

# Homes take cottage look

By JOAN BORAM  
SPECIAL WRITER

If you "over-ducked" in the cute-country '80s, don't despair. In a recent seminar at Charles Furniture, interior design teacher and consultant Kay Isola assured an SRO crowd that nothing's hopeless, even if you've over-Holsteined. (The nice thing about SRO at a furniture store is that there's always someone to tilt.)

The audience at the Royal Oak store was both entertained and edified by the irrepressible Isola, a Birmingham resident, who discussed current color trends, fabrics, flooring and, of course, furniture.

"We've had the lodge look (as in Ralph Lauren)," Isola said, "and the Western look, and the Southwestern look. We've over-coyoted, over-ducked and over-cutied."

"The hottest thing going right now is the cottage look. It's a version of country, friendly, warm and more feminine than the lodge look."

Isola said checks are the hallmark of the cottage look — not dirty checks, but assertive checks. A swatch of a fabric with healthy one-inch blue-and-white checks, used to cover a sofa in the showroom, demonstrated her point.

### Crafty movement

The American Arts and Crafts Movement has recently come into its own, Isola said, with the reintroduction of Stickley designs made by the original manufacturer.

Intended as a collection of furniture for the masses, the clean lines of Stickley's pieces were a reaction to the design excesses of the 1880s and, indeed, may be a reaction to the cabbage rose excesses of the 1980s. Its no-nonsense angles are complimented by fabrics and rugs designed or inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright.

### Colorful language

"Color is dependent on the economy, so trends predicted for 1995 are subject to change, depending on how the economy goes," said Isola, offering her audience two color charts — one from the '80s and the other from the '90s.

"The '80s were the big spending era, as we all know. And the most popular colors were 'no-color colors,' such as mauve and gray.

"In the '90s, we're pulling back on spending, and colors are getting clearer and brighter. The trend was predicted to be for strong jewel tones, but they've given way to bright colors."

The names of colors are reflecting the strong interest in "natural" and "organic" that characterizes the '90s. For example, gold is now called curry or amber, and orange goes by poppy, coral or cinnamon. And that old '50s favorite, avocado, has been rechristened leaf green. Even humdrum beige has been given a shot of green and is now called "khaki."

"The hottest color around is green, reflecting our interest in ecology. Look for names like capers, basil or aspen. Whites are subtly tinted with colors, such as peach, yellow, green and blue. And yellow has come out of the kitchen: It's new for living rooms and bedrooms."

On the subject of white paint, Isola suggests that instead of painting the ceiling white, as did our mothers and their mothers before them, carry the color up the walls and around the ceiling if you're using a light color.

"If you're using a dark color on the walls, add a little of the dark paint to the white ceiling paint, to avoid a pronounced line of demarcation between walls and ceiling."

### Face furniture

When buying furniture, Isola recommended that you ask your-

self "How am I going to use this piece?" Be honest — if you have a dog, or if you're going to nap on the sofa, get a woven design that will take punishment, and not a print, which will show stains and dirt.

"Mohair is filtering down, and there are a lot of tapestry looks. Some stunning tapestries are based on the Matiseo exhibits in New York and Paris."

"When buying upholstery fabrics, look for a blend (the information will be on the label): Cotton takes dyes well; rayon adds softness and polish; and nylon means durability."

"Many designers are introducing leathers, such as have never been seen before. An especially lovely color is a peachy tone that's also a good wall color: It goes with everything. Leathers are being shown printed, dyed and embossed. They got a fantastic response at Highpoint, N.C., where new things are tried out."

Isola circulated samples of the new wood-grained vinyls. They look like the real thing! Vinyls are also available in granite, French limestone and marble finishes.

"They sound terrible, but they look real, with the added advantages that they're quieter to walk on, and you won't break as much if you drop things on them."

### Shop talk

Isola recommended that you shop at different stores, as well as at garage and estate sales to give your rooms more character.

"Don't buy everything at the same place: There's no visual interest then. What you're aiming for is a look of years of accumulation."

As for all those ducks, cows and coyotes — the newest "in" animal is the pig, Isola said. Just add a few pigs, and change your name to MacDonald — E-I, E-I, O!

## Family affair



JOE CRACHOHLA

Serving together: All five members of the Lubin family of Bloomfield Hills — Jay (left), Mary, Audrey, Carol and Joel (seated) are gallery service volunteers at the Detroit Institute of Arts. All take 2-1/2-hour shifts providing eyes and ears as well as friendly words to museum visitors. The Lubins "have been interested in art all their lives," said Joel Lubin, who runs an insurance business. The gallery service experience enables them to focus on an area and study it, and they frequently compare notes about what they've seen from their shifts. For information about volunteering for gallery service or other committees at the DIA, call 833-0247 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

## Photo contest focuses on Michigan

The Southfield Parks and Recreation Cultural Arts Division is accepting entries in the 1994 Focus on Michigan photography contest.

Aim of the contest is to promote and encourage photography as both a creative art form and leisure activity, while showcasing the natural beauty of the state of Michigan and its residents at play.

Entry deadline is Tuesday, Nov. 30, 1993. Entry forms may be picked up at the Southfield Parks and Recreation Building and the Mary Thompson Cultural Arts Center. Forms may also be obtained by mail, by sending the request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Mary

**The contest showcases the natural beauty of Michigan and its residents at play.**

years old and under), Adult (18-54 years old) and Senior (55 years old and older). The top three photographs from each division will be selected and awarded ribbons and other prizes.

Everyone taking part in the contest will receive a certificate of participation from the Eastman Kodak Co.

Winners of the Southfield competition will be announced Saturday, Dec. 11. They will automatically enter the statewide competition, in which Kodak will award \$100 for best of show.

First, second and third place winners of this competition will be provided with ribbons and a 16-by-20-inch enlargement. Other prizes may also be awarded.

Thompson Cultural Center, 25630 Evergreen, Southfield 48075. For more information, call 354-5796.

The contest is open to all amateur photographers. Entrants may submit three of their best photographs or slides depicting nature scenes, landscapes, visual or performing arts, or people enjoying themselves in their favorite public park or recreation facility.

Photographers will compete in three age divisions: Youth (17

## Hospitals exhibit art work for sale

Exhibited art work is available for purchase through the Gifts of Art program of the University of Michigan hospitals. For more information, call 936-ARTS.

On display to July 23: etchings and collage by Mary Schoenfeld,

University Hospital Lobby, Floor 1; a selection by artists from the 34th annual Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, Taubman Lobby, North, Floor 1, and University Hospital Main Corridor, West, Floor 2; wood sculpture by Cleveland Walcutt, Taubman Lobby, South,

Floor 1; realistic rural landscape watercolors by Craig Harris, Taubman Lobby, South, Floor 1; and realistic watercolors on a Victorian architecture theme by Mary Lynne DeKlep, University Hospital Amphitheater Lobby, Floor 2.



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