

## Room for Design

### Creating British ambiance



by Gloria Cohen

The mailbag was full this week. Needless to say, it all had to do with the spring decorating that's on everyone's mind these days.

The following questions and answers may be of help to solving some of your own problems in the world of decor.

**Q.** I would like to convert the living room in our new condominium into an English library. I'm thinking about Queen Anne style furniture. As with most condos today, my living room doesn't look at all traditional. The walls are plain white and there is absolutely no architectural detail. How do I begin?

**A.** I've seen very plain rooms transformed into unbelievable elegant rooms complete with an English ambiance. You are right to start with a plan. Why don't you divide your planning into four general areas: walls, floors, windows and furnishings.

Let's start with the walls. Do you want to go to the expense of wood paneling? We often have a picture of old, gleaming wood walls in an English library. Certainly fine wood walls are too expensive today for most homeowners. However, some very fine wood paneling is available and should be considered.

Don't feel, though, that the walls must be pan-

eled. You could also consider applying wood moldings to your existing painted walls. Look in history and architectural books to gather ideas for installing the molding.

You could paint the walls one color, then apply molding. You could also paint the molding a contrasting color. For extra highlight, you might add color to the inside portions of the walls that are decorated with molding. Add molding to the ceiling and baseboards at the floor. Then you might consider wallpapering either above or below the molding in a pattern and there is absolutely no architectural detail. How do I begin?

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vice in elegant 18th century homes). You might also use a valance in fabric.

Finally, you should select your furnishings, taking into consideration the use the room will have, its traffic flow and your own taste.

An important Queen Anne highboy could establish a note of quality in the room. Wing-backed chairs covered in a soft flame-stitch, crevel or floral design could contribute to the mood. A Chippendale-inspired sofa also might please you.

For end tables, consider small chests and tea tables or perhaps a butler's table. Don't overlook important Sheraton secretaries or bookshelves. I can see the room already, can't you?

**Q.** I live in dullsville. My apartment is rather dark and filled with all my family's assorted castoffs. I would like to get it shaped up so it is lively and pleasing.

**A.** We all feel we live in dullsville sometimes, and I think that's when we'd better put on our jeans and get to work.

Why don't you find some great wallpaper for your kitchen? Try for lots of bright color — maybe flowers in exciting colors on a white background.

Cover your floor in off-white vinyl — the kind that comes in the peel-and-stick variety. It's inexpensive and easy to put down. Have a measuring stick and lots of patience.

Paint your chairs, table and hutch an off-white. Trim them with a color from the wallpaper. Put some matching fabric on the chair seats.

Give our cabinet doors a fresh coat of white paint. Add panels of wallpaper to the doors if they are designed so that is

possible. Or trim the cabinets and doors in a coordinating color.

Paint the ceiling white. A new kitchen has replaced your former spot. What ever else you were concerned with can be rejuvenated with paint, slipcovers, plants, an area rug and new white curtains at the window.

For dark rooms, use bright colors mixed with a lot of white background. It will seem as if you'd turned the lights on.

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## Maggie Kuhn talk slated for council

Maggie Kuhn, who organized the Gray Panthers nine years ago and is now head of the group's National Steering Committee, will be guest speaker for the greater Detroit section National Council of Jewish Women's annual installation meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday, May 7, in the Towne Theater, 20521 Civic Center Drive, Southfield.

The Gray Panthers is a national activist group of older and younger people seeking to eliminate what it calls "age-ism," discrimination against older people in the matter of jobs, credit cards and insurance.

Ms. Kuhn's talk coincides with Senior Citizen's Month, which is one priority of NCJW. A petit lunch will be served. For reservation details call the council office, 577-9604.

**College re-entry is workshop topic**

Four common areas of concern among students returning to college will be discussed during a four-part workshop series at the University of Michigan-Dearborn during May.

Gail Berkove, who holds a Ph.D. in psychology will teach sessions on May 8, 15, 22 and 29. She has counseled re-

**reflections**

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