

Looking ahead

The corner of a room pictured on the front cover signals a way of life that is becoming more familiar all the time. Space is modest, but the furnishings are elegant and scaled to fit comfortably into the area. Everything pictured was loaned by the stores in the Design Center in Troy. The center, one of the Midwest's best resources for members of the interior design profession, isn't open to the public. But designers frequently take clients there for a look at the newest things in the home furnishings' market. The classic-line, overstuffed Donghia "Tucker" sofa is covered in high glaze chintz. The straight, pull-up chair, also from Donghia, is upholstered, even the legs, in fabric-backed raffia. The wall linen from Payne Fabrics is a handblocked print imported from England called "Tidewater." Kilim pillows from Ghiorde Knot add an ageless, international touch, as does the lotus antique chest from Thailand which doubles as a coffee table. The chest, antiqued metal horseman and bottle glass wine glasses from Spain are from Norman Lacroff. The brass lamp was loaned by E.D. Navarra. (Color cover photo by Dick Kelley)



Welcome.... A new look A new lifestyle A new decade

By CORINNE ABATT

The theme of this special home furnishings section is "Welcome to the '80s."

The energy crisis, inflation, the new morality and increased mass communications have dramatically changed our world, and our thinking, in recent years.

The throw-away generation is going the way of Pre-World War II isolationism. The demise of the throw-away era was sealed with the new ban on throwaways. But long before that, homemakers were looking for more quality and less future trash. They began to price-shop, to read labels, to question the contents whether it was pop, peanut butter, wallpaper, upholstery fabric or cookware.

The search for identity moved beyond the encounter and awareness sessions to hobby interests and adult education classes and these began to reflect themselves in home furnishings.

The home became an extension of the individual who lived there. And because of this, the growing need to own different, one-of-a-kind things surfaced like a great wave to counteract the anonymity of mass production.

THE INTEREST in the old, the signed, the one-of-a-kind, original art, the different — things with stories and things with history behind them — generated the art and antique fair boom. Whether it was demand and supply or supply and demand is a moot question. The important point is that the crowds flocked in to satisfy their need for meaningful things in their homes — things they could talk about, explain, enjoy and in doing so, relish a special satisfaction which comes at the end of the hunt.

Those discriminating buyers of the '80s and early '70s turned their talents to further exploration in home furnishings.

World travelers wanted more than the street corner statuary and stamped-out imitations. And they were prepared with background information to find it.

Leonard Fisher, Cranbrook Academy of Art graduate in the Sarinera era who has achieved world status as a designer, said recently, "I really feel that by the '80s there will be a renaissance — and this is very exciting. . . we have all evolved to where our taste level is very high. . . In the '70s we seemed to be involved in a classicism and restructuring. In the '80s, we will want "things" more. The home is becoming the economic strength of the family."

He spoke of the things now receiving emphasis — heritage, taste, travel, jogging and fine food.

"It's a whole kind of thing," he said, "and people's sense of style is really reflected in the home."

So just as we are learning to appreciate and value our energy and energy sources, we are learning to value our possessions and choose them carefully for aesthetic qualities as well as monetary value.

IN A SENSE, Americans are growing up. We're also getting more beautiful with age — we're no longer concerned about looking like everyone else around us or having our homes look like those on both sides of the street — we want to be individuals and we're not afraid of our own identity.

These are some of the things that are surfacing in home decorating as well as every other aspect of our lives.

To give you the flavor of things to come in this section, writer Pat Bordman of Farmington Hills visited a prototype solar home in Northville. Jean Herdman of Livonia found a condominium in Southfield designed for a busy career man who likes to entertain sometimes and enjoy the quiet of a pleasant retreat at other times.

I visited a Wallace Frost home and found two owners who cherish it like the Hope Diamond. They found their perfect home after a long search.

There are a whole lot of action verbs that are appropriate to the '80s and the way we approach our lifestyles — planning, selecting, remodeling, savings, studying, and experimenting.

Homes may be smaller, condos and apartments may replace some of the big old energy-hog mansions — but horizons are expanding.

Welcome to the '80s.

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— Leonard Fisher, international designer



Getting it together

Advertising coordinator: Margaret Sheib

Editorial coordinator: Corinne Abatt

Writers: Pat Bordman, Jean Herdman, Gloria Cohen, Ila O'Connor, Corinne Abatt

Photographers: Pat Bordman, Stephen Cantrell, Dick Kelley, Randy Borst

Interior Design Studio



A room like this doesn't just happen

It's a marvelous meld of you, your tastes, your lifestyle, the things that are truly important to you and your family. And of us, the talented professional designers at Hudson's who have the know-how to put it all together. Our experience as one of the oldest and largest studios in the country has taught us that while our imagination, resources and expertise are vital, knowing you is equally essential. So let's get acquainted soon. Come. Or call us for an appointment.

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