

INTERIOR MOTIVES

Think cool when planning patio, porch

NAOMI
STONE LEVY

A reader suggested this subject. With a "long hot summer" staring us in the face it seems reasonable to consider patios, porches and terraces. Whether your space is enclosed or open to the elements will dictate what is required in furniture and fabrics.

If it may "rain on your parade" the choices are indicated by their durability under dissimilar weather conditions. Sail cloth has inherent qualities. It can be made water-repellent, adding to its diversity

and dependability.

If the area is totally enclosed, and weather isn't of any importance, the sky is the limit, no pun intended.

The first consideration should be color. The hot colors aren't esthetically harmonious, whereas the spectrum of blues, greens and purples will emanate a cool atmosphere. My thoughts on the subject include prints, plains, great textures and woven patterns. Ergo, let's assemble an exceptional combination, under either condition.

Your terrace may be on grass, large slate flagstones or even a paved area, surrounded by trees and shrubs. I would love to define the space with potted plants, always in terra cotta containers. These should be as much a part

of the decorating as the furniture. Without cutting off the view (unless there is no view), keep the tallest plants to the back, and lower greens nearest to the seating. Some of the containers, in varied sizes, should encompass colorful lovely flowering plants. The more the merrier.

The furniture can be redwood, or metal, so very durable, upholstered in waterproofed awning fabric. A glass-topped iron-based coffee table will break up the heavy look, but the glass must be 3/4-inch thick. Creature comfort bespeaks clusters of huge squishy toss pillows, easily housed overnight in large plastic containers. My choices for these include glorious, mesmerizing prints, resonating all of the colors.

The patio may be totally undercover, with glass surrounding on all sides. Inclement weather no consideration. You are home free. Wicker or rattan furniture would be ideal. The finish can be natural, white paint, black shiny lacquer (very chic) or any of a variety of colors.

In one of my favorite jobs the wicker was painted an incredible glossy forest green, and upholstered in several harmonizing prints, both large and small in scale. Another favorite was all black, with black sail cloth printed only in

white. Again terra cotta containers holding green plants, some flowering. In the black and white venue the flowers should only be white. I favor ficus trees: short, tall, fat and thin. I often use stainless steel holders of varying diameters and heights. You can buy these in an office supply shop as wastebaskets.

The floor should be covered with an area sisal rug, whether by the yard, or squares sewn together. Sisal is available in white, natural or painted. All of the foregoing will add to the glamour.

Hanging plants add charisma to any patio. Ask your florist about a potted String of Pearls. Inordinate Ferns are lush and incredible in hanging pots — so is ivy. One of the loveliest garden rooms I ever designed was the more lovely because the woman had two green thumbs and the space resonated her loving care of all the plant material. I hope you can emulate her example.

Naomi Stone Levy, a Franklin resident, is an interior designer and a former secretary of the American Society of Interior Designers. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1897. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

Center aids McDonald House

Michigan Design Center in Troy, nationally renowned for its exclusive interior design showrooms, is opening its doors to the public for "Familia: A Celebration of Family and Design" 5:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 1.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the families of the Ronald McDonald House of Detroit.

Tickets are \$25 per person and include a tour of MDC, free hors d'oeuvres

and beverages and a chance to win prizes in a raffle. For an additional donation of \$25, a guest can have a 20-minute, private consultation with a top designer of MDC.

MDC is at 1700 Stutz Drive, north of Maple, between Coolidge and Crooks in Troy. Guests attending the event can enter at North Entrance D. For tickets or more information, call Karen Belluono at (313) 745-6911.

APRIL FOOLISHNESS

Corner Group \$799⁹⁹



Chairs \$59⁹⁹

Selected Bedrooms

15%
OFF

Professional custom finishing in your choice of stains and colors.

90 days same as cash to qualified customers.

Royal Oak • 1038 N. Woodward
(at 11 1/2 Mile Rd.) 810-548-1540
Roseville • 20640 Grand Ave.
(Just E. of I-480) 810-777-3100
Dearborn • 22530 Michigan Ave.
(E. of Outer Dr., W. of Millbury) 313-562-2947
Livonia • 20642 Five Mile Rd.
(on Shopping Ctr. at Lenox) 313-462-3080

Oak
Bookcases
with
adjustable
shelves
from
\$99⁸⁸

Oak

Computer
Desk

\$679⁹⁹

Oak
Entertainment
Center

\$1299⁹⁹

SET

Our everyday prices on real wood furniture are so great, people said we'd be crazy to lower them...but we did anyway.

Sale ends 4-29-96

**Naked
FURNITURE®**

REAL WOOD AFFORDABLY PRICED

Jackson & Perkins SPRING ROSES! ON SALE NOW!

Come visit us for our
fresh nursery stock, creative
and unique garden accents,
furniture, and friendly
knowledgeable service.

For those who value the best for their home...

**FOUR
SEASONS**
GARDEN CENTER

Open 7 Days
(810) 543-4400

& Custom Landscape Services

Location:
14471 West Eleven Mile Rd.
West of Coolidge
Oak Park