

Decorate with a flair

Here's a glimpse of some of the home decorating products and services you'll see in the suburban marketplace this fall:

MEET MADAME

Browsers and glass aficionados alike will get a glimpse of Jean-Claude Lalique with her 1993 line of collectible art glass 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, in the Neiman Marcus gift gallery at The Somerset Collection, Troy.

She'll sign purchases of \$250 or more, including pieces bought after Sept. 20.

The Lalique tradition began with the artist's grandfather, Rene Lalique, a pioneer of the Art Nouveau movement.

GO GLOBAL

If you like pattern mixing, consider Ralph Lauren's globally inspired fall offerings that mix with some of last season's tone-on-tone linens.

"The common denominator is coloration," says Jack Pistor, home store manager and creative director at The Polo Store in Birmingham. "Sometimes it takes courage to mix colors you haven't tried before."

Call Ralph Lauren's latest designs sophisticated and worldly: an Irish cottage look and an African-inspired collection include a stylized pillow, muted floral and shirt stripe.

Comforters are \$100 to \$500; fabric starts at \$35 per yard.

BATHROOM NOVELTY

Lions and tigers and bears



Like Grandma's: Classic iron beds easily blend with most furnishings. This painted set is built with dovetail rails and has an open footboard. Bed and matching floral comforter set at Brass & Iron Beds of Plymouth.

— not. The latest bathroom accessories are cats, dinosaurs, cows and fish in the form of tumblers, soap dishes and other novelty accents.

You can do the trendy look (including three or four accessories, towels and shower curtain) for \$125 to \$150, says Bill Mayer, Hudson's senior buyer.

"This whimsical look is a major trend," Mayer says. "When the economy is difficult, I think people look for relief. In this case, it's a light-hearted look in home decor."

REAL MCCOY

If the matching bedroom set looks dreary, break it up with an iron bed, headboard or bedside table. Iron blends with all sorts of furniture styles and adds interest to an all wood

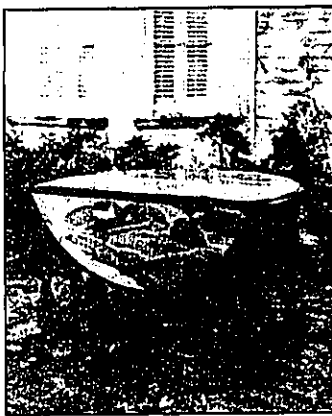
room. Beds sold at Brass & Iron Beds of Plymouth are hand-made the way they were in the 1800s and guaranteed for two generations.

Besides hand-polished brass and iron beds and tables, the store carries marbleized and painted finishes.

CONVERSATIONAL PIECES

Looking for a piece of furniture to add pizzazz to a room?

Pulaski Furniture's "Country Reunion" group includes a black-lacquered gateleg table (\$625) featuring a large hand-painted country scene that the company calls "conversational art." It mixes with most decors and looks like an expensive collectible. The collection is



Collectible: Pulaski Furniture calls its Country Reunion group conversational art. This black lacquered gateleg table (\$625) features a hand-painted country scene resembling authentic folk art.

available at Charles Furniture Warehouse in Royal Oak.

LIGHTEN UP

Today's lighting customer wants good workmanship and a back-to-basics look.

"People are interested in authenticity and craftsmanship," says Shirley Wald for Orchard Lighting Center, Farmington Hills. "We're done with the plastic look of the '90s. People want something lasting."

Popular lighting materials are iron, handcarved wood, alabaster, marble, lead crystal and Etruscan glass. Many iron lamps and chandeliers are finished in a three-point process that adds texture. There's still demand for verdigris.

Some shades are fashioned from rawhide and craft paper that resembles a paper bag.

For now, contemporary lighting takes a backseat to ec-

lectic and neoclassic styles, Wald says.

SHE'S VISUAL

Decorating doesn't have to mean major investment. Donola Gilliam, a Southfield-based visual coordinator, recycles what you already have.

Going room to room, she'll place furnishings, rearrange pillows, plants and accessories and come up with new wall arrangements. She moves furniture from one room to another and even harvests treasures from the attic.

Gilliam will create a new traffic pattern, not an alley, and add visual interest to rooms that need pizzazz. She'll even meet the moving van and have the house arranged when you return from work.

She gives free consultations and charges \$250 or more per room. Move-ins are \$1,200 to \$2,000. For information, call 443-2418.

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HOURS:
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