

Inspirations

A NEWSLETTER OF INSPIRING IDEAS FOR HOME AND GARDEN

Welcome...to the first issue of *Inspirations*! Where you will find inspiring ideas for your home—what's new in the home furnishing industry, and designers tips and secrets for both classic and trend-setting interiors.

Thank you to my clients, builders and associates—you—who inspire me!



Where do you find *your* inspiration?



Do you enjoy being surrounded by the color of the ocean, or a clear lake? Or did a teal-colored sweater at your favorite clothing store turn your head? Maybe a painting with blues and greens that you love? You are not alone, and I re-discovered the color teal in the beautiful, inspiring Highpoint, N.C. furniture market showrooms this year.

There has been a notable burst of color in the home furnishings industry in 2012, including buttery-golds and corals, but teal definitely was strong and inspiring. This collage of new fabrics, trims, paint colors, and accessories shows just a teaser of what is available; for interiors that are contemporary or classic.



New Home Construction in Mansville Heights

I was hired
recently by
new clients for
interior design
consultation
as they build
and furnish
their new home
in Mansville
Heights.

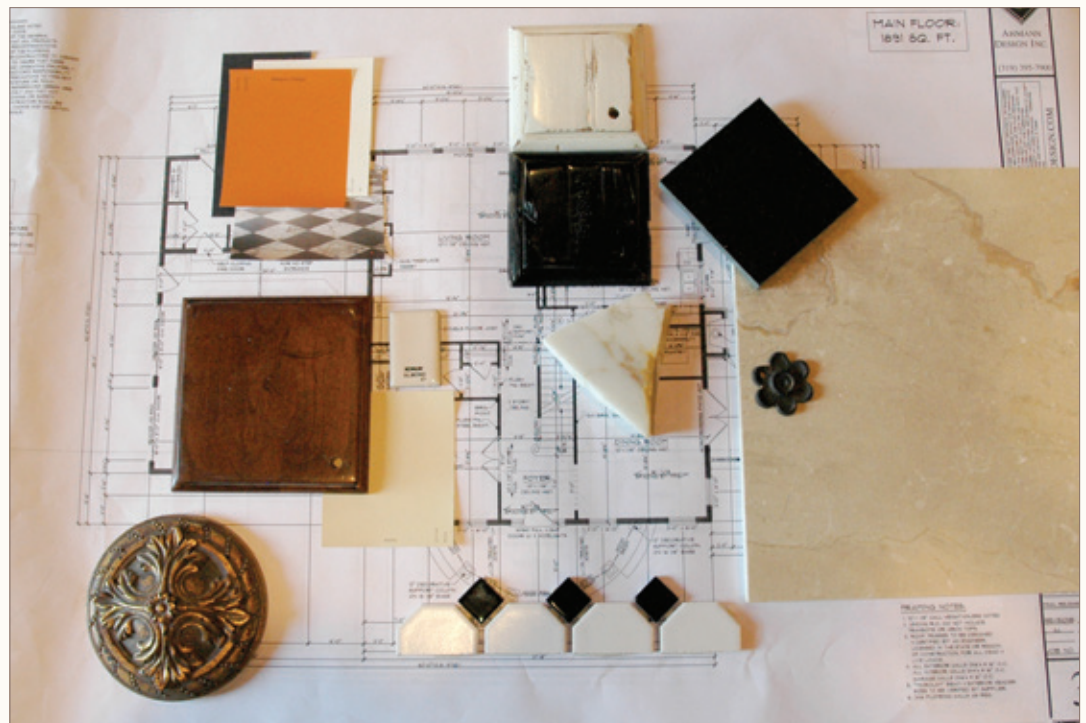
In this neighborhood of homes built from the 1920's,—Tudors, Colonials, and cottage styles, all blend harmoniously under tall shade trees and quiet streets. My clients favored a southern-style home with brick trim and columned porches for their young family.

My first tour of the house was as it was being framed, and decisions on plumbing, marble, tiles, and cabinets were at the top of the list. My client had just ordered a stunning vessel sink for the foyer powder room, and I found her an ebony chest from Lillian August Co. to adapt as the sink's base.

