

Room for Design

Some how-to ideas for a holiday bash

This is the time of year when thoughts turn to entertaining and decorating the home with festive lights, greens, and tinsel. So let's forget "furniture talk" for the moment and talk about partying.

During the Holiday season, we look forward to furnishing our homes with people and hospitality. I love parties in all shapes and sizes—big ones and intimate ones where you entertain just a few.

So many things contribute to insuring the pleasure of every guest. Part of the success of any party is the wonderful way the house looks before the guests arrive. The lights, the candles, the flowers and place cards, the way the table is set and the seating is arranged are all part and parcel of a happy time.

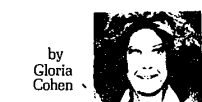
One of the most important decisions a hostess has to make is the guest list. The liveliest parties mix crowds, interests and professions. Holiday parties do not have to be elaborate and an informal get-together is usually the most comfortable.

You may serve on china plates or you may use paper. You might have a sit-down dinner, a buffet supper, maybe you'll have cocktails, or maybe crepes—but whatever the case may be, it's the host and hostess who set the pace and style.

NO TWO HOSTESSES, or homes, are exactly alike. Any number of factors can determine your favorite way to entertain.

Do you like large groups or small ones? Would you rather be your own chef or let someone else do the cooking? Do you like bright lights or candlelight? Whatever your style is, you must do it with foresight.

If you have a small group, seating arrangements should be planned so each person can sit comfortably in a



by
Gloria
Cohen

conversational grouping with access to a table top with ash trays and a place to set a glass.

Whether she intends it or not, a party reveals how its hostess feels about her guests. A carelessly organized party shows a lack of interest in the people you are entertaining.

WHEN YOU OPEN the door to your first guests, your house should be looking its very best—so make a quick check just before the doorbell rings. There should be plenty of space on the coat racks, bathrooms should be stripped of all the personal items used by the family, and plenty of guest towels are a necessity.

In planning table settings, think first of color. Delicate colors go well with candlelight. Bright white cloths play up the strong or subtle color of flowers or a pretty centerpiece.

Place mats are lovely on a large table, but for small tables I prefer cloths. Individual mats tend to cut up the space and lend to the whole a cluttered, busy look.

If your cloth is plain white, colored napkins add gaiety to a table. Everything doesn't have to match. If you are using small tables, their settings don't need to be identical, but coordinate them with identical cloths, napkins and centerpieces.

A party will be a success if the hostess is confident that everything is in order. If she has done her homework, a good time will be had by all. Happy Holidays!

PORTFOLIO: A walking art gallery

By CORINNE ABATT

When they talked over ideas for an art business, Susan Hegenbarth of West Bloomfield and Margaret Sellgren of Birmingham quickly discarded the possibility of a gallery.

This area had enough galleries, they figured, and so they began searching for alternatives. That search led them to form "Portfolio Art Resources," which they refer to as simply Portfolio. They call their new business "a walking gallery." In other words, it goes to the customer rather than the

other way around.

The two women brought a compatible combination of talents. Both are married and have children. Mrs. Hegenbarth, an artist, just finished a term as president of the Pontiac Art Center and was a local art reviewer for five years. She had lots of contacts with artists, a solid educational background in fine arts and practical experience as a photographer.

Mrs. Sellgren, on the other hand, is a former French teacher, who later sold real estate for seven years in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area. She's an

organizer and a businesswoman.

NOW, WITH a representation of about 25 artists who work in a variety of media and a 30 minute slide presentation to show the kind and quality of the work of each, the women are officially in business.

"We like to go in and assess the needs and gear our presentation to the money the person has to spend and the size and style of art that would be appropriate," Mrs. Sellgren said.

"We've been called on architects and designers as well as business organizations and individuals. We usually take a few actual samples, mostly to show technique."

About 75 percent of the artists they represent are from Michigan, the rest are from various parts of the world. There are some familiar names in the group—sculptors Derek Werhner, James Nani and Raymond Katz; fabric artists Carolyn Hall, Urban Jupena and Sharon LaPierre; and painters Dan Stubbs, Loraine McCartney, Sheldon Idan, Margaret Kelleher and Conne Powell.

