

## Room for Design

by  
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# Antiques inspire reproductions

Romanticism is on the rise. The "me generation" finds self-expression in mixing the old with the new. Beautifully made traditional furnishings are important to contemporary lifestyles.

The treasures of Tutankhamen, the costumes of Russian princes and peasants, and the chinoiserie fantasy of Brighton Pavilion draw thousands of people to museums.

In architecture, the evolution of a post-modern style is manifested, in part, by allusions to older buildings. In home fashions, eclecticism brings together several styles in one comfortable environment.

Advocates of restoring, recycling, renovating are out-shouting those who would raze, ravage and spend recklessly. A crafts revival is in full bloom.

Purists who once belittled tradition are secretly scouring attics for family heirlooms. But, if grandma's taste was tacky, the trips to the upper levels may be disappointing.

In reality, there is a great deal of old furniture about, but not enough beautiful pieces left. The demand from a growing number of neo-traditionalists and eclectics is giving a new lease on life to forgotten styles.

**THE GREAT INTEREST IN CRAFTS** has called attention to the value of hand detailing. The ideal piece of period furniture of course, is a beautiful antique, kept in mint condition. Such a piece holds in its pores the stability of what now

seems to be a more ordered society. The same is true for fabric and wallcovering reproductions. Not surprisingly, prices reflect this.

The world of reproductions can scare you witless. The list of hundreds engaged in bringing back a bit of the past is overwhelming. One of the newest programs of historic reproductions is Historic Charleston, manufactured by Baker. Over 40 pieces reflect the work of craftsmen who lived and worked in Charleston during the 18th and early 19th centuries. Official labels of the Historic Charleston foundation are attached to each piece. Adaptations are labeled as such.

The major historic foundations include Williamsburg (Colonial and Federal), Historic Charleston, Historic Savannah, and Historic Newport. More than 500 products come out of Colonial Williamsburg, for instance — furniture, fabrics, wallpapers, fireplace equipment, ceramics, glass and silver and pewterware, lamps, paints and prints.

Scalamandre has just introduced a large selection of fabrics, wallpapers and carpets labeled as authentic reproductions and adaptations of historic documents.

When a customer picks up an edge of Brunswick & Fils fabric, he is assured by the label that it has been sanctioned by the museum.

It seems that for a reproduction to be accepted, it must not only duplicate the line of the original, but also the finish that comes with age. While the market is glutted with furniture, fabrics, wallpapers and accessories that approximate the original items, a relatively small group make products that duplicate the detail, scale, and material, as well as the spirit of the original. Authentic reproduction is rare because the cost of doing such work is high.

In furniture production, hand carving, rare woods, unusual finishes, solid brass hardware, and careful attention to line and detail require craftsmen's skills in an assembly line society. The same is true for fabric and wallcovering reproductions. Not surprisingly, prices reflect this.

Also representing the Macomb County chapter were Gladys Badgley of Madison Heights and Kay Kastens of Royal Oak in the Friendly Persuasion which came in fourth in the contest. The Friendly Persuasion is also made up of Jackie Kaye, director of the S.O.C. (South Oakland County) chapter of Sweet Adelines and Connie Leppke, also of S.O.C.

Ms. Kaye resides in Farmington Hills and Mrs. Leppke is from Royal Oak. For membership information in the Macomb County chapter call Mrs. Thayer at 739-3130.

All are members of the Macomb County chorus except for Mrs. Martini who is a member of the chapter-at-large.

**Waring's works at BBAA**

Frances Waring will be the featured "Artist of the Month" in Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association (BBAA) rental and sales gallery from April 16 to May 15.

For the show Mrs. Waring is exhibiting her recent watercolors and acrylics, which deal with architectural forms and color relationships, using archways and windows as the focal point.

The BBAA is a community sponsored art center funded in part by a grant from Michigan Council for the Arts, located at 1516 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham.

Gallery hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

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Watch for the terms "adapted from" and "reproduction of" an original document. These clues are important to purists.

Further, it should be remembered that manufacturers often give historic names to collections of products. Often these collections contain items in period artifacts, interpreted in a loose fashion. These won't do if authenticity is required.

They serve as pleasing decoration but don't totally capture the creative spirit of the originals. Many firms which don't work with historic foundations and don't have official labels, nevertheless, enjoy solid reputations as sources of authentic reproductions.

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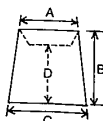
## Model airplane buffs alert

Pat Brennan, a member of Livonia's "Rip Crackers" begins a new class for model airplane buffs in Thursday afternoon classes in Farmington Community Center beginning April 5. Eight year olds and up will be completing four models in five sessions with the instructor, an emissions engineer at Ford Motor Company and a member of Great Lakes Association of Rocketry. Registrations are being taken now by calling the center, 477-8484.

Hand-tailored lampshades in just the shapes and sizes to fit your favorite lamp.

Our Lampshade Shop has a wide and varied selection of lampshades from which to choose. In such fashionable fabrics as crepe, antique satin, linen, shantung and taffeta. In color selections from white to eggshell and natural tones.

Shown at top: Drum shade in eggshell antique satin. 16" diameter, \$32.  
Below: Box-pleated "Empire" shade in eggshell color crepe. 18" diameter, \$38.



How to measure:  
A. Top diameter  
B. Side depth  
C. Bottom diameter  
D. Fitter depth

**Jacobson's**

OPEN THURSDAY AND FRIDAY EVENING UNTIL 9 P.M.



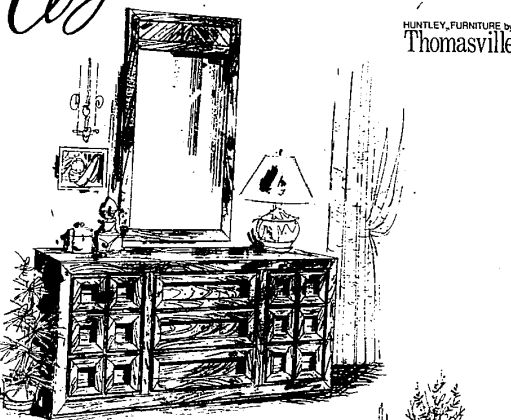
## SALE: JACOBSON'S PRIVATE COLLECTION LEG FASHIONS.

Thru April 14, save on our sheer, fine hosiery. Favorite styles with sandalfoot or demi-toe, fashionable opaques, control-top or girdle-top panty stockings. Plus, savings on our sheer sandalfoot knee-hi's. In many shades to complement spring wardrobe, sleek-fitting sizes. Now priced from 1.50 to \$5.

**Jacobson's**

BIRMINGHAM

**Clayton's**  
OF BLOOMFIELD



**FOUR WINDS**  
Huntley Furniture by Thomasville

Four Winds is contemporary furniture with sleek, clean, architectural lines stated in several levels of moldings and overlays. Case piece fronts feature a bold mirrored frame. Deeply set drawer fronts are hand-drawn with an important rectilinear molding for beauty which also becomes the functional, unobtrusive drawer pull. Oak veneers, oak solids and wood products are blended together to provide an informal character and theme with handsome graining. The natural brown tone finish will blend beautifully with today's popular color schemes. Designed and constructed to give you quality furnishings at a popular price, Four Winds offers you the casual, contemporary beauty your home deserves.



Dresser, Mirror, Chest, Headboard  
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