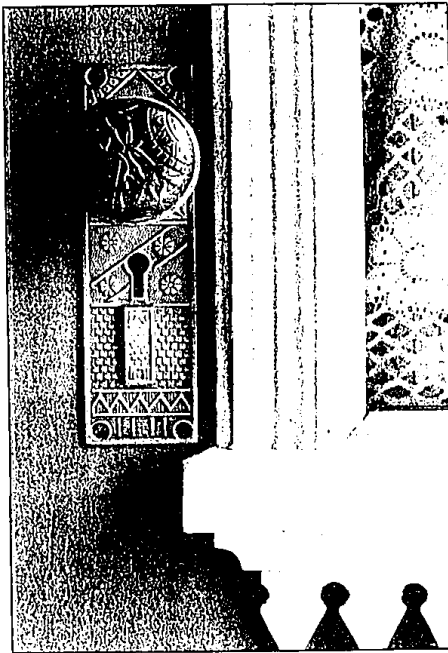


Restoration — little things set the scene

The kitchen door of a Eastlake, Victorian home in Plymouth, built in the 1880s, says a lot about the couple who restored it. From the bull's-eye corners of the door molding to the carpenter gothic trim around the pane, to the door knob and plate, they gave each detail, no matter how small, careful attention. All of the screens and storm doors had to be custom made because none was standard size. The house, on Plymouth's picturesque and historic Union Street, once had a dumb waiter in the kitchen.



COVER

The cover photograph was taken at the Michigan Design Center. The Korean screen from the Ginsberg Collection, the Thai garden seat and the China Seas black cotton print are from the Campbell Louis showroom.

"Oriental Graces," the red polished cotton fabric, is a Westgate exclusive from Harkema Wilson showroom. The brass candlesticks are from the Designer Group and the brass vase was loaned from the Baker, Knapp & Tubbs showroom. The leather trunk, not for sale, is on display at the Baker showrooms.

The carpet sample from the Stark Carpet showroom is French, all wool in the "Pharaoh" pattern.

The silk, fingered orchids, not for sale, are from Elliott's showroom. The Design Center, 1700 Stutz, just north of Maple, Troy, is open only to the trade.

COLOR PHOTOGRAPH
Stephen Cantrell

COVER PHOTOGRAPH DESIGN
Carleen Haydu

COVER LAYOUT
Diane Glangrande

The cover was photographed at the Michigan Design Center, Troy.

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Computer makes perfect match

Custom-coloring paint to match a specific wallpaper or carpet sample used to be a time-consuming and costly process. It sometimes took up to two days and several wasted shots of colorant before the precise color was achieved, says Tim Elsbrenner, president and owner of Shelby Paint & Wallpaper of Shelby Township.

Now homeowners, professional painters, decorators and architects, through the use of a \$15,000 computer at Shelby Paint & Wallpaper, can have their samples matched within seconds, saving them time and money.

Shelby Paint & Wallpaper is the first in the metropolitan Detroit area and 76th in the nation to have a computer that custom-matches paint. The four-component system was developed over a seven-year period by Benjamin Moore Paints in Montvale, N.J.

"Custom-mixing by hand takes 15 minutes to two days," Elsbrenner said. "You have to guess how much and which tint is needed, wait for the paint to dry, sometimes add more tint and then wait for it to dry again. This computer will formulate colors for our customers within seconds."

Customers living within a 30-mile radius of the store on Van Dyke at 21 Mile may mail in samples they want matched, then pick up the paint at their convenience or have it delivered. That radius includes Rochester, Birmingham, Southfield, and the Pontiac area.

A customer brings or mails in a wallpaper, fabric, carpet or any other kind of sample that's at least one-quarter inch in size. The sample is placed under a spectrophotometer, the part of the computer that "reads" the colors in the sample using light.

The video display terminal flashes the exact amounts of various tints to use in mixing a paint to match the average of all colors in the sample. The formula is then typed out on a line printer so a record of it may be kept.

The system is designed for use with Benjamin Moore tints and bases, including interior and exterior oil and latex flats, eggshell finishes and semi-glosses.

Customers will have fun naming their own colors too, Elsbrenner says, since a name, for record-keeping purposes, is attached to each new formula.

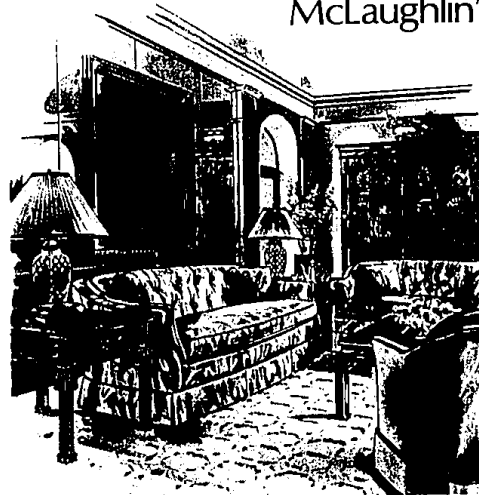
Elsbrenner, who describes the system as "dead-on almost every time," says there are a few colors it can't match. But, in those infrequent instances, it's the paint pigment that's the problem, not the computer.

"Some colors are so pure, they can't be duplicated in paint," he said, adding that the pigment can't "beat" the color.

Customers will not be charged extra for use of the computer, Elsbrenner says — just the standard mixing fee.

For information call Shelby Paint & Wallpaper, at 4731 Van Dyke, Ulfica, 739-0240.

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