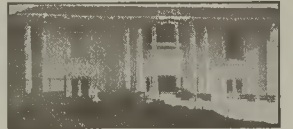


5C

REAL ESTATE



Change in season reflects a change in mood

ARTICLE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

Change is in the air. Fall is here and winter isn't far away. It's one of the busiest times of year for interior decorators.

"The reason we're so busy is people really get energized in the fall," says Thomas Pheasant, an award winning interior designer from Washington, D.C. "The change in temperature serves as a signal to start focusing more on the indoors to get ready for winter."

Pheasant says one of the best, and easiest places to start, is in the room where you spend a majority of your time: the bedroom. "You don't have to start moving furniture all over the place to change the look of the room," says Pheasant. "Changing your bedding and curtains is often all it takes to make a dramatic difference."

Pheasant says the same colors you see on the trees outside — orange, gold, red, brown and olive green — have great appeal indoors. "They really set the mood of the season, especially when combined with paisley and velvet textures." The bedroom isn't the only place where bold color and texture changes will have a quick and noticeable impact. You can also set the mood of the season by putting some dried leaves or branches on the coffee table, and colorful pillows and a slip cover on your sofa. A seasonal bowl of apples on the dining room table, along with slip covers on the chairs, will also make a big impact. So where do you start if you want to bring the fall "look" into your own home?

"Start with materials. The kinds of fabric or color you choose can really change the attitude of the room," says Pheasant. "Velvet and damask are formal patterns that are more appropriate for fall and winter. Linen, paisley and leather are more modern and better suited for spring and summer."

Pheasant recommends you take his ideas to an interior designer for help implementing them. "Mistakes are expensive. Professional designers have resources available that most people do not. Hiring someone can make your life so much easier," says Pheasant. If you ultimately decide to take Pheasant's advice, pieces from his collection of furniture and accessories are sold at Baker Furniture and over 200 other independent dealers throughout the country. Log onto www.bakerfurniture.com for access to a retail store directory.

HAND-PAINTED FURNITURE:

Must-have furnishings of the season

ARTICLE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

From armoires to wooden figurines to headboards and accent mirrors, home furnishings are canvases for artists around the world. Adorned with floral patterns, Asian motifs and other ethnic-inspired designs, hand-painted furniture and accessories are the must-have items of the season.

"Hand-painted home furnishings are taking center stage in the home, adding a world-inspired flare and style to the overall décor," says Gary Babcock, vice president of merchandising and fashion at Arhaus Furniture, a 23-store lifestyle retailer of fine home furnishings.

Worldly influences

Hundreds of years ago, Egyptian artisans embellished everything from tables to pottery with colorful motifs to pass on ancient fables to future generations.

"We're seeing a resurgence of these hand-painted items as consumers look to add personal

Please see THE/6C



Grocery store china still popular

ARTICLE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

Family heirlooms come in many guises. For some, it is their Grandmother's cookie jar, for others a treasured piece of furniture, and for many others, the family china holds a place in their hearts.

"I love my china," says Susan Durrell. "It is very special to me."

She fondly describes the pattern as white with green flowers and yellow flower baskets. "It's really pretty," she adds. You might be surprised to find out that Durrell is not talking about an expensive set of Wedgwood or Spode dishes, but rather about a set of dishes she collected 25 years ago as a special promotion at her local Publix Super Market. The Tampa resident explains that when she collected the china, she was newly

married and the mother of an infant.

"The china was very affordable, it was pretty, and it was an easy way to collect a nice set of dishes, since I was shopping at Publix anyway," says Durrell. She notes that the store also offered silver-plated serving pieces to complement the china.

Durrell collected a service for eight, and says, "This china is as special to me as any fine china. It has been part of my family for a long time and has a lot of memories." She was sad to discover after a recent move that one of her soup bowls had broken.

She wasn't optimistic about finding a piece of china from a set sold at a grocery store a quarter of a century ago, but thought she'd try

her luck with Replacements Ltd., a North Carolina-based company that tracks down discontinued china, silver and crystal.

"The only markings on the back of the plates say 'fine china, Japan,'" says Durrell. "I was flabbergasted when I went to the Replacements Web site, typed in those words, and a picture of my china popped up on the screen." China sold or given away by grocery stores accounts for hundreds of the 175,000 patterns represented in the vast inventory stored at Replacements' warehouse, which is the size of four football fields. Liam Sullivan, the company's director of public relations, notes that there is a big demand for these patterns, since they were manufactured in limited quanti-

ties exclusively for the grocery store, so when they were sold out, they were out of circulation. "Also, most people never collected a whole set, because they acquired a piece at a time and the stock may have been depleted before their set was finished."

