



Greetings

The time has come to say again the things we feel all year . . . to wish you Health and Happiness and lots of Good Old Cheer!

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Homes and Gardening

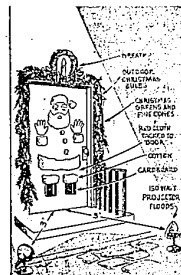


New Lamp Designs Rich In Detail, Fresh Looking

In an era of rising design levels, lamps have taken on new life and a fresh outlook, note fashion editors. No longer preoccupied with periods, per se, designers have dipped into a vast storehouse of source materials and have flavored their collections with freely adapted style motifs from other lands. The results are designs notable for their esthetically pleasing qualities and distinguished for their color and richness and for their lavish use of many materials.

This elegant materials story, plus an increasing array of pedestal bases, French Provincial and 18th Century styled legs and claw feet, reflects an industry that is both more design-conscious and more closely in tune with trends set by furniture producers. And to complete the picture, complementing these richly detailed and more handcrafted bases, are the non-drum shaped decorator styled shades that have a hand-sewn look and are alive with elaborate trim and textured interest.

All in all, the general trend lies in the direction of taller, more impressive-looking lamps. Style versatility in new lamps is achieved through the use of an almost endless variety of rich materials. This season's new ways with materials enhance table models as well as broaden the decorative appeal of floor, desk and boudoir lamps. Ceiling fixtures, too, take to eased glass and colored plastic; 18th Century pedestal legs appear on traditional floor lamps; brass beams with satin silver, and glass, ceramic and composition table models designed to blend with modern or traditional interiors achieve heightened elegance in varying degrees of formality through the use of color and materials combinations.



Suggest Two Ways To Decorate Doorways For Christmas Season

Compliment your friends on their choice of greeting cards by using them as part of your decorating indoors and outside, too.

A festive holiday doorway like the one in the sketch above can be made with your early collection of cards.

First, "tie" your front door with wide plastic or olefin cloth strips. Then cover your cards with cellophane wrapping and staple or tack them to the door.

To make the most of your "gift" package, front door, holiday lighting specialists suggest that you finish off with a 150-watt project, or spotlight. Use an outdoor-type holder to hold the bulb. Place it above the doorway (right or left) and aim the light on the arrangement. It will not only focus attention to the gift package doorway, but also will bring out the colors in the cards.

A Santa on the doorstep is a jolly way to greet holiday guests. Even if you're not artistic, you can easily create a Santa like the one above because it was designed for people who can't draw straight lines.

First, cover the door with red olefin cloth, plastic or color-fast material. Then, from sheets of cotton, cut out just the front band of Santa's cap, a ball for the tassel, cuffs for his sleeves, a round strip for the bottom of his coat and a pair of tops for his boots.

Don't forget his beard and two tiny tufts of cotton for eyebrows. Use buttons for eyes and larger ones down the front of his jacket. Secure these pieces to the red background. Notice in the sketch above that only tops of Santa's boots are needed to complete the illusion.

Complete your doorway with a frame of colored outdoor Christmas lights and greens and a lighted candle wreath.

Furniture Designs More Functional

Individuality is the dominant characteristic of case and occasional furniture, say fashion experts. It seems paradoxical, then, that furniture has never been easier to coordinate. But that's the bonus: when one studies the ways in which furniture becomes more ornamental, more functional and more flexible.

To discuss the first — ornamentation — one can begin with three major style factors: side detail, shape and pedestal. Each offers escape from complaints of "static" or "boxlike" design and draws attention to handsome silhouettes. Eye appeal from its usual viewpoint concerns the use of decorative materials and numerous finishes. Inlay and marquetry enrich not only traditional, but even modern design.

One scarcely hears the term "dual purpose," yet the scaling of the design and almost always its interior appointment contribute extreme functionality. Tables of extra width, length and height appear to support television, serve for informal snacks, and challenge the monopoly of the square table in formal arrangements. Cases are organized to file everything from ties, which may hang a rack placed within the door panel, to shirts. And carts willingly "disappear" snack tables, automatically solving storage problems.

Flexibility of furniture is a matter of several factors, note the fashion experts. Most prominent contributor to flexibility is the coordinated collection, rich with varied facades, accent features, unique pieces — and a single design theme.

Carefully designed traditional pieces are abundantly available. And, while they look old, the proportions are new and very much in tune with today's living requirements. Emphasized styles are Italian Provincial, Biedermeier and Directoire. French Provincial appears in more elegant form than previously. Comfortable Colonial styles are invading new areas including dual sleep and reclining chair lines.

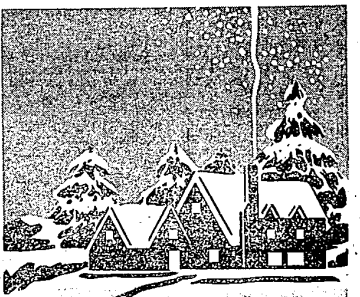
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SUGGEST USING YARD GREENERY FOR YULE TRIM

In Michigan, the most common kinds of trees that provide greenery for holiday decorations are red or Norway pine, jack, Scotch and white pine, balsam fir, white cedar, juniper, and black, white and Norway spruce.

The best of these for indoor Christmas decorations, explains Joseph T. Cox, extension specialist in landscape architecture at Michigan State University, are the pines, the firs and the cedars.

Both hemlock and spruces are good for exterior wreaths and sprays, but when they are brought into a warm building they may lose their needles within a week. Of the pines, white pine is easiest to work with, because the stems are thin and the foliage soft and bushy. Juniper provides excellent decorative material, but it is hard to use because of its very sharp-pointed scale-like leaves.

Cox suggests you don't overlook your own yard. Perhaps some of your garden and lawn evergreens need trimming. If you do this, be sure to trim them carefully with a sharp knife or sharp pruning shears. Make the cut close to the tree limb so that no ugly stub is left.

Also remember that all evergreens should be cut with a sharp knife or shears so that the wounds heal quickly. Proper trimming can improve a tree's appearance and stimulate growth. Trimming in late November and December appears to do no harm to forest or garden evergreens.

Cox warns that collecting greenery from federal or state lands is prohibited without the permission of the forester or conservation officer in charge.



YOU CAN create interesting shadow patterns with feathery pine or other holiday greens.

According to holiday lighting specialists, the secret lies in using a clear bulb. A 25-watt bulb is recommended.

As shown in the picture above, conceal the bulb and socket behind a table or stand. Be sure, however, that the cords are not touching water.

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Season's Greetings

Let us all meet the Holiday Season with a sustaining faith in our destiny. And work diligently towards a bright and peaceful future.

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