

Interior designer Joyce Kraft designed this 13-by-24-foot room to be versatile enough to meet the needs of a family who likes to entertain friends for dinner, for musical evenings or just relaxed conversation.

Building flexibility with flair

By Carol Azizien
staff writer

APPPEARANCES ARE deceiving. Take, for example, this combination living/dining area in a Southfield home.

What appears to be the ultimate in contemporary living room design is actually an experiment with eclectic motifs.

"We didn't want a period room," explained interior designer Joyce Kraft. "The contemporary accents give it warmth and elegance."

The furniture designs range from period to contemporary and the art is a smorgasbord of Oriental, African, classical Greek and modern American styles. But the room's diverse elements are neatly tied together with neutral colors—white, dark brown and black. The dark brown walls create a dramatic effect.

TWO WOODEN Chippendale chairs with horseshoe seat coverings provide a stark contrast to the modern, chevron-striped sofa and a square-shaped black leather LeCorbusier chair, trimmed in chrome.

A brass tray table and a hollowed-out wooden Korean wheat carrier with

a glass top represent two extremes in coffee table design.

Quills provide the common decorative element in a storage chest (which doubles as a bar) and the mirror placed above it.

Besides living room furniture, the room includes pieces for dining and entertainment.

Parsons tables conveniently open up to full-fledged dining tables that can seat 18 people. And, a black art deco piano gives the room a musical touch.

"She (the owner) wanted flexibility," explained Kraft. "At first, we thought the room was too small (it's about 13 by 24 feet) to incorporate all the elements she required. She wanted to use it for dining, conversation, music and storage. Her husband wanted to be able to play the piano in the living room."

But, with a little ingenuity, the decorator accomplished the multi-purpose effect.

ARTWORKS complement the room's diverse furniture styles. There are large-scale prints of antique Oriental pottery dating back to the turn of the century. A glove stretcher (circa 1895) mounted on a base appears to be a contemporary art piece, but is actually an antique.

Early 20th-century Audubon-style bird paintings contrast with late 20th-century Jean Arp and Milton Avery lithographs.

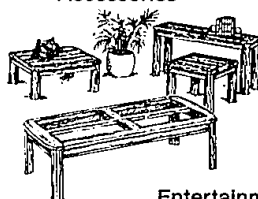
Nineteenth-century reproductions of antique creil plates dot one wall. Greek

figures are painted in terracotta and black on the surface of each plate.

Bronze African leg bracelets, an African mask, contemporary alabaster sculpture and decorative ivory box give the finishing touches to a unique combination of decorative elements.

UNIQUE STYLES ...AS IN OAK

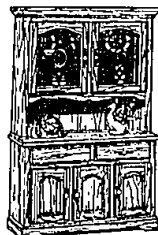
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