Creative Living



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designing ways

Garvin

N THE last 20 years wallpaper seemed to have failen out of favor with younger audiences. Clean and uncluttered was the look.

But wallpaper is back and it's great decorating news. Wallpaper today is available in myriad patterns, from classic to country to contemporary. Prices are all over the map. However, there are prices for all budget. And for the do-it-yourself market, manufacturers have correlated papers to be used together. So if you are doing your master before and are concerned about what you will do with the bath, forget it — they do it for you.

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What I have found especially exciting are the borders. Using a border can spruce up any room. The border can be used in lieu of crown molding. Doing this is obviously less costly and you are not sacrificing a look. In my own home, in the living room, I used a border which if dropped five inches from the celling — it's a great look.

"Wallapper can add warmth to a room," says Peter Hermann, creative vice priestent of C&A (Collings and Ackman) Wall-coverings. Mary Gilliat, an interfor designed with English roots who has written several books on decorating. Is introducing a line of wallcoverings.

Gilliat says, "For a spending more time at home with video, television and sub-liminally they are influenced by what they see. The backgrounds of the soaps and move.

see. The backgrounds of the soaps and mov-ies are richer and this what they want to

see. The backgrounds to the sough and movies are richer and this what they want to emulate."

The Gillist collection, manufactured by fluxter, is called "Edwardian Garden." The Heater shalled "Edwardian Garden." The Heater shall be the state of the sought of the sough



organizing

Dorothy <u>Lehmkuhl</u>

Q. I have three children, a husband, a big house and do lots of volunteer work. My problem is that everyone knows if a volun-teer is needed and no one else will do it, I'll take the Job. The result is that I'm overwhelmed, tired and irritable. What can

overwhelmed, tired and Irritable. What can I do?

A. In this age of positive attitudes and the sky's the limit" motivation, you are caught up in a situation which will destroy you if you don't do something about it.

Learning to say no is a difficult lesson for some people. We have grown up with a sense of responsibility. We believed there are many injustices in the world; we see a job that must be done and we do it. What we do not seem to understand is that no one individual can do it all.

People who cannot say no must realize the deeper reason for accepting every job that comes along. We want to be loved. We fear that if we say no, "they" will not love us.

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Designing women

Retirement settings are all-women-firm's specialty

By Mary Rodrique staff writer

YNTHIA BEZIK and Donna Martin are designing wom-

Martin are designing word on the counterparts, Bezik once owned an interior design firm in Atlanta. But today Birmingham serves as home base for Elegant Interiors, a two-year-old company focused on designing living space for senior citizens.

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The company acts as exclusive designer for American House, a concept in retirement living which ofters tenants private apartments but communal dining and other activities under one roof. The Hrm's latest endeavor is American House, Livonia, a new two-story residence mother of Schoolcraft promising tenants security, companionship and independence." The site was once the home of the historic Alexander Blue House, since moved to Livonia's bistorical village at Greenmead.

"I really found my niche," said Be-zik, who has a degree in design from the University of Michigan.

AFTER SEVEN YEARS opera-ting a general interior design firm down South, Bezik found she had a special talent working with older people.

"I took several courses in geron-tology," she said. "There are many design specifications geared to sen-

doigy, she said. Inter are much design specifications geared to senjors.

"For example, it's better to use higher scaling and level looped care the said of shag. Softer colors are important. But in areas like the creat and day rooms we use brighter, more stimulating colors.

"Dining room chairs must have arms with extra supert. Carpets should be plain, not patterned, so they're not disperiently."

Bezik and Martin, with work with a part-time designer and a student in addition to an office receptionist, feel having as all ternale start gives them an advantage.

"I think we're more empathetic. We pay more attention to fine detail," said Beak, a Troy resident.

MARTIN, WHO LIVES in Rochester, studied design at Wayne State University and its currently taking art history at Oakland University. "Cyndy loves the design, end and people. I love designing, but I like the business end, too. This has been a nice teaming up. Everyone is ambitious and works so well together," she said.

The team has designed interiors

she said.

The team has designed interiors for American House Birmingham, Auburn Hills and Sterling Heights. They've also updated interiors in older buildings.

In the 115-unit Livonia building,

'I took several courses in gerontology. There are many design specifications geared to seniors. For

example, it's better to use higher seating and level looped carpeting instead of shag. Softer colors are important.'
— Cynthia Bezik

they designed the lobby, library, day rooms, sitting areas, dining room and hallways. Plants and sitk flowers abound. Furniture is a mix of traditional, Queen Anne, and some country blended into the final scene. The result is tastful. The appearance is elegant but not intimidating. The furniture and the groupings look comfortable.

comfortable,
One of their trademarks is furnishing model apartments so potential tenants can visualize what their home could look like.
"We pay very close attention to detail," Martin said.

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The studio and one bedroom models in Livonia look lived in, right down to a pair of slippers under a bed, clothes hanging in closets and a basket full of knitting next to a 'chair. Thirty-seven tenants signed contracts after viewing the models, Martin said.

"YOU CAN'T DO accessories on paper. It's the feel you get walking into a room," she said.
"We want people to be aware we are sensitive to the needs of the elderly. We make sure everything is the right helght. We use a variety of colors and toxtures.

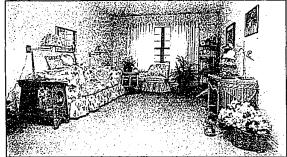
"People are unaware of good design. It's only the bad design they notice."

On a recent morning with activity at every turn, Martin could barely control her enthusiasm. "It's so exciting, this part. People moving in. This is the best part, when it all comes together."

The biggest job frustration is being considered a fluff.

"People think our work is frivo-lous. It's not just setting up a few lamps. It's ordering, dealing with damaged goods, making the dead-

"Our goal is to expand at least re-gionally if not nationwide," Martin continued, "Our goal is to be recog-nized as a profession — not a frivoli-ty."



Pastels prevail (above) in a living room in one of the American Home one-bedroom apart-ments designed by Elegant Interiors. The facility, in Livo-nia, is the newest in the American House the American House network and is lo-cated on Middlebelt Road on the former site of the historic Alexander Blue site of the historic
Aloxander Blue
Home, since moved
to Greemead, Livonia's historical village. At the right,
Cynthia Bezik, president of Elegant Interiors, has found her niche in Interior design, she says, in working with sen-

Staff photos Steve Fecht

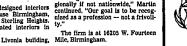


VALUABLE COUPON "Fling into Spring" with

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SUNDAY, MAY 1st NOON - 4:00 P.M. HAPPY SPRING FROM RALPH MANUEL ASSOCIATES!

The firm is at 16205 W. Fourteen Mile, Birmingham.





A story in the recent Home and Garden sec-tion of the Observer Ec-centric Newspapers proved popular with do-it-yourselfers interested in refacing littchen cabi-nets. The story de-cess by Masonile Corp., which handles the sys-tem, but failed to say where the product was available. Readers interested in the process can get

Readers interested in the process can get complete information by writing to a Gamble Brothers, (a division of Masonite Corp.), P.O. 14504 Louisville, Ky. 40214, attention Nancy Britain.

40214, attention Nancy Britain.
PIERSON Interfers in Bloomfield Hills will be honoring Michigan furniture manufacturers in a 10-day tribute, May 5-14 at. its store, 4110 Telegraph Road. The display will feature names like Sligh, Baker and Hehman. "Some of these manufacturers have been around for over 100 years," commented Charles Rood, store manager.



Phone 683-9900 interior states

