

Room for Design

Lighting makes a difference

by
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Success of housing trends of the past 10 years—planned communities, condominiums, townhouses and quad-rames—can be traced, at least in part, to the fact that people want more than just shelters. They want environments which will enhance an increasingly leisure way of life and cater to creature comforts.

While much has been done to promote leisure living—pools, tennis courts, picnic areas and recreation areas—and to extend time, there is still much that can be done to make living more pleasurable.

In this area of "things to be done," lighting will play an increasingly important part. Chances are, the cost of living space isn't going to be reduced substantially in the near future. More likely it will go up. So the challenge will be to use space more efficiently than before. This is where lighting can make a major contribution.

When I say lighting, I don't mean simply supplying light in an area, but rather employing light to do a specific job or create a specific impression. Lighting is an emotion. When a room is pleasantly lighted, you are conscious of colors, textures, furnishings and people in the room.

If attention is drawn to lighting, something must be wrong with it. Lighting is a sensation, and without light there is no color. You can make a room more beautiful, more comfortable and more livable with effective

lighting. Lighting can also destroy the appearance of a room if not handled well. So careful thought must go into its design.

The design question then is that of molding, shading, placing and dividing raw light into parts which, when combined, give a satisfactory lighting design.

CERTAIN LIGHTING CONSIDERATIONS are important for each area of the home.

Let's concentrate on the kitchen. How many rooms is a kitchen? A kitchen can be many rooms rolled into one. Traditionally, the kitchen has been, and still is, the hub of family activity. A kitchen can be a family room, a dining room, activities room, party room, sewing room, home office and, of course, a kitchen.

Because the kitchen can be so many rooms, there's no pat answer to the question of how to light a kitchen. However, there are definite guides to well-planned kitchen lighting. They

boil down to about six steps:

1. Determine the room's real use—what activities take place there.

2. Decide which of these activities involves serious visual work . . . and where.

3. Select lighting techniques and equipment that will meet recommended levels of light where possible.

4. Base the general lighting design upon the room's styling and decor, structural elements and economics.

5. If the room has uses other than a working environment, have an alternate lighting system that will create desired effects and changing moods. Provide for flexibility, highlight and shadow and color.

6. Highlight decorative or architectural features of the room. The rich materials used in kitchens today can't be enjoyed unless they are lighted.

Normally, standard house plans call for one or two overhead lighting fixtures, depending on the size and arrangement of the kitchen. These

should be at least 12 inches in diameter to comfortably house 150 to 200 watts of incandescent light. If fluorescent tubes are used, the total wattage should be 60 to 80 watts.

In choosing ceiling fixtures, think first in terms of the size. Fixtures larger than 12 inches will spread lighting farther within the room. Don't hesitate to "go up" in terms of size. Styling is of prime consideration but light distribution is important too.

Make sure that the fixture will deliver ample light on the ceiling as well as throughout the room. The diffusing material should be such that you are not aware of "hot spots" on the glass.

Luminous ceilings, although popular, are not a simple cure-all for kitchen lighting. It's necessary to have supplementary light in all key work areas.

It is important to light sink, work counters and range areas. The arrangement of kitchen work counters

Rockafellow returns from symposium

Stuart Rockafellow, a student at Farmington High School, has just returned from the 1978 Summer Symposium in Science and Engineering at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

The week-long session, sponsored by the university's Case Institute of Tech-

nology, offers students entering their senior year in high school a chance to sample careers in science or engineering.

Rockafellow, who lives at 23819 Wilmarth, Farmington, resided on the campus during the program.

His stay included lectures by faculty

and professionals, the opportunity to learn computer programming, a visit to the Warner and Swasey Observatory, and in-depth tours of engineering and science departments on campus.

It also included time for a ball game and browsing in University Circle, the cultural center of Cleveland.

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Community Calendar

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

Thursday, Aug. 10: Free immunization clinic offers oral and booster polio shots; booster shots for measles, rubella, mumps and TB tests for all children younger than 17 years of age from 9 a.m. to noon in First United Methodist Church, corner of Warner and Grand River. Clinic is sponsored by Oakland County Health Department.

COMMUNITY DANCE

Thursday, Aug. 10: The Farmington Community Concert and Jazz Bands furnish music for dancing after a concert at 7 p.m. in Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, Building J. The event is sponsored by Farmington Area Arts Commission, made possible by a grant from Michigan Council for the Arts. No charge.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT SWAP

Friday and Saturday, Aug. 18-19: Used sports equipment will be taken by consignment from 6-8 p.m. Friday in Farmington High School cafeteria to go on sale Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Sale is sponsored by Farmington Parks and Recreation Department as a public service.

MODEL RAILROAD CONVENTION

Saturday, Aug. 19: Model railroaders convention with dealers tables for buying, selling, trading, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Sans Souci Hall, Nine Mile near Middlebelt. Admission of \$1.25 asked at the door.

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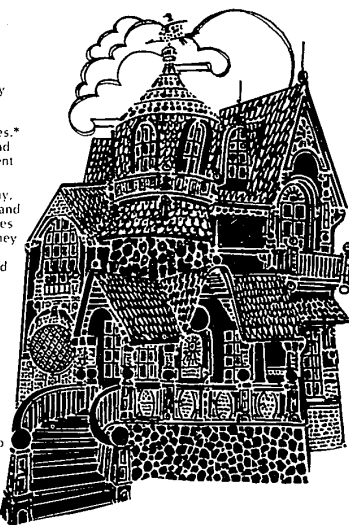
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