

Room for Design

Avant-garde style keeps up

by
Gloria
Cohen



Jesse Wilson

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Jesse of Livonia, announce the engagement of their daughter Susan Lynne, to Ken Alan Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wilson of Farmington Hills. She is a 1973 graduate of Stevenson High School, now employed with Castle Dental Laboratories in Farmington. He is a 1974 graduate of Farmington High School. No wedding date has been set.

The term "avant-garde" comes from the French and means the vanguard or forefront. In home furnishings it is applied to the development of trends that are influenced by scientific achievements in the world around us.

There is a quality of motion in avant-garde furnishings, a feeling that the designer is attempting to express the tempo of the times. The style is young in spirit and in the process of growth.

Space-age research and de-

velopment have created many new man-made materials, or brought about the refinement of existing materials that adapt well to the home furnishings field. These have provided inspiration for designers all over the world to introduce new stylistic concepts.

Some of the trends will win acceptance at once, some will gradually gain favor as the public becomes accustomed to a radical departure from conventional design, and others disappear. It is up to the

public to determine which will stay and which will fall by the wayside.

SEE-THOUGH plastics strong enough to stand on shiny metals sleek, slim and sturdy are signatures of today's avant-garde apartments and homes. The furniture is purely functional and designed for comfort. Lines are simple, whether straight or curved. Furniture frames may be of wood, plastic or metal.

Wood frames are often slightly sculptured and show subtle curves. Plastic shapes, when they are not upholstered, are usually curved to fit the human body. Plastic bases seem to disappear, leaving the upholstery floating in air. Shiny chrome or stainless steel members are straightforward, with lines and angles designed to highlight square shapes.

Tables are almost a trademark of style. Many are plastic cubes, or have tops in clear or smoky tones that you can see through. Other tables are in groups that can be stacked together or one within the other in brightly colored cubes with a flexibility and multi-purpose advantage.

A key element in avant-garde furnishings is color. Generally, colors are bold and clear. The background of a room may be white or a subtle neutral shade, but accents are sharp. Upholstery fabrics often run the gamut of sharp colors and geometric patterns, but they are just as likely to be black or white. Fabrics range from rough-textured cottons, linens and blends, as well as fine fabrics.

Accessories show restraint in the

avant-garde room, but only in number. An avant-garde room usually contains fewer objects that do rooms in other styles, but they may be gigantic in size. They may be shiny metal, lucite, glass, vivid in color and very important, outstanding.

WALL HANGINGS and sculptured pieces, although used sparingly, are dominant forces in the room because of their color and size. Lamps, vases, ashtrays and other functional accessories adhere to these same principles. A word of caution: Use them sparingly.

One of the newest avant-garde trends is to apply carpeting, leather or leatherlike materials to walls as decoration. They make a richly textured surface that is pleasing to the eye and adds soundproofing.

The shapes of lighting fixtures are often perfect circles or tall cylinders. The emphasis is on the purity of geometric shape. Another avant-garde method of lighting is to conceal the fixture in a ceiling recess so that the source of light cannot be identified. A dimmer switch adjusts the level of light.

Avant-garde is today, and whatever tomorrow brings. We sift out the good and make it our style of living. It is our right to do our own thing with the options available, but like any combination or blend, the ingredients must be just right or it will fall flat.

Do a room or the entire house in an avant-garde way, but let yourself go. It's part of the fun of living.

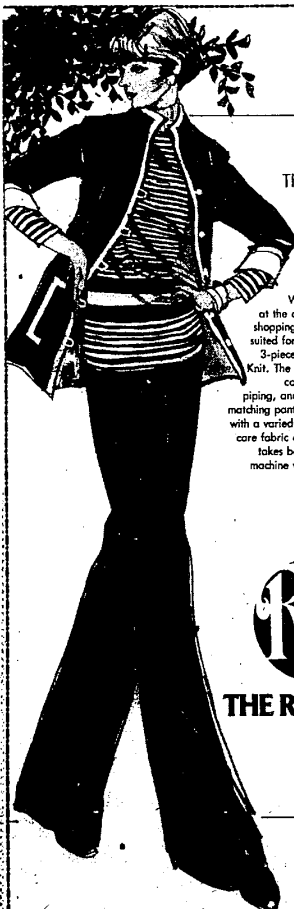


The eyelets of the world are on me—in my corset cum tap pants. One side, Ruby. It must be love.

Topping my way to stardom: The little corset-cum-tap pants, '14. Both, white eyelet of cotton and polyester, faced with pink ribbons for sizes petite through large. Young Dimensions Lingerie.

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The eye-catching knits for Springtime—from Butte.

Whether it's luncheon at the club or an afternoon shopping, you'll be perfectly suited for the occasion in this 3-piece pantsuit from Butte Knit. The mandarin jacket has contrasting facing and piping, and looks great over a matching pant and turtle-neck top with a varied stripe design. Easy-care fabric of poly-acrylic blend takes beautifully to hand or machine washing. Navy only.

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Late filers get second chance

Persons who did not file or have been denied property tax credits for 1974 by late filing are getting a second chance, according to State Rep. Sandy Brotherton (R-Farmington).

Gov. William Milliken recently signed into law a two-year extension for all persons eligible to claim property tax credits, Brotherton reported.

The extension is in effect until April 15 for persons who failed to file or were denied property tax credits for 1974 because of late filing. Those persons eligible will have until April 15 to complete filing.

Any claims filed for 1974 but rejected because they were filed after June 30, 1975, will now be honored, Brotherton said.

Taxpayers who paid an assessment because of failure to file for the credit on time will have the amount they paid refunded to them by the Michigan Department of Treasury.

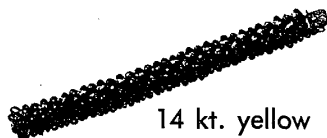
Brotherton said the 1975 property tax credit claims will be honored until Dec. 31.

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