

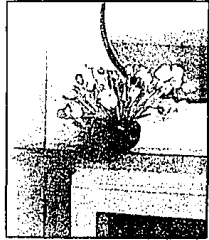
# STREET SCENE

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## DECORATING on the CHEAP



By Chuck Moss  
special writer

OK, you've got a space. House, apartment, loft, back room, tree-house, whatever. You've got a space and you want to fill it up, but there's this catch. You want it to look great, but you don't have a lot of money. Problem? Not necessarily.

"Cost has nothing to do with it," maintains Douglas Lucak. "It's taste."

That all-important "it" is style and verve and creating a decorating look of your own, that indefinable something that turns your space into a showcase. The happy news: roping that "it" and bringing it home is more a matter of imagination and persistence than big-back checks or VISA debt.

For Lucak, "it" translates into a subtle, art deco-ish apartment with bare space, sensual dark colors and an austere eclectic hodgepodge of objects from "every period in the last hundred years." The colors are deep seductive violets and tans; the effect, sophisticated and urban.

"We are nighttime people," said Lucak, a slight, mustached sandy haired man in his late 20s. "Every light is on a dimmer switch. Actually, the place looks better at night. It's colder, more stark in the daylight." The Rochester Hills resident settles back, lights a cigarette, and contemplates the next inevitable question: how do you achieve this stunning look on a budget?

"Well," he sits back and thinks. "The whole idea is that you're not going to go out and decorate in a month. Just walk into a store or dig in a catalog and say 'give me all this.'"

"YOU NEED to live in your place while," chimes in Tom Hawn. Lucak's roommate and decorating partner. A pair of self-confessed "veteran junkers," Lucak and Hawn scour the resale

***'To keep your fantasies within your budget just means you substitute good taste and patience for money.'***  
— Douglas Lucak

markets like invading Huns, looking for the Holy Grail: that one perfect item. Now Hawn reinforces Lucak's musings on good taste within a budget.

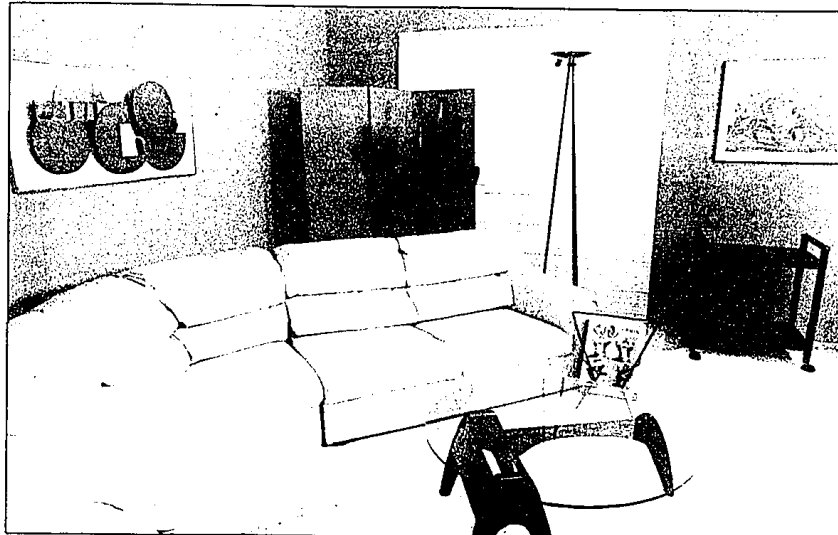
"Yeah, it's very important to live in a place for a while and make your decorating an ongoing thing. To keep your fantasies within your budget just means you substitute good taste and patience for money."

How? "Get out and start looking!" Lucak snaps his fingers. "You're familiar with your house, apartment, or whatever, and you know what you like and pretty much what you need. Now comes the fun part."

"Go on safari. Look around at the resale shops, the boutiques, the auctions and the garage sales. That's where you'll find the inexpensive goodies. See, in this part of the world, look for house sales, auctions, estate sales without professional auctioneers, garage sales in old neighborhoods. Before you know it, you'll be pulling together a look that's your own. It will be cheap and it will be fun."

