

Creative Living



(O)E

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designing
ways
**Eve
Garvin**

A COMPLAINT I have heard frequently about sleep sofas is that if they are comfortable as a bed they are not comfortable as a sofa.

I found a wonderful upholstery line that makes sleep sofas with an inner spring mattress that is comfortable either way. The name of the manufacturer is Perfection Furniture and can be seen locally at Pioneer Furniture Co. in Sterling Heights.

Q. I am considering a piano for my living room. However, at the present time, no one in my home plays. I am purchasing it strictly as a piece of furniture. My room is 22-by-15-feet and I have a large bay window where I am considering placing the piano. What do you think of this placement? Can you recommend brand names of pianos or color choices? My living room is traditional with some contemporary mixed in.

A. I checked with Evola Music Company in Bloomfield Hills. They feel as I do. A baby grand will work well in your bay window. They advise that Baldwin is the finest domestic piano with prices ranging from \$11,000 to \$30,000. The leading import is Young Chang from Korea with prices ranging from \$6,000 to \$15,000. The grand piano will certainly add drama to your lovely living room. Who knows? With a piano there is a possibility of taking advantage of the pleasure it offers as an instrument. As for color, any wood tone including ebony can be used.

Q. My living room is 16-by-11-feet with a cathedral ceiling. I want something striking. The room is beige with a two-tone brown carpet, two gold couches, one gold chair and one red. The TV is 25 inches and is against the wall with a chair on either side. I have pictures on the other two walls with which I am happy. I have looked and looked for that one wall that rings the bell.

A. Try any of the local furniture stores for my suggestion which follows. Mirror stripes are available in a set of four. They are about 18 inches wide and about 72 inches long, with beveled edges. You may use two sets spacing them evenly across the wall. This will add dimension, sparkle and a crisp look to your room.

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

Counterpoint

New materials shine as working surfaces

LACK OF adequate counter space is one of the most common kitchen laments. Yet, as any cook knows, the placement of counters is just as important as the amount of surface available.

To see if your kitchen meets minimum requirements, check your dimensions against those prescribed by the National Kitchen and Bath Association: at least 15 inches next to the handle side of the refrigerator; at least 12 inches on either side of the range or cooktop as a minimum, with at least 18 inches on one side; at least 15 inches next to the oven (if separate from the range); at least 30 inches on one side of the sink and 24 inches on the other; and a minimum of 42 inches in the mixing center, the area usually positioned between the sink and the refrigerator.

IDEALLY, THERE should be 36 inches of countertop frontage in an efficient kitchen. If your kitchen doesn't measure up, poor design may be responsible for impeding your efficiency in the kitchen.

If remodeling is in order, today's consumer will be pleased to discover a boundless selection of countertop colors, styles and materials to meet any decor, from high-tech to American country. In fact, the choices are so plentiful many consumers enlist the help of a certified kitchen designer or an NKBA member to guide them through the selection and remodeling process.

A kitchen designer can help find a countertop that just suits your cooking needs. Popular choices include:

LAMINATE: A survey by National Kitchen & Bath Association revealed laminate is still the leading countertop material. Easy to maintain and install, laminate is available in almost any color imaginable, from

gray — the "new neutral" — to pastels, brights and metallics. Patterns are the latest development in laminate surfaces, which can be speckled, streaked with color or striped vertically or horizontally.

Wood-grained textured laminates combine the rich look of wood with the easy care maintenance of laminate. Other faux finishes imitate the look of granite or marble, but at a fraction of the cost and weight.

SOLID CORE MATERIALS: Another way to achieve a granite or marble-like appearance is with solid core counter materials. Both the color and pattern permeate the counter, so nicks and scratches are not obvious, and flaws can be sanded out without damaging the surface. Because the material is non-porous, it resists stains. A multitude of special treatments are possible from contrasting edging to delicate inlay designs.

