

This family room avoids an identity crisis

Story-CORINNE ABATT
Photos-RANDY BORST

Birmingham interior designer Margie Cockle caught the look her client wanted in the family room of a Farmington Hills home.

Ms. Cockle, who recently opened her own firm under the name Interiors by Margie Cockle, enjoys working with things which have meaning for her clients.

In the case of the Farmington Hills family room, her client likes to collect antique accessories such as candlesticks, pewter and brass. As a result of this interest, when it came time to plan the family room, all the accessories were already available. Designer and client lined them all up and then picked out the ones they thought would be particularly suitable.

The client liked blue, particularly Delft blue — that warmest of the cool blues which is neither dark nor light, but somewhere in between with a special brilliance all its own.

One thing was certain from the beginning, some of the fireplace bricks around the opening would be replaced by scenic Dutch tiles. And the colors in these, including Delft blue, would set the color scheme for the family room.

ANOTHER CLIENT STIPULATION about the room was that since it was the first room in the house to be done, for a while, at least, it would have to serve as both family room and a place to entertain. It would have to be durable enough for the family, including two small children, to be at ease in and elegant enough for company.

One of the first things Ms. Cockle recommended was to cover the dark wood paneling. Off-white textured paint to give the effect of plastered walls was used along with natural wood strips. Instead of just another non-descript family room, it became noticeably lighter and took on an English or French country look.

Along with the tile around the fireplace opening, Ms. Cockle had the natural wood shelves built on the fireplace and a floor to ceiling natural wood cabinet at the corner to house TV and stereo equipment that was custom made.

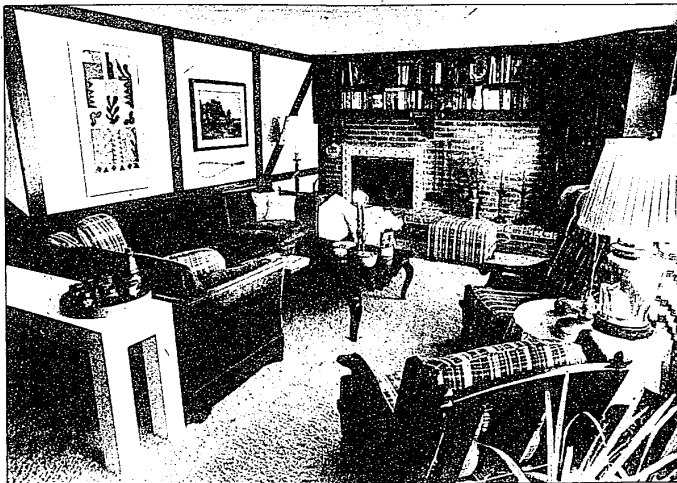
TO CREATE WARMTH with cool colors, Ms. Cockle combined shades of plum and mauve subtly with off-whites to enhance the shades of blue.

The matching couch and loveseat which are used in a modular arrangement are covered in a rich blue corduroy. Easy chairs, ottoman and throw pillows all are covered in a textured plaid of the blue, plum and off white.

An off-white Parsons table behind the loveseat doubles nicely as a serving table. It is convenient to the natural wood round dining table and matching bar/server. It would be quite simple to set up a buffet supper for 20 or



Fireplace which is the focal point of the family room underwent a minor facelift. The imported Dutch tiles were added and the shelves, custom-made, offer space for the owner's collection of books mixed with some antique pieces as well as stereo speakers.



more guests with this arrangement. And counting the ledge at the fireplace, seating would be available.

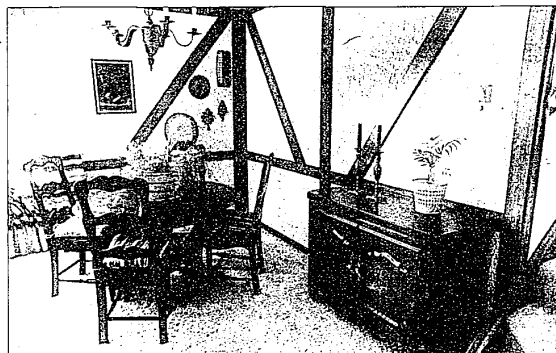
The client, who sews very well, had a hand in some of the actual decorating projects. She made many of the toss pillows using a variety of patterns all of which had the room's colors in them.