In subsequent meetings and exchanges of ideas for the home, we planned crème marfil foyer marble with diagonal diamond-shaped black granite dots, walnut-stained white-oak floors (a favorite of the builder Steve Johannes), painted kitchen cabinets and trim throughout in Sherwin Williams Dover White.

Never shy with colors, my client had a vision for their art room walls for an orange color from Valspar called Indian Clay. Balanced with the white cabinets and trim and a black-and-white checkerboard tile floor which Katy Grimes of Bachmeiers found for us, the room is an inspiring space before one even pulls out a paint-brush or empty canvas!

Next issue: Designing a dreamy master bath, and custom cabinetry



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Lantern: Visual Comfort exterior bronze lantern from The Mansion; vessel sink: Kohler's Milles Fleurs from Plumb Supply; ebony chest: Lillian August Co.; house elevation and blueprint: Ahmann Design



In THE KNOW

NEW FAVORITES

This clean but classic light fixture from Curry and Company is a winner! How does its style read? Clean classic, mid-century modern and timeless. I just installed it in the foyer of the UI Gamma Phi Beta sorority, a home built in 1925.

\$1,000 at The Mansion.



Can you believe it? This is a carved wood mirror from Alden Parks. Place it in your dining room, over your mantel, or foyer chest.

\$329 at The Mansion.



THE MANSION'S PRIVATE-LABEL UPHOLSTERY COMPANY

I love selling clients the best of the industry; Baker, Hickory Chair, Pearson, and Century. But my best-kept secret? It is our private label upholstery company-TCS.

Ask me about the 25% savings!



REINVENTION

RE-FRAMING

Every room in your home needs meaningful wall art. Whether your choices are paintings, old maps, mirrors, or family photos, the frames will make or break the setting. Re-framing is an art in itself, and I would love to help you with it. Frames and matting from Hudson River Gallery, 538 S. Gilbert, Iowa City.



RE-UPHOLSTERY

My clients often ask, "Is reupholstering a savings over and new sofa or chair?" Yes—definitely. I enjoy recreating my clients' furniture. I often redesign the arms, skirt and legs. These are 1920's channel back wing chairs, from the Gamma Phi Beta sorority library, that I had reupholstered this summer by The Mansion's workroom.



Trellis for Your Outdoor Spaces



My Dyersville, Iowa, client contacted me to enhance the areas flanking her front door. The home's exterior is a light putty-colored stucco with classic architectural quoin details, and she wanted a more welcoming entrance. I found a pair of exterior-safe stone urns on pedestals from Artifacts International, which hold live ferns in the warm months and evergreen in the winter. The custom trellises fit perfectly as a backdrop behind the urns, and I had them custom-painted to match my clients' front door, in Sherwin Williams' # 6152 "Superior Bronze."

The Artifacts urns, www.artifacts-international.com, and custom trellis from Accents of France, www.accentsoffrance.com, are available at The Mansion.



Favorite Window Treatment

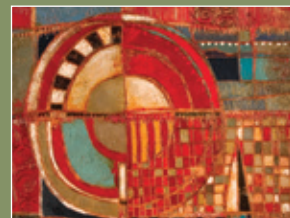


The "smiling" Roman shade ranks high on my list of favorite custom window treatments. The difference between a regular Roman shade and a smiling Roman, is that this style's folds are not sewn across the shade and are allowed to hang free in the center, creating a soft curve or "smile" across the bottom of the shade.

Shown here on windows over a cozy window seat, these shades are both tailored, yet relaxed due to their curved shape, and they set off the architectural features of the windows. Smiling Roman shades do well mounted inside the window casing, with or without side draperies, or alone as shown in this photo. By day, these shades show off views and allow light to stream into the room, and in the evening, can drop for privacy.

I have created smiling Roman shades in a wide range of fabrics for my clients, including linens, cottons, and silks. A soft lining is important to allow for the shade to fold properly. Surprisingly, many sheer fabrics can make a stunning statement, and I line them in a sheer lining. This allows for transparency yet it is supportive enough for the shade to function properly.

THE NEXT ISSUE



Art show November
15th at the Mansion
for UIHC benefit!
Save the date!



Color trends from
markets:
butter, corals



Perfect centerpieces
for any table

And more!

Know someone
who may enjoy this
newsletter?

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