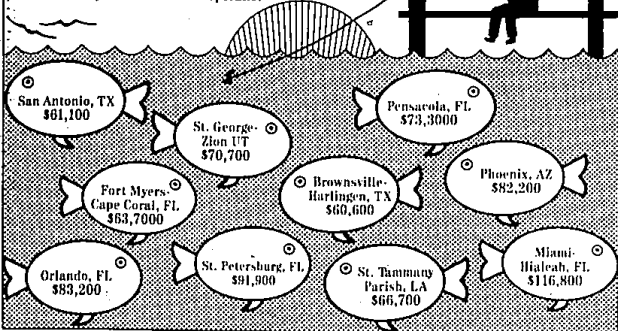


Top Ten Retirement Places/Home Prices

Source: Retirement Places Rated (1990 Prentice Hall Press)
Century 21 Real Estate Corporation



Retirement meccas

Although no Michigan cities placed in the top 25 as retirement communities, according to David Savageau in "Retirement Places Rated," five areas were

ranked in the top 151. They are: Ann Arbor, Charlevoix-Boyne City, Houghton Lake, Petoskey-Straits of Mackinac and Traverse City-Grand Traverse Bay.



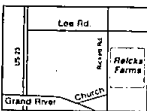
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Bigger is better in stencils

(AP) — In decorating, big is better. The single spectacular antique, the oversized new chair and a large potted plant are preferable to many multiples. It's true, a variety of stenciled designs on walls and curtains, according to Althea Wilson.

"I never liked these tiny stenciled borders — too cute and bland," said Wilson. "When I started using the technique for enlarged designs and for random patterns rather than a regular one, I discovered it is quite versatile."

Wilson, an English painter and author of decorating books, used her Chelsea home as a laboratory to update the stencil. The result is some handsome rooms and an informative book of text and photographs, "Ultimate Stencils" (Harmony Books, 1990, \$27.50), describes how to create and make stencils and then how to use them to produce distinctive rooms.

Stencils are paper cut-outs which are placed up to the wall or floor, and the cut-out design is then painted

with a brush or sponge to create a pattern. Traditionally, the stencils are small and are repeated to form a border around doors, windows, ceilings or floors.

But Wilson's stencils with small effects, employing many different patterns that covers the lower half of a room's walls. The upper wall is sometimes given a deep border near the ceiling. A related motif may be stenciled onto upholstery fabric and curtains. Because her patterns are so big, she traces them on the wall before stenciling them.

IN HER KITCHEN, for example, life-size tigers in black and white march around the room's lower perimeter. They are stenciled onto white fabric used as curtains. A tiger's head is stenciled onto pillows, while portions of the markings form a pattern on placemats.

Inspired by a book on Portuguese

interiors, Wilson used two patterns on the lower half of the living room wall then carried the design to the windows on Roman shades.

In a bedroom dominated by a Chinese bed, she stenciled the walls with 40 Chinese motifs in black and deep red in a random pattern. Another room is stenciled in a cherry blossom pattern.

By creating a mural rather than a mere border, stenciling can result in infinitely more important effects, says Wilson. Her largest single stencil design is a 14-foot dragon which is the focus of a bedroom illustrated in her book. She copied and enlarged the image on a Tibetan rug from a picture in The Times of London.

Wilson usually sketches the elements she sees but says drawing is not a requirement for copying. "If you can't draw, go to the photocopy machine and get the motif enlarged and then trace it onto the paper."

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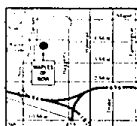
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