

Room for Design

by Gloria Cohen



Know the rules you intend to break

The most beautiful and comfortable furniture you can afford won't of itself create a well-decorated room.

It must be properly arranged not only for symmetry but for function. Since it is far easier to push a pencil than a sofa, the way to begin is with pencil and grape paper.

You can find it at these in quarter inch scale and by measuring your rooms and drawing them to scale, with all door and window openings, you can simulate a floor plan.

Outlets of furniture,

made to the same scale on graph paper or cardboard, can be manipulated to approximate any number of arrangements until you find the one that is most appropriate.

WITH A LIVING ROOM, first decide on the number of conversation groupings you want. Locate the major one anchored to an architectural focal point—a fireplace, a window with a view or whatever. If you aren't lucky enough to have a true architectural focal point and it isn't feasible to focus around a window, you

can create a focus.

A magnificent cabinet, a good painting, or a long, low table with large lamps and unusual decorative objects can be the anchor around which sofas and chairs can be grouped.

A false mantel, a bookcase or a built-in shelf arrangement for stereo, TV and other music equipment is an excellent focal point for a study or even a living room.

Remember to keep tables within easy reach for every seated person.

Be sure to keep this major grouping out of the line of traffic from a hall to another room. Be mindful that you can form traffic patterns with furniture placement. For example, a sofa back can define a corridor that forces traffic around a conversation area. Once you have your primary conversation area set, you can begin forming a secondary, if your room is large enough to demand it.

For example, as an adjunct to a fireside group, you may want to include a game table and chairs, or a pair of love seats or armchairs near the window at the far end of the room.

Also, choose small scale furniture. There are eminently comfortable chairs and functional tables that work well in small space.

In the bedroom, there is usually little choice about bed placement. There will be only one wall large enough to accommodate a double or twin beds. However, there is no reason why twin beds must be side by side. A narrow room can gain visual space by placing the beds end to end along one wall. That may free space for a larger dresser as well as a small table and chair grouping or desk.

IF THERE IS A CHOICE of bed placement, locate in relation to windows. In guest and children's rooms, where space may be precious, consider the use of beds that pull down or have trundle arrangements.

A few rules to follow and their exceptions: Rule—Always place furniture with the traffic pattern in mind. Keep door openings and passageways free of barriers. Exception—It is possible to arrange furniture in order to redirect traffic and make the room more usable and more interesting. In a living room with an oversized entrance and little wall space, it is often advisable to place a sofa directly in front of the

openings so as to channel traffic around the perimeter of the room.

Rule—Try to achieve a balance of high and low furniture. Exception—It is quite possible to furnish a room with nothing but low furniture as long as complementary heights are created in other ways. Emphasis on floor to ceiling draperies will do the trick.

Rule—It is better to underfurnish than overfurnish a room. Exception—This is not always true. A starkly furnished room can sometimes be singularly uninviting, or cold. Overcrowded look can be avoided by grouping furniture according to use and by a balanced contrast between skirted furniture, leggy chairs and tables.

Rule—Distribution of furniture should be relatively even. Opposite walls should have similar groupings.

Exception—In a room of fine proportions and interesting architectural detail, this is true. But the case of the glass-walled room is an entirely different matter. A glass wall is in effect a mural, and should not be blocked with furniture. There are rules and exceptions to every matter, however, the matter of furniture and how a room is furnished can be the most flexible and free adventure.

Seminarian graduates

William R. Livingston, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Livingston, 2389 Farmington Road, Farmington, has received a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Livingston was among nearly 300 students at commencement exercises held June 2. He holds a previous degree from Wayne State University.



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Doctor cautions against sun rays

By SUSAN B. TAUBER

Don't talk to people in the medical field about your ambition this summer to get a dark sun tan. They'll try to convince you not to.

Getting a deep brown tan may give you a youthful, healthy look for a few months, but what the tan is actually doing is aging your skin, something we all try to avoid during other months.

"There's also the feeling that the sun's rays that tan you may be part of the problem of skin cancer," said Dr. Roger Byrd. The Rochester dermatologist doesn't eliminate the possibility of people working on a tan, but suggests one take it slow and easy, using precautions all along.

"Most teenagers like a deep, brown tan," said Byrd. "I ask them to compromise and use a sun screen. That protects the skin and still allows the skin pigment to get color."

How long you stay in the sun without hurting your skin depends on many factors. Genetics plays an important role, Byrd said. People with fair coloring probably burn faster than those with darker pigments. The time of the day and of the year also dictates how long you should stay in the sun.

"THE PEAK SUN hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Staying outside for a half-hour at noon is a lot different from staying out a half-hour at 5 p.m. People should avoid the sun at peak hours. Wearing a sun screen at all times is mandatory," Byrd said. The strength of the sunlight in the northern hemisphere peaks in late June.

With the drug store counters filled with different types of skin protection lotions, it's difficult to choose what to buy. Buy a sunscreen that has the ingredient "paba" listed on the tube or bottle, Byrd recommended. If you have sensitive skin, the doctor suggested buying the more expensive sunscreen, since it will probably have more "paba" in it. Paba stands for para-aminobenzoic acid.

You can protect yourself physically from the sun also by wearing hats and long sleeve shirts through peak hours. But don't think that by picnicking under a tree on a cloudy day will keep you from the sun's rays. You can even burn in a shady area while the sun is behind the clouds.

Still want to get a tan? Then do it according to doctor's advice. Start slowly, exposing your skin for only 20 minutes the first few days. Then gradually build up to an hour of sunning, while you're basking. However, if you're a senior or a baby, don't sun-

bathe. Byrd said, because old and young skin are more vulnerable to sun burn.

ALSO AVOID WEARING perfumes that make you react in the sun with a skin rash. Wash your skin wherever you get citrus or celery derivatives on your skin when outside.

If you do get a sunburn, cool your skin by soaking in water with baking soda in it. Byrd advised using a mild lotion, such as "Calamine" to soothe the burn. If the burn is severe, see your physician.

"I got a 'barrage' of patients with skin reactions after Memorial Day weekend," said Byrd. "People need to slow down when getting a tan, even in the winter when they go down south. The temperature change can be a shock on your skin."



KENNETH FOX

Legislature honors student

Kenneth A. Fox of Farmington Hills recently received a special tribute from the Michigan House of Representatives for his service as a legislative aide.

Fox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Fox, 31115 Hunter's Whip, was among 125 student legislative volunteers and one of nine who received tributes. He was nominated by his representative and selected by a nonpartisan committee. Fox worked for Rep. Edgar A. Goerlings. He is a 1975 graduate of North Farmington High School and attends Michigan State University.

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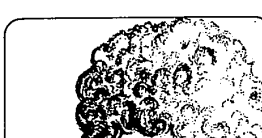
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