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by color and style categories in a warehouse setting.

For those who prefer to focus on an upscale look that blends color and style sophistication with a handcrafted

quality at budget prices, any one of the 40 Crate & Barrel stores should be shopped. It achieves this crafted look by utilizing handmade imports as well as smaller American com-

panies that specialize in making both modern and folk furnishings. A Crate & Barrel is at The Somerset Collection in Troy.

Pier 1 Imports was selling inexpensive wicker and rattan furniture and accessories long before they became the fashionable material-of-choice for high-priced manufacturers and celebrity designers such as Ralph Lauren. Now this retail specialist proves the staying power of their company and product lines by adding 30 more stores this year to the 650 nationwide and overseas. Pier 1 has 13 stores in the metro area and has expanded to include upholstered sleep sofas, wrought-iron and butcher-block tables, all at the usual tight-budget prices.

Ethan Allen Home Interiors, with 275 nationwide retail locations as well as in Canada and abroad, has 20 U.S. manufacturing facilities. It pioneered lifestyle merchandising more than 60 years ago and continues to update its approach periodically. Along with recent renovation of the Livonia store has come a wider range of furnishing: a Concept Six Home Theater and a Custom Plus Kitchen Program.

If having it your way in an informal, undecorated but very chic style counts more than anything else, Expressions Custom Furniture is the place to go. The Birmingham store

is one of the 53 in the U.S. that provides 150 upholstery frames and 700 fabrics to choose from, beginning at prices under \$800. Expressions has been one of the earliest major players in home furnishings promoting color and pattern mix, whimsical accessorizing and the unpressed slipcover.

For those who have no time for shopping yet need to furnish their homes, Decorating

Den can come to your rescue. With a phone call, one of the local franchisers will bring a van to your door filled with carpet, wallcovering and drapery samples in addition to furniture catalogs. It seems a lot of people have been doing just that because Decorating Den has seen rising sales right through the recession and reports 1992 nationwide sales of \$60 million derived from 1,200 highly trained franchisers.

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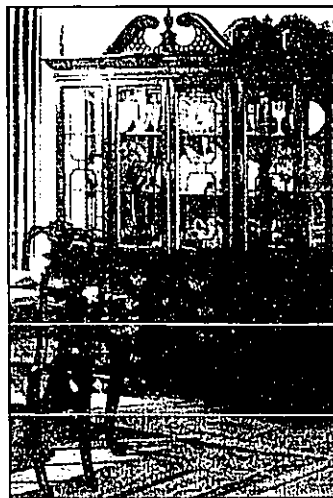


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Radisson on the Lake, Ypsilanti

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Dramatic:
This time-honored style of 18th-century furniture, in cherry, features a china cabinet (\$2,799) and dining room table with four chairs (\$2,999). At Sears Homelife furniture stores, Livonia, Troy, Novi.

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