



Blooming
C • O • L • O • R • S

Look for whimsical pastel, neutral-colored cocoons

THE KEY word in fashion interiors this spring is the "c" word: "Cocooning."

More and more, we're becoming a nation of homebodies. We look to our homes to provide us with a safe haven, a sense of stability in a world filled with precarious events and uncertainty.

Home is also more important because more of us are there, with today's extended family containing the adult children who fit back to the nest for varying lengths of time.

And, thanks to modern technology, we're never at a loss for things to do. Surrounded by VCRs, CD players and other equipment, we can enjoy our favorite entertainment — inexpensively without even venturing outside.

Futurists tell us we're in a period of the "3 R's": the rattles of the baby boom, romance and religion. The religion isn't necessarily traditional; it's a system of beliefs, ranging from the faith of our families to an exploration of New-Age forms.

ALL OF THIS echoes the importance of hearth and home. As a result, we want to create an environment that's easy to live with — attractive, comfortable and cozy.

What's more, since we're keeping a steady eye on our budgets, those "3 Rs" become "5 Rs" — with the addition of two popular approaches to

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decorating — recycling and restoration.

We're redoing not only our own old furniture, but also the antiques and junk furniture we find at flea markets and garage sales.

But we're doing this restoring in a very personalized way, adding a sense of whimsy that makes the furniture uniquely ours. We may, for instance, buy an antique and tint it to a lighter look. Or we may buy unfinished furniture, paint it in different colors and then decorate it with an abstract or even childlike design.

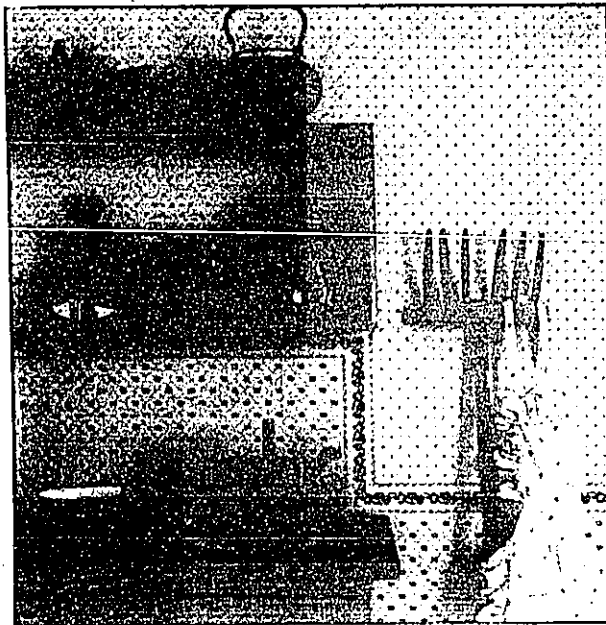
Some people are successfully using authentic childlike designs. With baby No. 3 on the way, they buy a stool or high chair and let baby No. 1 design it. And they give these unique pieces a place of prominence, where the small artist can enjoy receiving praise for the work.

SLIPCOVERING IN spring and summer is another aspect of the new look that makes good budget and aesthetic sense. We're seeing a great many stretch fabrics pulled over the tubular frames of furniture. These fabrics are also popular for covering the pillows on those wooden slat deck chairs with the look of the '40s and '50s.

This kind of furniture is terrific in the add-on rooms so many houses are now sporting — the sun porches and solariums. In these sun-splashed rooms, the furniture can often be seen from the rest of the house. They bring the outdoors inside, for very little money.

Remember those wonderful old butterfly chairs? They're in great favor now, too, but in a very new way. Gone are those plain solids, replaced by wonderful prints featuring florals, animals and stripes. The tattered old sling can be used as a pattern for cutting the new fabric.

And, of course, there's wicker. Everybody loves wicker because it's so easy on the budget and fits so well with the patio furniture used inside,



For true country charm in the kitchen, keep cookware out in the open. Throughout the house, use whimsical wallpaper borders, such as this heart and flowers motif.

especially solariums. We're still seeing the lighter colors, but also some wonderful deep tones. Picture a deep pine-green sofa or love seat with a Victorian rose slipcovered cushion. It's a dramatic effect that's so easy to live with.

QUITE A FEW influences are evident in home decor this spring. The stripes and florals herald the return of the Victorian romantic. We're seeing lovely nosegays and watered florals where the flowers blend into one another.

And the Renaissance look is strong, with its rich tapestry, border prints and the kinds of designs you might see on an old shawl. In the Florentine influence, the colors run delicately one into the other.

The influence of the artist Gauguin is also prevalent, with those lush tropical and jungle prints. Batik and tie-dyed fabrics are back in style.

The country look continues its long hold on public taste. It's become a classic; some people select a very traditional country look and never tire of it.

This is a year for details. There's a lot of emphasis on trims for spring and summer. Hinges on doors and furniture and brass poles are accentuated by being painted in contrasting colors, particularly with the Gauguin and country look.

With the Renaissance feeling, tas-

sels, bows and braids are increasingly popular. Instead of just hanging a picture on a nail, for instance, you might highlight it with a bow.

WHEN IT COMES to painting walls and furniture, the tinted color washes we saw last year are still very big. They're done in either white or soft pastels. And the bleached woods continue to be popular. But now they're enriched by hand-painted details; stenciled borders are showing up on ceiling edges, walls, furniture and floors.

In flooring, tile is staging a big comeback especially in multicolored combinations. Mottled or stippled effects lend extra visual interest.

With the new interest in wood flooring, wall-to-wall carpeting is being replaced by rugs that soften the hard wood look. And what a selection to choose from! Rag rugs, hooked rugs, dhurries and Mexican scrapelike rugs are just a few of the choices. The romantic Victorian look is enhanced by Oriental rugs. And for the country look there are rugs in a range of sunlight shades.

Now then, what colors are enlivening home decor this spring and summer? In line with the emphasis on cocooning, we're still favoring the warm colors. The romantic color group features some deep, rich colors, including celestial blue, pine-tree green,