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INTERIOR MOTIVES

Change room with lifestyle



NAOMI STONE LEVY

Suddenly I am 10 years older, and my lifestyle has changed. Coincidentally my taste has changed. Perhaps I am a bit more affluent and want to replace some items with better quality than I could afford 10 years ago.

Where should I begin? Being pragmatic and surveying the premises with my mind and my eyes, I won't start from scratch, because that isn't feasible. Much of my furniture and accouterments are still wonderful. I'll build on those.

I will replace a table that was a poor repro of an 18th century Chippendale mahogany model. In the change of my taste I have learned to like contemporary — more simple and clean-lined. The replacement wood is going to be bleached walnut, or ash, a discriminating mix with my other mahogany pieces.

My coffee table is the worst offender. Out of style, scuffed and insignificant. I'll be eclectic, and assemble the new one from parts. If you, the reader, are limited in space, a 3/4-inch glass top has a better spatial relationship. I am not restricted by space so I settle on thick marble. I will visit Michigan Marbles' premises and select an inordinate slab that blends with my other colors, and have the top made with a "bull-nosed" edge.

Either one will rest on a stainless steel base. The scale of the metal will depend on the top in question. There are tubular legs in various dimensions. My preference is that the table be 16 inches high, and of a size that is significant; the shape square, rectangular or round, to be governed by the room.

Much can be changed by adding one knockout new chair, and disposing of the least desirable of my present ones. I will upholster the new one in a handsome fabric. If all of your present upholstery is one color, add a large print. Conversely, if all of your pieces are in a pattern, do locate a plain, strong, gorgeously colored chenille or velvet.

What about my walls? The wallpaper I always thought was exceptional is no longer appropriate. Much as it hurts, I have it removed.

Painted walls change the interest in spaces, and make me review my art work. The small scale of most of my collection is not outmoded. Rearranging them into groups helps immensely. However, my eye tells me I need to visit several galleries and add one large print or painting.

In the 10 years that have changed me I have a strong urge to eliminate. That includes accessories. I want to use the best, not the most. The understated feeling of modern has an elegance that is tasteful and is hard to explain. I expound to my clients on the subject, and trust they listen.

That coffee table we created formerly would have housed an ashtray (no longer acceptable), a half-dozen bits and pieces, some magazines and a bowl of greens or flowers. Pared down it will now feature a prodigious piece of glass or a bronze sculpture. A low bowl with some greens will be appealing. An esthetic large art book will add interest. Enough!

Diversity in window treatments also reiterates my 10-year change in taste. The open look is more modern, and so I elect to remove my draperies, trying to decide on no covering at all, or if necessary because of privacy, a discretionary approach. One understated scheme I have culled from many I have used for clients is made of sliding panels that stack, one behind the other. This permits the biggest opening. The open panels can be filled with a subtle sheer, either stretched on a rod or gathered.

Herein lies my plan to make colossal changes in my lifestyle. How about you?

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.

Rose exhibition topic Friday

The next meeting of the Metropolitan Rose Society will be 7 p.m. Friday, June 7, at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center.

The center is at 3500 Marnis, east of Crooks and south of 13 Mile.

Special speaker for the evening will be Irv Ignash, chairman of judges for the Great Lakes District, who will speak on "How to Exhibit Roses." The public may attend.

Give Dad our best this FATHER'S DAY!



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