

Combining the best of formal and informal

By JEAN HERDMAN

The effect, as you step into this home in Farmington, is that of a dazzling fresh snowfall. Pristine white and ice-blue surround you in the foyer and extend to the living and dining areas visible beyond.

But the feeling is definitely not one of coldness. Designer Stan Carlson, ASID, of Ray Interiors, seems to have performed some feat of magic and created a crystal-like living area that is both warm and inviting — one which provides a perfect setting for the artifacts which the retired couple who live here collect.

The snowy effect begins in the foyer. The white glaze of the ceramic floor is repeated again in a gleaming white Buddha figure, almost three feet tall. Brushed foil wallpaper, the color and pattern of frost on a windowpane, soars to a height of 12 feet.

LUXURIOUS WHITE FLOWS unhampered by the step to the living and dining area of this raised ranch. Thick lush carpeting, walls, drapery, ceiling (here dropped to normal height) and two pull-up chairs in the conversation grouping — all white.

Furnishings are in the Italian traditional style, accented with an Oriental touch. Wedgewood blue velvet covers the seats of the dining room chairs, and this same ice-blue appears in the tapestry fabric of the sofa and cornice. A high-backed chair adjacent to the sofa is upholstered in a geometric blend of

pale blue and cocoa brown. Just the right dash of verve has been added with an exquisite cabinet finished in gold chinoiserie against a black background.

THE TOTAL EFFECT is calm, serene. Nothing overwhelms the eye. It is a place that invites you to relax and enjoy the beauty which surrounds you — the delicate blue tracings of antique Chinese porcelains used as accessories, the frosty brushed leaf design of crystal pieces displayed against the glass of the cocktail table, and the delicate pastels of the Impressionist paintings which cover one wall.

Update 1979 —

If you have an open-end mortgage on your present home, you may be able to finance your home improvements by borrowing more money on the same

mortgage — though at a different interest rate than that of your original loan.

A step through the doorway from dining room to kitchen provides a delightful surprise. Suddenly, it's autumn. Cool ice-blue and white have been replaced with warm country colors of pumpkin, russet, gold and brown. A small dining area, along with the functional part of the kitchen and the family room beyond — all are combined in an atmosphere of gracious country living.

The dark fruitwood of the Country French table and chairs in the dining area glows under the soft light of an antiqued-brass lamp. The harvest tones of its glazed autumn fruit centerpiece appear again in the carpeting.

Antique brick covers a section of wall in the kitchen. It also spreads out from the fireplace in the family room and covers almost an entire wall. Wood tones are happily married in an eclectic blend of styles.

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AN ENGLISH REGENCY card table is inviting under a Tiffany-style lamp and a delicate Chinese medicine chest does not compete with the Mediterranean lamp table with which it shares a wall. Ceiling beams in a deep tone complete the mood of country charm.

The combination of chic formality and country charm, of cool winter colors used with warm tones of autumn, has been accomplished with a feeling of complete harmony in this home.

But what about the rules of one color scheme being used throughout an entire home?

Designer Carlson said, "When I was studying interior design, we were taught that furniture should be placed at right angles and there were rules about colors and fabric combinations. I've found, however, that people don't live their lives at right angles, and rules should never be so rigid they fail to recognize the needs and desires of the individual."

Circa 1910 —

To clean linoleum add one cupful of benzoin, shaved fine, to two cupfuls of turpentine and set on the back of the stove to melt. When cool it will be thick and ready for use. First thoroughly clean the linoleum and then apply the paste with a soft cloth. Rub in well, then polish with a dry cloth, preferably flannel. Treated in this manner the linoleum will look like new.

Circa 1910 —

Flies will get into the house during the summer in spite of the greatest care. One method of catching and killing them, without disagreeable looking fly paper lying around, is to prepare a mixture of cream, sugar and pepper. Put this on a plate and they will eat greedily of it and die. They will instantly seek the open air and it is easy to brush them from the screen doors. This is an old method and a good one.

WAREHOUSE SALE

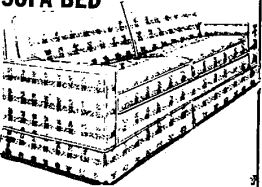
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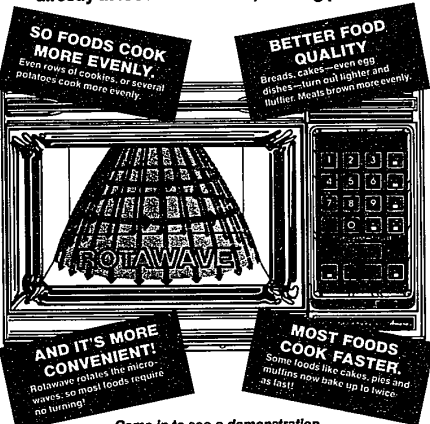
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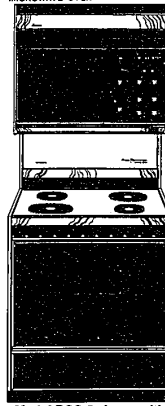
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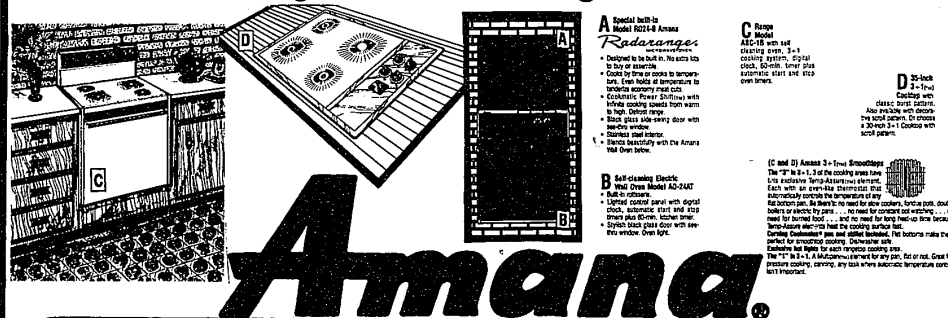
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