

Choose exciting extras to go with great basics

By CORINNE ABATT

Here's a never-fail partnership in home decorating that is as solid as a good marriage: as pleasant as an excellent meal and as lasting as earth and sky.

With great basics and exciting extras, decorating becomes a total work of art which is both pleasing and individual.

Great basics, with fine lines, quality workmanship and durable materials, are the backdrop for the display of extras which give an interior its particular personality and flair—the reflection of the owner; the statement that says: "This is what we like, these lovely extras tell about us."

Fortunately for local buyers and treasure hunters, the metropolitan area is fertile territory for hunting, for there is a wealth of material to look at from contemporary American art and crafts through antiques from throughout the world.

One of the strongest movements

in the last few years has been to Oriental art.

Unavailable from China for many years, the opening of ties with mainland China has rekindled this interest which has flourished in the United States on and off for several hundred years.

The interest and appreciation is well-founded for fine Oriental workmanship, intricate design and simplicity of artistic approach are especially refreshing in this mass-production society.

This is not to slight the fine contemporary pieces, which are coming in from many European markets as well as domestic ones.

While 19th century art glass has always had a large and enthusiastic following, it is no longer easy (or wise) to ignore the modern glass movement in the United States. There are also some stunning pieces (glasslike in appearance) formed of lighter synthetic materials, which rival nature's best materials for translucence and clarity. These are steadily available from the European as well as domestic markets.

Old and new, Oriental and American, Japanese and Scandinavian, Italian and Chinese, all combine well to make a truly continental atmosphere that shows awareness of a wide world that is growing closer every day. It is the level of quality which creates compatibility.

Great basics begin with color and line and extend to design and texture.

Many area residents begin with a favorite extra, whether it is a painting, a rug, a carving or a single choice piece of furniture. The decorator, an eager individual or professional designer, may start with this extra and develop a whole room to complement this one choice item. The culmination is a home like no one else's, indelibly stamped with the personalities of the residents, computerized world.

In a computerized world where names are secondary to numbers, the home becomes the last refuge of individuality—a place that totally reflects the taste, interests and scope of those who call it home.



Photos by
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and
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Lucite cattails gleam like highly polished glass. They would add character to a contemporary setting.

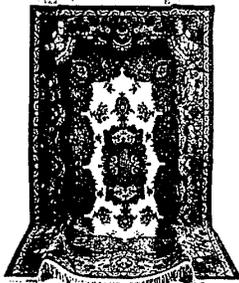
Table screen, above left, is porcelain set in a carved wooden frame. It is 19th century and a handsome conversation piece for any style room.

Chinese export porcelain wash basin makes an interesting centerpiece which can double as a punch bowl.



Abstract lucite sculpture looks expensive, but is within the realm of the budget-minded decorator.

Rich colors and exacting workmanship characterize these two 19th century cloisonne animals from China. The duck on the left was originally designed to be an incense burner.



Modern rug woven from an Oriental pattern differs from its hand knotted predecessor in color. The newer, softer pastels and earth colors combined with ancient patterns are popular for interest and design as well as their more practical qualities.



Hand carved and lacquered coramandel screen was brought recently from Shanghai. It is bright color against a black background.

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