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Fabulous FURNITURE 2002 Chair styles reflect change in furniture

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI CORRESPONDENT

Some of the biggest changes in furniture are the multitude of styles and gadgets that are

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While noting that the store also offers some traditional chairs, Cassidy said most cus-tomers are looking for some-thing different. "They have seen those chairs before", he said. "They want something that their father and mother didn't have. They want a new look. They want to relax." relax. ITERIZED WALLPAPER SEARCHES

reiax. Noreen Desilets, a designer who works with Laurel Furniture in Plymouth, likes to add chairs to rooms as accent

add chairs to rooms as accent pieces. "There's much more variety in chairs today and there's a lot of nice side chairs with a greater choice of fabries," she said. She uses chairs as conversa-tion pieces in foyers, off to the side of a room and just about anywhere at all in a home. "It's nice to use them as a complement in the room," she a #1 6615 19-1/2 Mile complement in the room," she

10° OFF" said. "Things are much more eelec-tic in mixing wood grains and styles. In a lot of the bigger



Relax after a long day in this low-profile Pop-Up (cherry) recliner from Aflure 11. You'll find it at Newton Furniture.

es you can create a separate seating area using accent chai behind the main seating area. REDEFINED

REDEFINED Even the traditional chairs, like the recliner, have been redefined. "La-Z-Boy has attempted to make inroads to attract a new dient that has not been in the recliner market, said Nancy Christiansen, merchandisc/marketing man-ger of La-Z-Boy Furniture Galleries with stores in Canton, Nov?. Ann Arbor, Thylor, Warren and Sterling Heights A new store is sched-ued to open by the end of October in Auburn Hills. The large recliner of the past is still popular, but new choices are coming out to fit smaller,

are coming out to fit smaller, female comfort needs, too.

They're made trimmer and more fashionable, couring in scroosed wood and bent trans. General toward the affluent, femic audication and the affluent, femic audication and the affluent, the new generation recliner, Christiansen said. "But, that's not to suggest that the male consumer won-fortable or attractive, she said. "We haven twaked away for who trind and the a trans-tive transformed and the attrac-tive transformed and the attrac-tive transformed and the attra-tive t

Everyone needs a fitted chair, the same way you require a shoe in the right size, said Bill Wolf, chief operating

officer of Newton Furniture in Livonia, Bloomfield Hills, Novi and Utica. "Recliners come in differ-ent sizes, Wolf said." Some like a small chair, some like a nerrow chair. Some like at you can get in and out of the chair. You get them custom-ordered to fit the size of the person."

Recliners are also available packed with gizmos, like stor-age arms with compartments that can hold anything from videos to remote controls and

videos to remote controls and tissue paper. Other high-tech options include telephone and com-puter jacks to allow the truly connected person to work and play on their computers with-out leaving their recliner. For the comfort-minded, powered chairs have heat and massnee.

powered chairs have head and massage. "The point is that while we don't want to do anything to hurt or limit our brand name, we are making every effort to break out of that old percep-tion, "Christiansen said. Just because you have a recliner you don't have to sacrifice style and fashion."

RECLINERS, ROCKERS

Manual recliners are by far the top selling chairs, accord-ing to Matt Tomlinson, sales-person with William C. Franks the

person with William C. Frank Furniture in Wayne. Recliners provide the com-fort of a chair and ottoman, but don't take up the same space when the person isn't sit-

space when the person isn't sit-ting. The industry right now is in home theneters, family rooms and great rooms and the reclimer fits the bill – whether you're watching television or entertaining. Thomlinon said. More and more people are staying home versus going out and they like to be comfort-able.

able." Glide rockers, which sit on tracks at the base, are giving

rocking chair enthusiasts an option from the traditional up and down motion. "It's more confortable than a regular rocker," Tomlinson said. Once you get it going. It's a gentle rocking motion. Look for the accompanying ottoman glider to match, Wolf said. It allows for coordinated awinging for the feet and body.

COMFORT

COMFORT Chairs, like most furniture, are coming in smaller sizes, not only to accommodate the size of the person, but to fit small sitting rooms. They re reducing the size of chairs, but they're making them just as comfortable; Wolf said. A lot of times people were ordering these big heavy sofas that didn't fit through the front door. Sectionals are more and more popular. Clunist to fit special needs are smilhable, too, Tomlinson said. People whon need a little extra help getting in and out of their, chairs, can buy lift chairs that can be mised to help the person case down, It can be lowered, too, to make it easier getting too, to make it easier getting

out. "It helps, especially older folks, lift themselves out of it

The fields, eith thenselves out of it and when they return to sit ou it they can lean on it and it lowers them into the chair, Tomlinson said. No need to find a massetuse when you have a Shiatsu Full Massage chair with motorized back. This chair actually kneads, taps and stretches backs and is priced at around \$2,400, Tomlinson said. Th's almost like what a chiro-practor has, he said. Comfort is key, Wolf said. To tot of times women of dif-ferent heights will sit in a chair and their feet woon meet the ground, Wolf said. Tenple want comfortable furniture that they can live in every day and use.

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