

Good taste involves selectivity



NAOMI STONE
LEVY

Is it possible to legislate good taste? Who becomes the authority? I'd like to think I have the answer, but that is arguable. What would make me right and my neighbor wrong? Having set out the questions, let's examine some replies.

I may be stirring up a huge argument as a very longstanding member of the American Institute of Interior Designers when I state that in my opinion, that membership doesn't entitle one to claim good taste. I have viewed some of my cohorts' completed interiors that I thought were appalling. I repeat the thought: Who is the authority? Surely not me!

My definition of truly good taste expects discrimination. Selectivity is an

important ingredient. As an amateur or a professional you must discriminate. You cannot use everything you see that you like, even though each item of itself may be tasteful. Too much gives way to the famous "Less is more," and I say that advisedly.

Fabrics, furniture, lamps and accessories should never compete for attention. If a very strong printed fabric is used that has a multitude of colors, the accompanying fabrics should play "second fiddle," as in a symphony orchestra. They must blend with the primary fabric to resonate good taste.

Furniture is another case in point. Overloading a small room with ponderous pieces should never occur. Likewise, it is just as incorrect to have everything tiny in scale in a large room, having no focal point. This, again, is where you must discriminate. Good taste will tell when you have reached correct proportions.

Lamps should never dominate an

interior. They can beautifully blend with other components. And, heaven forbid, the lamp shades should ever overpower the lamp. Haven't you driven by a home and seen in a picture window a huge lamp with an overdraped shade? Not good taste!

Accessories are an integral part of any design. Some can be small; others quite large, such as a piece of sculpture on a stand. Depending on the background of the room, add complimentary pieces of pewter, brass, glass or pottery.

If you have a wonderful pitcher, it would be in good taste as an accessory, but don't overload any room with too many bits and pieces. Not good taste!

How does anyone know who has displayed that elusive and singular and mesmerizing talent? I have to allow you to make the final judgment for yourself.

You can leave Naomi Stone Levy a message dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1897.

Learn more about horticulture

Visitors may explore the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens throughout the year with a docent-led tour and discover more about the world of horticulture.

Docent-led tours of the Conservatory will take place 2 p.m. every Sunday in January and highlight special plants in bloom. Sign up at the front lobby reception desk prior to the tour. Conservatory admission is \$2 for adults.

Docent-led tours of the outdoor trails will take place 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5. The January tour theme is "Signs of Life in the Dead of Winter." The brisk walk in the woods requires warm clothing and boots. Tour participants should meet docents on the front steps of the Gardens.

The Matthaei Botanical Gardens is at 1800 N. Dixboro Road in Ann Arbor. Call (313) 998-7061.

AERO + PACIFIC
CUSTOM DRAPERIES

Our 46th Year

- Thousands of Decorator Fabrics
- Horizontal & Vertical Blinds
- Pleated Shades, Roller Shades
- Duettes • Silhouettes
- Vignette

Highest Quality Custom Made Draperies at the Most Competitive Prices in town

OPEN MONDAY THRU SATURDAY 9:30 - 6 P.M.

AERO DRAPERIES
TEL-EX PLAZA
25279 Telegraph, Southfield
(Just North of 10 Mile)
(810) 353-8000

PACIFIC DRAPERIES
GARDEN CITY TOWN CTR.
5908 Middlebelt
(Just North of Ford Road)
(313) 421-0000

Don't Compromise Customize!

**ALL UNITS
25%-35% OFF**

Now you can have wall systems, entertainment centers, or bookcases custom built just for you by master craftsmen using your measurements and the finest oak and cherry (no particle board). Plus, best of all...we will do this at about the same price as production made systems.

See over 40 entertainment centers and wall systems on display. All units can be sized to fit any wall, any TV, any sound system.

Wm. C. Franks

FURNITURE

FINE TRADITIONAL and COUNTRY FURNISHINGS

2945 S. WAYNE ROAD • WAYNE, MICHIGAN 48184 (4 BLKS. N. OF MICHIGAN AVE.)
MON., THURS., FRI. 9 am-9 pm • TUES., WED., SAT. 9 am-6 pm • SUN. 12-5

313/721-1044

**January 2nd
GRAND OPENING**

**ALL WALLPAPER
DISCOUNTED
30% OR MORE**

**Colby
Wallpapering**

WALLPAPERING • REMOVAL • SALES

ONE STOP SHOPPING

In Stock & Special Order Wallpapers, Borders, Coordinating Fabrics, Supplies, In House Installers, Personal Service. We carry most major brands.
Nursery & Juvenile Papers in Stock.

Over 20 Years in Business Installing Fine Wallcoverings

(313) 722-2932 Fax (313) 722-1774

Hours: M-F 9-6; Sat 10-3
2535 S. Wayne Rd. • 1 Blk N. Northside Hardware Bldg. Michigan Ave & Cherry Hill • WESTLAND