

INTERIOR MOTIVES

# Tools of design trade aid planning



NAOMI STONE LEVY

A good designer needs to have knowledge of the many tools necessary to do a competent job. Design schools teach students how to use these tools with dexterity. I will now divulge this information to you, and with it you will be prepared to do a better job on your own.

The effortless way to "scale" out the area you wish to design is to buy graph paper that is lined into squares that are 1/4-inch in measure. Most blueprints are done in that scale.

You will need some very sharp pencils, a good eraser and a 12-inch ruler with a good edge. A "T" square, a compass, a "French curve" and two triangles (one with a 45-degree angle and one with a 30-degree angle) will be helpful, though not necessary.

All of these can be found in an art supply store. They also have plastic sheets with all manner of furniture pieces cut out for tracing. Your tools

will make life easier.

You now make your own cutouts of proposed furniture. A sofa is generally 84 inches long and 36 inches deep, so your cutout in this scale will be 1-3/4 inches by 3/4 inches. Of course there are many other sizes.

Continue on in this manner for each table, chair, chest of drawers, etc. you plan to use. I find it helpful to point out a lamp wherever it should occur, with a corresponding outlet plug nearby. I indicate these using a small circle with a line crisscrossing it.

Next you will draw the area to be furnished, in scale, on the graph paper, being very sure to allot the windows and doorways their assigned space. Don't forget to indicate which way the doors open so that your furniture plan won't conflict.

Here comes the fun! Move the cutouts of the furniture pieces around on the plan, and envision how the conversation groups work out. How are the traffic patterns? It is always helpful to avoid conflicts of people.

Television is master of our fate, and it

must be considered. Please don't line the walls with your pieces. Design students are required to make up "boards," a remarkable tool, showing the plan, with photographs of the furniture to be used and with swatches of the fabrics and wallpaper attached. Seeing it all together reinforces your judgment.

Many other tools will help execute your job. Probably the one that will re-orient your taste will be fabric. There are shops that carry very good lines.

At this juncture I advise spending the most you can afford. The cost of applying the fabric makes it foolish not to invest in durability. When you hear the adage "You get what you pay for," here is where it is enforced.

Another tool is wallpaper. Cost here

isn't the criteria, although I find the better and more costly papers are inevitably the loveliest.

The last tool is your mind, and taste, and good judgment. Make haste slowly! A mesmerizing room requires a considerable amount of thought. Good design is never arrived at hastily.

If you have a friend whose opinion you value, don't hesitate to include him or her in your thoughts; two heads may be better than one.

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.

## Antique show slated for weekend

Chris Polk, owner of A Quiet Place in the Heart, will bring her trunk show of antiques, hand crafts and popular new merchandise to the ART & Calligraphy Studio, 8168 Cooley Lake Road in the Village Square Plaza, White Lake.

The show is scheduled for Friday-Saturday, Aug. 9-10. Call (810) 360-6429 for more information.

Special emphasis is on linens, tea items, furniture and florals.

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