's working features were hidden behind custom cabinetry, and features a living coral reef lit by fiber optic.

"Now he can sit back and enjoy a coral reef whenever he wants to," Czerw said.

Bio-Fusion does many temporary installations for corporate

events and weddings as well. For Albany Medical Center's Dancing in the Woods fund-raiser in December (to benefit the Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders at Albany Med's Childrens Hospital), Bio-Fusion created a custom-designed installation. The caterer's raw bar was wrapped around a six-foot arched tank that displayed a coral reef lit with special underwater LED lighting to lend a holiday feel. Snowflake-shaped tropical fish in subdued candy cane colors finished out the effect. Sadly, the eye-



Bio-Fusion Designs created this in-home vivarium; all its operating hardware is hidden behind custom cabinetry.

catching spectacle came down after two-days.

Bio-Fusion also installs outdoor water features, including ponds of almost any size with koi fish and waterfalls that can be adjusted. Special effect lighting and that self-controlled rain storm also feature into these installations.

"I can do small lakes; I've worked designing and managing projects up to two-acre lakes," Czerw said. "There's water gardens with a lot of botanical display or landscape vegetation around a water feature."

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