TILE: Because the combinations are limitless, tile affords a truly custom look to kitchen counters. Tile can withstand intense heat and is easy to maintain, making it a durable, practical and economical choice. The grout around tile should be sealed periodically to prevent stains. Other countertop materials such as wood, marble and granite, are ideally suited to certain activities. For example, butcher block counters are great for kneading bread, but need to be oiled weekly with mineral oil to maintain their patina. Marble is a perfect surface for candy-making, but its porosity demands it be re-sealed periodically.

For a list of NKBA and NKBA members in your area, write to the National Kitchen and Bath Association, 124 Main Street, Hackensack, N.J. 07640.



Functional beauty

Functionality melds with period charm in a French country kitchen displayed at the most recent National Association of Home Builders Exposition. Designed by Michael deSantis, the kitchen is a joint effort of Whirlpool Corp. and House Beautiful magazine.

Program to integrate computer sound

A new program at the University of Michigan School of Music that integrates the latest advances in computer sound, video imagery and other technological innovations into the total undergraduate curriculum is expected to make U-M a national leader in the field.

Several other universities have centers for research on computer applications in the performing arts, but the U-M program is the first in the country committed to providing all performing arts students access to the technology that is transforming the field, according to Prof. David Gregory, director of the U-M School of Music's Center for the Performing Arts and Technology.

Some of the innovations will revolutionize the way that music and other performing arts are performed and enjoyed, but to those who dread the idea of computers invading orchestras, Gregory says, the new technology may "actually bring the audience closer to the music, by focusing attention on the music rather than on the performer."

The U-M facilities will include video and sound studios incorporating sound sampling and replications devices, electronic keyboards and percussion machines, and computer hardware and software with applications in theatrical design and choreography.



organizing
**Dorothy
Lehmkuhl**

Q. The experts say "Do it now," but when I follow that philosophy I seem to end up dropping one thing to do another. Should I "do it now" or not?

A. A very good question. "Do it now" is one of the most valuable and yet misunderstood theories in existence. Do it now if it means: picking up after yourself instead of leaving a trail; finishing and cleaning up any projects going or recently doing or acting upon something quickly that does not interrupt your current schedule, (such as picking up litter or taking along something which belongs where you are going).

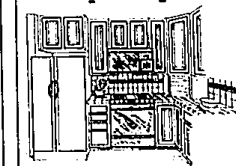
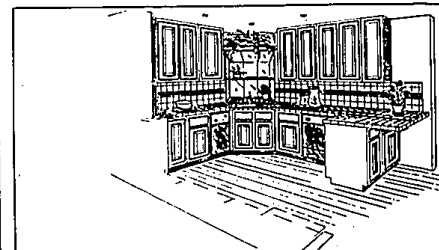
Note it now (and schedule it for later) if: it will distract from your work already in progress or it means starting a project which you will not have time to finish.

AN EXAMPLE MIGHT be a person who is cleaning out a desk and eyes a stack of reading material. Believing in Do It Now, he ceases reorganizing and becomes sidetracked into reading articles. Suddenly the cleaning time is over, other needs demand his attention and essentially nothing has been accomplished.

Another instance might be someone who is vacuuming a hallway and comes to an overflowing linen closet. The cleaner mumbles, "Well, the experts say 'Do It Now,' so I guess I will." The vacuuming is stopped and soon the hallway is littered with piles from the closet.

Instead, the reorganizer or cleaner should keep 3-by-5-inch scratch pads and pens handy. Each task noticed can be noted on a separate scratch sheet and placed in a card file reminder box. These reminders can then be incorporated into future planning.

Dorothy Lehmkuhl welcomes questions and comments from readers. Send those to her in care of this newspaper, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.



Tile makes its mark on the countertop, dining bar and backsplash of this award-winning kitchen by a California designer. A blue accent stripe on the backsplash adds color and contrast to the antique white canyon tile. The creativity won a third-place award in the 1987 National Kitchen & Bath Association design contest.

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clarification

Georgia's Gift Gallery in Plymouth will host an appearance by doll artist Yolanda Bello as part of a grand opening celebration this week in the store's new location, 575 Forest Ave., next to Pier One.

For years, Georgia's Gift Gallery was located in Old Village before the move to the downtown location. Bello will be at the store from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15. The public may attend.