

Levy from page 6D

bleached or with a dark stain? Even more exotic is hurred elm.

At this juncture you are best off hiring a really competent professional designer whose work comes highly recommended. An amateur is ill-equipped to effect a skillful and practical solution to the many problems involved.

Styling

Handsome styling is a prerequisite, which will be more distinguished by the inclusion of some open shelves. These may house books as well as accessories and small sculpture. One of my favorite bits in a bookcase is a diminutive painting propped up on a shelf.

Ideally the doors covering the TV should telescope back into the cabinet on tracks and almost disappear. There should be provisions for the speakers. One should also provide vents to allow the built-up heat to escape. Of course there is new fabulous video equipment you are sure to include. Keep in mind that at some time you will undoubtedly change portions of the equipment, so the interior must be flexible.

Believe it or not, in the dim future there is projected an ultra-thin screen that is currently experimental, and being tried by our Navy. It requires a completely sealed environment. Not to be viewed in my lifetime!

Another answer is to buy an armoire. There are shops that specialize in such gorgeous free-standing cabinetry, with the ultimate aim of concealing the TV

set. If the armoire you like can be obtained with an upper and lower section the set needn't show at all times.

Many armoires are designed in the French style. There also exists Early American, English, Spanish, Oriental and Biedermeier cabinetry. The finishes are as extensive as the styles, giving free rein to selections. The armoire interior conceivably can be painted a contrasting color, including the interior of the doors. Very effective when the cabinet doors stand open!

Decorative deceit

Other ways to deal with our nemesis requires deceit. Foremost you must find a depth into which you will tunnel to build it in. This means deepening some space. On one side of a wall, in an adjoining room you might have bookcases. Latch onto some of that space. Keep in mind there is the thickness of a wall (as much as five inches) to which you add the depth of the bookcase, another 10 to 12 inches, and lo and behold you have created a "hole" into which you can sink the set. Here comes the wonderful deception.

Hide the set behind a folding screen, or behind a picture, or behind some leather book bindings that resemble library shelves. Doesn't that sound ingenious? It is. The picture would be framed. Preferably it is a painting without glass. It needn't be the same size as the TV screen, merely larger. It should be hung on the wall using heavy-duty

hinges. If you find a lovely small folding screen, that too can hang on the wall in bi-folds.

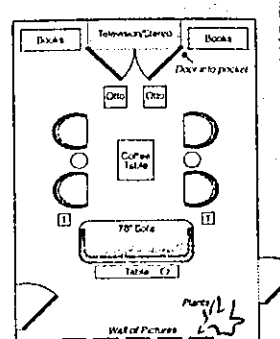
I have ordered from a book binder some genuine leather, gold-tooled simulated book spines, mounted them on strips of wood to equate bookshelves and then bi-folded the doors. Great deception — looks like a bookcase. I have even seen the latter in wallpaper, an obvious economy.

Taking seats

When you have resolved the "home" for your set you must also resolve the seating situation. To view TV properly no one should be seated at too much of an angle. We certainly needn't line up rows of chairs as in a theater. You will want to provide other amenities besides seating. One of the best solutions includes swivel chairs. Obviously the best way is to be able to turn the chair, rather than crane your neck.

A squared-off grouping with a luxuriously comfortable sofa facing the TV set, plus four barrelled swivel chairs is ideal. Barrel for two reasons: the wrap-around feeling is so very comfortable, and square chair backs will bump one another as they revolve. If you cannot afford all new chairs try two swivels and two of your existing chairs, with very small snack tables separating them. (See drawing.)

This arrangement requires a coffee table. In my judgment it would be easier to maneuver around one with a very



large radius at the corners. (You won't skin your shin.) I might also add a pair of small ottomans on casters. They will serve a dual purpose — super to rest your feet, and coincidentally they will provide two extra seating spaces when necessary.

Naomi Stone Levy, a Franklin resident, is an interior designer and a former secretary of the American Society of Interior Designers. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1897. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

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