

# Inspirations

A NEWSLETTER OF INSPIRING IDEAS FOR HOME AND GARDEN • APRIL 2013

Welcome...  
to the April 2013 issue  
of *Inspirations!*

It is now the “Rite of Spring” for our Midwest farmers and gardeners... that refreshing passage into new life and nature’s new colors of the Spring season.

Similarly, for interior designers, vendors refresh us each Spring with their exciting trunk shows of new fabrics and furnishings.

So...in sharing what I have been inspired by recently, I hope that you find much inspiration in this Spring issue—for your home!

—Rhonda—



## Where do you find *your* inspiration?



The color blue is usually thought of as a cool and calming. And I would have agreed, until men’s ties, shirts, ladies’ shoes and sweaters heralded-in a new, energetic blue in 2013. This blue is as gem-like as a brilliant sapphire stone.

The collage above, shows the clarity and intensity of blue fabrics recently introduced by Robert Allen, Pindler and Pindler, and others. The geometric wool rug sample is new from Safaviah, and the framed glicee is by local artist Terry Riley, at Hudson River Gallery. Team up this stunning blue with plenty of light neutral painted walls, bleached wood or painted furniture.

But then, is it really a “new” blue, or a throw-back to the 40’s, when the blue-covered book in the collage was published? Or is it as timeless as a gemstone?

(Credits: Glicee: “Mall of America”, lower right: Artist Terry Riley, Iowa City. Represented by Hudson River Gallery.)



# New Home in Cedar Springs, North

Our construction appointments in January helped me to understand my clients' preferences for the interiors of their new home.

**B**rian Watts of Prime Ventures Construction, contacted me last fall to assist his clients for the selections for their new custom home in a wooded cul-de-sac in Cedar Springs, North Liberty. "We have built two custom homes before this one," the client told me, at our initial meeting. "But I want more professional interior design help for this home, for color selections, new furniture, window treatments, and I need to make many construction decisions before I leave for 6 weeks!"

The daunting challenge was the three-week dead-line to make selections before my clients left town, to keep up with Prime Venture's schedule to meet the July 2013 move-in.

My client and I quickly synchronized our schedule with local showrooms referred by Prime Ventures, for her kitchen, wet bar, and bathroom cabinetry, bath and kitchen plumbing fixtures, interior and exterior doors, exterior siding and stone, windows, roof shingles, stair railings. We checked-off the list of decisions provided by Prime Ventures' supervisor in time for the construction of the home to stay on schedule.

Our construction appointments in January helped me to understand my clients' preferences for the interiors of their new home. I am looking forward to the next phases of construction and decorating with them!

*Next issue: Counter-tops, paint, carpeting, and space-planning for Prime Ventures custom home in Cedar Springs.*



Interior doors of rustic alder wood from Advanced Millwork, North Liberty.



# h Liberty

## It's all about the details

When building or remodeling a home, there are a multitude of products to choose from. I begin by helping each client with a master plan of the color scheme, including flooring, paint, wood stains, and stone. Then it is easier to make good choices for smaller details such as this specialty sink and accent tile.



Elkay hammered copper bar sink, at Plumbers Supply H<sup>2</sup>O.



Master bath shower and counter backsplash; 1" x 1" mosaic onyx tile for master bath, at Randy's Carpet.

# In THE KNOW

## CHANDELIER FOR CONTEMPORARY REMODELED LINDER ROAD FOYER

With a new sleek, curved, stainless-steel stair railing and balcony as a backdrop, I found an outstanding chandelier for my client's 2-story foyer—the "Caviar Bouquet" fixture from Arteriors Home. There are 18 lights and globes hanging freely from cables, and connected to a satin-nickel sphere above.

**Price on request, available at The Mansion**



## LIGHTING FOR YOUR ART

It is ideal to plan lighting for artwork during construction, but there are ways to add special-effect art lighting even in a finished home. I recently had this picture light installed in a foyer, and the electrician wired it into a former wall sconce receptacle, hidden behind the art. From House of Troy, **starting at \$65. At the Mansion.**



## FINE FURNITURE BY BAUSMAN & COMPANY

This California-made furniture from alder and walnut woods is bench-made by fine craftsmen. On April 1st the Mansion introduced their newly redecorated showrooms of traditional and contemporary Bausman furniture to Inspire you, including the latest fine area rugs, art and accessories. Please stop in and see for yourself!



# RE InVENTION

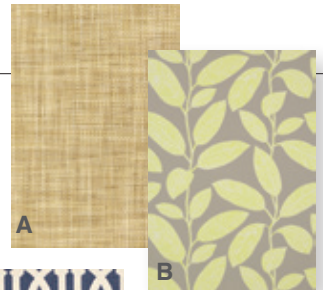
Recently, a local wallpaper-hanger remarked that she has been hired to hang more new wallpaper than for removing old paper...Not surprising with the new popularity of wallpaper. Whether it is bold and colorful geometric patterns, enlarged and modern versions of 17th century damask, or sustainable textures, wall-paper is back!

## TIP #1

For a den or office, grass-cloth textures are perfect for warming up the room, and they complement wood cabinets and bookshelves. Also, grass-cloths are a great background for art and picture galleries. (A)

## TIP #2

Wallpapers with a light design set over a dark or colored background will give rooms depth and are relaxing. This is called a "negative effect". With this effect, use the light color for the furnishings to compliment the walls. (B, C, D, E)



# Sunroom in Cedar Springs

This sunroom was planned for 4-seasons' enjoyment on the south side of the house, with the woodlands just several feet away. The out-door deck is accessible from sliding doors, and the sunroom opens into the main floor dining room, kitchen and great room.

My client had only one requirement: her husband wants a sofa to stretch out on... so, in space-planning the room, a sofa is what I scaled-in first. Other cues?? As my client began her initial interview with me, she shared that she wanted her house to have the colors of autumn, and with that in mind, I have researched area rugs for an autumn color scheme—and discovered this 100% wool area rug from Jaunty, carved of irregular leaf shaped borders—a good suggestion to compliment the hickory wood floors.

For furniture? I often suggest upholstery from Lee Industries, who has perfected a washable slip-cover program for most styles of sofas and chairs. Slip-covers are perfect for sunrooms!

*THE NEXT ISSUE*



White-washed wood finishes return



More fabric color trends: Corals and rose

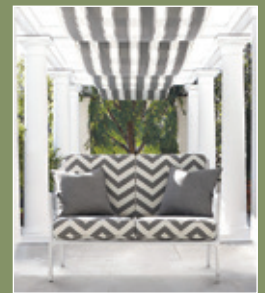
## Favorite Window Treatment



Stationary drapery side panels enhance a window-wall and frame the view to the outdoors. This room has high ceilings, and the top of the transom window is at 10'. I designed these panels high enough to drape and fall gracefully above the window. My drapery workroom and I call the hand-tacked pleat a "relaxed European style" and it allows the folds between the pleats to make cowl-type collars.

I planned plenty of fabric fullness for rich folds, and had each panel lined and interlined. A six-inch bullion fringe adds texture to the high-ceilinged room.

Side panels look great hanging from rods or under a cornice, and I often leave them straight and not tied back, with the hem breaking slightly onto the floor.



Decks and outdoor rooms

And more!

Know someone who may enjoy this newsletter?

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