

Spring Home Improvement ~ Lawn & Garden

Warm Up To Today's Hottest Colors

Does a room decorated with beige carpet, cream walls and furnishings, and accents of sand, sage and sienna sound a bit drab and unexciting to you? Think again.

Although there is no single palette that dominates today, warmer colors such as neutrals, warm greens, and rich earth tones will remain popular as the 90s hottest colors in home decorating.

Randy Sanford, director of product development for Galaxy Carpet Mills, says that consumer desire for security and contentment in the home is the driving force for an overall warming of colors, especially in carpet.

According to Sanford, consumers look at carpet as "a coat of paint for the floor." As such, warm colors, especially soft yellows and other earth tones have become popular as consumers stay home and look to color to provide warmth and comfort to their personal lives, and adopt a more family-oriented lifestyle in general, he explains.

Warm greens are also on the rise. Many experts credit the color's popularity to global concerns and a general association with the environment. However, according to Sanford, "Green is just a great neutral. It goes with most colors that are already in a home." Greens such as sage and khaki are warm colors that blend well and add warmth to a room setting.

Another trend influencing today's color choices is the importance of ethnic identity. Clay pink, burnt orange, geranium red and custard reflect an interest in the crafts and national costumes of Latin America, Africa and the new Eastern European countries. Area rugs reflecting tribal ethnicity are also increasing in popularity as an accent in home decor.

Although it may not be time to revive the avocado appliances or burnt orange carpet so popular in the 70s, it is time to warm up to the neutrals and earth tones that are hot for the 90s.

For more information on today's trends in carpet colors, contact your nearest Peerless Carpet Center retailer or Peerless/Galaxy at 1 800 845 4252.

The Top Eight Ways Americans Have Fun on their Carpet

(from the Life Styles and Home Furnishings study conducted for The Carpet and Rug Institute)

1. Playing games.
2. Activities with children.
3. Romance.
4. Sitting and laying.
5. Wrestling and roughhousing.
6. Walking barefoot.
7. Playing with dogs or cats.
8. Opening Christmas presents.

Courtesy of Peerless/Galaxy



Textured carpet from Peerless/Galaxy provides a unique backdrop for this neutral colored room. A variety of materials, textures and surfaces were used for a creative, calming room decor.

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Landscaping Goes Native

(NAPS)—In an increasing number of communities around the country, native plants and natural areas are used to complement grass lawns, a landscaping practice known as Xeriscape.

According to Bob Dickinson, senior landscape architect for ITT-CDC at Palm Coast, Florida, this is "water conservation through creative landscaping," and something his company has long practiced.

The landscape design capitalizes on the natural beauty of existing

vegetation. It minimizes the use of open sod areas and maximizes the use of native plants. Builders are especially careful of trees and their root systems.

To find out more about the natural beauties and other advantages of homes in Palm Coast communities, call 1-800-654-2213, ext. 93.

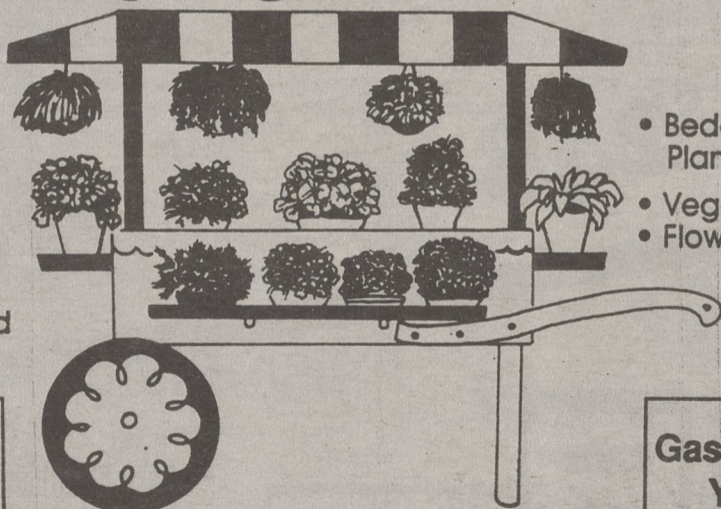
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