

Personal treasures make special decor

BY BRENDA DOMINICK
STAFF WRITER

You don't have to look farther than your own front door. That's what Enid Wasserman, owner of A Fresh Approach... an interior design company in Birmingham, wants people to remember when they search for items to use to decorate for the holidays. "Make the most from what you've got," she said. "I help clients a lot of times with Thanksgiving tables and holiday tables, to fix up the rooms for people who are having guests or special dinners." Wasserman says using "treasures" either given by family members or bought at antique stores makes for a nice and special home environment. "I like to mix family heirlooms handed down from generation or special pieces that came from travel," she said. "A lot of people will have things they bought on a honeymoon or on a trip, or (were) even produced by a child. "Old pieces that are meaningful to the family, mixed with new pieces, bring a certain warmth." Brian Durr, a manager and designer at Sparr's Hearts & Roses in Farmington Hills and Northville, has a similar philosophy. "Use what you have that's good," he said. "If it's something kids made in grade school, put it up on the tree."

SHOWCASING

Wasserman says she likes to

"showcase" items around the house or a specified room. "A lot of people have things that they pack away that they don't know how to incorporate ... with their decorations," the home organizer/designer said. "I come in and we start opening up drawers and start changing things around. We can go through the house and find pieces where people haven't used the place to the best of their advantage. "I have clients who have antique instruments as well as antique photographs from the Civil War. I have a lady with antique pottery that she had hidden away."

Gorgeous holiday tables can be fashioned out of simple household items. "A lot of times, what I like to do is make creative tables with beautiful table linens, settings, flowers, ribbons, bows or tools," Wasserman said. "Antique textile really creates a wonderful atmosphere."

Durr says interior holiday decorating has taken on a new appearance in his area. "Right now everyone is doing a Martha Stewart look," he said. "They want, I walked out into the garden, grabbed a handful and brought it into the house look."

COLORS

And the colors and shades have a new face. "People aren't using the traditional red and green anymore," Durr said. "It's the traditional colors but it doesn't go with anything anymore. They

are going to try to match the tree with what they got."

He says sage, taupe, loden (moss green), silver, cranberry and other non-primary colors are "in" for Christmas decorations. "They're using more natural colors," Durr said. "That seems to be what we're seeing. The same ornaments can completely change the look of the tree. It's like painting a room, you can change the whole look by just changing the color."

Concerning themes, people are going back to the '1950s and '60s, pop culture retro look," Durr says.

For those who don't still have memorabilia from their "younger days," he recommends checking out Restoration Hardware at the Somerset Collection in Troy to get this sort of "rustic, nostalgic" look for the holidays. "They have these neat little metal toys (such as little music boxes) that turn into ornaments," Durr said.

OUTSIDE

As for outside decor, there are two approaches, Durr says. "(Homeowners) either have every single light known to mankind and a thousand dollar electric bill, or have decorated in a simple, natural (setting), with evergreen branches, twigs," he said.

"Solid colors make a bigger statement. Clear, yellow or amber, it's brighter and gives it a commercial look with a bigger presence at night."

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Metallic paints expand color palette

(WMS) - If you love decorative painting techniques like sponging, frottage and stenciling, but are tired of ordinary latex paint, maybe it's time to refresh your palette.

Metallic paints can expand your color palette and give you more exciting options for creating stunning finishes. What's more, new water-based metallic paints are easy to use.

That means you don't have to have artistic talent or special skills to give your next project some elegance and shimmer.

Want to create a room with drama? Looking to add a little luster to your living space?

Try one of these techniques to turn your next painting project from ordinary into extraordinary:

■ Add drama with a metallic accent wall or stencil. Roll on one of Modern Masters' new opaque designer colors, like Cranberry Mist or Mystical Green, to create an accent wall that will be a dramatic focal point for any room.

■ Use a favorite stencil! Roll a coat of metallic paint onto the wall. Then, stencil in a complementary color. Try colors like the Metallic Paint Collection's Platinum over Shimmering Sky to create elegant drama.

(Hint: Always prime with a quality primer-sealer, like



Give your room a makeover with painting techniques that use a broader palette of paint colors - including metallics.

Zinsser's Bulls Eye 1-2-3 to seal the surface and create a neutral "canvas" before you paint.)

■ Go with a stripe - bold or subtle, it's up to you. Stripes are a great way to add pizzazz to any decor.

