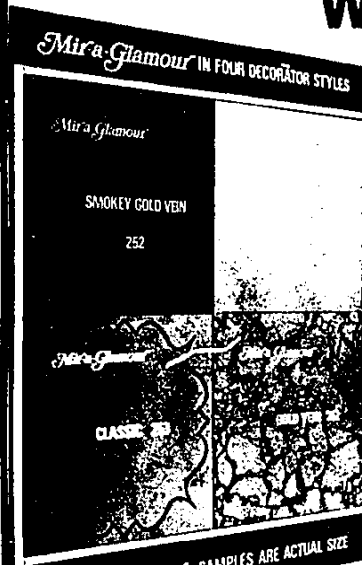


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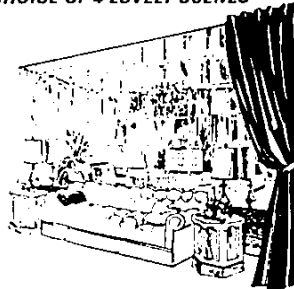
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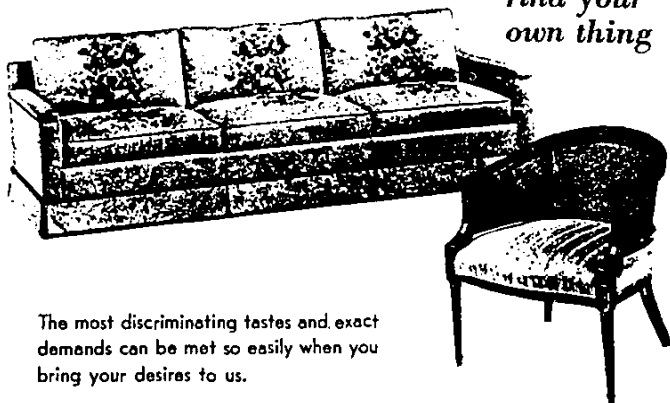
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Let Your Home Decor Mirror Your Family's Personality

Variety may well be the spice of life, but when it comes to the home, you'll find that some women are rather hesitant to be adventurous.

And that's a shame because the first prerequisite of any decor is to mirror a family's personality, interests, and life style.

Adding the personal touch to your home is really a lot easier than you might think it is. All it really involves is choosing furniture and furnishings that you like and feel comfortable with. Naturally the styles, textures and colors of these appointments needn't be the same.

THE NAME OF this decorating game is eclectic, and it makes for variety and interest in every room. Nothing has to match. But everything does have to mix well together. And somehow, when your mixing different things you like, it usually has a way of working into a pleasing effect in the end.

Here are some easy guidelines to follow when decorating an 'eclectic' room:

- Keep backgrounds simple. Painted walls, hardwood paneling or perhaps a wallpaper in an understated print or texture is your best choice of background material.

- Mix your furniture in different styles and periods that appeal to you. Don't believe for a minute that a Spanish Renaissance chair can't live comfortably with an early American oak table. It can. The secret here, too, is to keep basic furniture lines simple, even though periods may be different.

- Rely on the color and textural interest from different types of furniture woods as well as a mixture of different furniture finishes. Use a free hand to mix your hardwoods--cherry, maple, mozambique, walnut, mahogany, rosewood, oak, pecan. All these hardwoods have distinctive characteristics that add flavor to your room. Make sure your hardwoods are genuine--not imitations of plastic. Real hardwood furniture has a depth of beauty that looks better and will last longer, too.

- Use an abundance of accessories to pull your room together. Pick a theme: a hobby or a collection makes a good start. Be it sea shells, crystal, antique brass, hunting equipment, wooden boxes, or umbrella handles that interest you, these decorative touches will give your room the stamp of personalized decorating.



PROBABLY THE MOST beautiful - and expensive -- example of the Oriental influence on today's home fashion scene is the chinoiserie highboy. The bonneted Queen Anne highboy is decorated in 23 karat and 18 karat gold, accented with silver. It looks as though it is done in colors when light hits it, but no color was used. The work was done by Grand Rapids artist Frank Davidhazy, a master in the art of chinoiserie. The 11-drawer mahogany chest has a black lacquered background and the stylized Oriental scenes on each drawer are done more in the English manner in lacquering. Most of the raised lacquer work is 23 karat gold with accents of 18 karat lemon gold to give color contrast. Sterling silver has been used for decorative contrast and the scenes pick up highlights from lighting, giving an illusion of color, where no color is used. The chest was on display at the home furnishings mart held recently in Chicago.