fabulou FURN

Furniture style options abound

By Joan Borram
SPECLA Want is your definition of a
"livable" home? Or a "comfortable" room?
Whether we decide to furnish
a room or an entire house, we
bring with us certain preconceived ideas of how we want to
live, and how we want to be seen
by others. Chances are we know
what we don't want, even if our
"wants" aren't clearly defined.
However, when faced with the
myriad furniture styles available, we'ro often overwhelmed
and unable to say, "That one."
Sometimes a professional interior designer is just what we
need to help us make decisions,
reconcile our private and public
einages, and live happily ever
after.

Yer evenuels clients of Ed Pose.

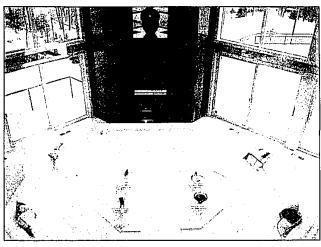
after.
For example, clients of Ed Postifi, president of Edward Postif Inc., a Plymouth-based interior design firm, recently bought a ranch home in a subdivision, built sometime in the 180s. Ardent golfers, the couple wanted their contemporary-style home to have the convivial warmth that they enjoyed in the club house. club house.
"We decided to create a combi-

"We decided to create a combi-nation library-daining room. The clients only used the dining room once a year, for Thankegiving, and then they only had one guest," says Postif.
"To create an intimate, friend-ly, conversation area with a pub look, I used sage-green velvet on a custom-made banquette and on two antique chairs. The large TV-was installed in a custom-built unit made of old barn pin wood."

built unit made of old barn pine wood.

Postif used orts-and-crafts furniture and William Morris fabrics throughout the house. Although the furniture and fabric designs were popular in the late 19th century, the strong and simple lines of the furniture style, accented by prominent oak grain, compliment the contemporary architectural style of the home while adding warmth and character. The fabric designs, typically in quiet greens, gold, ruddy madder reds and deep indigo blues, add a note of quiet elegance to the pared-down integrity of the furniture.

11 like to incorporate antiques to finish a room, "asy Postif. When we've selected upholstered pieces and rugs, I'll add



Get it straight: Most people have a theme, such as contemporary, traditional or eclectic, in mind when they decide to decorate. Warm contemporary is characterized by straight lines and no carving or columns on wood.

Eccente, in mina toner trey of by straight lines and no car. English or French or early Amorican piecess, a chair or a side table perhaps, to add character and warmth. The patina of oldness – little cracks, dark old brass, and duller finishes - contrasts with shiny new pieces and adda a sense of history.

French antiques, generally are "Provincial" – rustic country pieces – or the classic Louis XV. XVI, or Empire. Louis pieces typically have curving lines, and decorative add-ons, such as bouquets, biaskets of flowers, swirls, and scrolls. Definitely luxurious, they're also delicately proportioned and airy in feeling.

Empire pieces were a product of the Napoleonic era. Napoleon wanted to disassociate himself from royalty, but he also wanted his regime to have historical antecedents: Empire style draws on the Roman Empire for inspiration, and is characterized by classical lines, columns and laurel wreaths, and the Napoleonic bee. Often, there are gold touch-

Traditional 18th century cs.
Traditional 18th century
English taste ran to large,
chunky, dark furniture; pieces
designed by Adam, Chippendale
and Sheraton during this era are
orderly, symmetrical, and architectural. Very classic and clean,
they often feature columns, pediments, or fretwork. Early in the
18th century, walnut was commonly used for furniture, but in
mid-century, when trading with
the Caribbean colonies flouri
shed, mahogany became the
wood of choice.
Postif frequently turns to

ished, 'mahogan'y became the wood of choice.

Postif frequently turns to Chris Pray, owner of Europe Direct Warchouse in Ferndale for antique furniture and small pieces. Franklin resident Pray travels to Europe several times a year to replenish his stock of British and French antiques. His workshop also provided the custom banquette and barn wood TV unit for Postif's clients.

"It's the best place I know to find a big selection of excellent

pieces at excellent prices," says Postif.

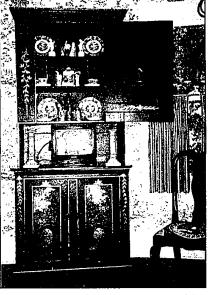
pieces at excellent prices," says Postif.
According to Mark Morgenroth, A.S.I.D, president of Sherwood Studios in West Bloomfield Township, most people have a theme, such as contemporary traditional or celectic, in mind when they decide to decorate.

"The most important factor in a successful design is a design flow that runs through the house and represents the owners' personality," says Morgenroth.

"Yenrs ago, most design was traditional, but within the past ten years, there's been a trend towards warm contemporary. It's characterized by straight lines, no carving or cofunns on the wood, no skirt on the sofa. Earlier contemporary was colleder and wood, no skirt on the sofa. Earlier contemporary was colder and starker, employing polyester lac-quer finishes and, often, formi-ca."

Today's contemporary style

uses rosewood, mahogany or nat-ural oak with a clear finish. It's apt to have rounded arms and



A friendly area: Ed Postif used sage-green velvet on a custom-made banquette and on two antique chairs to create an intimate, friendly conversation area. The large television was installed in a custom-built unit made of old barn pine wood.

puffier cushions.

An earlier contemporary sofa may have been covered in leather, but today's Ultrasuede is warmer than leather and, says Morgenroth, "Nothing wears or

cleans as well as Ultrasuede." Traditional furniture, which still has many proponents, is more detailed and is character-

Please see STYLE, J6



Colorworks Studio, Inc. Colorworks Uncommon

Our clients tell us that we listen to their needs, that we see their vision. designing your dream... perfecting every detail... the finished project speaks for itself.

Fine furnishing, new construction selections, accessories & accents.

248-851-7540

32506 Northwestern Highway Farmington Hills Between 14 Mile & Middlebelt eww.colorworksstudio.com





