

Designer blends earth tones for subtle effects

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

Color — flamboyant or subtle — is still the element which captures immediate attention in an interior.

Linda Shears' clients wanted their new Wakeek condominium done in warm neutrals with only gentle touches of color.

Mrs. Shears is with Modern Studio of Interiors, Inc. of Birmingham. She be-

lieves in working with her clients to create the kind of atmosphere they want, rather than imposing her taste on them.

Her clients, whose new home is set in picturesque rolling terrain with the golf course close at hand, told Mrs. Shears they like neutrals and earth tones. She understood they prefer a clean, uncluttered, contemporary atmosphere.

EVERYONE INVOLVED knew immediately that the view from the two large windows on each side of the travertine marble fireplace was one of the living room's great assets — too beautiful to cover. The view of the trees in a ravine far below changes with the seasons, a feature that particularly pleases the family. All that was needed was a way to control the light.

Vertical blinds in an off-white tex-

tured fabric provided the answer. Similar blinds were on sliding glass doors along the sides of the room, leading to a deck.

The walls of the living room, foyer, dining room and the hall leading to the bedrooms are done with natural string covering. The covering is rich in texture and forms an ideal backdrop for paintings and other wall art.

Carpeting is a soft warm beige and

the three sofas in the living room are upholstered in a richly textured fabric of a similar shade.

Mrs. Shears' clients have a large Jack Levine oil painting in the dining room, which creates a charming focal point. The room also boasts a handsome contemporary dining table of a natural burl wood inlaid with rose-

wood. The painting over the fireplace in the living room by Erna Kavitt continues the nature theme provided by the view from the windows, and the figure of a woman in the painting adds a pleasant, human dimension to the atmosphere.

Black toss pillows, along with several in more neutral colors and patterns, add a touch of drama to the atmosphere. The contemporary table wrapped in lizard and topped with two brass-based lamps adds elegance.

Along with the rich greens and dark colors in the Kavitt painting is the gentlest of apricot tones. This color is repeated ever so subtly in an Oriental-style flower arrangement in a brass vase on the glass coffee table.

A NUMBER OF Oriental pieces the family has collected over the years are among the accessories in their home. One of these, a famille rose Chinese plate with a scene in soft colors, is on the coffee table.

These touches of color against the lovely textures and warm neutrals pro-

duce a tranquil environment in which to enjoy the scenery outdoors. They also create an atmosphere conducive to comfortable conversation with few distractions.

Together, these elements create the kind of atmosphere that lends itself to the activities of a busy family, as well as to formal entertaining. There's a permanent game table and matching chairs in one corner of the living room. The chess pieces are out and ready for a couple of family members who like to play when home on vacation from college.

There's a kind of serene feeling here that seems to follow the Oriental philosophy, which finds beauty in fine, simple lines, understated backgrounds and rich, subtle color.

Orwig family marks a first

When Farmington Community Band gave its end-of-the-season concert last week, the entire Blaine Orwig family of Farmington Hills was on stage. Orwig (at left) and his 13-year-old son Scott play trombone. Twelve-year-old Amy and her mother Mary are both clarinet players. The concert was a combination effort with both Farmington Youth Band and Farmington Community Band sharing the playbill. According to Paul Barber, the organizer and conductor of Farmington Community Band, this was the first occasion an entire family had performed together in any of the bands' concerts.



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