

INTERIOR MOTIVES

Know these great designers' names



NAOMI
STONE LEVY

There are so many prestigious names in the world of design that I could scarcely list all of them. However, I would like to acquaint you with several that are considered so important in their fields they cannot be ignored. They are unquestionably the arbiters of great taste

of the 20th century.

- Eliel Saarinen - architecture and furniture
- Florence Knoll - fabrics and furniture
- Jack Lenor Larsen - fabrics
- Philip Johnson - architecture
- Charles and Ray Eames - furniture
- Frank Lloyd Wright - architecture, furniture and household items
- Mies van de Rohe - architecture and furniture
- Le Corbusier - architecture and furniture
- Philippe Stark - furniture and household items
- George Nelson - tableware, household items, architecture and furniture

It is interesting to acknowledge that the first three geniuses are connected with our own Cranbrook school in Bloomfield Hills. Doesn't that speak volumes about the quality of its art program? Almost all of the above embraced the theory that less is more. Those three words say all there is to say regarding contemporary.

Eliel Saarinen was the architect of Cranbrook. He also designed much of the furniture. Have you ever accorded yourself and your family the privilege and pleasure of visiting that campus? What a treat! Do it! It is world renowned.

Florence Knoll is best known for her simple, slim and contemporary furniture; no embellishments added to their form. She rarely applied hardware, preferring invisible cutout grabs for opening the drawers. Polished steel frames and exotic woods, such as rosewood, spoke for themselves. Her fabrics have withstood the tests of time. They are as wonderful as they were 20 years ago.

Jack Lenor Larsen, another Cran-

brook superstar, has built a world around his innovative fabrics. The weaves of his upholstery materials are often knobby, and so very subtle in hue and color. He also experimented with "sheers" that befitted the miles of glass of the current buildings. See out, but don't see in.

Frank Lloyd Wright practiced architecture for more than 60 years. He did design some high-rise edifices, but his preference was always for low buildings that seemed to hug the ground as though they emerged from the soil. These were two diametrically opposing theories, each of which elicited its own style of furniture. He designed more ponderous oak furniture that was essential to the wood beams and otherwise wood interiors of some of his lower ceilinged homes. His versatility was awesome. There are many, many books devoted to his genius. I suggest the library.

The ever-famous Eames chair and ottoman was the first time a very large lounge chair was fashioned of molded and formed rosewood plywood and leather. It is open and light in concept. Its configuration forever changed bulky chairs.

Philippe Stark is still expounding his ultra-slim, almost delicate furniture, even though it is "structural" in concept. No one does it as well as he. His imitators fail to replicate his work. Inquire where you can see it for yourself. He is worth the acquaintance.

George Nelson is well known for his fiesta bright colored tableware. This pure red, blue, green and orange pottery has been in the marketplace for decades. His beginnings also embraced architecture and furniture.

It is fascinating to note that great architecture was the forerunner of almost everything esthetic. This is true of the 20th century. It also is true of the entire history of design of the world.

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.

Bordine Nursery sets fall festivities

Bordine Nursery will celebrate the fall season with its annual fall festival Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 5-6.

Discover many fall decorating ideas along with helpful tips on winterizing your landscape.

Bordine Nursery is at 1835 S. Rochester Road at Hamlin in Rochester Hills (call (810) 651-9000), and 8600 Dixie Highway, north of I-75, Exit 93, in Clarkston (call (810) 625-9100).

Wagon rides for the whole family will

be available in Clarkston, weather permitting, and pony rides will be available in Rochester Hills.

Both locations will have a scarecrow walk where you get to vote for your favorite scarecrow display and a hay maze set up for children to go through.

Cider and doughnut holes will be on hand along with pumpkins, asters, mums and everything else that says fall.

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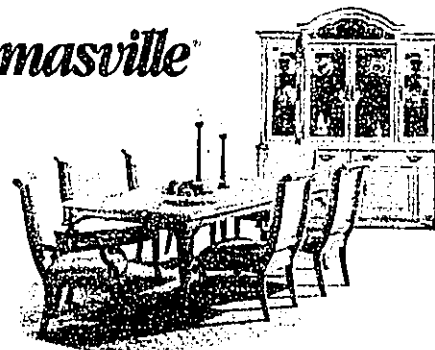
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