

Simple, elegant, practical and personal decor

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

Judi Jaffee's home is her showroom, her promotion piece and her biggest advertisement for "Decor by Judi," a relatively new business that specializes in custom designed Formica furniture and room planning.

"The kitchen and the master bedroom seems to be the overall favorites," she said of the not-quite-yet completed interior that less than two years ago was gutted by fire.

"We had not much more left than the studs in the house and not a pair of extra underwear between us," she said of her four-member family.

It was a frantic time after the fire for Jaffee, with the necessary shopping, keeping her family going, deciding that she wanted to keep the house and re-do it herself, while still carrying on designing work for others.

"But I did it all and it all added up to the morale booster I needed to devote full time to designing," she said.

ture for a long time before that.

She recalls that the first time she put a design on paper was out of necessity in an attempt to use wasted space when she moved into what she termed a "sort of nothing, un-taken care of house."

Her built-in shelves and wall cabinets interested guests in asking for help with their design problems. And through all the furniture she has designed since for clients, she holds adamantly to doing exclusively one-of-a-kind. She will mass produce a buffet this spring for the first time.

Jaffee strives for the practical, the simple and the elegant look, personalizing the furniture for the life style of the family or the individual.

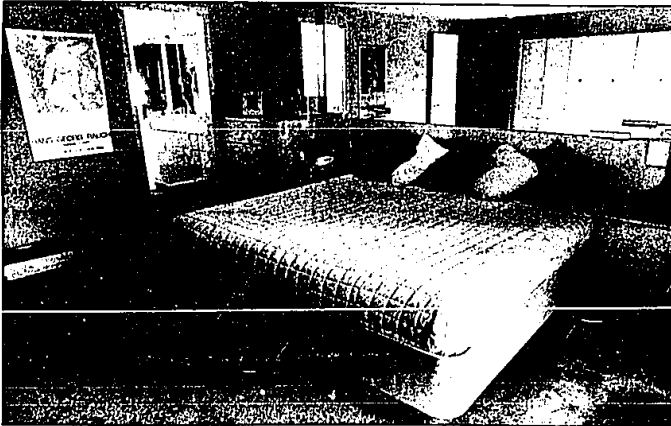
"I've always worked well with people and I guess that facet of my personality has paid off in dealing with clients. We always can work well together. I think I can honestly say the only problem I've ever had was convincing people that they could get custom-made pieces for less money than they



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Judi Jaffee sits under the skylight she designed for her non-clutter kitchen of white and taupe with touches of brown. Her Formica

cabinets hide pullout shelves and racks, dividers, bins, and drawers.



Rounded corners are favored by the designer as a safety factor as well as helping to give contemporary rooms a warm look. The mirror in the master bedroom, done in tones of gray with white and plum accents, reflects the built-in closet. Windows in the house are covered with vertical slat blinds because they are not dust collectors.



The desk, chair, wall unit, and a trundle bed, all made of Formica, were designed for Judi Jaffee's 13-year-old daughter, Stephanie, who is a student at Warner Middle School.

The only piece in the family den (below) that was not designed by Judi Jaffee is the graphic on the wall which was created especially for the room by graphic artist Jeff Sclarsors. The downstairs room takes on a spacious look, in part, from the open stairway created to replace a narrow closed-in stairwell reflected in the wall mirror. The bathroom fixture at left is made from black and burnished gold Formica.

