

Do your own thing in interior decorating

Home & Garden

"Considering the myriad products and numerous decorating options available in the home furnishings world today, creating an 'indoor world' can be one of the most exciting and satisfying experiences any homeowner can have," says Louisa Cowan. Mrs. Cowan, an interior designer for a manufacturer of floor and wall coverings, offers some useful advice to would-be home decorators.

BUDGET-Set up a budget for the complete decorating job with approximate cost for each product category. Consider how to use the furnishings you already own. Some items may be reupholstered or repainted to fit the new room design. Also, consider doing some of the projects yourself. There is an increase

in interest in do-it-yourself because of the number of high-style products available in a form you can install yourself.

SCHEME-Consider your lifestyle. To "do your own thing" so that you can live comfortably with it is the essence of good taste. A room must satisfy the eye, the psyche and practical living needs; and this means carefully evaluating things like where your family will be spending most of its time. Let your surroundings reflect your tastes, collections, hobbies and color preferences.

COLOR-When it comes to decorating, there is no tool that will overcome architectural flaws. Determine which colors in room won't be or can't be changed. Then as-

semble swatches of existing items and choose new colors based on your taste and courage.

Remember that color enlarges, contracts, unifies and harmonizes. With color you can call attention to almost anything in the room setting the stage for an important focal area or a treasured bibelot or accessory.

When you decide on a color scheme be sure to carry colors and fabric swatches with you.

MINI FLOOR PLAN-Experiment with furniture arrangements. This is the time to correct traffic lane faults and improve conversation areas. Make cutouts of existing pieces and the furniture you plan to buy. Place major pieces first on the room scaled to size on graph paper, then the auxiliary pieces. **CARPET**-You should choose a carpet based on the kind of performance you expect, which, in turn, is based on where the carpet is to be used.

The amount of traffic, the number of children and pets and the room's function should all be considered.

Time was when a tiled ceiling meant an area of squares. Now there are tiles designed to achieve a monolithic look which are easy to put up with several installation options.

There are patterns that fit any room's motif, from Mediterranean to Early American decor. Decorating, to a great extent, is highly individualistic. It should be seasoned to personal preferences, and well executed to personal tastes.

How you approach the decorating dilemma depends a great deal on your attitude, according to Mrs. Cowan. "A room that's prepared with love, care and imagination is what home decorating is all about."

The Green Thumb
By GEORGE ARSHAM

If your tomato plants or squash vines have tiny white flies on them, get out the dishwashing detergent and spray for this pest.

White flies are a sucking insect which congregates on the undersides of the leaves. At temperatures of 85 degrees F. the life cycle of this pest is about two weeks, which means a new batch can hatch out immediately after you kill off the adults.

Sprays have no effect on eggs or pupae (immobile stage), so when you spray you kill the young (nymphs) and adults.

MANY USE THE liquid dishwashing detergent as a contact insecticide at the rate of four teaspoons per gallon of water. Even the low-priced liquid detergents sold in supermarkets under their own brand names are suitable.

The detergent kills aphids, certain other bugs, cabbage worms, some thrips and white fly larvae and adults. Some gardeners who have used it claim that the detergent will also kill red spider mites, which is quite a feat.

Detergents are harmless to humans, well established plants, pets and wildlife. It can burn the foliage of tiny seedlings and may "scorch" some tender house plants such as African violets.

If you have been using dishwashing detergents for white flies, please write and tell us how you like it.

WE USED TO THINK that if you could fruit a strawberry patch two or three years, you were lucky. Actually, a strawberry bed can be made to fruit six years or longer. In fact, many commercial growers fruit their fields eight years or longer.

If your plants are productive and healthy, you can fruit the patch for several years. A strawberry planting is usually abandoned because of weeds, too many strawberry plants, winter injury, root diseases or nematode.

If you escape all these, your planting should be productive. Here's how some gardeners renovate their strawberry patch for next year's crop: First, they set their rotary lawn mower high, and mow all the leaves at a height of one to three inches. Next, they thin out rows to a width of 15 inches or less.

Don't hesitate to space plants by removing surplus. Space the plants so they are six to eight inches apart. Some people train the new plants so they resemble spokes in a wheel.

Feed your strawberry plants now, using a liquid plant food. If you use a chemical or dry fertilizer such as 10-10-10, scatter it over the plant row when the foliage is DRY. Water the plants if rain doesn't come. Remember, it's better to grow a few, well managed plants than a large, poorly managed planting.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: "Please tell me how to grow the 'friendship plant.' What care does it need?" Answer: The South American friendship plant (*Pilea involucrata*) likes a bright semi-sunny window, but NOT direct sun. Best soil mixture is 1 part each of sand, peat and loam.

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10'	1.33	1.90	2.80	3.47	5.30	3.87
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