

# Creative Living



Monday, December 7, 1987 O&amp;E



designing ways  
Eve Garvin

**T**HE CARLETON James Gallery at the Troy Design Center is one of the finest for accessories. This showroom has a sophisticated cosmopolitan flavor with vignettes that are absolutely smashing. They have imports from mainland China and crystal from Czechoslovakia and Germany. They also represent a number of fine furniture lines: John Widdicomb, Trousdale, Tomlinson, Peter Scala; MGM and Fickes Reed.

The furniture is accented by their wonderful accessories. Serving plates of brass or silver and brass imported from Spain grace a dining table. The stemware on the table adds to the elegance of a table setting. The blanks of crystal are made in Czechoslovakia and then sent to a family of crystal cutters in Austria who finish the stemware. Prices range from \$30 to \$57 depending on the size of the item.

Among the lamp lines they represent are Frederic, Gorham, Harrold, Marbro. The Marbro line is costly but it looks it.

Whenever I see Marbro lamps, it brings to mind a time when my daughter, then 10 years old, accompanied me to the Merchandise Mart in Chicago for the first time on a buying trip. She was completely taken with the Marbro Lamp line and remarked, "When I grow up and get married, I will only have Marbro lamps and Baker furniture."

She referred to Baker because it is a high quality line of furniture. They maintain a showroom as well in the Troy Design Center as well as in other design centers in the United States.

I recently purchased a new house and must live with the carpet that is there. It is not my favorite color but is in excellent condition. The entire house is carpeted in cornflower blue. It is a lot of blue to live with. What can I do with my upholstered pieces to complement this sea of blue?

A. Use vanities lots of vanilla and vary the textures in the fabrics. Try using a major wood piece in a bleached or pickled oak finish. A vanilla lacquer finish is another you might try. For color accents, use mauve and mint green.

CURRENTLY a Southfield resident, Eve Garvin has an interior designer in the area for many years. She welcomes questions and comments from readers. Direct those to her in care of this newspaper at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.



organizing  
Dorothy Lehmkohl

Q. I have an enormous number of miscellaneous items in my basement. Does everyone keep so much stuff or am I abnormal?

A. You are very normal — but not necessarily content. Having extra storage spaces can be useful in houses, depending on you. One woman told the architect designing her Bloomfield Hills home to build in extra storage everywhere. He did, and now she feels that was a mistake. All of her storage areas are full.

Sadly, extra holding areas often turn into "indecision deposits." "What shall we do with this?" we ask. Too often the answer is, "Oh, let's just put in the \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank) for now." Despite good intentions to deal with possessions "later," life is so busy with more important demands that once stuff is allowed to accumulate, they become permanent fixtures. Before long, these locations become overloaded with items we don't want, like or need.

One of the main reasons for indecision is fear of making a mistake. "What if I let that item go and then find out it's valuable?" we ask. Unless it is a true antique, the longer you have it, the less appealing it will be and the less value it will have. Find out by calling a dealer.

ANOTHER MOST COMMON excuse is, "I may need it sometime." If you haven't used it in six months or a year, chances are you won't need it all.

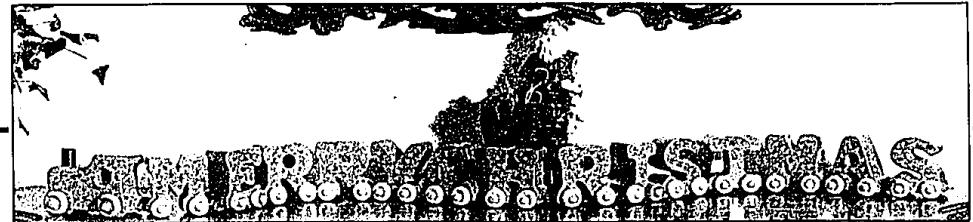
If you are going to get rid of 100 items, you will probably make a couple of mistakes. That's OK. Just consider the small cost of these mistakes as the price you've paid for having less clutter and more contentment in your life. (And remember — almost anything you sell at your garage sale can be bought at another garage sale.)

Not knowing where to how to get items repaired is another dilemma. Call a professional for advice and then decide whether to repair it or release it.

Perhaps the easiest guide of all is to ask yourself: "What will happen if I let this item go?" If the answer is "nothing," then you know you don't need it.

Most people remember that keeping unwanted stuff is a drain on you. It is an eternal "To Do" because you know you need to take time and make decisions about its destiny. This clutters your mind and adds to the ever-present pressures of daily living.

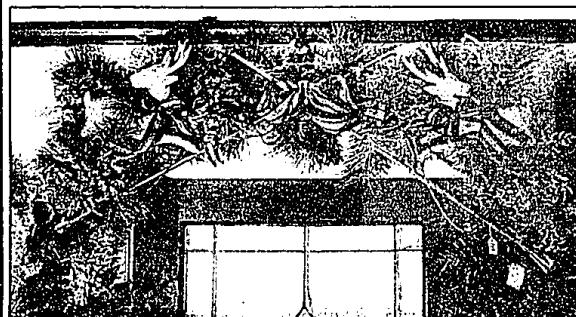
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## Let's deck the halls

**T**HE HOLIDAYS ARE A TIME for whimsy, for tradition or for splendid simplicity, inspiring searchers for the right Christmas tree, a bigger and better welcoming wreath for the front door, the perfect centerpiece, and — by all means — a Christmas train and Santa Claus.

We found so many wonderful ideas for decking the hall that it was very difficult to narrow them down to fit in this space. But we did our best and here they are — something for everyone — primitive, traditional, whimsical, nostalgic, welcoming and natural.



**NOSTALGIC TRAIN:** (top) Santa and his sack set the mood along with an old-fashioned hook-and-eye wooden "Merry Christmas" train. Santa, \$25. Crowley's Train, \$75. Jacobson's

**GARLAND:** (above, left) A glorious sweep of evergreen boughs, red-tasseled brass hunting horns, paper macho deer, ribbons, holly berries and statice adorn this handsome garland. Use it to swing a doorway, fireplace or staircase. \$130. Curiosity Shoppe, Franklin Village

**FRIENDLY:** (left) A welcoming traditional wreath is made of greens, frosted branches, apples, cardinals, holly berries and plaid ribbon. \$150. Jeff Fontana Designs Inc.



**WHIMSICAL:** (above) The traditional English swan is given to whimsy this season with pampas grass feathers. Nestled in eucalyptus, apples, ornaments, gift boxes and holly, he also wears a gold plume. \$285. Jeff Fontana Designs Inc.

Staff photos by Jerry Zolynsky



With imagination, flair and taste for the primitive, Segilinda Pritchard of Franklin turned four old 2-by-4s and some pecky wild grape vines that was choking hedgerow plantings into a stunning 6 1/2-foot high Christmas tree. The 2-by-4s are anchored with a cross bar into a teepee shape. Grapevine randomly wraps around the tree structure and a stylized steel star brought back from a trip to Haiti tops it off. Red chili pepper lights from the southwest combine with gold hearts, handcut tin stars and apples to trim this personal expression of Christmas.



## ATTENTION SENIOR CITIZENS

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