

Photos by CAMILLE McCOY/staff photographer

This ballerina looks as though it is made of copper, but the fiberglass figurine was an inexpensive find in a second-hand shop for Lucak and Hawn.

## Sleek, chic '50s mystique

Continued from Page 1

natural outgrowth of the Bauhaus and other earlier 20th Century designers, with a frivolity and mass-appeal thrown in. Granted, there is always 1950s kitsch that's so bad it's good: pink flamingos, for instance. But the real good stuff is art.

"See, a lot of people started 15 years ago collecting Art Deco. From there they moved inevitably up, chronologically to the era of industrial design, into the '50s and now even the '60s. Around here we had the Cranbrook people and folks are beginning to recognize the work of Eames and others as collectible art but art you can use every day."

Will the forward march up the decades continue? "I doubt it," his voice holds a twinkle. "The '70s weren't a real good for innovative design."

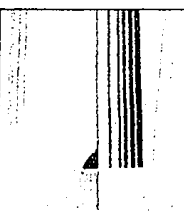
**CO-OWNER CINDY WYLE** concurs. "The '50s were a real breakaway time, a real new sleek look: fun, light colors. It's bright and it's practical, too. Fifties stuff matches well with contemporary design. It's old but it has a contemporary feel to it. You can mix it in with '80s things and it works."

Most importantly, perhaps, it's there. "A lot of interest in 1950s furniture and products stems from the fact that it's out there," Ellingsworth explains. "The Art Deco has gone up in price, antiques are expensive, but the '50s stuff and the industrial design products are still available and very affordable. A lot of interest in the decorative arts is because fine arts have become so unaffordable."

Fun, practical, well-designed, eclectic, and affordable. Might

**'Granted, there is always 1950s kitsch that's so bad it's good: pink flamingos, for instance. But the real good stuff is art.'**

— Roger Ellsworth



**A fabulous find — a large wool rug that went for so little money that we don't want to tell you because you'll feel you overpaid for everything you ever bought in your life.**

there be an additional element to Fifties Chic? "Here's definitely a mystique to the '50s stuff," Ellingsworth muses. "Sleek, modern, almost futuristic. This may sound silly, but I think these things will be the antiques of the future." Ellingsworth design as antique? An archeology of the future? Gosh, it sure hurts to think so, but with the '60s, assassinations, Vietnam, Watergate, Iran, heck! After all we went through to get here, maybe 1959 WAS the World Of The Future after all!

Fun, practical, well-designed, eclectic, and affordable. Might



STEVE FECHT/staff photographer

Linda Rigdon has decorated her home inexpensively with a country look. "It's a homey look that lets you mix and match," Rigdon said.

## Decorating on the cheap

Continued from Page 1

Don't end up living in a permanent garage sale, though. "The big mistake people make is that they feel they have to put everything they own on display. Take us," Lucak waves his hand. "Looks pretty spare, doesn't it?" His gesture takes in the spartan, modern-looking room where one expensive leather couch is offset by simple accessories arranged with an almost Japanese restraint.

"We have five times as much stuff packed away in storage," Hawn said with a laugh. "We go all over and we find lots of bargains, but we have to be selective. It's much more frustrating to try and make 20 items work together than to select three. We don't put 20 items out in clutter,

but put three items out and rotate. That way we can experiment."

This is important because it's the cheapest stuff, the little accessories and knock-knacks, that are the most important. They're the nuggets you pan for at garage sales, the crucial elements that pull a look together.

**NOT EVERYONE'S** into urban chic. For Linda Rigdon, a graphic artist with O & E's advertising department, style on a budget means Early American.

"Please," she objects scornfully. "Say 'Country,'" Rigdon echoes Doug Lucak's maxims about substituting creativity and work for dollars. "I buy stuff at TJ Maxx," she said breathlessly. "I spend a lot of time there. But not a lot of money." A typical Maxx visit might reap some

washable placemats, taken home, stuffed, and stitched together to make pillows. Or fabric made into dust ruffles, valances, curtains and pillows for a color-coordinated Country bedroom costing less than \$75.

"Country lends itself perfectly to budget decorating," said Rigdon. "It's a homey look that lets you mix and match. Also there are a lot of Country decorating magazines to give you ideas. Take something that you like out of the magazine and use your ingenuity."

Linda Rigdon is a junk sale addict. "I go to Saline a lot," she said, referring to the big antique fair held every third weekend. "But mostly not to buy. I go for ideas. I see what's in Saline and then go home and translate. Of course," she said modestly,

"I do bargain hunt."

HER TWO most important bits of advice: "Select a theme for each room. That seems to work pretty well. If you have a theme you won't wander and buy stuff you won't use."

And number two? "Don't think of things as they are, think of what you can use them for. I bought an old wash tub, cleaned it up, and laid on a slab of glass for a light, airy table. Try to make things work in a different way. In my bathroom I stencilled horses around the walls, and bought plaid towels for a hunt club look. If you can sew a straight line, you can make your own accessories and if you like junk sales, you can hunt for bargains."

"It's easy," Rigdon chuckled. "Just use your brain, not your pocketbook."

### Sheesh! You call this a support group?

AP — Virginia Tooper is serious about sarcasm, but she's not averse to people having some fun with it. "Without it, Don Rickles and Joan Rivers would be on food stamps," she says.

But there is a serious side to sarcasm, according to Tooper, the founder and president of the Sarcasitics Anonymous support group.

The Pleasanton, Calif., expert says, "I learned in working with handicapped people how deeply sarcasm can hurt, especially during the formative years."

Those who employ sarcasm typically see it as harmless teasing, but targets may see it as cruel and hostile, Tooper said. She presented a paper on the subject to a recent World Humor and Irony Membership Conference at Arizona State University, Tempe.

"I tried to teach them defenses," she said of working with the handicapped. "One of the best is self-

deprecating humor, or self-sarcasm. If you can laugh at yourself, others laugh with you, rather than at you."

Tooper describes herself as a "recovering sarcastic."

"I was so sarcastic that I was down to one friend, and he didn't call," she said with a smile. "Now I'm back up to four friends, but one of them has me on probation."

"Just one husband, though, after 25 years," she added. "He's as bad as I was. Neither of us could find anyone else."

Sarcasitics Anonymous is for those who realize they are sarcastic and want to get it under control, she said. It's also for those who employ sarcasm and want to get better at it while accepting the consequences.

And it's for those who must live or work with sarcasitics. Her advice to targets: "In the first place, lighten up. If you react indignantly, you're lost."

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