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Spotlight on Women

Advises Interior Designer

Don't Match Everything

By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

Early attic collectors of suburbia, relax.

You have in your corner Carleton Varney, young and handsome and nationally known as an interior decorator.

Visiting the Farmington Town Hall last week, he made known a number of decorating preferences, but an aversion to the "railroad look" with everything neatly matched in pairs kept creeping into his remarks.

"Where did the American public get the idea everything has to match?" he asked. "What's wrong with mixing furniture - using something that's beautiful in itself?"

"Did you ever see a forest where the trees were all alike?"

HIS TALK in the Northland Theater in Southfield led one of his listeners to note during the celebrity luncheon that followed:

"After 25 years, nothing matches, so thanks for what you said today!"

Varney, in discussing how homes could look, included among his favorite ingredients natural woods, clear, bright colors, fresh flowers, window treatments that "let the outside come in," and especially homes that are



"A PICTURE ABOUT THIS BIG," interior designer Carleton Varney advises Mrs. Jack Lewitt of Farmington who asked for some decorating advice after his Farmington Town Hall talk last week. (Evert photo)

planned for living instead of showing off.

He doesn't like plastic surfaces everywhere, the color dusty rose, artificial flowers, water beds and inflated furniture, valances that are too short for proper proportion, designing rooms around television sets and new homes supposed to fit a whole new life style without carryover from the past.

He acknowledged that one problem with fine wood surfaces - on floors or furniture - is that effort is needed for upkeep and "nobody seems to want to take the time."

"But I keep seeing this sea of plastic," he said, "and I have the feeling someday there will be no wood finishes."

VARNEY, whose newest book is titled "Decorating with Color," said he likes to see color schemes taken from nature and considers blue the most neutral of colors and because it is the color of the sky.

"I like to do a room like a summer garden," he said "with blue and green and yellow and touches of purple and pink."

"Or, if you like the fall, you can blend the avocado and gold and pumpkin shades. Then there's the room with winter's colors, royal blue with white and scarlet."

In the New York apartment where he and his wife and two children live, Varney said he has designed a living room with yellow walls, bright geometric carpet and liberal use of his paintings and those of friends.

"But our library is a different sort of thing, with clay colored walls and English period furniture," he said. He has pictures of friends in a red, white and blue hallway. "I like to put around me the things and people who are important," he said. "The look of our home is a love experience, constantly growing."

VARNEY SAID that in working with a client he tries

to find out what colors are really favorites - "looking in the linen closets is a good way to tell because people buy towels and sheets on impulse" - and tries to use as much as possible of the furniture already on hand.

"If you're moving to a new life style in a new home, you can't leave the old self completely behind," he said. "It just doesn't work. You wind up with a house that's a museum, not a home."

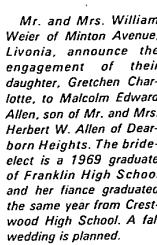
He let the audience in on several favorite decorating tricks, like using stripes to make a room appear more high-ceilinged and covering pillows with shag carpet for floor use.

He also recommended liberal use of hassocks with constant as storage space to the mother who complained of scattered playthings constantly spoiling her attempts at decor.

"I have the same problem," Varney said, "But would we really want to be without it?"



GRETCHEN WEIER



MARTHA HACKER

2 Students To Benefit

The Dearborn Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will hold a spring fashion show and luncheon at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 29, in the Chicago Road Steak House, Dearborn.

the chapter's scholarship fund for two college girls. Tickets are \$5.50 and include luncheon and the show. They may be purchased at the door or from Mrs. Lucille Forth, 11431 Nathaline, Redford Township, or Connie Sima, 8462 Woodcrest Drive, Westland.

All proceeds will be used for

Montessori Workshop Set

The Birmingham Montessori Center has scheduled an all-day workshop for parents, teachers and everyone interested in learning about the Montessori system.

Entitled "Environment for Learning," the workshop will be held Saturday, April 29, at the center, 6889 Franklin Road, Birmingham. A registration fee of \$7.50, in-

cluding lunch, should be sent to the center.

The workshop will feature a keynote address by Dr. David P. Weikart, director of High Scope Research Foundation in Ypsilanti. Workshops will be on "Language," "Sensor-Motor Development," "Infant Learning Stimulation," and "Carl Orff Music."

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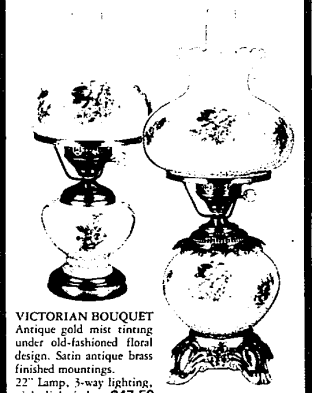
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