

BRING THE BEACH INSIDE

Shell Wreaths Add Coastal Flavor To Home Decorating

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around a straw or plastic foam wreath form until the entire form is covered. Using a hot glue gun, small shells such as arks and cockles can then be attached to the outside and inside rims of the wreath.

Mrs. Bryan said shells can be attached so the open end faces up or down, but all of the shells should be attached the same way to give the finished product a more "professional" look. Also, shells should not hang over the back side of the wreath form because it will have to fit flush against a wall or other surface.

Once the outside and inside of the wreath have been lined with shells and a bow has been attached, she said it's time to get creative and fill in the front of the wreath with shells of different shapes and sizes.

"From that point on you just use your imagination," said Mrs. Bryan. "You don't have to line them up in a row. Just wind the shells in and out."

Wreaths can be displayed on walls or doors and don't necessarily have to stay inside. Coating the paper ribbon with a waterproof material makes it suitable for hanging outdoors as well, said Mrs. Bryan.



MARGARET NOLAND, left, uses a glue gun to affix shells to the outside of a wreath during a workshop at Holden Beach. She is assisted by Jean Mearns.

STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER

In Buying Draperies, Look For Durability

You can tie up a fair amount of money in draperies for your home.

Because it is an investment, you might want to consider more than color and pattern when purchasing draperies. Why not look at durability also, suggests Mary L. Russ, a Brunswick County home economics extension agent.

Generally synthetic fibers are more resistant to sunlight than natural fibers such as cotton and rayon. Synthetic fibers, such as nylon and polyesters, also absorb less moisture

than natural fibers.

Why is that important? Too much absorption may cause drapery fabrics to sag or lose their shape. Moisture can also carry air-borne pollution and contaminants into the fabric, again speeding deterioration, she said.

Tightly woven fabrics usually resist the sun better than loose weaves, she noted. And fabrics that are vat-dyed or solution-dyed usually resist fading better than those dyed by other methods.



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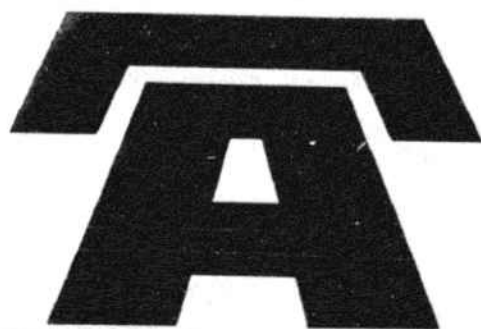
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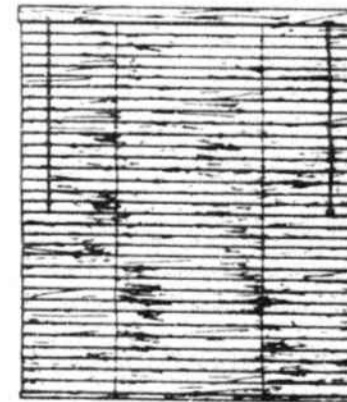
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