

Dressing Your HOME



What a decorator can do for you

Even we need the help of a professional interior decorator now and then. But most people don't call for help until they are so lost they don't know what to do. Whether a homeowner goes for the natural look or a more theatrical one, a decorator can help. Three ideas that are "in" today: a decorator can help bring it all together and add that extra touch that adds sparkle to the home—often at very little cost. A decorator is trained in design and can help plan a home that will last great ideas that will last for five or 10 years from now.

Decorators are often asked if wanting to throw out everything is so easy and starting again from scratch. Just the opposite is true. A decorator can help you to start with the basics that are visible: furniture and carpeting that can be saved and the accessories that express your interests. The first time you meet with a decorator you will probably be asked to bring a list of your own likes and dislikes, what your husband or wife's tastes are, and how you want to live. You will have seen how a decorator can help you.



LAURETTA REGAN

And it is a necessity of the decorator's job to create a home that will be happy in the future. After all, you can't wait until living space determines your lifestyle. A home should reflect the tastes of its occupants. Do you entertain often? That will have to be considered when the furniture is being selected.

How old are your children? If they are young, you don't want fabrics that sticky fingers are going to damage. Does your dog or cat assume that the sofa or master bed is his to sleep on? The decorator will have to know in order to avoid fabrics such as brocades that can be snarled by claws.

THE COLOR of your newly decorated home—walls, draperies, new furniture pieces—will be determined by your existing furnishings and carpeting. If you are a "blue" person whose entire home is done in varying shades of blue, there is no use in the decorator trying to change it; you wouldn't be happy. But she can show you how adding touches of other colors can make those same blues more exciting.

Are you on a strict budget? The decorator will, of course, have to know so that the best suggestions can be made for coordinating new and old furnishings. Perhaps she'll suggest using multipurpose furniture to save money and make it possible for one room to serve many functions.

This is especially important if you live in an apartment or small home. Then you need furniture that "works"—modular sofas, fold-up furniture, freestanding storage units with adjustable shelves, split personality tables, etc.

A PROFESSIONAL decorator knows a lot of shortcuts that the average homeowner/interior decorator never thinks about. Know what is in style now, what is on the horizon, where to buy the best furniture, what the best price. And because a decorator is trained in design, she can see things you might miss—such as proper color treatment and furniture proportion. It's her job to guide your vision and show you how to mix and match colors.

You don't have to redecorate a whole house to use a professional decorator. There are interior decorators available to help you make over the rooms that your entire family can be happy in. Including the dog.



Art on china

Teachers of china painting from all over southeastern Michigan will show and sell their work and give demonstrations in a China art showcase Thursday and Friday, in the Botaford Inn, Grand River near Eight Mile, Farmington Hills. The hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday. Members of the Michigan China Painting Teachers Association whose creations are pictured here include Betty Palatte of Rochester, Mae Lee Perkins of Royal Oak, Mary Patuskay of Oak Park and Doris Nott of Livonia. (Staff photo by Art Emanuel)

Assertion training

The University of Michigan Dearborn's student affairs office in cooperation with the university extension service will offer three workshops on assertive behavior training in Farmington and Dearborn Oct. 30, 31 and Nov. 4. The training seminar for assertive behavior is being offered at the Fairlane Town Center Dearborn at 9 a.m. Oct. 30. This workshop focuses on principles, specific strategies, exercises and the ethical issues of assertive behavior training.

The introductory session of assertive behavior training will be offered at Fairlane beginning at 8 a.m. Oct. 31. The next session will be held at the Birmingham Center, 146 Purdy Street at 8 p.m. Nov. 4. The cost of the training seminar which covers two days is \$25 and must be paid by Oct. 29. The fee for the one-day introductory session is \$15 and payment must be received by Oct. 25.

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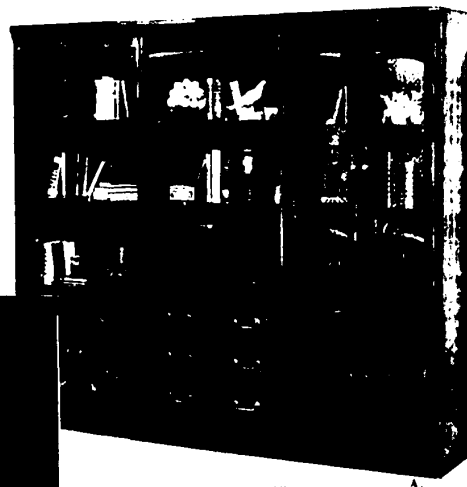
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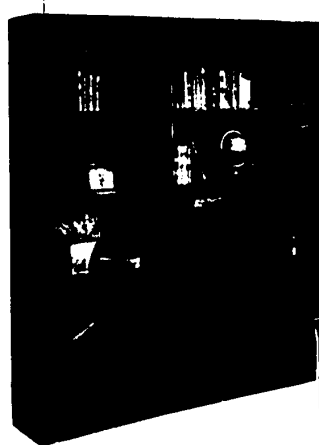
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- B. Oak Group, mellow oak finish, at 30' x 14' x 76" high
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 - 3 drawers, drop-ld \$239
 - 2 doors, drop-ld, sliding glass doors top shelf \$259



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