

Instant Antiquing Gives Room Traditional Look

Every decorator knows that a distinctive antique is the touch of the past that gives a new room a feeling of age and established roots. But good pieces are hard to find, and harder to budget for, in today's inflated market.

For a special furniture accent that sets the seal of individuality on your decor—without denting the family pocketbook—a major antique purchase—head for the nearest thrift shop or family attic.

They're holding with the best boys in almost-antiques: the middle-aged pieces that are hiding good lines behind years of hard wear.

Thanks to a whole new category of products designed for do-it-yourselfers, it's easy to turn family hand-me-downs into heirloom accents. Newest aid for the amateur is a four-stage antiquing treatment.

Called Smartone, the new Luminall paint kit starts with sand-

ling liquid—probably the greatest boon since the invention of the amateur furniture refinisher—and includes base coat, antiquing toner and finish coat.

The sanding liquid, which is a free bonus with the full kit, is a chemical formula engineered specifically to solve the biggest problem in refinishing old furniture: removing the tired surface coats and getting down to the good wood.

The new method substitutes a simple, wipe-on, wipe-off technique for tiresome, traditional sanding and scraping. One application does the work of hours, and because there's no abrasion, do-it-yourself amateurs get professional results.

The liquid penetrates all surfaces, even hard-to-reach corners and crevices, and removes old finish coats without sanding away the faint hills and valleys that set old furniture apart from the glass-smooth sameness of new wood.

Once old finishes are wiped away, the base coat is brushed on, without thinning. Toner is applied after the base coat is dry, to give the antique look.

It's brushed on, then wiped gently for a grain effect. Different kinds of wiping cloths—cheese cloth, terry toweling and paper are popular—give distinctively different results.

Final coat is the smartone finish coat—a clear, non-yellowing, alcohol-proof coating that combines a satin finish with protection against all normal household hazards.

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Decorators In Accord On 3 Areas

Experts in the art of interior decorating have ideas so diversified that even the most discriminating home decorator can eventually find exactly what he wants.

Despite their multiple differences, however, there are three areas where decorators find themselves in complete agreement in their recommendations. These recommendations, or "musts" for home improvement projects are:

- 1) Investigate several materials to determine which requires the least maintenance.
- 2) Be certain the material chosen is sturdy and durable.
- 3) Select materials that are adaptable to any decor and will remain in style for years.

At least one such all-inclusive material is stocked by most local lumber dealers. Called Marlie, this plastic-finished material is completely resistant to only an occasional damp wiping to retain its appearance for years. It is an attractive addition to any room in the house, but is especially suitable for use in kitchen and bathroom projects because of its heat and moisture resistant qualities.

There is no danger of colors becoming dull or lifeless. Nor will common household bumps and knocks affect the finish.

Marlie is available in six luxurious woodgrains as well as a variety of modern colors and designer patterns that will complement any decor and add a distinctive flavor to any room in the house.

Give Posies Space

Never make the mistake of making wooden porch or window boxes too small.

Flowers just will not do well in tiny ones.

Make them large enough to hold enough soil and moisture for the plants.

Add Beams

The look of a beamed ceiling can be created with knock-down Douglas fir timbers nailed to the ceiling joists. Use an X pattern, with beams running diagonally across the ceiling from corner to corner, when a center chandelier is to be installed, as in a dining room.

Nail in Tongue

Tongue-and-groove panel boards should be blind-nailed through the tongue so that the nail is covered up by the groove of the adjacent board. Boards more than eight inches wide should be nail-fitted.

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FOUR OUTSTANDING SCIENCE scholars research department, discusses the use of a representing Farmington area high schools (from were among 80 students touring Detroit Edison left) Kicab Castaneda of North Farmington engineering and research facilities on Feb. 23 as part of Engineer Youth Day activities in the Detroit area. Tullio A. Alessi (right), a supervising engineer for Edison's engineering

Bright Colored Rugs Are Contrast to Dark Floors

Dark toned oak floors are throwing new light on the home decorating scene.

They're helping to spark a refreshingly new approach to room planning, in which bright, gay area and accent rugs, free form and novelty rugs are displacing the favor of interior designers and homemakers alike.

It's a breakaway from what some designers have termed the monotony of endless miles of single-tone wall-to-wall carpeting.

As one decorating publication puts it: "The tired cliché of wall-to-wall carpeting that stretches as far as the eye can see has become as passe as feather dusters."

