

Neutrality provides more options

Q. I have a physical appearance that isn't outstanding in any way. I call it bland, although my friends say I'm quite attractive. My skin tones are balanced, neither cool nor warm; my hair is ash blonde going slightly gray; my eyes are hazel; and my height and weight are average. However, as a successful businesswoman working in a competitive environment, I also feel a need for a change in keeping with fashion trends. What do you suggest?

A. You didn't mention some of the most important things to take into consideration: What type of image do you need to project in your business environment? And to what extent is your business life caught up in your personal life? It will come as no surprise to you

that studies confirm a decidedly positive response to conservative dressing: the higher one goes up the corporate ladder.

Since you are already successful, I wouldn't go for a drastic change. If your favorite colors aren't suitable for business, I would express them in your private life.

IN ANY event, don't let your natural appearance deter you from any color and style you may want. Your very neutrality provides more, not less, options.

In pulling together your new look recognize that there are four things you can do: You can use color, apparel, hair style and cosmetic techniques to either blend, disguise or exaggerate your features, or divert from them.



all about color
Helen Diane Vincent

It would seem most appropriate that you carefully exaggerate your best features.

Heightened colorfulness and contrast will then permit you to wear somewhat more dramatic clothing, such as the 1950s retro look that gives off a look of confidence and flatters most figures.

Just keep in mind it isn't so much the particular color of your skin, hair or eyes by itself that matters, as

much as how your overall appearance comes across and gives you your particular look.

Everyone's appearance falls somewhere in the spectrum of colorful to less colorful, strong contrast to less contrast, delicate features to coarse, and so forth.

Since you fall right in the middle, your color range includes almost all but the brightest or more extreme contrasts that might overwhelm you.

Glass sculpture pool takes shape

Continued from Page 1

Individual pieces often required up to three firings if many colors were used and the pattern was complicated. Only a few can be fired at one time in each kiln. The complete process takes approximately 24 hours.

MICHAELS CHOSE the 93 colors from hundreds of samples. "I had all 93 colors memorized," he said, "I'd look at people and I'd see all numbers."

The range of colors matches that of Michigan waters — blues, greens, mauves, purples, grays, off-whites, yellows and touches of red and gold.

Michaels will certainly receive accolades for the intricate and

beautiful patterns he created for this work. Like the fabrication, it wasn't a simple "ready, start, paint" process.

NOT ONLY did he study Michigan waters, but he intensified his already strong interest in American Indian and ancient civilizations.

"One thing common to the Indians was their fascination with water," he said.

"The whirlpool was of great fascination — and the underwater panther. Anytime they reproduced that the tail was longer than the panther. . . . This project forced me to look at water — and tendrils and the way they grow. . . . Everything is based on water — and for somebody who doesn't like to

fly, there are a lot of scary views."

THESE VIEWS BECAME all the more dramatic because the pool can be viewed looking down from 15 feet up on the open Central Courtyard as well as at ground level.

It is from above, especially, that what Michaels calls the "Flemish trompe l'oeil" comes into play.

The colors and patterns are reflected on the circular glass walls surrounding the pool and white pine, so it's difficult to decide at first glance if the walls are painted to match the mosaic floor or where one starts and the other stops. It's an exciting, surrealistic effect.

Michaels stood in the open courtyard looking down into the partially completed pool one bitter cold

day last month, savoring the surrealistic effect.

"I had hoped this would happen, but I was afraid to look."

NOT EVERYTHING has gone as planned. The architect's original plans for the called for 12 fountains to spout water into it on the hour like a waterclock.

The number has been reduced to three and building architect William Kestler had the slate rim around the edge shaped at the north edge to resemble the Straits of Mackinac with some of the islands stuck on poles in the pool.

These recent additions weren't in Michaels' painting. The jury on them is still out. But there's no denying the immense impact of the building and what it stands for.

exhibitions

ARTSPACE

Art by early 20th century American artists such as Soyer, Sloan Gropper, Goodough, Benton, Wood and Rosen are on display. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 574 N. Woodward, Birmingham.

PIERCE STREET GALLERY

"Post-Object" Series by Bill Rauschenberg is on display through January. He teaches photography at Center for Creative Studies and is known for refining everyday things to their purist form. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 217 Pierce, Birmingham.

SUSANNE HILBERRY GALLERY

Sculpture by Richard Resae is on display through January. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 555 S. Woodward, Birmingham.

ROBERT KIDD GALLERY

Clay sculptures by Thomas Lollar are really his impressions of modern architecture and new paintings by Bob Nugent refer to Brazilian travels along the Amazon. Continues through Jan. 13. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 107 Townsend, Birmingham.

DETROIT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

"Holy Image, Holy Space: Icons and Frescoes from Greece" continues through Jan. 28. Included is one of the finest examples of Christian medieval painting, a 12th century bi-

lateral icon from northern Greece. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday, 5200 Woodward, Detroit.

G.R. N'NAMDI GALLERY

"Dreamings." Aboriginal Art of Australia by three artists continues through Jan. 13. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 161 Townsend, Birmingham.

DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER

Photographs by award-winning Michigan photographer Marjil Silk are on display through January. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. The exhibit is on the theater level, 5020 John R, Detroit.

ILONA AND GALLERY

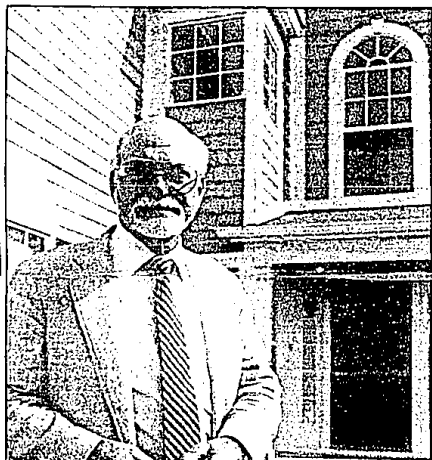
"Coast to Coast and Around the World," features works by artists from U.S. and Europe. Continues through January. Holiday hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday, until 5:30 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Hunters Square Mall, Orchard Lake and 14 Mile, Farmington Hills.

IRV FISCHER GALLERY

The gallery moved to Birmingham from Southfield is devoted exclusively to modern art. Artists whose works are currently displayed are Paul Maxwell and Radoff. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 912 S. Woodward, Suite 100, Birmingham.

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If you're thinking of buying a condominium, you should talk to a psychologist.

Dr. Bruce Burns, Clinical Psychologist, chose The Courtnay model in Collinwood Village at The Heathers. "I wasn't planning to buy, but The Heathers sold me," said the doctor. "The floor plan suited my single lifestyle and the view really appealed to my aesthetic sense." Dr. Burns overlooks the wetlands, with its panorama of migrating birds.

Location had a great bearing on his choice. The Bloomfield Hills address is convenient to his "Troy office" and "just coming home is therapeutic."

The fact that Robertson Brothers is the developer meant a lot. "People seem to move from one Robertson community to another."

We asked if he thought that people should visit The Heathers in their search for a condominium. In his best professional manner he said, "If they don't, they're not using their head."

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