

At Home

INTERIOR DESIGN ■ DIY ■ GARDENING

Crisis time
Common Ground volunteers busy on phones.
Observer Life, C4



Accents

Clean secrets

There's no escape from housecleaning; it's as certain as death and taxes. But doing it well means doing it quickly and less often. With spring cleaning close at hand, we're searching for tips and techniques from

readers for an upcoming story about housecleaning. For instance, do you have a foolproof method for removing bathtub buildup? Is your wood polishing technique superior to all others? Did your grandmother pass down the recipe for a homemade cleaning solution that outdoes anything on the market?

Share your cleaning secrets and solutions by e-mail, nstallord@oe.homecomm.net, or regular mail, Nicole Stallord, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009.

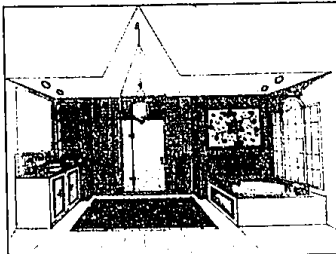
Trees available

Trees are important assets in cities that require care and maintenance the same as other public property. Trees are on the job 24 hours a day working for all of us to improve our environment and quality of life.

Did you know that a single mature tree can absorb 48 pounds of carbon dioxide a year? A healthy tree stores about 13 pounds of carbon annually or 2.6 tons per acre each year. According to Global ReLeaf of Michigan, a nonprofit, volunteer organization dedicated to planting trees across Michigan, if every American family planted just one tree, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would be reduced by 1 billion pounds annually. Planting trees remains one of the cheapest, most effective means of drawing excess carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, according to Global ReLeaf. Residents can help the environment and beautify their property when Global ReLeaf of Michigan hosts its 13th Annual Tree Sale on Saturday, April 26. Twelve varieties of trees will be sold. All trees are bare-root, 3 to 6 feet in height depending on species. Trees are \$25 each, or \$20 each if six or more are purchased. Sugar maple, red maple, swamp white oak, American linden, white-spire birch, redbud, Japanese tree lilac, aristocrat pear, serviceberry, goldenrain and white and red flowering crabapple trees will be available.

An order form can be obtained by calling (800) 642-7353 or e-mail GlobalReLeafMI@aol.com. Order forms can be printed from Global ReLeaf's Web site at www.globalreleaf.org. Orders must be prepaid by April 11.

Pickup locations 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26, are: City of Livonia, Department of Public Works yard, 12973 Farmington Road; Mike's Tree Surgeons, 249 Park St., Troy; Friendship Park-Porritt Barn, Orion Township Parks and Recreation, corner of Baldwin and Clarkson roads, Lake Orion; and Springfield Oaks Park, 12450 Andersonville Road in Springfield Township.



Heather Early placed a Tibetan rug in a bathroom with features that created contrast and emphasized the elements of the rug, while having a spiritual element.

Floor show

Carpet creativity in place with student competition

BY MARY KLENIC
STAFF WRITER

There's a saying, "Think outside the box."

Participants in The Ghiorde Knot-American Society of Interior Designers Student Creative Space Competition apply that to the placement of a carpet in a room setting.

They show how the decorating dimensions of a carpet go beyond its flat surface and how its artistry extends beyond its borders.

Again this year - in the 14th annual competition - entrants formed creative arrangements with carpets and surrounding decor.

The students had to illustrate the use of a carpet on the floor in a room setting, in renderings with the carpet design presented in fully saturated hues. They could choose one of two rugs with which to work, depicting it as 8 by 10 feet.

"It had to be the focal point in the room," said Ann Parker, showroom manager at The Ghiorde Knot showroom at Michigan Design Center in Troy. The rugs were Healing Botanicals, a Tibetan design filled with bright colors and a variety of different patterns along the border and in the corners, and Royal Taj, a Persian design with darker shades and an intricate pattern.

Entrants could work from photographs of the rugs, provided by The Ghiorde Knot, or visit the showroom to view them.

"I appreciate the time that the students took," Parker said. "A lot of students came in to look at the rugs."

A panel of judges, all ASID members, selected the winners.

This year, the contest drew 103 entries from students at Lawrence Technological University, Adrian College, Central Michigan University, College for Creative Studies, Eastern Michigan University, Kendall College of Art and Design, Lansing Community College, Michigan State University, St. Clair College, Wayne State University and Western Michigan University.

Some instructors made the competition a class assignment.

The Ghiorde Knot furnished \$1,000 in prize money (\$500 for first prize, and \$250 for each of two honorable mention prizes).

The winning designs will be displayed at MDC's Student Career Day tomorrow (April 4).



Melissa Endress was awarded first prize in The Ghiorde Knot-American Society of Interior Designers Creative Space Competition. Entrants illustrated the use of a carpet on the floor in a room setting, making it the focal point. In her depiction shown here, Endress featured a lively patterned rug in a neutral-toned setting, making a dramatic contrast.

MARKET PLACE

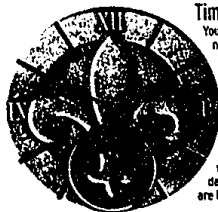
Submissions

Do you have a special item you'd like to showcase in MarketPlace on the front of At Home? We'd like to feature it!

Send a photo or slide of the piece, along with information, to: Ken Abramczyk, At Home editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Time for escape

You can escape to your personal paradise - and never leave your back yard - by accessorizing with items from EXPO Design Center. The right accessories will transform your outdoor living space so that you feel as though you've gotten away to a vacation spot every time you enter your patio. Add elements of a cafe in France with pieces like this 14-inch Fleur de Lis cast aluminum clock with thermometer. Thermometer wall clocks such as these two will add chic style to decor that helps create a desert oasis mirage. EXPO Design Center stores are in Troy, West Bloomfield and Utica.



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Your hometown is our front page.