

Creative Living

CLASSIFIEDS
INSIDE



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designing ways

Eve Garvin

FIRST OF all, I would like to say that in mentioning a source, it is only after I have made numerous inquiries that I have gone with the response which was the most graciously preferred, in detail and with courtesy. This does not mean that other sources are not given consideration, but I must point out that it is impossible to mention every source.

I promised you that I would keep you informed as to the where and how in the design world. Well, let me tell you what just worked for me. I love to entertain and cannot bring myself to part with all the serving pieces I have acquired over the years. My large home had a room for these things but my new kitchen cupboards in my apartment are bulging. My breakfast room is quite roomy so I decided that a long cabinet would work well there.

I used an upper cabinet which is 12 inches deep. Consequently, this does not extend too far into the room. I have 13 feet of wall in length. I opted for four three-foot uppers finished in a medium oak.

The top is antique white mica with radius corners. Hand-painted porcelain Delft blue knobs were added for interest. The cabinet is hinged to the wall four inches above the floor so that it looks like a piece of suspended furniture.

My breakfast room is country French so I chose a cathedral door (curved raised panel). I added a wood spool gallery along the entire length of the piece and covered the wall above with a collection of Royal Copenhagen plates and tiles.

In shopping cabinet companies, I found Modern Counter Top in Royal Oak had both the best price and delivery.

Here's another tip. I have been shopping to outfit a "pic-a-terre" — a little getaway — in Sarasota, Fla. The place I found with incredible bargains is Pace, located on East 14 Mile Road, east of the Oakland Mall. Would you believe, for example, a place setting for eight, suitable for the microwave, at an cost of about \$24? Would you believe stainless (flawless with enamel) handles, service for eight, at total cost of about \$19? Believe it — at Pace.

Q. I want to buy a piano for my children, but do not know how to place it. We have a but on one wall and a chair on either side of the fireplace. My living room is wide and recessed. I have another short wall on which I have a lounge chair. Where could I possible put a piano?

A. If you are planning on buying a spinet or console type piano, slither your windows and place the piano in the window.

Eve Garvin has been an interior designer in the area for many years. She welcomes comments and questions from readers. Send to her in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

organizing

Dorothy Lehmkuhl

Q. I never had trouble staying organized while I raised my family, had a big house and helped my husband with his business. Now that my husband is dead, my children grown and I've moved into a condominium, I can't even keep up this small place. I just don't understand.

A. My heart goes out to you because, like most people, you're probably not aware that depression can affect organizational abilities.

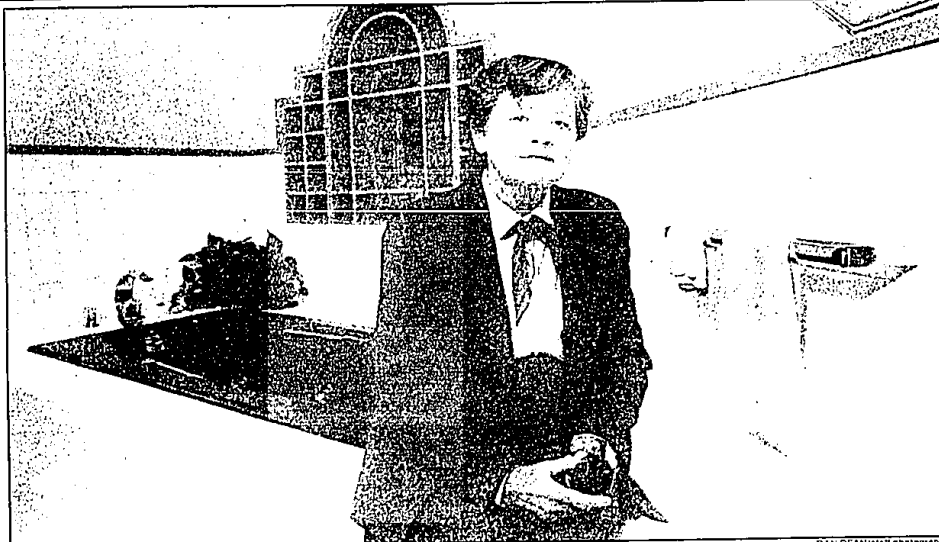
Our environment is a reflection of our internal anxieties. In other words, what is in us controls our environment, not the other way around. When you experience emotional turmoil, your thinking may be fuzzy. When you aren't thinking clearly, it may be difficult to concentrate enough to stay organized. Being disorganized can be depressing. Hence, the Catch-22 situation comes full circle.

