

Come on—give basement a chance

By DANIEL E. CLANCY

An English library in a basement? That's quite a challenge, but a family in Farmington Hills had the space so they asked Tom Grabowski of Hudson's interior design studio to help them create the ambience of a cozy home library.

Grabowski feels the key to success is in using warm textures and colors and the clever use of contrasting patterns to create interest.

Handsome yellow panel doors open into the room revealing a color scheme of yellow, black and white. The room is paneled in warm wood with nicely detailed doors and wood beams.

Shutters effectively camouflage a window well. Book-lined shelves add a relaxed note and basket weave patterned wool carpet makes a styled background.

FOR HIGH CONTRAST, the sofa is covered in a black and white English crewe. All the chairs repeat the black and white theme in a small scale geometric fabric. Antique black and white lithographs are framed with large yellow paper mats.

Grabowski said, "Warm yellow makes the whole room glow against natural backgrounds."

A Louis XVI writing table is floated in the room to break up space and make for a more interesting floor plan. The yellow accent again appears on the glazed paper lamp shades.

Basement rooms are known for being cold and unfriendly. They are usually the last room, if ever, to get the professional treatment.

Most Michigan homes have large basements. The challenge today is how to squeeze out of our homes every square foot of productivity. Basements should be looked at again with a new attitude. After all, they have the big advantage of being a private space away from the main stream of traffic. That, in itself, can be very advantageous for any number of hobbies or leisure activities.

The Farmington Hills basement which Grabowski turned into an English library is a delightful, warm, cheery space, ideal for entertaining for after drinks and coffee or just a pleasant place to escape to.



English library, in what was once an ordinary basement, makes a lot out of what was

once lost space, or at best, random storage space.



Louis XIV writing table breaks up the room space and adds a note of elegance. The yellow accent of the room is repeated in the shade of the desk lamp.

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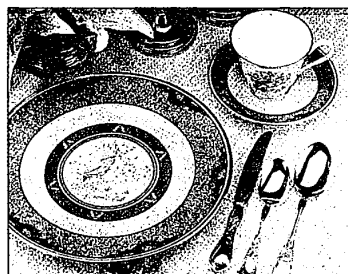
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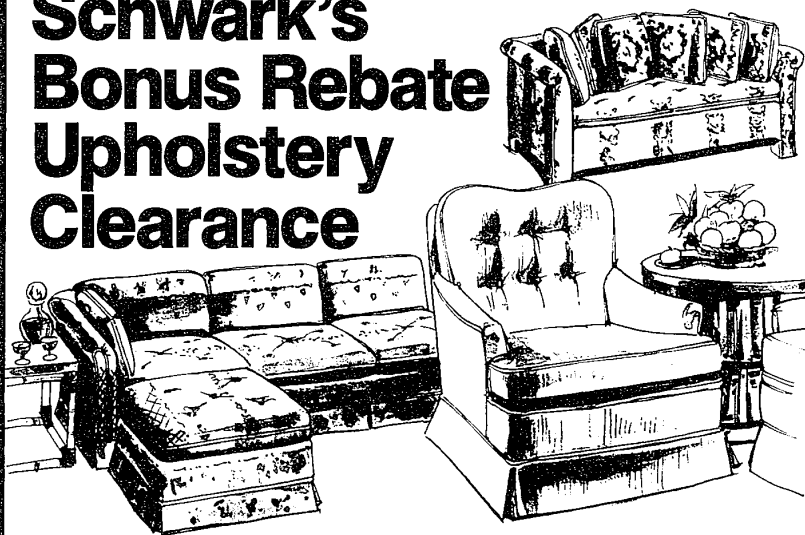


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