

# Color, materials are avant-garde

Thursday, March 27, 1980

(F)17C

It is "avant-garde" to be in the forefront of style and fashion. In the home this is applicable to the development of trends that are influenced by scientific achievements in the world around us.

There is a quality of motion in avant-garde furnishings, a feeling that the designer is attempting to express the tempo of the times. The style is young in spirit and in the process of growth, with Space-age research and development have created many new man-made materials, or brought about the refinement of existing materials that adapt well to the home-furnishings field. These have provided inspiration for designers all over the world to introduce new stylistic concepts.

Some of the trends will win acceptance at once. Some will gradually gain favor as the public becomes accustomed to a radical departure from conventional design. Others will disappear.

It's up to the public to determine which will stay and which will fall by the wayside. The public is the governor in which styles are accepted and which are unacceptable to a style of living.

**SEE-THROUGH PLASTICS** strong enough to stand on shiny metals, sleek, slim and sturdy are signatures of today's avant-garde apartments and condominiums. The furniture is purely functional and designed for comfort and ease of care. Lines are simple, whether straight or curved.

Furniture seems to float on air as it were, on platforms of glass, steel, metal, and wood. Wood frames are often slightly sculptured and show subtle curves.

Plastic shapes when not upholstered are curved to fit the human body. Plastic bases seem to disappear leaving the upholstery floating. Stainless steel members are straight-forward, with lines and angles designed to highlight square shapes.

Tables are almost a trademark of style. Many are plastic cubes or have tops in clear or smoky tones that you can see through. Other tables are in groups that can be stacked together or one within the other in brightly colored cubes with a flexibility and multi-purpose advantage.

**A KEY ELEMENT IN** avant-garde furnishings is color. Generally, colors are bold and clear. The background of a room may be white or a subtle neutral shade, but accents are sharp. Upholstery fabrics often run the gamut of sharp colors and geometric patterns, but they are just as likely to be black and white.

The impact of the starkness of two non-colors, black and white, blending together, are a total package without additional contrast.

Fabrics range from rough-textured cottons, linens and blends, to fur-like fabrics. Smooth suede and smoother

leather are a part of today's trends — costlier perhaps, but the longevity outweigh the price tag.

Accessories show restraint in the avant-garde room, but only in number. There are fewer objects that appear in newer rooms than you are accustomed to seeing. The few items may be gigantic in size. They may be shiny metal, lucite, glass, vivid in color, and very important.

Wall hangings and sculptured pieces are prominent as background accessories. They are dominant forces in the room because of their color and size. Lamps, vases, ashtrays and other functional items adhere to the same principals. Use them sparingly.

A trend is to apply carpeting, leather

or leatherlike materials to the walls for a total environment.

**THE SHAPES OF LIGHTING** fixtures are often perfect circles or tall cylinders. More recessed lighting is being used in place of fixtures. Who says you must have a fixture in the dining room? Spots, track and recess combine to give more adequate lighting and can focus on all areas of the room. A dimmer switch adjusts the level of light.

Avant-garde is today and whatever tomorrow brings. We sift out the good and make it our style. It is our right to do our own thing choosing from the options available. And if the ingredients are just right, you have a winner. You can break some rules if you like the results.

## Focusing on planets

Past celestial misconceptions, present phenomena and a future planetary alignment will be combined in Cranbrook Institute of Science planetarium demonstrations during April and May.

Visitors will see a simulated sky with five wandering planets as if it once was observed. In addition, today's comets, collapsing stars, and what becomes of them, can be examined.

Through special techniques, a projection of events will predict what the sky will be like in 1982 when an unusual alignment of planets will occur. The alignment has been the center of various misconceptions, including discus-

sions of earthquakes and changing weather patterns.

Planetarium shows "Celestial Facts and Fantasies" are Wednesdays at 4 p.m.; Saturdays at 2, 3, 4 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sundays at 2, 3 and 4 p.m. In addition, there will be showings April 7-11 each day at 2 and 3 p.m.

Demonstrations are free with museum admission of \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for students and senior citizens.

Children under five are not admitted to the planetarium. For more information, call 645-3210. Cranbrook Institute of Science is at 500 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.



## Brown-Shepherd

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Brown of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Debra to Kevin J. Shepherd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Shepherd of Kalkaska, formerly of Livonia.

The bride to be is a 1979 graduate of Clarenceville High School, employed with National Account Systems of Southfield. Her fiancé is serving with the U.S. Navy in Charleston, S.C.

A June wedding is planned in Charleston.

## Ehlers-Herbstreit

Mr. and Mrs. Eldon G. Ehlers of Farmington Hills announce the engagement of their daughter Jane Stacey to David Richard Herbstreit, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gustave R. Herbstreit of New Hudson.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Oakland Community College, now studying marketing and finance at Eastern Michigan University. Her fiancé is a student at Oakland Community College who will be attending Eastern Michigan University this fall studying criminal justice.

A January wedding is planned.



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