

## Room for Design

# Often-asked questions answered

by  
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From an accumulation of letters in the mailbag, I will begin to answer some of the most frequently asked decorating questions.

Q: I don't know where to begin on the decoration of my new apartment. What comes first—the carpet, the walls, the sofa? What's the first step?  
A: The first step is a think session. Get clearly in mind your viewpoint on how you will dine, entertain, work, relax. Then determine the furnishings you must have.  
Before you buy, make a floor plan

drawn to scale. Try some furniture arrangements with cutout furniture shapes, also drawn to scale. This shows you how to utilize space.  
Analyze your tastes in design and color. What do you really want to live with? Try experimental color schemes with paint samples, wallpaper, fabric swatches.  
Make several trips to several good furniture stores where you can see model rooms showing the styles, colors and pieces of furniture available. Examine texture, sizes, shapes, woods, and determine the period of furniture

you prefer to live with.  
Remember that large areas like walls and floors, will dominate. Often your color scheme will come right straight from a sample wallpaper you like, or a fabric for sofa or chairs. You can pull your room together from that sample.  
In practical execution, walls come first, floors next, and placement of large furniture pieces third.

Q: Can you suggest the best kind of furnishing for a family that must move a lot?

A: Concentrate on underscaled, non-bulky furniture. Keep pieces stackable, foldable, multi-purposed and as light-weight as possible. Try storage-wall systems that you can arrange in varying combinations or knock-down furniture that can be packed flat and reassembled.  
Frequent moves are hard on furniture, so get the best quality with resistant finishes. Area rugs are always usable. Wallhangings are easier to cope with than large framed paintings.  
The easiest to take along each time you move are accessories. They make each new home homier.

Thursday, November 29, 1979

(F5C)



## Bazaar, Swedish style

Members of the Arpi Ladies' Auxiliary, closely associated with the Swedish Club, get ready for their annual Christmas Bazaar, which runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1 in Finnish Cultural Center, 35200 Eight Mile Rd. in Farmington Hills. Working on the handicrafts section are Loretta Hamby, (at left) president of Arpi, Dorothy Lind and Sylvia Anderson. The bazaar features Swedish delicacies, Swedish imports, traditional Swedish handicrafts and a white elephant sale. Lunch is available between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

by  
ALICE  
WESSELS  
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## Down to earth

# Make this a holiday to remember

An annual treat comes locally every year as the Table Setting Display, near Christmas time, at Cranbrook House. Visitors come away filled with ideas of using family heirlooms in new ways to generate praise from family and guests.

Here are some ideas you might like to incorporate this year or in the future to make the holidays times to remember:

If you have a pleasant window, set up a card table in front of it. If you have a round top to fit over the top, so much the better.

Arrange a generous skirt of white sheeting around the perimeter with a generous hem to give an effect of being luxurious. Then cover the surface with a green cloth. This color selection will remain appropriate for various times of the year.

ON THIS TABLE you can place some of the treasures you have coveted throughout the year: Candelsticks, choice family china, etc.

It would be the perfect answer for the person in a condominium who might not plan to be home for Christmas but wants to have a display of Christmas treasures.

One table I saw at Cranbrook House

had bright holiday napkins tucked into pretty coffee mugs. Another table had a light green tablecloth with china, centerpiece and other accents in shades of green. This was very restful to the eyes, and I was drawn back to the table effect twice.

One "housewife" had made miniature calico socks placed to the right of the plate holding the eating utensils with the tops peeking out. Clever.

THROUGH THE YEARS, you have probably accumulated a few pieces of brass. Be sure and incorporate them with your holiday decor.

There are polishes to make them sparkle. One arrangement I have noted and enjoyed over the years is a small table with one pretty brass candelstick and a bright red candle. The family Bible and a pair of granny glasses were placed nearby. The composition tells so much without words.

Beautiful examples of crystal were seen on some of the holiday tables. Most of us have examples of family crystal pieces, high up on a storage shelf.

Get them down and wash them in medium warm water with lots of ammonia. Candelstick and crystal are beautiful, sparkling companions.

One of the displaying garden clubs

had made two jeweled Christmas trees placed on top of a candelstick (like you might place a candle). They were beautiful.

Upon questioning, I discovered that they started with a Styrofoam white

tree form and over it stretched a Brillo pad. They attached a spiral pattern with loads and loads of pearl strings, jeweled earrings, pins, and many rhinestone odds and ends. It was a show stopper.

## Prints capture life

Over 120 Currier and Ives prints from the Esmark Collection will be on exhibit Dec. 1 - Jan. 13, at the Print Galleries of the Toledo Museum of Art. Calling themselves "publishers of cheap and popular pictures," Currier and Ives have depicted their views of life in 19th century America.

In 1835, Nathaniel Currier established a printmaking firm in New York City, taking James Ives as a partner in 1857. By the time the firm closed in 1907, Currier and Ives had sold an estimated ten million copies of over 7,000 different prints.

Included in this exhibition are some of the news lithographs which established the firm's commercial success. "Ruins of the Merchant's Exchange, N.Y." was one of the first scenes of fire and other disasters which were very popular.

Also included are lithographs that

depict farm and frontier life. These pieces document that the public, in an era of rapid industrialization and urbanization, was already nostalgic for an idealized, simple past.

Prints celebrating America's history, heroes and her "manifest destiny" (made possible by a technology which created railroads, steamboats and the telegraph) visually recorded pride in this country's past and confidence in its prosperous future.

By mass-producing the design, printing and coloring of these lithographs, Currier and Ives were able to publish large editions of inexpensive prints earning themselves the title "print-makers to the American people."

The exhibition includes prints by many of the gifted artists employed by the firm, such as the prolific Fanny Palmer, Louis Maurer, George Durrie and Eastman Johnson.

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