

Wallcovering Your Living Room

The word "parlor" suggests the Victorian era, and for anyone who likes a nostalgic atmosphere this is still the easiest period to simulate, besides being the most amusing, if done a bit tongue-in-cheek. Provided you have the space, a parlor-type living room is delightful.

If you are fortunate to have family Victorian pieces, all you need are the appropriate fabrics and wallcoverings. Victorians were partial to blue velvet, to flock and pattern against pattern. Wallcoverings provided the print design, usually a quaint floral or festoons below ceiling molding.

A more serious version of the front parlor should probably be called a "drawing room." But here, quality is essential, and professional help is advised, especially as many of the materials required to do a French or English drawing room well—the fabrics and the wall covering designed from original documents—might have to be purchased through a decorator.

For the contemporary and modern living room, there are wild options for avoiding plain walls. Large, bold swirls or oversized architectural designs are truly modern. They demand the plastics,

both soft and firm, and see-through framed in silver and chrome arriving on the market from Europe and local manufacturers.

For elegance and eclecticism combined, look to the foils. They range from a modest under \$5 to \$20 a roll and provide a lovely luminosity and reflected color without specific shape.

A good floor plan is imperative. Students of interior design cut out small shapes of cardboard to represent pieces of furniture and move them around on a drawing which corresponds to an actual room.

By skillful arrangement of furniture you can direct attention where you want, cause room traffic to flow where you want, and generally control the family design for living. Needless to say, a compartmented room would not presume to belong to a historical period, unless the period was distinctly modern.

For more information on wallpaper and wallcoverings, send \$1 for a 208-page book to: "Living Walls," Wallcovering Industry Bureau, 969 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

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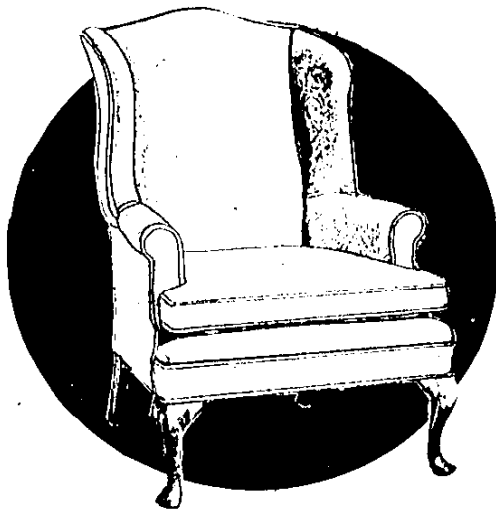
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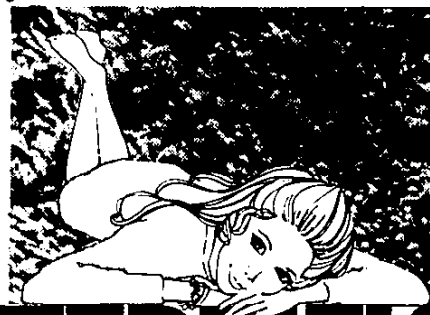
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