

Take a fresh look at familiar rooms

For lack of a better description, we're going to label this column "tidbits," in other words, a "little of this and a little of that" in the world of decorating.

Foyers: the most gracious way to welcome guests to your home is to introduce them, as the door opens, to the personal design and living style you have chosen for yourself and family.

All of the effort that has gone into creating charming living areas will be worth much less if the entry to your home fails to convey the warmth and excitement that is to come. This is not a place to skimp on money. Select a fabulous wall or floor covering, one great piece of furniture, if space allows, a spectacular lighting fixture, a marvelous painting.

Since you need a minimum of furnishing for a foyer, plan to spend a little more on each purchase to make it a very lasting one. The foyer makes a very important statement.

Living rooms: What magic decorating formula can account for the vitality and excitement of current living rooms? The answer is simple. There is no formula. On the contrary, the word is freedom.

There is an irreverence of decorating rules of any kind that produce individual excitement. The elements are color, surprise, originality, extreme comfort. The drama of unexpected patterns, color schemes, objects, uninterrupted space and the new shape of upholstered pieces and eclectic joining of many periods.

Dining rooms: What was once held sacrosanct in dining room decor — the matched interior, has been bypassed by a look that's unquestionably personal, even pleasantly startling. Seemingly improbable combinations such as steel tables with glass joined by period chairs or wood finished furniture with brilliant painted designs come off with great success in today's dining room.

You don't have to use one table, you can use two of them in the same space



design

Gloria Cohen

surrounded by eight chairs. Put them together or use them apart for flexibility. Background treatments are very important, color schemes, wallcoverings and accessories are keyed to this new convention free approach to dining.

BEDROOMS: Whatever their style, current bedroom interiors are spectacularly high style. No longer used as a nighttime retreat, today's boudoir reflects the freedom of imagination that pervades all areas of home design. A fabulous bed with a dramatic spread, an extraordinary headboard different from the rest of the furniture, wall units stacked high to accommodate stereo, television, records and books.

Bedrooms today tend to double as a second den and without question today's high-fashion bedroom is often as interesting and exciting as current living room interiors.

Sitting rooms: Call it den, reading area or library, for lack of a better term the sitting room best describes the small second living room that exists in many homes today. Professional designers give it a style of its own by planning the sitting room around a theme.

The theme may be a garden look with lots of greenery and plants, the sitting room may look like a summer room with wicker or rattan or iron. On the other hand, it may be a gallery room filled with objects d'art.

Eclectic mixtures work marvelously in these small interiors and pattern can

make the difference these days — as long as it goes with the room. Vinyl tile is turning up in the living room, carpet-

ing moves into the kitchen and climbs on the walls in other rooms, it has even covered the ceiling.

Often, more than one floor covering is employed in a single room an accent or area rug punctuates wood, vinyl or wall-to-wall carpeting for rugs themselves run a wide gamut of style, texture, pattern, fiber and size. Fun rugs have become an exceedingly popular decorating accent.

Stay with me, more "tidbits" next week.

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Newly merged Girl Scout council gets under way

Girl Scouts troops in the metropolitan Detroit and southern Oakland County area have merged to form the Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council.

The merger was designed to allow better coordination of fundraising, such as the sale of cookies and calendars, and a larger number of potential volunteers.

The merger affects scouts in Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Lathrup Village, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Troy and a portion of West Bloomfield Township.

The council now serves 30,000 girls and 9,000 adults. It is the fifth largest

council in the nation and includes 61 communities.

The consolidation was based on a 1977 United Community Services study. Its purpose is to help the scouts to live in a multi-cultural, multi-racial world recognizing the interdependence of people and nations.

Mary Law, president of the new council has outlined a six-point program for Girl Scouts in the '80s.

These include living in a pluralistic society; ecology and energy; families; education; future technology and life styles of the future.

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