

Casual takes over today's lifestyle

Thursday, February 7, 1980

(F7C)

From Madison Avenue to Madison, Wis., and beyond, casual is becoming a 24 hour a day lifestyle. New York's Madison Avenue, for example, used to be the land of the gray flannel suit. Today it's the land of the jogging suit.

All those joggers and tennis players, squash players and backpackers aren't coming to Hepplewhite and Louis' XLV drawing rooms. They're coming home to casual, comfortable rooms.

If you want to go from a formal decorating style to something more casual, here are a few starting points.

Replace fussy drapery treatments with shades or blinds. Or do away with window treatments altogether assuming they're not needed for light control or privacy. Take down that damask or flocked wallpaper and repaper walls with textured paper, the suede look, grass or other fiber. If paint is your preference, stucco paint or textured-sand paint is the thing to use.

Casual calls for a pair of wood-framed beach chairs or deck chairs with colorfully striped or solid-colored sling seats. If that's too casual for you, re-do your upholstery with something in a textured fabric, something you wouldn't hesitate to sit on, lounge and be comfortable with.

TAKE UP YOUR wall-to-wall carpeting if there's wood under it and adorn that wood floor with wool or straw scatter rugs. If you carpet, choose one of today's nubby Berber-look wall to wall carpets. It will take a little care and a lot of abuse. Slipcover your moire, satin, damask or silk-covered furniture with washable canvas, or chintz.

Store your ornate Louis lamps in the attic. Purchase replacements of rope, wicker, brass or beaten copper, or go

the track lighting route. Lighting should be unobtrusive.

Make sure everything you buy is easy care. Unglazed distressed woods, washable upholstery fabrics, wipe down mica laminates, and dust off window treatments are all excellent choices. That's if you are looking for real "casual."

Add, subtract, multiply, and divide. That may not sound much like a formula for decorating but it can be, and often is, the solution for decorating problems and changes.

ADD new-looking colors and accessories to a tired old room. If walls are "eggsh" color, paint them frosty white. Navy and white upholstery colors and old ginger jar green lamps can become white with a can of spray.

SUBTRACT unnecessary clutter from your life. Subtract the unattractive, often as important to decorating as adding the beautiful. Subtract the clutter of little pictures that hang over the sofa and replace it with one, large, handsome print. Subtract all odds and ends, bric a brac, dust collectors and see how much space you have found.

MULTIPLY your space by shopping for furniture and accessories that do double and triple duty. Instead of just a coffee table, shop for a coffee table with a drawer or cupboard space below. Shop for a convertible sofa for the family room, dual purpose.

DIVIDE space and get two rooms for the price of one. Divide with screens, and put those screens on casters so they can be moved from place to place. Divide with art — macramé panels, batik hangings, or panels of stained glass all make super, eye-catching dividers. Divide the living area from the dining area simply by placing the sofa with its back where a partition would

go. For greater separation, hang plants wide with plants. Its all simple arithmetic.



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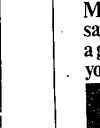
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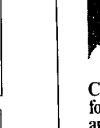
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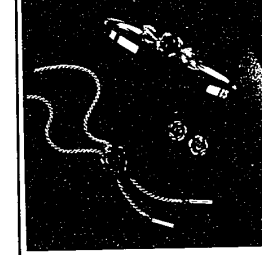
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