Depression is a wide grey area, which ranges from being a little "down" once in a while to the other extreme of causing an almost comatose state. Trying to accomplish difficult work when you are depressed might be compared to beating your head against a wall, or to an insect lying on its back, flailing its legs and going nowhere.

Even the most "up" person is only human and will have off days. Avoid tackling projects difficult for you when you feel down. Instead, catch up on reading, do extra exercise or work on tasks you can do almost automatically. Then the next day get back to the harder stuff. This technique accomplishes two things: First, it provides a brief mental rest and, second, after making a conscious choice of which work to do, no guilt will be associated with what was not accomplished.

To summarize, concentrate on recapturing your mental health when you are depressed instead of trying to tackle your organizational problems. If you were organized before, physical order will return naturally with more concise thinking.

Dorothy Lehmkuhl welcomes comments and questions from readers. These can be sent to her in care of this newspaper, at 36251 Schoolcraft Road.



Pat Andrew — a successful competitor in a traditionally male-dominated field.

Her struggle a Classic tale

By Mary Rodrigue staff writer

IN SOME respects it's a showroom like any other. Sales staff are available to assist customers through the myriad of European and American made goods that are carefully displayed for maximum visual effect.

But in this showroom, customers are urged to sit on the toilets, kick off their shoes and try out the bathtubs. "At first, people are a little shy. But you wouldn't buy a couch without sitting on it. When you're spending that kind of money, you want a personal feeling of what you're buying," said Pat Andrew, owner of Classic Baths in Birmingham.

On the corner of Adams and Lincoln, the year old boutique is the latest business acquisition for Andrew. The showroom is an extension of her Highland Park based wholesale plumbing and heating firm.

AN ARRAY OF GLOSSY bold colored sink basins on pedestals, looking like exotic giant sea shells, is the first display visitors encounter.

Half of the 5,700-square-foot showroom is devoted to German designer Villeroy & Boch, for which Andrew is the exclusive Michigan distributor. The remainder of space is filled with Kohler bath fixtures, including an artist edition "newspaper" made from raspberry with green (a favorite with designers, Andrew said, though it's not her

taste) to almond or bone and a lot of gray.

"We have the only showroom set up like this in Michigan," said Andrew. "If people want something a little different, they're going to find it here."

Bidets, though not big sellers, are in part responsible for the European feel here. Whirlpool baths, also in abundance, are hot right now.

"It's a nice business," said Andrew. "It's been steadily growing."

FOUNDED IN 1932 by her father-in-law, W.T. Andrew, and later operated by her husband, Gordon, who died in 1973, Andrew has successfully steered the company by herself for the past 14 years, acquiring two industrial supply companies and employing 75 workers in all.

The business has grown from annual sales of \$9 million in 1973 to \$18 million today.

Classic Baths is the frosting on the cake. Though she gets to the showroom maybe once a week, Andrew said it's her favorite part of the job.

"Before we weren't going after the luxury plumbing. We're now positioned so we can serve that market," she said.

Plumbing contractors and interior designers steer clients her way. Other customers, with home building plans in hand, wander in to visualize how a particular set up will fit into their plans.

ALL OF THE STOCK is kept in the Highland Park warehouse, so the entire showroom is devoted to displays.

"On Saturdays it's a zoo here," she said. "People are always coming in. Some are just looking. It's a complicated process. (Buying bath fixtures) is not something you do every day."

Andrew is modest about her success. She would rather discuss challenges than hurdles. And there have been some.

"Sure, there have been stereotypes along the way," she said. "But once you get past that, it's OK. Women in business are much more accepted today."

ANDREW IS GROOMING one of her three daughters, Judy O'Neill, to follow in her footsteps.

"The business will continue to be family owned and owned by women," she said.

"There are always offers to sell. I wouldn't give it up. It's too much fun. What else would I do? It's a good business for a woman or a man. You meet lots of friendly people."

Though she spends as much time as necessary on the job, mostly at the Highland Park office, Andrew said she clearly is not a workaholic.

"I enjoy other things too." They include bicycling around downtown Detroit — she lives in a riverfront apartment near Joe Louis Arena — riding the new People Mover, visiting Trapper's Alley and playing golf.

Classic Baths is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday until 7 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Color trends, design discussed at seminar

"Color Trends and Design," an informative interior decorating seminar, will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, at Somerset Inn, Troy. The seminar will emphasize family lifestyle as the key consideration of good decorating. It will focus on the latest trends in decorator colors, fabrics and room designs. The program will be presented by individual owner-decorators from Decorating Den, a national interior decorating franchise. There is no admission charge, but reservations are suggested. Call 559-5370.

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