

# Engaging in decorating trickery

First impressions of a dwelling mean as much as first impressions of people. Why do you enjoy visiting one friend's house more than another's? A single visit is enough sometimes to register the idea that "this is a place someone cares about."

Later, when you analyze your reactions, you will discover that certain rules of decoration have been followed, consciously or by instinct. Chances are the homes you find most pleasant are a combination of shrewd planning and happy coincidence.

The first of these — the planning — you must supply yourself. The incidental, sometimes surprising touches will follow naturally from the beginning with careful planning combined with your most precious possessions and preferences of individual members of the family.

Try to view your house objectively. Pretend you don't live there. Enter the door as a stranger. What is the first impression? If you are fortunate in having an entrance hall, or at least a space where a pocket-size vestibule can be devised, it can strike the desired note at once. Furthermore, it should do so.

UNLESS A HOUSE or apartment is very large and grand, calling for a formal, dramatic treatment at the entrance, it is well to start your decorative scheme at the front door with a floor covering that continues as far as the eye can see.

Wallcoverings should be correlated from this focal point, although you will want them to vary somewhat as the eye surveys the interior. Standing just inside the entrance, you might ask yourself questions. Are the rooms I see related to each other? Does one lead logically to the next? Do they look inviting?

It is mostly a matter of color. You are ready, now, for a family conference. The chief decision is a color, or a color scheme — something to which the adults of the family will respond. Several factors have to be considered

— the exposure of the rooms, the wear and tear in them, the already existing furnishings that somewhat set the pace.

ARE YOU a warm family or a cool one? Will you be happier with yellows or with blues or greens? First you should get color chips from the paint store and study various new combinations you might choose. The color noted at the entrance is like a fanfare of trumpets that should sound throughout the house.

The greatest harmonizers of all are color and pattern, and they exist in their most persuasive form in wallpaper and wall coverings. There are decorating tricks you should know about and can use in more than one room of the house.

TO RAISE A ceiling, keep it light. Pale colors, either textures or small patterns, will make a ceiling recede.

If you use strong verticals on the walls, stripes or any patterns that definitely thrust upwards, they carry the eye with them.

Place low furniture strategically, so that the space between it and the ceiling will appear greater.

To lower a ceiling, call attention to it. An eye-catching pattern, whether dark or bright in color, brings a ceiling nearer.

To lower a ceiling, use horizontal patterns on the walls. Murals often serve the same purpose.

Break the height of the wall with a dado or a chair rail, wallpaper above it.

TO MAKE small rooms seem spacious, use cool, receding colors in open patterns on light grounds. Textures alone won't do the trick. Perspective must be created by suggesting depth.

Combine two or more wallcoverings, a mural or pattern on one wall, and texture on another, it will give the effect of different planes.

TO MAKE BARE rooms seem fur-



design  
**Gloria Cohen**

nished, don't be afraid to use big, bold patterns. These may be patterns from any category, and the motifs can be as bright and the grounds as dark as desired.

To break up the walls into panels is architectural trickery, and well handled it is the classic solution to any wall problem.

TO WIDEN a narrow room, use a horizontal pattern on one short, unbroken wall, or on walls at opposite ends

of the room. They will literally push the other walls apart.

To select any color or pattern, make certain of the exposure of the room where it will be used. Warm colors obviously affect a cold room and light colors brighten dark ones.

See your colors under both artificial light and natural daylight, then decide under which conditions you will be seeing it.

More about wallcovering next time.



down to earth  
**Alice Wessels Burlingame**

# Coping with shady areas

Remember that the beautiful garden you pass in your neighborhood is the product of early planning. As an illustration if you see a picturesque garden filled with beautiful tulips, hyacinths and daffodils, you can be sure that this picture of live plants is the result of attention given last fall when bulbs were planted.

So check the idea for developing such a beauty spot as a goal for October 1980. Don't forget that flowering crabapple trees, magnolias, and weeping cherry trees are a part of the wrap up to assure a show-stopper with your bulb investment.

Today, as we exchange garden ideas for this season, perhaps there will be new adventures to share. One tip is to always buy good seed, and, if you purchase plants, be sure they are in prime condition from a supplier with a good reputation.

If you have a sunny patio you might like to grow patio tomatoes in a tub. A second choice could be cucumbers, trained up on a form. Both ideas are adaptable for an apartment balcony.

MAYBE YOU have to battle shade in part of your garden. It is important to evaluate the degree of shade. It is low shade, high shade, light shade, deep shade, dry shade due to a thick leaf cover, moist shade due to drainage, and does the shade come in the morning or afternoon. Sounds sort of stuffy, but you really have to know your shade for success.

Impatiens can take a large range of shade degrees, but they don't like dry shade or a dense overhang of leaves. Wax begonias and coleus can also be used for shady spots.

Your columnist has been known to advise a client to handle dry shade with an overhang of dense leaves by creating a composition with a bird feeder with circular stepping stones leading up to the offending tree, then maybe close by you could add driftwood with the interesting lines on each side of the pathway stones.

You can always make an interesting arrangement with three or five boulders with daffodils placed in the right locations. Just remember after flowering those daffodil bulbs will need TLC for at least a month as you fertilize them and give extra watering from time to time. Don't forget to plan for a bench, too.

IF YOU have an area in shade which refuses to grow grass due to two and four legged animals, you might like to begin a dense stand of pachysandra in a free form pattern.

Take a hoe and ruffle up the area and spread a bale of Michigan peat over the surface, plus lots of fertilizer. Wait about a week for the surface to settle and then plant tip cuttings of pachysandra dipped in a hormone mix for best results. Spray the area frequently for about a month and by that time those young plants should be established.

# Symphony concert features saxophonist

Donald Sinta, saxophonist, joins the West Bloomfield Symphony in its salute to the School of Music, University of Michigan, at a 7:30 p.m. March 9 concert.

The school of music is celebrating its 100th birthday (1880-1980). This evening of music is tagged Broadway Night but has the additional touches from composers Rimsky-Korsakov and Dahi and of course UofM's Victors.

Sinta is professor of saxophone at the University of Michigan and has taught at Ithaca College in New York and Hartt College of Music in Connecticut. He is a graduate of Wayne State University and the University of Michigan.

Sinta also has served as saxophonist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. In 1969, he was the first elected chairman of the World Saxophone Congress.

This Sunday evening concert will be at the West Bloomfield High School Auditorium, 4925 Orchard Lake West Bloomfield.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens. Tickets may be reserved ahead of time by calling the Symphony Office at 626-1560. Master Charge, American Express and Visa charges are accepted. Any tickets which remain will be available at the door beginning one hour before the performance.

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