

Fabulous FURNITURE

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Both comfort, beauty furnish living rooms

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

The living is easy in living rooms.

Furnishings for the living room today are comfortable. Their versatility applies both to their function and to their style, as they can adapt to current needs and to future trends.

"People are using their living rooms to live in now," said Bill Wolf, owner of Newton Furniture in Livonia, which also has stores in Bloomfield Hills, Novi and Sterling Heights.

"Furnishings are comfortable to sit on and good looking besides."

Sectionals are popular choices as residents furnish their living rooms for use as well as appearance.

"With a sectional grouping, you can put anything to match, fit in a room or a corner," Wolf said.

"They give you a lot of seating in a limited amount of space," said Dan Wurm, owner of Laurel Furniture in Plymouth.

Examples of beautiful and functional furnishings that fit any decor can be found in a sampling of new collections.

The Laura Ashley Home collection by Kincaid Furniture, offered by Newton Furniture, includes pieces in the Keswick line inspired by the classic English country style. An auburn finish accents the solid maple grain. Armoires feature plentiful storage space.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ETHAN ALLEN
Exquisite comfort: These versatile living room pieces show how visual harmony.

Versatility and elegance are among the attributes of Baker Furniture's Historic Charleston collection, inspired by styles from the 18th and 19th centuries.

The line presents a tulip chair that can serve as an occasional chair or a decorative piece to stack books. In the style of an early 19th century hall chair, the piece has a tulip-shaped back, turned front legs and saber back legs.

Ethan Allen's Swedish Home collection offers simple charm, as in the creamy sofa and table for the living room. The table features two shelves, open on all sides.

Amish styles are popular, Wurm said. The pieces resemble the mission style in their clean lines.

Chinese and other Oriental furniture pieces are popular additions to room furnishings, said Chris Chung, co-owner of

East Asia Gallery in Royal Oak. The store, which recently opened, imports 90 percent of its furniture from mainland China.

"People are really utilizing Chinese furniture and mixing it in with sets now," Chung said.

With its straight lines, Korean furniture fits in with modern style furnishings, he said. The low end tables are good pairings with sofas that have low arms.

With Asian furniture, chairs often feature lumbar support and silk pillows frequently serve as upholstery.

Garden seats, screens and nesting tables are among popular pieces, Chung said. The tansu cabinet, with its steplike shape, makes a fashionable room divider and display area.

Furniture colors are set by women's fashions, Wolf said.

Popular shades today include orange, red, blue, brown and yellow.

ABOUT THIS SECTION

Fabulous Furniture 2001 Living Rooms and Great Rooms is the second in a three-part series of special At Home sections produced by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Graphic Artists: Mary Merz, Linda Rigdon, Linda Sharpe

Writers: Corinne Abatt, Ken Abramczyk, Diane Gafé Andreassi, Joan Boram, Mary Klemic, Lisa Luckow-Healy, Sandie Parrott and Jennifer Piacitolo

Editor: Mary Klemic

Retail Advertising Coordinator: Bill Clugston, Peg Knoespel

ABOUT THE COVER

Furniture on the cover of this section was provided by the following:

Top: Sofa by Norwalk is shown in a chenille and cotton combination. It features sleek, sophisticated styling with comfort as the main objective: Back pillows, throw pillows and seat cushions are soft and inviting. The sofa is available in 2,000 fabrics as special order in 30 days. Available at Newton Furniture in Livonia, Novi, Bloomfield Hills and Sterling Heights.

Second: Thomasville sofa sectional with chaise is pictured in a gray chenille with contrasting pillows. This Bakerfield track arm style is available in a variety of sectional sizes as well as a sofa, sofa sleeper, loveseat and chair. With over 1,000 fabrics to choose from any color palette can be satisfied. The glass top cocktail table, also from Thomasville, is from the Bridges collection. An occasional collection that emphasizes simplicity and utility, with a soft fruitwood finish. Also available - matching wall units and entertainment centers. The group is available at McLaughlin's in Southgate and Novi.

Third: Bellagio rectangular table and wall units feature authentic rosewood imported from Italy with stainless steel trim and hardware. The table has polyurethane topcoat for durability. Contemporary in design, this grouping is available at Sherwood Studios of West Bloomfield.

Fourth: Two-piece wall system with French country-style styling in cherry features dramatic lighting, practical storage and room for a 36-inch TV and a stereo/home theater system. Many other cabinet variations are available in oak and cherry. Wall system available at Franks Furniture in Wayne.

Win furniture shopping spree

Just in time for the holidays, The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and 12 area merchants are teaming up to send 12 lucky winners on a home furnishings shopping spree.

Just think. You could be one of 12 lucky winners who will receive a \$1,000 gift certificate to shop at Newton Furniture (Bloomfield Hills, Livonia, Novi and Sterling Heights locations), Ethan Allen (Ann Arbor, Auburn Hills, Birmingham, Livonia and Novi locations), Classic Interiors (Livonia), Franks Furniture

(Wayne), Laurel Furniture (downtown Plymouth), Walker/Buzenberg (downtown Plymouth), In-Style Furniture (West Bloomfield), Sherwood Studios (West Bloomfield), Dalley Carpet (locations in Livonia and Canton), Eclipse Window Tint (Redford Township), McLaughlin's (locations in Novi and Southgate) and Baker Furniture (downtown Birmingham). Winning is easy. Each participating merchant has official Fabulous Furniture entry forms. You may enter one time at each

store. You'll want to visit each store (several merchants have multiple locations) and increase your chances of winning.

You must be at least 18 years old to enter. All entries have an equal chance of being drawn. Deadline to enter is 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25. Results will be published in the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

Complete contest rules are available at participating merchants and in Observer & Eccentric Newspaper offices.

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