Dark oak floors offer a pleasing background for the bold colors.

There is no sacrifice of wood beauty since the dark tones permit the inimitable natural figure of the oak to appear prominently.

And the contrast between the dark wood and the bright colored rugs allows each element to stand out. They complement each other without competing.

Many of the rugs are domestic, some are imported from Scandinavia, Iran, France and other countries. Among the domestic favorites are many bright and hooked rugs, and those with colorful motifs that include musical, nautical and other depicting.

Among proponents of this new style in floor treatment is William Pahlmann, one of the nation's best known interior designers.

Pointing out that rich area rugs make a room look warm and inviting, he says they're increasing use has been spurred by "the returning interest in bare wood floors."

He adds that area rugs are practical because they can be turned to save wear, sent out

for cleaning, switched from one room to another to give a new feeling, and even changed from season to season.

Incidentally, he says, if you have had the good fortune to inherit or otherwise acquire an old Aubusson, Savonnerie, needlepoint, Gros Point or Oriental, your rug can establish the theme of your decoration.

"You can take your color scheme from the design in the rug," he explains, "and plan your fabric, furniture and room arrangements around it."

The best way to set off this kind of treasure is to lay it on a dark polished wood floor.

Coincident with the trend toward dark brown tones in oak, observers note, there is growing interest in treating the floors in appealing decorator colors—various shades of blue, green and red, for example.

Dishes Are Drudgery For Most Housewives

Dishwashing is the most disliked household chore for American homemakers.

A survey of manufacturers of stainless steel sinks, disclosed that 60 per cent of the women doing the work think of it as "doing the dishes" rates as the most disagreeable task.

General house cleaning rates as second most disliked chore, with 18 per cent of housewives terming the combination of dusting and sweeping their homes or apartments their most depressing task.

Third most disliked job of housewives is making beds, which was chosen by 12 per cent of those queried as the most disagreeable chore. Next in line as most distasteful is shopping, picked by 8 per cent of housewives.

Other household chores mentioned by women as irksome in their daily routine were laundry, sewing, cooking and ironing.

"Despite all our modern mechanical household conveniences, the little lady of the house finds her daily chores a considerable burden," comments Karl Jensen, president of Jensen-Thorsen Corp., of Addison, Ill.

"And the dirty job of cleaning, whether it involves dirty dishes, dirty floors or dirty laundry, still remains a drudgery for most wives who resent and dislike this part of being a woman."

"For all of our inventive ingenuity with kitchen gadgets and cleaning gimmicks, we still have not substantially eased the burden for homemakers who put on a long hard day running their homes to keep them spick and span."

The future of kitchen design should place more emphasis on a search for easier ways of cleaning up after meals.

The average housewife spends more time at the kitchen sink than in any other part of household.

New Mantel, Panels Perk Fireplace

A new mantel may help improve the appearance of a fireplace. Face-lifting the area will complete the modernization.

Many modern-day mantels aren't attractive, but if you can find an old mantel, it's a simple matter to make a switch.

Ideal is an early 19th century mantel made of wood or stone. It makes it readily adaptable to rooms with modern furniture.

If there are stubby built-in bookcases at both sides of the fireplace, they'll look better if they are continued to the ceiling, according to Norma Brown, home decorating consultant to Mastenette Corporation. She adds:

"Make another striking improvement by paneling the area above the mantel with a woodgrain such as Masonite Royale; another good choice is a hardwood with the appearance of travertine marble. Both are factory-finished."

A deep fireplace may indicate there is room at each side for a closet built flush with the face of the hearth. Miss Brown suggests a closet can be lined with peg-board to hold shelves for games or other storage.

Hollow-core doors for the closets can be purchased at bargain sales and covered with a Royalecote woodgrain, available in many colors and patterns. This method is easier and less expensive than buying top-grade doors or having them custom-built.

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Page 9B (GCN 6B) Wednesday, March 2, 1966

Ladies Like Convenience

Most families who plan kitchen remodeling expect to install built-in ovens and ranges. A Home Improvement Council survey shows 66 per cent of the homeowners queried want built-in ovens and 64 per cent want built-in range tops.

The popularity of modern built-in appliances is reflected in the variety of electric range and oven styles that are designed for installation in a counter or wall or to fit with counters and cabinets to give a built-in look.

Get Your Children Their Own Plants

The small fry may bother your potted plants.

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