

Decorator triumphs

Message comes through loud and clear in home

Story: CORINNE ABATT

Photos: STEPHEN CANTRELL
Theoretically, a house should send clear messages about its occupants. Sometimes, however, when a decorator takes over, the messages may be muffled and the identities lost. It can often do happen. Consequently, it is a joy to find the perfect arrangement between decorator and client.

Interior designer Eve Garvin worked with Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Taylor of Bloomfield Township when they moved into their pillared, white colonial several years ago. She was back with them when they changed the location of a porch overlooking the backyard pool, added a breakfast room and extended the living room.

WHILE THE HOUSE is coordinated with variations on a three- or four-color theme, the careful planning never overshadows the statement about the owners.

These people are eclectic collectors. They draw from broad based interests and resources. Within the framework of quiet, warm, friendly elegance, there are touches of light humor like the parking meter at the edge of the circular drive, as well as Oriental and other fine art.

WITHOUT A DOUBT the bar built into the living room addition is a conversation stopper. Custom-made by Joe Devita of Impressive Cabinet Inc. of Ferndale, the cabinet doors behind the bar sport leaded glass panes which the Taylors supplied.

The mirror came from San Francisco's Canary. The blue and white inlaid tiles in the bar top are from England. The old brass cash register at one end adds a touch of authenticity.

Mrs. Garvin's challenge, if it could be called that, was to pull all the interesting items collected into a kind of natural looking order—to make them appear to have been chosen for just the spot they are in. From early gum ball machine to clocks and Oriental porcelains she did it beautifully.

Shades of blue, off-white and a touch

of sauterne or soft-yellow are predominant.

Mrs. Garvin felt lucky to be able to obtain the same military blue wide wale velvet used on the couches originally for use in the new addition.

A family room that overlooks the swimming pool has variations of the same colors. The blue in the area rug made for this room is a different and brighter shade. The tropical birds in it are shades of orange and yellow. Two pieces of leaded glass used in wall cabinet doors incorporate the same birds and colors. A wing chair is done in upholstery fabric matching the rug.

Again, this is a room that has a pleasant, warm atmosphere—a place that would encourage conversation and lively ideas.



Decorator Eve Garvin had her work cut out for her, coordinating the Taylor's diverse assortment of collected items. But she succeeded, fitting each piece into the scheme so that it seemed to belong exactly where it was placed, conveying to visitors the personality of the Taylors.

THE BREAKFAST room which replaced the porch, is a simple expansion of the light, bright kitchen with white formica counters, off-white walls and flooring.

The high-backed chairs at the natural wood rectangular table in the new section are a soft sauterne.

The breakfast room, Mrs. Taylor said, is an ideal place for the family to gather for a meal. Just off this is a brightly decorated enclosed porch.

The dining room is perhaps the most formal room in the house. A Chinese screen, decorated in semi-precious stones, is the room's focal point. The buffet, sideboard and table are natural, polished wood of a traditional pattern. The chairs are an Oriental finish of black and gold.

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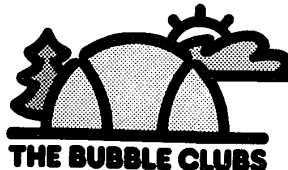
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