

Answering a man's needs

By JEAN HERDMAN

A place in which to relax after a busy day. A quiet place to entertain a few friends — a place to listen to music.

This is what Dale Larson asked for when he commissioned Bill Ray of Ray Interiors, Farmington, to design the interior of his condominium in Southfield.

Larson's requests were answered — and more. The color scheme of black, putty and burnt orange is both masculine and soothing. The ambience is highly individualized sophistication. But just as important, the designer's attention to details such as furniture scale and design, plus expert use of pattern, has given this condominium a feeling of spaciousness which belies the modest size of the rooms.

All furnishings in the 14½-by-16½ foot living room are light in scale. Style is Oriental, with a contemporary flair. A cotton print covers the sofa in a muted pattern of black, putty and burnt orange, and the colors are repeated throughout the room.

Deep-toned burnt orange carpeting is "splush," (a shaggy plush) and its rough texture gives contrast to smooth fabrics such as cotton and the leather of a Chinese Chippendale wing chair.

A HAND-GLAZED finish gives an unusual effect to the wing chair, which was originally eggshell in color. After upholstering was completed, a brown glaze was applied and then wiped off. Deep brown tones remain in the tufting crevices and highlight the design. Such details are what give this room its look of distinction.

The focal point of the living room is the fireplace where a magnificent brass fan used in place of a screen draws the eye. Bricks were painted black to give the fireplace importance against the pale putty walls.

A tall narrow window beside the fireplace could have been a problem. Any other treatment except the painted shutters which Ray used to "blot it out," would have detracted from the fireplace setting. Now the soft, diffused light that escapes from the closed louvers adds to the feeling of relaxation.

Because he wanted an ottoman in the same width and style as the open-armed parson's chair, Ray ordered matching fabric from Heritage, manufacturers of the chair. A special frame was made and then upholstered by Ray Interiors with the narrow black striped golden beige velvet. Used as a single unit, the chair and ottoman provide a comfortable spot for reading or relaxing. Separated, the ottoman serves as an extra chair.

"I particularly wanted this style for the ottoman," said Ray. "The parson's design is effective in creating a feeling of space. The open style of the legs, like the glass-topped cocktail table, lets the eye look through and beyond."

Another impressive feature of this room is the chinoiserie cabinet which doubles as an entertainment center. Its rich chocolate-brown finish and intricate gold pattern determine the room's Oriental flavor, which is repeated in antique Chinese porcelain and the tortoiseshell-covered bamboo legs of the cocktail table. The cabinet makes entertaining here a simple affair. Glassware, liquor, mixes — all are ready for instant entertaining.

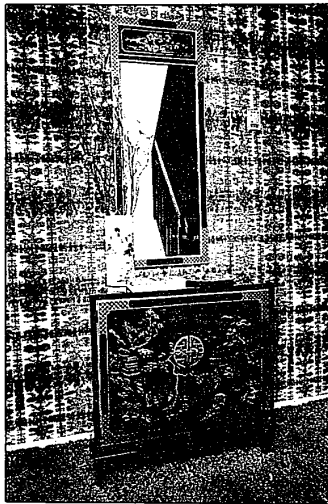
Because the owner prefers entertaining small, intimate groups rather than large dinner party arrangements, what was formerly the dining room became a music room.

THREE PECAN-FINISHED storage units from Drexel's Precedent Collection house the music system equipment in one compact corner, allowing plenty of open space to surround the remaining pieces, two sandy beige easy chairs and a pecan television console.

The carpeting of this 11-by-13 foot room is the same deep burnt orange "splush" used in the living room. Wallpaper in a slightly lighter shade is reminiscent of tree branches and covers one wall.

Accessories in this room have wisely been kept to a minimum and emphasize its theme. A brass j-shaped music stand is both decorative and functional (the owner plays the guitar) — an African musical instrument is shown to advantage against the putty color of the wall. It is a totally uncluttered room — a place that invites you to enjoy music without distraction.

The dining area of this compact condominium is light and airy and gives off the wall of sliding glass doors. The light feeling is enhanced by the use of light tones, the round table made of butcher block has a natural finish as do the rattan chairs which surround it.



Chinoiserie cabinet doubles as an entertainment center in addition to providing space for display of very special porcelains.

Two banks of etageres show off their light-toned parquet-leather shelves against a background of deep burnt-orange patterned wallpaper. Splashes of chrome in the chairs and etageres give the room zing.

The careful and knowledgeable attention given to details of this home give it a strong feeling of individuality. It can be a welcome retreat after a busy day or it can be ready for entertaining at a moment's notice.

Staff photos
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Oriental with a contemporary flair and masculine colors such as black, putty and burnt orange give this Southfield condo a feeling of both elegance and serenity.

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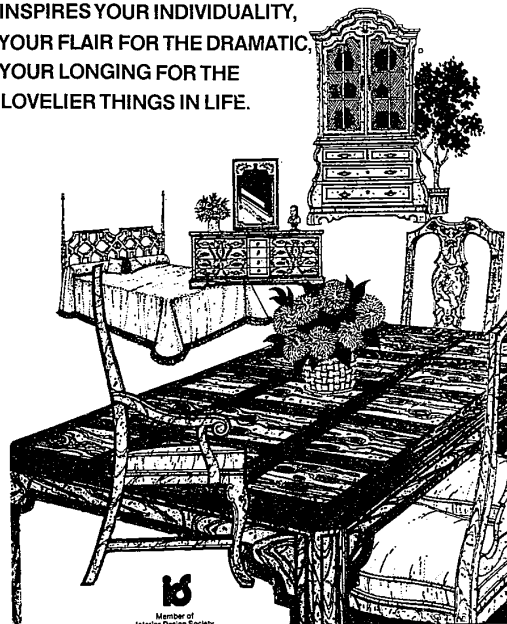
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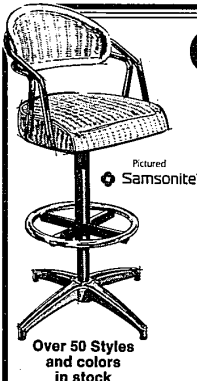
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