

# Dressing Your HOME



## Leather: A real investment in home fashion

Many people will accept no substitute where leather is concerned. Enjoying fine leather is akin to wearing mink; synthetic look alikes are unacceptable. In both instances, these people would settle instead for a fine quality worn fabric.

Leather furniture has gained in importance in interior fashions because it is easy to care for and blends so beautifully with today's trend to naturals.

In purchasing leather furniture, one should know a little bit about what to look for in qualities of leathers. There is no such thing as "good inexpensive" leather furniture.

A piece of good leather furniture is expensive but it is also a long time investment. Properly used and cared for, it will last many years and will get better as it gets older.



LABRETTA REGAN

We normally see two kinds of leather upholstery: the smooth, lustrous or "kidskin finish," or the velvety look of suede. An import tag does not assure top quality, because only a few tanneries in Europe do the long correct processes.

**THE FEEL** should be supple, not stiff or too soft. A good chair will conform to the owner's body like his shoe. Be careful that the leather is not dried out and showing fine cracking lines. Cracking should not occur if the leather is top quality and cared for like an expensive saddle.

The next point to check is the method of dyeing. When properly tanned skins are used, the dye color should go through to the base, so that if a deep scratch occurs the color of the leather will not change. Today many of the chair and sofa cushions are zippered, so you can look at the under part of the skins.

**ONE STEP FURTHER** on the use of leather for interior decoration is panelling of walls.

Leather walls have often been used in cattle countries but they have created a very masculine, heavy atmosphere. Now fine quality leather panelling is available from the Fritala Co. of Helsinki, Finland. Fritala, the largest manufacturer of leather in Scandinavia, offers a leather-covered wall panel that makes interesting accent walls for offices and homes.

The material is Finnish suede or nappa leather, stretched and glued on a semi-fiberboard padded with framed plastic. Standard sizes are available upon order and they can be attached to the wall either with glue or small headed nails. Nailing is recommended since the panels can be detached for moving elsewhere. The colors which are most popular are rich chocolate brown and a bright avocado green suede, and there are other shades not usually found in leather. Fritala has just opened a showroom in Chicago.

I would like to have a traditional style bedroom-sitting room. I would prefer the use of some sort of a bed rather than a sofa bed. What would you suggest?

How about a sleigh bed? It is a comfortable bed using a normal but smaller-style mattress and can be made usable to sit on by the additional of a variety of pillows.

We are moving and our landlord has agreed to giving us one coat of paint on the walls. I'm not sure of what color to put in the bedrooms, or for that matter any of the rooms. Should I take very soft tones?

Forget about colors when no definite decision is evident. Have a thick coat of a good white paint put on. White is a good backdrop for colorful accessories, and you can always add color to the walls when you know what you really want to live with.

## Gossip goes legit

For those who may feel that they are a bit sneaky and lacking in honor when they engage in gossip, a psychology professor at the University of Pennsylvania has some good words about gossip which elevate it to being a social tool.

"Gossip," John P. Sablin told the Society for Cross-Cultural Research meeting recently at Michigan State University, "serves a useful purpose. Gossip is a form of moral education, a kind of morality play which helps to set standards of conduct."

Sablin, in his examination of the practice, defined the rubrics for gossiping.

Gossip, he said, must be produced behind the gossiper's back, with mortification on the part of the gossiper if caught in the act. It must be a gift of new information relative to some specific misbehavior. It must suggest, by indirectness, the nature of the norm for proper behavior, and establish a reasonableness for such a norm.

Women in offices have been known, he said, to gossip about other women in the same office who dress badly or

ostentatiously for their jobs. Out of all, some agreement presumably is reached on suitable attire.

Gossip, he added, is generally an in-sex occupation. Men talk about other men and call it shop-talk. Women generally talk about each other and that's gossip.

Gossip, however, avoids the infelicities of actually seeking aid from the listener to directly correct the behavior of the gossiper.

Finally, he said, gossip and praise conventionally are not permissible in a face-to-face encounter between the speaker and the subject.

### Yogurt parfait

Frozen yogurt is taking the food world by storm—which isn't surprising to all the people who love regular yogurt and enjoy its special, refreshing taste. Or try a yogurt parfait for dessert. Layer fruit gelatin and fruit yogurt in a parfait glass and chill well.

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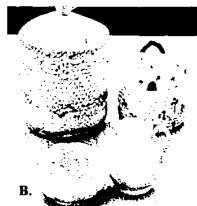


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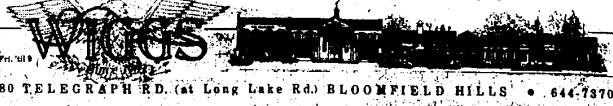
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