

## Dressing Your HOME



## Furnish with love that second home

Get-away-from-it-all fever has hit America's city dwellers, and even suburbanites who want a change of pace. The lure of quiet, natural settings and invigorating outdoor activities is proving irresistible to millions of people seeking relief from hectic everyday lifestyles.

A recent report from the National Association of Realtors indicates that second-home sales are up dramatically across the country.

Once the second home enthusiast has selected the just right spot, a little organizing is in order before tearing off to the ski-lift or the beach. Having a comfortable environment to come back to after a busy out-of-door day is one of the satisfying pleasures of vacationing, if only for a weekend.

Debra Gaywood, well known furnishings designer, says the following rules should be considered before settling into that long-dreamed-of home away from home:



LAURETTA REGAN

• Make the interior surroundings compatible with the recreational interests of the vacation home's occupants. For example, if relaxing indoors a good part of the day is a favored pastime, then seating and dining clusters should take advantage of every available view. If the household consists of full-time sports addicts, the fireplace might be the focal point for after-dark meals and conversation.

• Don't furnish the rooms as though "second home" means "second best." Garage sale gleanings may be fine for a roughly-treated basement or attic room, but even the most informal vacation home will be lived in more enjoyably if it reflects the aesthetic values of the owners.

• Use space efficiently. In most cases a second home sacrifices spaciousness for atmosphere. But the illusion of spaciousness can be achieved through careful selection of furnishings.

Functional modular units can turn walls into storage systems and help create clutter-free areas. Dual purpose pieces also provide convenient solutions to tight space problems. For instance, a trundle bed which sleeps two at night and acts as a sofa during the day. Or, a storage chest that can serve as a cocktail table.

• Decorate with an eye toward the natural setting outside. Soft blue and green colors will cool the rooms in a sun-drenched cottage and exotic earthtones or reds and oranges will warm the inside of a snow-wrapped cabin. Accents of nature-cue textures and patterns add a feeling of casualness appropriate to any vacation environment.

• Eliminate leisure time stealing chores, or at least minimize them. Dust-accumulating accessories and hard-to-care-for furniture should be passed over in favor of simple decorative objects and straight lined styling.

After a basic easy-to-live-with environment is created for the second home, the end of the day promises sit down and relax enjoyment.

We are planning to redo our bedroom, carpeting, walls, window treatment, and bedspreads. What should come first? Should we decide on the wall color and then select the carpeting?

No, it should be just the reverse. Decide on the color and texture of the carpeting. You may even find yourself selecting a patterned carpet. Paint can be mixed to match, and wallpaper is also flexible in selections, but the carpeting is the key to either one.

## Genetic counseling available at MSU

Genetic counseling is not necessary for most people considering having a child, according to Sharon Koehler, social worker for Michigan State University's genetic counseling clinic.

But, she added, for couples who have a child born with a single birth defect, multiple handicaps or a known genetic disorder, genetic counseling can be reassuring. It is also a good idea for those who know of or suspect a hereditary disorder in their family or a relative's family.

MSU operates three genetic counseling clinics. One is located in East Lansing at the Clinical Center on campus, another at Hurley Hospital in Flint and another at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids.

The clinics exist primarily to provide information on the medical and practical facts of genetic disorders, the risk of recurrence of genetic disorders in a particular family and the alternatives a family can consider in dealing with this risk.

IN HER ROLE as a social worker Ms. Koehler also sees that parents of an affected child seeking genetic counseling become aware of the community resources available to them and their child.

The MSU clinics provide information, medical evaluations and laboratory tests and explore alternatives with clients; but do not recommend a particular course of action or offer direct advice about future reproduction. She said many couples with affected children think they cannot have a normal child. But through genetic counseling, many find that their chances of having a normal child are very good.

Referrals to MSU's clinics are usually made by doctors or public agencies, but an individual or couple may refer themselves if they suspect a problem.

Individual or family clients are usually seen at least two times. All pertinent family medical records are requested before an appointment is scheduled.

PRIOR TO THE appointment, families meet with Ms. Koehler, who acquaints them with the clinic's policies. From this interview, she gains insight into the families' needs and concerns. "This information is important to consider when discussing alternatives," she says.

During the clients' first visit to the clinic, a geneticist takes an extensive family history. After this the clients see a physician, who questions them about various aspects of their medical history, and then decides whether physical examinations or laboratory tests are needed. The results are reported to the clients on their next visit and interpretations and alternatives are discussed.

The costs of such visits vary with the type of problem and the number and type of tests done.

Ms. Koehler indicated cost should not be a barrier to people seeking genetic counseling as long as they have legitimate cause for concern.

Thursday, April 21, 1977

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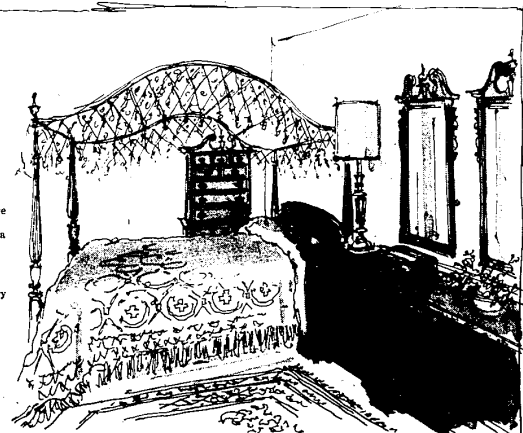


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