Customers who are searching for a specific pattern can simply call 1-800-REPLACE or visit the company's Web site. "If they know the manufacturer and the name of the pattern, that makes it really easy," says Sullivan. However, the experts at Replacements can also research china using a photo or a photocopy of the front and back of a dinner plate. The company prides itself on helping customers track down pieces they need, even

Please see GROCERY/6C

Wear your he(art) on your walls

ARTICLE RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

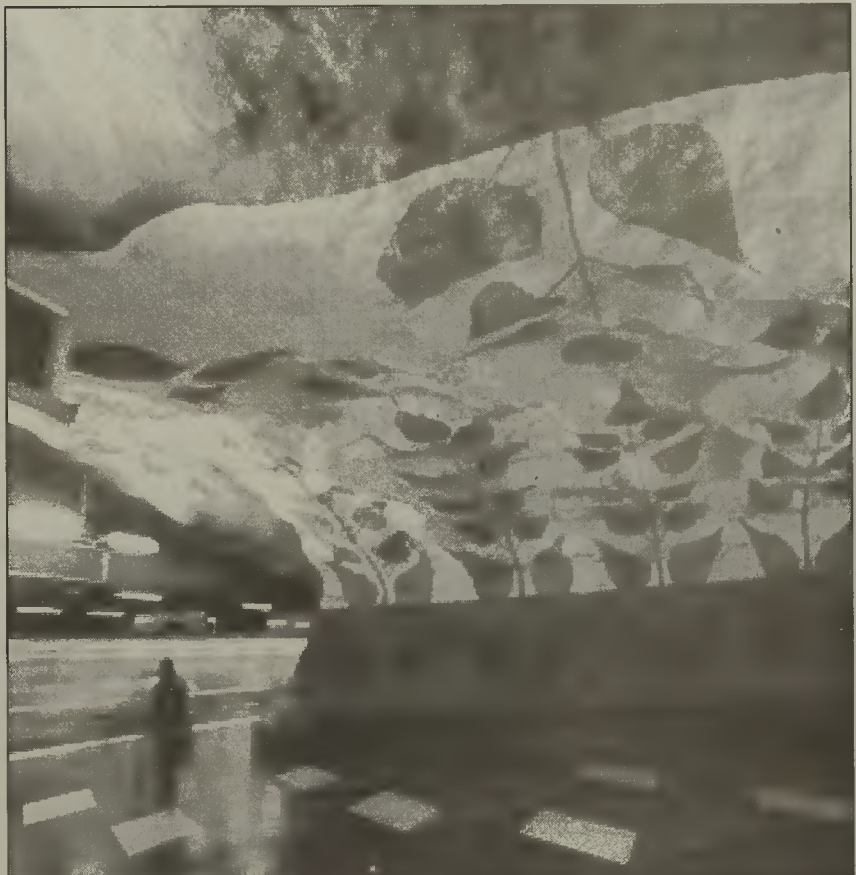
You've heard the phrase "wearing your heart on your sleeve" — now you can wear your heart (or your favorite photo) on your wall.

Thanks to advanced printing technology, you can personalize your living space with wall murals created exclusively for you, using a favorite photo or piece of art. Murals My Way, a new division of Environmental Graphics, has developed custom software and printing techniques that enable the company to create unique murals using custom images. "Whether it is a photo from your honeymoon trip to Hawaii or your child's artwork, we can create a mural that will be the focal piece of any room," says Todd Imholte, president of Environmental Graphics. "Our company has been manufacturing wall murals for over 35 years," says Imholte.

"Now, with Murals My Way, customers can develop the interior environment they desire with a range of options including our Standard and Gallery Collections, all the way to a totally custom image. Our experience, service, and unrivaled quality will bring a space to life."

The Standard Collection is a series of murals which are licensed and developed in large quantities; the resulting cost savings are passed on to customers. These murals are widely available, either directly from Murals My Way or at retailers nationwide. Standard murals measure approximately 8 feet by 13 feet. The new Gallery Collection is an ever-growing library of images that includes categories such as abstract, animals, botanical, children's, ethnic, photography, religious, scenic, sports and still life. Customers can select an image by visiting the company's Web site and have it printed to their exact size specifications — Gallery murals must exceed 4 feet by 6 feet, but have no maximum size. Murals My Way's custom option lets customers cover a wall with an image of their choice, printed in the exact size specified by the customer.

The company's staff will work with clients to ensure that the image they are using will produce a high-quality mural. Standard wall murals are easy to hang using basic wall covering tools, while Gallery and Custom murals require a greater comfort level with hanging



wall covering.

"We recommend that customers have a professional paper hanger install their Custom or Gallery mural," says Imholte. "Due to the complexity of the image and the materials used, hanging these murals can be a big project for DIYers." All of the wall murals are printed on high-quality paper and come with specially-formulated paste, making them easy to install and easy to remove when you want to change the look of a room without damaging wall sur-

faces. This makes the murals suitable for apartments, dorm rooms, children's rooms or any room that needs some perking up. "A wall mural can transform a room into whatever you want it to be, from a haven for daydreaming to a peaceful place to gather and reflect on the day's events," says Imholte. And now that mural can be unique to you and your home. For more information on Standard, Gallery and Custom murals, visit www.muralsmyway.com or call (888) 295-9764.