

Inspirations

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

Welcome....
to the first issue of
Inspirations of the
new year!

Now that it is winter,
it is a perfect time
to freshen, organize,
or improve your
home and use your
spaces better.

Whether it is
rearranging your
Great room, adding
a sunroom, planning
for new furnishings
or accessories, this
issue will have many
Ideas for you!

—Rhonda—



Where do you find *your* inspiration?



It is evident from this fabric collage that I have been inspired by the “new” green colors introduced lately from the home furnishings industry. Whether it is emerald (chosen as the new color-of-the-year by the international Pantone® color council), kiwi, lime, or citrus greens, fern, evergreen or spruce greens, the choices are abundant.

Used sparingly for a pop of accent color in a gray, brown, or cream-based color scheme, or with corals, rose, or yellow, you will find that light, bright, or deep greens are season-less and always classic.

Contemporary Remodel for 70's Home Linder Road: the Great Room and

With the walls removed between the formerly cramped kitchen and family room, my client sought my advice to design a new fireplace wall, the flat-screen TV placement, and space-plan and select her new furnishings.

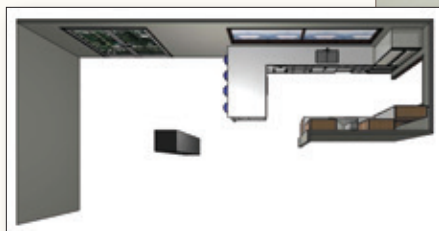
In the 1700's, moderate Colonial homes often had a "hearth" room—a part of the kitchen with a massive fireplace for both cooking and warming the shared space. By the 1970's, we called the area off the kitchen the "family room." Now homes are designed or remodeled with this central, multi-purposed space designated the "Great Room," and with careful planning it can be a warm and inviting area for relaxing, entertainment, entertaining, eating, and cooking with family and friends.

To accomplish all of these goals for my Linder Road client, who is gutting and remodeling her home, I planned her Great Room furnishings plan with the new kitchen layout in mind, including a 5'x 8' peninsula that separates the two areas. The challenge, then, is space-planning around the abundance of doorways from other areas that open into the room, stairways, open kitchens, the fireplace and TV position.

My client's remodeling contractor, Norm Helmuth, demo'd the kitchen and cramped walls, and dated brick fireplace to carry out her contemporary vision: sleek white cabinets, glass tile, a ribbon-of-flame fireplace, charcoal-stained wood floors, and wider windows.

The sectional shape I have drawn will provide her with a relaxing chaise for her alone or seating for a crowd, and it allows plenty of space for moving through the room. Lighting is from recessed cans, and a floor outlet for lamps. We deliberated at length for the flat-screen TV placement, and decided to have Norm build a recessed niche to the right of the fireplace, with space under it for a custom media cabinet, and bookshelves to the left.

Next issue: New Custom Home in Cedar Springs, North Liberty, by Prime Ventures Construction



Kitchen by KBD



House on Kitchen

Designer Tips for a *great Great Room*

The bottom of the TV screen should be placed 36-42" off the floor for comfortable viewing from a sofa or chair. Either choose a low-profile fireplace if the TV is above, or place the TV on a wall beside the fireplace.



Beware of buying extra-deep sofas and chairs without careful measuring, especially if the seating arrangement is in the center of the room.



Combination cocktail ottomans/tables are a perfect solution for relaxing with your feet up and still having a center tray for remote controls or snacks.

*In*THE KNOW

Accessories Inspired by Nature

TABLE LAMPS

A good quality lamp will last as long as your furniture, and will be worth the investment—both for function to light your room, and to support the style of your room's furnishings.

This lamp from Natural Light has a botanical-inspired base in either gold or silver.

\$419 at The Mansion



FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Rather than using a faux "silk" flower arrangement in a room, I prefer preserved, real arrangements from Bougainvillia. This company has perfected photo preserving flowers such as hydrangeas, roses, and protea. Artfully arranged, they will last for years.

\$395 at The Mansion



GLASS BOWLS, PART 2

In my last newsletter I showed an art glass bowl in purple that would be perfect alone on a dining table. This coral-colored bowl is another favorite container of mine—sitting alone, or holding potpourri or real flowers.

\$399 at The Mansion



AREA RUGS

This 9x13 wool area rug by Jaunty in color "Amazon" is available in other sizes.

\$2,150 at The Mansion



Sunrooms: the Other GREAT ROOM



Whether your sunroom was part of your house when it was built, or converted from a deck to a 4-seasons room, it is probably the most popular room in the house—or it can be.

High-performance flooring, such as tile, slate, or wood are my preferred choices, and window treatments that allow views and light in, but can close at night for privacy or filter the sun.

Furniture? I choose table-tops made of stone or glass for easy care, and a like to mix wicker and iron with regular upholstery—comfort is paramount. I always plan at least a small dining table and chairs for meals, along with chair & ottoman combinations and a sofa; after all, it is a great place to stretch out for a nap.

To counter-act the damaging UV rays that damage furniture, I start with fabrics like Sunbrella which can be as colorful or soft as any residential fabric. The value of wood blinds or shutters is high for controlling the sun without sacrificing the view or light.

Have a sunroom without a good view? I have made such rooms pleasing by having the walls painted with a faux trellis design, and used live plants to bring nature in. Also, patio curtains, hung in the corners of the room's windows will accomplish privacy and style.

Favorite Window Treatment



Why are do I have a shutter panel on a pedestal?

Because that is how important custom shutters are. The panel shown here is from the only shutter company I use: Lafayette Blinds in Indiana, www.lafvb.com.

These shutters are head-and-shoulders above the others because:

- There is no stapled, center rod to tilt the louvers in each panel. Lafayette has a patented tilt mechanism hidden in the frames, which eliminates the fragile, sight-reducing rod of other manufactures.
- The paint color is custom-matched at no charge.
- The thick elliptical wood louvers keep an insulation of wood between the glass window and your room—keeping heat and harmful UV rays out in the summer and cold out in the winter.

So now, knowing all this, do you blame me for placing my favorite window treatment on a pedestal??

THE NEXT ISSUE



Sunroom under construction in Cedar Springs, N. Liberty



Amazing American-made furniture coming soon to The Mansion—a sneak preview!



New wallcoverings and fabrics for 2013

And more!

Know someone who may enjoy this newsletter?

Please contact:
Rhonda Staley IIDA
538 S. Gilbert Street
THE MANSION
Iowa City IA 52240
o. 319-321-2404
o. 319-338-2830
rstaley@themansion-interiors.com
www.rhondastaley.com