**WHERE DO you get ideas?**  
"Come on! What do you like? What makes you happy? You can look through magazines and books for reference, adopt styles you see around that really hit you, but in the end you've got to live in the place yourself. Get out and start hunting!"

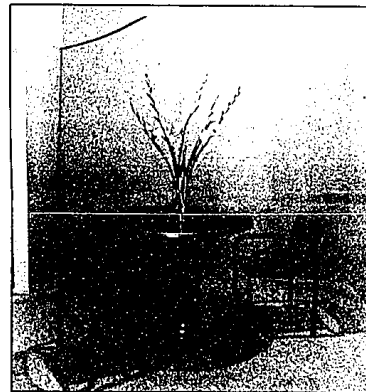
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The living room of Douglas Lucak and Tom Hawn's Rochester Hills apartment uses a leather couch as a focal point, then plays off the couch with inexpensive finds.



Hawn (left) and Lucak relax in their den, which features a futon couch and canvas chair.



Their dining room has an old restaurant table they found for \$7 and a neon hoop that cost \$25.

Staff photos by Camille McCoy

## Inside **S<sup>2</sup>**

### Knights and Day

The casting call asked for an actor to play an energetic singer in the film "National Lampoon's Animal House." Eight years later, Otis Day and the Knights are still getting crowds to twist to "Shout" at toga parties all over the country.

### Keys to imagination

It may look like a piano, but the electronic keyboard can produce sounds Steiny never dreamed of. The keyboard's only limit is the human imagination.

### Wide receivers

Comparing modern budget receivers and their wide range of features with those of a decade ago is like comparing a 707 with a Concorde. Today even moderately priced receivers offer such one-time luxury options as push-button tuning.

### Real pearls

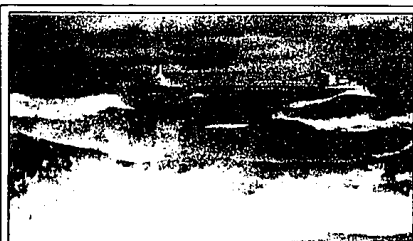
Robin and Ronna Pearlman are not just two sisters, they are Two Sisters, one of the area's hottest jewelry-designing firms. Just what exactly is it that's made their ritzy-glitzy stuff so popular?

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Send us your vacation photo

OK, so you've got a cute shot of a lobster breaking your wife's nose at the Boston Harbor fish market.

Or maybe you photographed your intrepid canoeing crew before and after their plunge into the mighty Manistee.

Or maybe it's a shot of you sitting on the lap of the James Fenimore Cooper statue in Cooperstown, N.Y., as though you're giving him advice. ("Last of the Mohicans? Fen, you've just killed any

chance of a sequel with that title.")

Whatever vacation photos you have, whether pretty, funny or pretty funny, Street Scene is interested in printing them this summer.

Send photo to David Frank, Street Scene, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Include a brief description of the circumstances under which the photo was shot and, if you wish, some technical information on how it was shot.

## Sleek, chic '50s mystique

By Chuck Moss  
special writer

These bargain hunters who comb the resale shops often find themselves drawn to an increasingly popular part of budget decorating: '50s Chic. Those aqua and plastic artifacts of the Ike Era are now icons for the discerning. Why the 1950s? What draws Pops and punks alike to the remnants of Milton Berle culture?

"Good design," explain Roger Ellingsworth and Cindy Wyle, co-owners of Vertu. Located at 511 S. Washington in Royal Oak's funky resale row, Vertu is a second-hand shop that specializes in modern furniture and accessories.

"Some people have always been interested in that stuff, Eames, Saarinen. But it really took off five to eight years ago, a strong interest

among people who weren't into it the first time around."

Why? "Well, I use '50s for a term," said Ellingsworth, softspoken, an expert and collector of 20th century modern art and artifacts as well as a dealer. "It means 'post-WWII' design. After the war materials and technology were available for the first time: plastics, kinds of laminated woods, new techniques, new design used for mass-produced products. It's good stuff and people respond to it."

"PEOPLE WANT to surround themselves with good design, whether they know it or not. Those free-form shapes, the kidney-shaped table, for instance, the free flowing glass, the boomerang table, were colors and shapes considerably lightened up from what had gone before. It's cheerful and it's well done. It's a

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