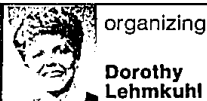


# Creative Living



Monday, February 29, 1988 O&E

(O&E)



organizing

Dorothy Lehmkuhl

## What's bothering you

Dear Readers: Thanks to all who responded to the Jan. 18 article on irritants, and congratulations to the first 70 who did it. I procrastinated and received my "38 Hot Tips" booklet. The letters confirmed what most of us already knew — the biggest irritant is paper handling, with litter a close second. Here are excerpts from some of those letters:

JH: "Being inundated by all kinds of paper. I have 50 pages of handouts (so far) from a course I'm taking. We get tons of junk mail or papers I'm not sure if I should save or not. My daughter brings home 25-30 papers per week."

MT: "Coupons waiting to be organized. Magazines and books to help me be a better wife, mother, housekeeper, career woman and glamour girl are piling up. My desk is papered from end to end — yet I'd know if anyone moved anything. My papers — receipts, bills, articles, medical records, checks, recipes, old greeting cards. Let's see — would they be in the rolloff desk, in some old grocery bags, a 2- or 4-drawer filing cabinet, my purse or in one of about eight plastic tote bags?" (From an absolute perfect letter.)

KR: "Being unable to find a hanger in the closet — especially a skirt hanger. Messy purse (bad self image every time I open it). Huge group of VCR tapes and equipment on top of TV."

MBK: "Having to run the dryer twice because it's on its last leg and we're stalling buying a new one."

JCS: "Litter and messes and dirty dishes put in the sink after the house has been cleaned and the dishwasher just run. Instead of important jobs, I am in pursuit of trivial."

LB: "If the snow doesn't need shoveling, I need help with fixing faucets, replacing light bulbs I can't reach, or changing storm windows. Professionals are very expensive. The minute I pay for one thing, something else turns up." (Senior Citizens can try contacting a local church or high school employment service.)

JM: "The time to keep up with reading magazines, newspapers, catalogs and advertising circulars, just to stay well informed. It's easy to spend too much time reading and not doing the 101 other things I need to do."

JK: "Photos. They just pile up and make me feel uncomfortable."

Many writers commented on their inability to decide where or whether to keep papers, but most were general questions. I will publish solutions to any specific questions received regarding this problem.



designing ways

Eve Garvin

Q. I am thinking of redoing my bedroom and bath. I want to use wallpaper but don't know where to begin. How can I tie the two rooms together? I am traditional.

A. There are many ways to go with wallpaper and I will give you some ideas. First, if you are using paper, use it on all the walls. I never wallpaper one wall in a room. It looks like you are trying to cut a corner. If your bedroom is small, use a pattern that has a light background, more background rather than pattern.

You might think about adding a chair rail and papering above or below. I suggest find a paper that has a matching fabric which can be used for your bedspread as well as your window dressing. Repeating the fabric is always a good look. Try using it on your chairs or chaise.

Stay with your color in your bath. Mini-prints work well with large scale prints so if you have a large or open scale in your bedroom, go for the mini in your bath. Stripes and checks will work for you as well.

FBQ. We live in an older home in Birmingham. Our home has no den or family room as such. What we enjoy is our porch in the spring and summer. Is there some way we can turn it into a year-round room?

A. Yes, I have seen it here in Sarasota. It's the Pella sunroom. Their representative here tells me this construction will work anywhere. It's something as exhilarating as outdoor space but completely enclosed by glass. The exterior is completely covered in aluminum that needs no maintenance. On the inside, you have the beauty of wood where you can create your own decorating scheme. The windows and doors are energy tight with double-glass insulation.

What I found exciting is that this sunroom can be made to your specifications. They will build it in any size or shape, integrated into your roofline, attached to the side, built to go around a corner, on a deck or over the patio. Not only do they have windows in the style to suit your home, but also sliding doors as well as the traditional French door.

## Wall Wow!

### Tips for jazzy room redos



A feeling of elegance and tradition combined and at the same time, effectively hide the with high-tech efficiency make this kitchen a sleek and spacious food prep islands from the vital living area of the home. The lighted, glass-fronted cabinets display beautiful chandelier.

**P**ALE IS passe. Off-white is out. Beige is blah. This year, walls are no longer going to fade into the woodwork. In 1988, walls are going to do a lot more than just separate the floor and the ceiling.

