

Room for Design

Everything has a place in well-balanced setting

Balance is the key effect achieved by distributing furnishings, patterns and colors to produce an overall harmony of elements. In a well-balanced room there is a feeling that everything belongs.

Even inexpensive furnishings will look their best if there is proper balance. When a room does not have it, the most attractive color scheme or the most expensive furnishings will fail to give the results you want.

Good basic planning will simplify the work involved in decorating a room to achieve a well-balanced effect. Everything in a room from the largest piece of furniture to the smallest accessory must be considered.

A good starting point is to plan the room on paper first. Before you start moving furniture around, draw your room plan to scale on graph paper, letting one-quarter inch equal one foot. Then measure your furniture and draw it into your plan.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT is the distribution of color. Borrow Junior's crayons and add the colors in your room to your plans of the furniture arrangement. Keep in mind that several items of the same color should be distributed throughout the room, not grouped together in the same place. The same rule applies to patterns and accessories.

One exception to this rule is the monochromatic, or one-color scheme. In this case, use different shades and tints of the same color to accomplish the desired result.

Formal or symmetrical balance is more likely to be chosen by people who live and entertain more formally than the average. Formal balance is achieved by placing furnishings so

that each half of the room duplicates the other half. It is almost as though an imaginary line were drawn and objects arranged on each side of it in an identical manner.

Examples are pairs of chairs, sofas or tables facing each other; wall hangings centered on walls or above fireplaces or pieces of furniture, candle-labra or vases placed at each end of buffets or chests.

Informal or asymmetrical balance is just the opposite. It creates a more casual atmosphere. Dissimilar components are used on each side of the central point at unequal distances from the center.

IN ORDER to avoid a lopsided look, mix large, heavy pieces of furniture with lightly scaled ones. A break-front, for example, could be balanced with a pair of chairs and a table. Picture walls can have a variety of sizes and types of pictures and art objects. A lamp or candlesticks placed on a chest or buffet near one end will balance a wall hanging or group of pictures placed above the other end.

Use size, color, patterns to their best advantage. High and low pieces of furniture should be interspersed. Accessories should be intermingled, tall with short, large with small. Color and pattern if placed at different heights, reflect interest and imagination.

Light-colored walls make small rooms look more spacious; they go best with furniture that is relatively light in scale. Darker colors draw the walls in and tend to look well with heavier furniture. In a room that has a lot of furniture, a small bedroom,

by Gloria Cohen



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for example, keep the walls about the same value as the wood tones in the furniture and the room will seem less crowded.

If you want a pattern for your walls, choose one that is not too startling and is in scale with the size of the room and the furnishings. Subtle all-over patterns that give the effect of texture can be pleasant.

If you paper only one wall of a room, you can choose a bolder pattern. A scenic mural on one wall introduces the illusion of depth. Three-dimensional effects or diagonal patterns destroy unity.

As I have said before, think of your room as a seesaw and balance it so that it does not tip over or seem to. Your eye can be trained to judge when you have proper balance—like your foot can tell when the shoe fits. But first you have to try it on.

Got a question on room design? Ask Gloria. Write: Gloria Cohen, Room for Design, The Observer & Eccentric, 1225 Flowers, Birmingham 48012. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a personal reply.

'Wordcraft' set at WSU

High school graduates of 1977 and those who will be seniors this fall are invited to participate this summer in "Wordcraft," a creative writing program. It will be sponsored by the English Department of Wayne State University and offered through the College of Lifelong Learning. It will run from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from June 27-July 25 at the WSU Southfield Center, 25150 Eleven Mile, Southfield.

Under the direction of workshop leaders Stephen Tudor and Devitt Clinton, the students will learn

ing in specific techniques of writing poetry, fiction and drama.

Prose poems, slice-of-life stories and scenarios for television are a few of the areas to be explored.

To be eligible, students must be recommended by their teacher and submit a few short poems, one short story or play.

High school graduates may register for four hours of credit as English 0210. Seniors will register on a non-credit basis.

Brochures and registration information will be given by calling the college at 358-2104.

Howe student is promoted

William Boncher, son of Mrs. Helen Slaght of Farmington, has been promoted to Cadet SFC. He is a third year student at Howe Military School.

GM grant continues works at WSU

Ronald R. Mourant, of Farmington, an associate professor of industrial engineering and operations research, will continue his investigation of the effect of convex mirrors on driver performance with the aid of a \$34,000 grant made by General Motors with Wayne State University.

A contract amendment was reported to the university's board of governors by WSU's Office of Research and Sponsored Program Services.

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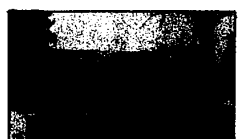
CONTEMPORARY and big Quad-level, heated inground pool, Central Air—electronic filter, 28 x16 family room with fireplace, library, 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths—beautiful decor, Pritz Troy area. SUPERB home. 689-8900. \$99,500.



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