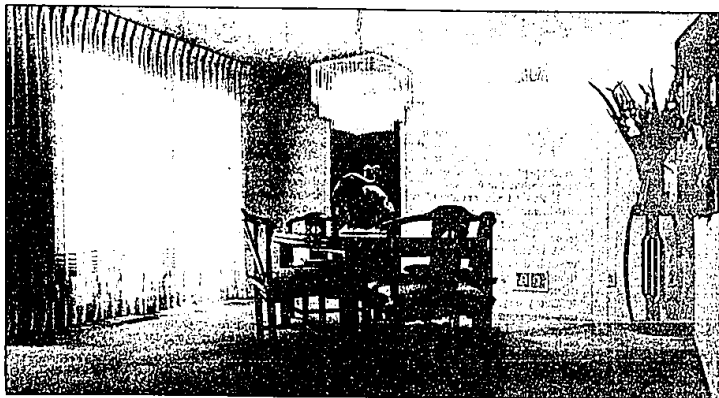




Dorothy Janssen, career woman, hostess and mother, loves the atmosphere of her apartment which combines comfort, soft, beautiful colors with luxurious touches of Oriental and Art Deco. The dining room, while modest in size, has a spacious feeling because of the arrangement of the table and chairs (on the diagonal) and the soft light which filters through the chenille drapes.



## Her retreat — her paradise — that's home

By Corinne Abelt  
staff writer

**S**OMETIMES PROBLEMS present a decorator with welcome challenges. And sometimes the innovative solutions make an interior doubly interesting.

When Dorothy Janssen and her son, Charles, moved to Farmington Hills, the apartment she chose had a number of pluses.

But, from interior designer Lillanne Solomon's (Gorman's Troy) viewpoint, there were several problems to be dealt with if it was to meet the needs of this busy career woman and mother who likes to entertain and has some positive ideas about what she likes.

Solomon knew she wanted to create a sense of order and balance between the double-hung windows in the living room and the shallower glass door wall to the patio in the dining room.

She would also need to innovate on furniture placement because Janssen wanted a large china cabinet, bar and storage area for crystal and the dining room simply wasn't big enough to accommodate such along with table and chairs.

Janssen also wanted a desk where she could work at home when necessary.

**THE GIVEN** elements were off-white painted walls and light honey carpeting. Contrary to her usual approach, Solomon chose a large print for the sofa and facing loveseat. The background, about the same shade as the carpeting, is enlivened with a wonderful palette — mauve, peach, grape, salmon and soft greens.

While most of the wood pieces (Janssen loves natural wood) are oriental in style, the coffee table, with a fascinating surface of goat skin with a polyporethane finish, definitely has an Art Deco line to it.

The grape color is repeated on the hassock, done in sculptured folds of

cotton suede cloth and in many of the smaller accessories. A fabric, white mini-dot on a salmon background, is used on the dining room chairs and repeated on two benches stored under a long narrow oriental-style table in the living room.

The same fabric, white chenille, was used for the windows and door wall. On the latter, the drapes hang to the floor with a textured border. For the two living room windows the base fabric is used in a soft balloon look. These are made to be lowered to the floor if desired and easily taken down for cleaning.

A MIRRORRED screen between the windows of the living and dining room area gives balance and continuity in the otherwise dead space along the partial wall between the two rooms and establishes an illusion of the continuation of the outdoor view.

The second problem was to avoid a lot of heavy furnishings and still meet the client's needs.

The china cabinet bar, flanked by the matching sofa and loveseat, fit easily into the living room.

The dining room table, with extension, was placed on the diagonal to fill and make that area interesting.

Janssen picked the raw silk screen in the dining room on her own — a choice that Solomon pronounced truly brilliant.

In a corner of Janssen's pleasant bedroom there's a small desk of beautiful dark wood which looks handsome with the mauves and other soft pastels of the room.

Janssen, who often works a 65-hour week in the sales department of Don Massey Cadillac of Plymouth, said, "When I come home this is like my paradise . . . this is my retreat."

She said all of the furniture was chosen for its adaptability — it could be taken with her if she moved and fit comfortably into different surroundings.

Staff photos by Randy Borst

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