

# Everything is coming up yellow



It's spring all year long in this living room done in shades of yellow.

Story: SUSAN ROGERS  
Photos: ART EMANUEL

From the palest lemon yellow walls to the sparkling crystal vase bearing tall slender stalks of lemon yellow glads that dominate the glass topped table, the room speaks of light and airiness—a breath of fresh sunshine.

And that's just what the room's decorator had in mind.

The living room was dark and gloomy and the Hales wanted something lighter," said Brian Collins. He designed the room for the Kenneth Hale family of the Nottingham Woods subdivision in Livonia.

"The dark gold wool velvet carpeting was in good condition, so the Hales wanted to keep it and work around it," said Collins, who works out of Hudson's Westland.

To lighten the room, Collins worked in shades of yellow, off-white and a few touches of burgundy as an accent color.

"I tied in the dark gold carpet with a double band of the same gold color and yellow on the drapery tie-backs and the shaped cornice boards," he said. "That's the only place that color appears."

The room began to take shape by having walls and ceiling painted a very pale yellow.

"Some people think it's strange to have the walls and ceiling the same color, but I think it wraps up the room in a nice package," said Collins.

The interior itself could be called eclectic, said Collins. The furnishings represent several styles—English, Oriental and contemporary.

"We wanted a nature for interest," said Collins. "The Hales didn't have any strong preference for a particular style."

The furniture, most of which is new, came from Hudson's. The exception is the large dark wood structure that houses a stereo system and color television.

In front of this unit sits a wool velvet chair and ottoman in stripes of yellow, cream and very light gold.

"This chair needed to be durable

because it gets a lot of wear in front of the TV," said Collins.

He pointed out the repeated use of "brass and glass" to give light and sparkle to the room.

An antique gold framed glass topped table sits in front of the yellow silk sofa, and a similar taller table line another wall.

Various sized and shaped crystal adorn the dark wood end tables and Oriental dark wood chest. The crystal sends rays of sparkling color reverberating through the room.

The burgundy accent color is seen in two striped silk pillows on the couch and in two candles of the several on the glass table. Other crystal and brass candlesticks hold off-white and yellow candles.

A cream-colored silk damask love seat piled high with fluffy pillows, and a matching wing chair are the remaining major pieces in the room. A dark wood chair with a yellow brocade seat is in the corner.

An interesting picture arrangement hangs on the wall above the sofa.

"The symmetrical aspect of a room can get boring if carried too far," said Collins. "We had the sofa, two end tables, two lamps, etc. So we broke the shape with the conglomeration of pictures."

The antique botanical prints were custom framed for the Hales and matted in foil and silk to pick up the sparkle of the brass and glass, Collins said.

Several antique bird prints, similarly framed and matted, are on another wall.

Other accessories include a yellow porcelain Oriental lamp, two brass and porcelain lamps and a crystal one.

"The Hales wanted a formal living room, but a comfortable one—one they could use," said Collins. "Their five children are taught to respect the room, but it isn't off limits."

"They find it works very well for them."

The Hales liked the results so well, they have Collins transforming their dark dining room into similar light and airy yellow.

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—Brian Collins, interior decorator



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What's often missing in many bathrooms is adequate storage space.

"Sufficient storage is probably one of the greatest shortcomings in present bathrooms," said James L. Dooley, executive vice-president of the National Kitchen Cabinet Association.

"Most bathrooms," he said, "provide storage only with a tiny medicine cabinet and, occasionally, a linen closet."

"What's usually missing, and in great demand, are built-in clothes hampers, corner

cabinets and vanities.

"An ideal bathroom," Dooley added, "would have a variety of storage facilities to meet the differing needs of individual families."

If the present bathroom is adequate in size, the NKCA suggests that homeowners achieve an atmosphere of privacy by enclosing the tub and shower and installing dividing walls between the toilet and wash-up areas.

This helps ease daily traffic jams and allows more than one person to use the room at the same time.

Built-in vanities and

lavatories with adjacent countertops are popular additions to remodeled bathrooms. Double lavatories with vanities underneath provide lots of roomy and convenient storage space.

Vanities provide most of the bathroom's storage space, so they must be adequate not only for linens and medicines, but for the family's supply of health and beauty aids. In addition, vanities must accommodate "extras" that range from detergents for hand-washed clothing to the children's bathtub toys.

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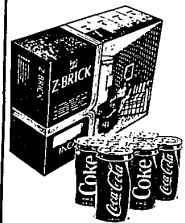
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