

Soviet folk art predicted to flavor country look

AP — Today's home-furnishings shoppers are more savvy and stylish than their contemporaries of years past, keeping the industry on its toes, designers say.

Until recently, said designer Lynn Hollyn, women were more con-

cerned with entering the work force and the appropriate clothing they needed.

"That same concern has now been transferred to the home," Hollyn said, adding that because the con-

sumer is more savvy, her taste level has risen.

Joining Hollyn in a panel discussion were Jay Spectre and Lawrence Peabody, an interior designer, architect and product designer. Spectre, a designer noted for his '30s Deco look, has been named by the Smithsonian Institution as one of the top eight designers in the United States. Hollyn has more than 30 licensed collections, including fabrics, wallpaper, lighting and decorative accessories, and authored "Lynn Hollyn's Town and Country Cat" in 1981.

The country-look trend of the 1980s in home furnishings should continue in the '90s, the designers predicted at the spring International Home Furnishings Market in High Point, N.C.

The speakers said price points are of concern in today's market, and de-

signers are responding by creating products in the affordable range.

Hollyn said designers want to make sure the value of more moderately priced goods is comparable to that of top-of-the-line merchandise. And, while designers might use custom hardware on that merchandise, they spare the details where the consumer can't see them.

"We pare those details down, but the quality is still there," Hollyn said.

Spectre agreed. "We try to bring as much detail as possible to the product," he said. "The craftsmanship is the same, but you have to do some editing."

Hollyn said events occurring in the Eastern bloc countries will bring excitement into the country look as more cultural treasures are revealed. She predicted folk art from

Events occurring in the Eastern bloc countries will bring excitement into the country look as more cultural treasures are revealed.

the Soviet Union will flavor the look of country design in the future.

Peabody compared the country look to naturalism, emphasizing the importance of natural woods and the scrubbed pine look that yields comfortable living and homes.

For the next decade, technology

will play an increasingly important role, Spectre said.

"To me, luxury equals comfort, and technology is an important part of how I want things to function," Spectre said. "Decorating is not an exact science. Technology has changed comfort for all of us."

Exterior finishes

Continued from Page 1

Hills, said his firm has been using exterior wall insulation and finish systems for at least five years and has found developers and contractors like the product because of its versatility.

"It has a nice look, nice insulation and it can be used to for a lot of different looks," he said.

Galentine said he doesn't know why using the system has only recently become popular, but it probably has more to do with architectural styles than the product's quality.

"GLASS BOX architecture, which was popular several years ago, didn't require such a system," he said. "Now that we've cut down on the glass, we need a different material and (the system) works very well."

Wah Yee Associates has used the system on retail projects like Village Commons, an office-retail project in Farmington Hills, Tel-Twelve mall in Southfield, and Wonderland Mall in Livonia.

Bryce of Erdstein, Bryce, Palazzola & Associates, said a big plus of the exterior facing system is it can be used to create large areas without seams or joints.

"It gives a nice smooth appearance," he said. Other panel-type exteriors leave unsightly, unnatural seams. Rather than having a panel appearance, the exterior facing system provides an unbroken surface.

The system can also be easily carved with a hot knife or router tool for some truly spectacular results, Bryce continued. "You can do all kinds of wild things with it."

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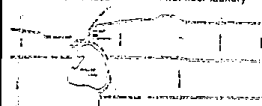
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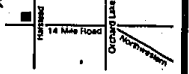
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