OTHERS ON Portfolio's list are: Lillian Hoppin, painting on Plexiglas, canvas and rugs; Chris Goodale, serigraphs; Marilyn Stump, paintings; Shirley Kallus, collage; Marie Woe, pottery; Glen Michaels, sculpture and John Gable, watercolors.

Outstate artists on the Portfolio roster are Colette Ikin of France, bronzes and Ruth Wynn of Maine, watercolors.

"We are planning on taking our Michigan artists to Chicago, Cleveland and other places, like New Mexico, for instance," Mrs. Hegenbarth said.

She added that she thought the quality of the Michigan art which they have available compares favorably with that in all other parts of the United States and deserves a wider audience.

So far, the reception to the Portfolio concept has been very encouraging.

"WE'VE HAD favorable comments on the quality and scope of art we have. People like the wide price range (starting at \$12) and that we are willing to work until we get just the right thing for the space," Mrs. Sellgren said.

She takes particular pride in handing the details like delivery, making sure it is done just right, on time and the condition of the art is perfect.

"I'm very pragmatic and practical-minded," she said adding that working with artists was relatively new for her and she was thoroughly enjoying it.

With their sites set on both the East Coast and West Coast and the territory in between, the women have given themselves a broad canvas to cover.

Down to earth

by
ALICE
WESSELS
BURLINGAME



Gift suggestions for the gardener

In many of your homes there is a dedicated gardener—or perhaps there's one on your holiday gift list.

Last week's column looked at some of the gardening books that are available for problem solving. Here are some more suggestions to make that gardener happy.

FLORESCENT LIGHT installation: This gift is ideal for the gardener who enjoys collections of specific plants, the challenge of propagating plants or starting seedling for outdoor gardens.

It's also a good idea for a former gardener who lives in an apartment (my situation) or a restless one who finds the winters too long in Michigan. You have a couple of choices. One is buying a setup with three tiers which is made of wood products and finished like living room furniture. Earthway Products (P.O. Box 547, Maple Street, Bristol, Inc., 46007) makes one that looks like an end table, with a lower level for lighted plants. The firm takes credit cards, and with the proper information they can ship it immediately.

Another type of fluorescent fixture has three levels of trays and is made of rugged aluminum tubing with leak-proof fiberglass trays. It is made by Home Grow Products, 1311 West 50th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44102.

SHUFFLE HOE: This is a tool that makes gardening easier, with less bending over. Put a red bow on it, and your gardener will just purr. (Bell Greenhouse, 828 S. Woodward, Pa., 18901)

PATIO TOWER GARDEN: This balcony garden is two feet square and ideal for many apartment dwellers. The four sides are constructed of redwood slats, inserted at the corners of the frame. The bottom is treated to resist rot and insects. A reservoir in the middle holds a gallon of water and fertilizer and lets it seep through to the (Burpee Seed Co., Warminster, Pa., 18981)

ROSS ROOT FEEDER: Attach it to your hose, and you can feed all of your outdoor plants by inserting the end of the feeder in the soil, with a cartridge being diluted in the water.

Mitten tree is on display

Once again, the Mitten Tree adds its festive touch to the narthex of Antioch Lutheran Church, on Thirteen Mile and Farmington Road.

Each year the congregation of the church, with all Sunday School children participating, donate new mit-

tens, gloves and hats to decorate this Christmas tree.

By the end of the week, all of the decorations will have been distributed to the needy children in the area as Christmas gifts.

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Ever wondered what happens to the carpet used in Auto Shows & Conventions around the country? It is sold on an "as is basis" following each event. This carpet is now available in a wide range of colors and styles.

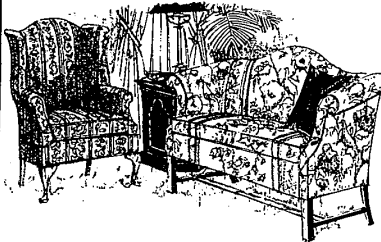
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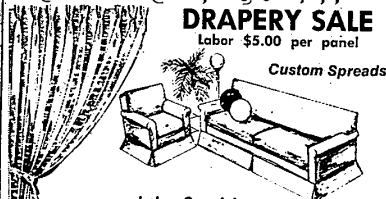
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