The room ended up answering all of the client's requests. It is pleasant, easy to maintain and live in and still is fine for entertaining either large or intimate groups.

The colors satisfy both client and decorator, and the room reflects the owners because so much of them, their interests and talents, are incorporated into it.

Ms. Cockle said that for the more formal living room, she will reverse her use of colors and have off-white be the dominant one and blue the accent.

When the family room was completed, it turned out to be one of the decorator's favorites. She can't say why for sure — it's just a comfortable place to be with a pleasingly positive identity.



Family room bridges the functions of family and entertainment center. Blue and off-white are the dominant colors, but the soft reds in the brick fireplace are picked up in the fabric patterns. At left is the other end of the same room again showing how nicely the dual purposes can mesh into an informal, hospitable and convenient area for parties. The table opens to comfortably seat six or more.

community calendar

'THE LADY'S NOT FOR BURNING'

Friday and Saturday, Aug. 1-2: "The Lady's Not for Burning," staged by Farmington Players in the Players Barn on 12 Mile Road between Orchard Lake and Farmington roads. Curtain at 8:30 p.m. both nights. Tickets are \$3 each available through the box office, 477-1066. No reserved seats for summer performances.

FARMERS MARKET

Saturday, Aug. 2: Farmers Market, with about 25 vendors who offer fresh produce, eggs, jellies and jams, honey, herbs and quality crafts from 9 a.m. to noon on the grounds of Farmington Community Center, Farmington Road north of 10 Mile Road. Farmers Market continues on Saturdays through October.

SPORT-A-THON

Saturday, Aug. 2: Sport-a-thon for runners, walkers, joggers and bikers runs all day in a partially developed subdivision in Farmington Hills, sponsored by American Diabetes Association, Michigan Affiliate. Participants may obtain application blanks and rules by calling the sponsoring association, 342-9333.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday through Friday, Aug. 3-8: Vacation Bible school runs from 7-9 p.m. each night in Farmington Hills Christian Center, Assembly of God Church, 23233 Drake Road, with Bob Daniels, magician from Hi-Way-Bi-Way Youth Association who directs a spirit-filled program through the use of magic for children from kindergarten through ninth grades. Sunday program is introductory kick-off. Registrations are taken at the door Monday. No charge. Inquiries will be taken by calling the church, 478-1511.

JR. WALTER HAGEN GOLF TOURNEY

Monday through Friday, Aug. 4-8: Second annual Junior Walter Hagen Championship Golf Tournament for boys and girls from 13-18 years, played on courses throughout the Detroit metropolitan area, to benefit American Cancer Society. Fee of \$20 includes T-shirt and greens fee. Application blanks sent on request by calling the society, 557-5353.

'CINDERFROG'

Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 5-6: "Cinderfrog" staged by Gayle Vasku's drama workshop for young teens for all preschoolers and early elementary school-aged children at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday in Farmington Hills Community Library on 12 Mile Road and at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in Farmington

Community Library on Liberty. No charge.

FREE MOVIE

Tuesday, Aug. 5: Free movies continue at 10 a.m. every Tuesday through the summer in Livonia Mall Cinema sponsored by Livonia Mall Merchants Association, Seven Mile and Middlebelt roads.

DOLL AND TOY SHOW

Sunday, Aug. 10: Exhibition of dolls

and toys from more than 40 dealers sponsored by Comic Tree and Sports Collectables, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Knights of Columbus Hall, 21900 Middlebelt Road. Admission of 75 cents asked at the door.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Aug. 14: City of Farmington Beautification Committee regular monthly meeting at 8 p.m. in Farmington City Hall on Liberty Street. Open to all interested persons.



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