

Oriental rug history

When it comes to designing needlepoint and cross stitch, have you ever looked at the oriental rugs on your floor? Don't stitch the whole rug unless you have more patience than I have, but how about a motif for a pillow or a border for a picture or sampler? There's a wonderfully simple way to design such canvases and here it is.

Just turn the rug over. The knots on the back form a colored pattern that you can copy, square for square, onto graph paper.

Oriental rugs came to America with the first Europeans in 17th century. The Dutch East India Co. began bringing them home to Holland in the early 1600s and the wealthy, middle class burghers loved the rich pattern and color.

But those rugs weren't used on floors. They were too good for walking on and were used as table covers, which were often called "table runners."

The custom of rugs on tables spread from the Lowlands to Germany and eventually to England where their use never became as common as it was on the Continent. Needlework table rugs

were the thing to have in Merrie Olde, but that's another story.

The rugs were horrendously expensive. Not too many were imported and everybody wanted one. Things were even worse in America. Ships came infrequently and money was hard to come by. The British East India Co., which had a strong hand in our development, was not overjoyed at having the Dutch East India Co. doing business over here. Genuine oriental rugs were few and far between for many years.

And they weren't known as "orientals" in the first place. The name was "Turkey" rugs — Turkey being a rather vague name for almost any place in the Middle East. Red was an important color in the rugs and "Turkey Red" is a phrase that has traveled the 500 years down to our times.

Industrious Puritan ladies, who had certainly seen orientals during their years of exile in Holland, had to hustle if they wanted to own one in the New World.

And hustle they did. Knot by knot, they made their own rugs on a burlap-like linen ground. Old rugs that they



By
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had seen and remembered became patterns for the new. Their knotted stitch was known as, what else but the Turkey Knot? It is up in any good stitch book — it's still around today.

Imagine wanting a rug enough to make it — knot by knot and foot by foot. But a limited motif worked in Basketweave might be great fun. Try it and see.

Sew-it-yourself, save cash

Home sewing gives today's woman many options at a savings. She is free to create a wardrobe that gives just the right fit, comfort and versatility she wants.

She also has countless options to perk up her home. A dash of color to perk up a corner — or creating an entire new room — all can be done with the magic of fabric.

Easy-to-sew linen looks, novelty gauzes, textured wovens and broadcloths featuring Kodol polyester are among the care-free choices. They come in a sweeping range of prints and solids for fashions and the home.

In fashion, dresses are pared down and look pretty in summery garden prints. Long sleeve dresses that button

down the front are stylish with solid, loose-fitting vests.

One of the most flattering styles to sew is the shirtdress that buttons down the front and has short puffed sleeves. A cool, textured fabric will lend the right contrast to the soft silhouette. Soft, casually elegant two-piece outfits in cool solids make a great fashion investment.

For around-the-clock elegance, a suit is an ideal choice. Pair a softly shirred blouse with a wide shouldered jacket and tapered pants in textured fabrics for an up-to-the-minute fashion investment.

Inspired by the savings and availability of quality fashion fabrics with Kodol, more and more women are

doing their own home decorating. Often without even using a pattern you can turn an entire room into a one-of-a-kind setting. Or you might just want to uplift a room with new slipcovers, draperies, headboards or with covered bookcases and chests.

Among the important colors for '79 home fashions are the blue and green families. However, the warm earth tones — ranging from chamais to soft peach and redwood — are still popular. Cooler neutrals including alabaster, pewter, mercury and coal create an up-to-date effect when combined with other hues. And, you can sew pillows, curtains or table covers in lively shades of red, yellow, orange or bright blue for colorful accents.

The mixing of complimentary prints and use of textured fabrics are fashion right this season. They work well in fresh new colors for softened contemporary looks. English Country and American traditional motifs or for more exotic settings, such as Far and Middle Eastern decors.

Designing a new look for your wardrobe and home with easy-care apparel fabrics is ideal for today's budget-minded woman.

Class Reunions

LIVONIA STEVENSON 1974

The 1974 Stevenson High School graduating class will take a moonlight cruise on the Bob-Lo boat for its five-year reunion Saturday, Aug. 18. The boat will leave downtown Detroit at 10 p.m., and tickets, at \$6 per person, must be purchased by 9:30 p.m.

There will be dancing and a cash bar aboard and a pre-cruise get-together 7-8:45 p.m. at the Hamam Inn adjacent to Metro Airport. Additional information is available from Cheryl Wall, 453-8193.

LIVONIA STEVENSON 1969

Livonia Stevenson High School class of 1969 will hold its 10-year reunion Aug. 18. Specific information is available from Kathy Long, 476-4974.

NORTH FARMINGTON 1974

The North Farmington High School class of 1974 will hold a five-year reunion at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17, at the Glenn Oak Country Club, Thirteen Mile between Orchard Lake Road and Middlebelt. The price is \$15.50 per person and checks should be made payable to Dan Brown, 34221 Old Timber, Farmington Hills, 48018.

FARMINGTON 1959

A 20-year reunion of the Farmington High School class of 1959 is planned Saturday, Aug. 18, at the Farmington Elks Lodge. Any class member who has not been contacted may send an address and telephone number to FHS Reunion, 14447 Nola, Livonia, 48154, or call Ralph Garry, 568-4791 during the day or 464-9740 in the evening.

DETROIT CENTRAL 1959-60

A reunion is planned for the 1959 and 1960 classes that graduated from Detroit Catholic Central High School. Alumni will gather Saturday, Aug. 18, in the Radisson Cadillac, 1114 Washington Blvd., and there will be a family gathering at 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19, on Belle Isle. Tickets and information are available from Centralite, 18887 Warrington, Detroit.

LIVONIA BENTLEY 1954

The 25-year reunion for the Bentley High School class of 1954 will be held Saturday, Aug. 25, in the Plymouth Elks Club, 21117 Ann Arbor Road. Cocktails will be served at 5:30 p.m., with buffet dinner at 6:30 and dancing following. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$20 per couple, and reservations are being accepted by Joyce Mahley Hamilton, 464-2196.

Thursday, August 16, 1979

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Widows to study their emotions

A discussion entitled "Where Do I Go from Here with My Life" Part II will be given at 8 p.m. Thursday in Southfield. The evening is a followup of July's successful program for the young widowed, arranged by SPACE, a community service for the widowed, divorced, and their families.

Last month's discussion featured a panel of three widowed persons, a young widow with children, one without, and a widower with youngsters. They explored coping with grief, dealing with children, handling old relationships and building new ones.

On Thursday participants will discuss handling one's own emotional ups and downs, effect of time passing and the various stages a young widowed person would be likely to experience. They will also consider effective means of dealing and coping, and keeping up with the paperwork. Interested persons need not have attended the earlier discussion.

Programming for the young widow and widower under 50 is a new aspect of SPACE activities and is offered on the third Thursday evening of each month. Meetings take place at the offices of the National Council of Jewish Women, 16400 Twelve Mile, suite 105, Southfield. A \$1 donation is requested for Thursday's discussion.

SPACE is a service of the Greater Detroit Section of NCJW. Other SPACE programming includes support groups, lectures, seminars, a newsletter, and family weekend retreats for widowed and divorced men and women and their families. For further information about any aspect of the program, call Phyllis Chassin, weekdays between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at 557-9604.

The Greater Detroit Section derives funding for local programming primarily through its thrift shops.



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