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At Home

INTERIOR DESIGN ■ DIY ■ GARDENING

Accents

Woodland world

The Great Lakes Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society will host a conference, *Lost in the Woods*, Friday-Sunday, Jan. 24-26, in Ann Arbor.

The conference is designed as a practical program to enable attendees to bring woodland plants into rock gardens. It will feature presentations, workshops, plant and book sales, and tours. Registration fee is \$200 per person.

For more information, contact Susan Reznicek at (734) 996-0692 or reznicek@umich.edu, or Michael Kaericher at (734) 459-5386 or mkaericher@alum.mit.edu.

A cut above

Look sharp! You'll be on the cutting edge when you give these stylish scissors to any sewing enthusiast. They



are available at Haberman Fabrics, 905 S. Main in Royal Oak.

Decorated with a rcheletah print by designer Simonette Pavoni, the special ornamentation production process makes each pair of scissors a Pavoni original. They are made by Gingham.

The extra sharp points of the embroidery scissors (\$29.95) allow the user to cut threads with precision in tight places. The knife edge dressmaker's shears (\$39.95) are excellent for cutting multiple layers of fabric.

Each pair of scissors and shears comes with a protective case. They can be given individually or as a set. Call (248) 541-0010 or visit www.habermanfabrics.com.

On the move

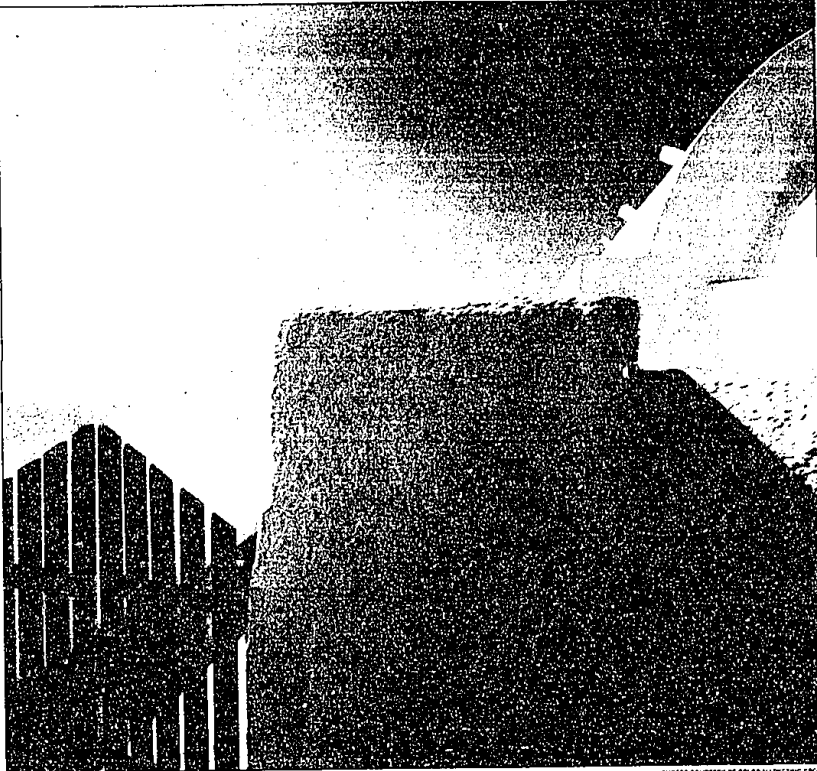
Colorworks has opened the doors on its newly expanded interior design studio and accessories boutique. The larger location is at 7001 Orchard Lake Road, between 14 Mile and Maple in West Bloomfield, just south of the Boardwalk. Call (248) 651-7540.

Accessory items range in price from \$15 to \$200. Vendors exclusive to Colorworks include Gali Glassworks, Blue Star Design and Harlequin Candelsticks. The interior design studio now has a larger conference area and more sample storage space for fabric and furniture resources.

The existing building interior was gutted and designed from the ground up by interior design manager Sabi Krass and senior interior designer Andrea Davis.

"Some people don't realize we do complete construction, from the initial planning to the finishing touches," Krass said. "This studio is a very good example of the full range of work we do."