Go bold with colors like Plum and Pale Gold from the Metallic Paint Collection. Try a barely there look with a sheer translucent metallic paint, like Pearl White over a flat finish off-white paint, for just a touch of shimmer.

Simply tape off your stripes and roll with an ordinary whiz roller.

■ It's that easy!

■ Add a little shine and

dimension to sponging or frottage. Apply a base coat of semi-gloss latex paint in the color of your choice.

Then choose a metallic and mix with Modern Masters' new Extender per instructions.

Ang, sponge, frottage or use another decorative painting technique to achieve more dimension and interest than you can achieve by applying ordinary latex paint.

Looking for more ideas for your next decorative painting project?

Visit www.modernmasters.com for a range of ideas to help transform your next project from ordinary into extraordinary.

HOME CALENDAR

Faux painting

Decorative faux painting is an easy technique that creates the illusion of texture. Do-it-yourselfers can learn how to faux like a pro by attending a free how to clinic 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, at any area Home Depot. The clinic will last about 30 minutes. Participants will learn how to achieve beautiful paint finishes using various techniques such as sponging, ragging, color washing and glazing.

About ottomans

Vanderbilt Fabrics, 905 S. Main in Royal Oak, offers a variety of home decor classes. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited and classes fill quickly. Call (248) 541-0010 for information.

The schedule includes Simple

"Upholstered" Ottoman (560). Wednesdays, Dec. 4-18, or Thursdays, Dec. 5-19. Participants will learn simple upholstery techniques as they transform an old footstool, bench or table into a trendy ottoman.

Weath design

The Great Indoors' professional floral designer will demonstrate wreath making 2-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30. The Great Indoors is at 44075 12 Mile in Novi.

The free seminar will take place in the

lateral department on the first floor. No reservation required. For details, call (248) 679-1005.

Holly Walk

The 11th Annual Holly Walk, a fundraising event sponsored by the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library, will take place noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15. Call (248) 652-3549 for information.

Five Rochester area homes beautifully decorated for the holidays will be featured. Tickets are \$20, available in advance only.

To buy tickets by mail, send a self-addressed envelope with a check payable to the Friends of the Rochester Hills Public Library - no later than Saturday, Dec. 7 - to: Holly Walk Tickets, Friends' Library Store, 500 Old Towne Road, Rochester, MI 48307.

Tickets are also available at Art Concepts, Bordine Nursery Garden Store, Diliman & Upton, Friends' Library Store, RE/MA - Realty, Sharon's Hallmark at Rochester Hills Plaza and University Square, and Something Special Hallmark at Campus Corners.

Festival of Trees

The 18th annual Festival of Trees, a public display of more than 100 professionally designed holiday trees, vignettes, gingerbread houses and wreaths to benefit Children's Hospital of Michigan, continues to Dec. 1 at Coe Center, 301 Civic Center Drive in Detroit. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Nov. 29-30; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 1. Show admission is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, \$4 for ages 2-12, and free for under age 2. Advance tickets are \$15. Additional festival events are scheduled with Santa, 1:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 30 (advance tickets required: \$15 for adults, \$10 for children, and free for under age 2); and Holiday Dance, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Nov. 30 (\$25 per person at the door and \$20 in advance). Call (313) 745-0178 or visit www.fotol.org for information.

Conger tour

The annual Conger Holiday Home Tour and Art Market will take place Tuesday, Dec. 3, in Ann Arbor. Call (734) 747-6811 for more information. Tickets are \$15 and are available at Downtown Home and Garden, Letty's, and the Back Alley Gourmet in Ann Arbor. Money raised will provide scholarships for women in financial need to attend the University of Michigan.

The tour will feature four spectacular Ann Arbor homes. The art market will take place at Barton Hills Country Club. Featured artisans will include John Shultz of Ann Arbor spots, such as the U-M campus, Hill Auditorium and the Michigan Theater.

Kemp House Museum

Kemp House, 312 S. Division in Ann Arbor, will be decorated in a traditional German Christmas theme for the month of December. The Greek Revival house was built in 1852. For more information, call (734) 994-4988. The schedule includes the 10th annual Christmas caroling party, 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5; and German Family Christmas (presenting a traditional turn-of-the-century German Christmas, featuring the fully decorated house and including exhibits reflecting the German celebration of the holiday), 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 7 and 14, and Sundays, Dec. 8 and 15. Admission to the caroling party is free (donations accepted) and reservations aren't necessary. Admission to the house is \$1, free for under age 12.

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