Wallpaper is the first line of defense against boring rooms. If you've always painted rather than papered, it's a good idea to keep some general guidelines in mind.

Dark papers generally make a room appear smaller, while light papers do the reverse. Vertical stripes will raise the ceiling visually and horizontal stripes will broaden walls.

The scale of the print should roughly relate to the size of the room. For instance, miniprints work best in small spaces, while larger, open patterns look better in bigger spaces.

The number and variety of patterns available have mushroomed in the past few years. The old "cabbage rose" designs of the 1950s are a thing of the past.

**FOR BACHELORS, THERE** are more masculine prints, including traditional plaids, stripes and textures with coordinating borders.

For a high-tech look, companies such as Fashion offer new fangled mylars that avoid the glitz of earlier papers. You'll see more multiple use of metallic threads, precious metals and styles that epitomize elegant glitter.

Wallpapering isn't as easy as painting a room, but it's still a good beginner remodeling project.

You'll need a large flat surface on which to cut and paste — the floor of the room you're wallpapering should do nicely — and the following tools:

- plumb line, chalk, tack or level
- scissors
- wide-blade putty knife or window squeegee
- razor knife and blades
- seam roller
- smoothing brush
- water tray (for pre-pasted wall covering)
- bucket and wallpapering paste brush or roller, adhesive (for unpasted wall covering)
- wall-preparation materials (see directions for your

type of wall). Wallpaper doesn't cost much either. While matching an antique paper for a restoration project can run into the thousands, for less than \$100 you can produce the look of a designer room.

**MANY OF TODAY'S** wallpapers are stripable, so by tugging at a corner, an entire strip may be peeled off. Wallpaper now can be applied to textured walls as well.

Damaged, concrete block, paneled or ceramic tiled walls can be papered after an application of bridging paper, a wall-lining material.

Bridging paper smooths out inconsistencies without spackling and is available wherever wallpaper is sold. The material sells for about \$8 per five-yard roll.

Bordering with wallpaper is very popular this year. Bands of prints, solids and contrasting elements are used around the ceiling and floors of rooms to provide a finishing touch.

Cutouts of prints also can create "islands" of interest in solid-colored walls or on painted surfaces.

Western Wallcovering Distributors Association offers a free illustrated, step-by-step guide to measuring and hanging wallcoverings. Send \$1 for postage and handling to WWDA, 3600 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 200, Los Angeles, Calif. 90010.

Wallpaper too sticky? Why not use fabric or sheeting as wall upholstery? Simply staple the cloth directly to the wall and voila! A star room is born.

Commercial fabric wallcoverings usually come with paper backing and are stuck on the wall with a wallcovering adhesive. Unbacked fabric also can be attached to the walls with adhesive, but first test and be sure the glue doesn't leave the fabric stained after drying. Apply the adhesive to the wall, not the fabric. Edges can be covered with ribbon, wood, bead or metal trim.

For a more finished look, nail lath strips to the top and bottom of the wall with vertical pieces every five to six feet. Staple the fabric to the lath with a staple gun. You can make finished seams where the fabric joins by stapling from the backside over strips of cardboard.

One of the newest looks in fabric wallcovering is the

"upholstered wall effect."

To replicate the look, staple bonded polyester batting to the wall first and then use one of the non-adhesive methods.

**FOR A SHIRRED** wall, you will need three times the fabric as the width of the wall. The fabric can be gathered with shirring tape or threaded on a rod that is attached to the wall.

For heavily damaged walls or to camouflage a too-high ceiling, fabric also can be tented from a central ceiling point. The look is extremely exotic, but worth the effort if the underlying wall is in bad shape.

The age-old art of stenciling has returned to prominence as a wall decoration this year. A sponge or use the spatter painting technique so popular now. Shades and dimensional stenciling adds depth to the designs, which also can be sparked with extra colors.

The quickest way to change a wall's personality is by stenciling a coat of paint. But styles in wall colors, like styles in clothing change. Wimpy neutrals are out.

This season, the best-dressed walls will be wearing deep jewel tones and warm salmons and pinks.

Aqua, teal and shades of blue green also will be important. Think of the colors of a Georgia O'Keeffe landscape, spunky neutrals that are as appropriate to Santa Fe-style as they are a New England salt box.

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