A grand opening gala is planned in March, featuring special promotions highlighting savings from the boutique and certificates for free consultations and house calls from the design studio. To receive an invitation, fill out the guest book in the boutique or online at www.colorworksstudio.com.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLOR MARKETING GROUP

Soothing in nature, blue is widely believed to be the color of the decade. Retailers and homeowners, however, are taking advantage of all the color's hues, from periwinkle to turquoise to ice.

Blue hues, special effects continue; a few new colors emerge

Color Takes

STORY BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

Color trends linger in the larger picture of design and style. Not forever, of course; those avocado green fridges are long gone.

But our pet shades stick around like ways of thinking and living.

Yes, there are "hot" colors identified by expert forecasters from year to year. And 2003 is no exception.

PREDICTIONS, CONTINUATIONS

Subtle shades of blue are still on the rise and so are special-effect colors that have metallic, pearlescent and satin finishes strong with depth and texture, according to the Color Marketing Group, whose members annually gather to make color trend predictions.

Some of the more unusual hues identified by the Color Marketing Group in the special-effect category include: Lemon Meringue, in which yellow flirts with gold; Gargyle, a fusion of gold, pewter and silver; and Champagne Bubble, a

marriage of gold, silver and Art Deco glamour. Blush-like pinks reminiscent of the '60s are making a comeback, said Julie Koepele, a Color Marketing Group member and director of design and trend research at Arden Cos.

The Southfield company consults with Kmart on its Martha Stewart products and Wal-Mart on its Better Homes and Gardens line, among other retailers.

"But red is the big story in the home this year," Koepele said. "There's a big infusion of red in home furnishings."

After its recent popularity in apparel, brown, too, is coming back into play in home decor, she said.

Neutrals, like special-effect colors, which are themselves a New Age sort of neutral, will continue to evolve in sophistication, Koepele said.

"What's happening is that there are a lot of very sophisticated neutrals — warm oak or straw and also a few softer greens — in which there's just



Red, blush tones and yellow are being touted as popular accent colors for 2003.

PLEASE SEE COLORS, C2

Define concept before tackling organization process

BY NICOLE STAFFORD
STAFF WRITER

Getting organized around the house has become a classic New Year's resolution.

"I hear it all the time," said Stephanie Denton, a national organization expert and consultant to Organized Living, which has retail locations in West Bloomfield and Troy. "I've heard it said that getting organized is the No. 2 New Year's resolution behind losing weight."

"It's a reflection of the fact that people have more commitments and more possibilities. People feel they're being pulled in too many directions."

Face it. Being organized frees up time, expedites everyday tasks, reduces stress and makes us feel a greater sense of control. "While organization may seem daunting, there are a number of resources available to help you stick with that resolution past the end of January and throughout the year," said Denton.

Among those resources is common sense. While plastic bins, shelving, drawer dividers and other products are key to taming chaos and clutter, defining what "being organized" means to you is a crucial first step, said Denton.

"The first step is not to buy stuff because you don't know

what you need yet, you don't know what you're trying to accomplish."

So step back, take note of your needs and frustrations, determine what is and isn't working, and envision everyday tasks as you'd like them to occur.

For Denton, organization planning hinges on seeing the end result or "figuring out how you'll know when you're done."

For some, managing to procure the crock pot without first having to remove a host of pots and pans is the goal. Another homeowner may aspire to plan out meals two weeks in advance. "It depends on what you want. It depends on who you are," said Denton.

The same principles can be used by homeowners who can't decide where to start. "If somebody feels the entire house needs to be organized, ask yourself 'What rooms do I come into contact with everyday? Which rooms do I spend a lot of time in?'"

Another approach: Determine which room or space most troubles you. "Start in the places that are going to make the biggest difference in your life," Denton said.

Once you've clearly defined your priorities and goals — what Denton calls the review part of getting organized — move on to the second step.

Denton divides the organization process into four Rs: review,

reduce, reorganize and replace. Reducing means discarding broken, unused and unwanted items. When you reorganize, you create a system of organization that fits your goals. Replacing is simply the act of maintaining the system you've implemented.

It's hard to do the fourth step. But some people say that's what organizing is.

Sure, maintaining any system requires discipline and action. "But it shouldn't require a lot of thought," said Denton. "If it's not easy to do, that tells you you need to step back again."

You want to keep your resolution, don't you?

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