



february 2011

inspiration starts here

Dear subscriber,

"We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Years Day." EDITH LOVEJOY PIERCE

This quote was sent to me in the wee hours of New Year's Day from a friend. It jump started my creative energies and I thought it so appropriate for the start of 2011 that I wanted to share it with all of you.

a blank page

What will you write in your "book of opportunity" for 2011? No blank pages allowed... inspiration starts here.

For me personally, this will be a year of contrasts. I love the process of discovery and have the confidence to embrace contradiction. I will strive for bold ideas, balance, editing, growth, organization, harmony, the look of "effortlessness" and simplification.

enhance the experience of design

Look for contrast in the work we do as well in 2011. As our projects have grown and our collaborations continually become more visible, our focus remains the same — to enhance the experience of design for each of our clients. We are a go-to guide... your very own "design concierge". We give meaning to your home so that it reflects who you are and is a place you enjoy sharing with others.

what's inspiring us for the new year

This month's newsletter (and yes, it is finally shorter thanks to your input) has hints of what is currently inspiring us at *sweetpeasdesign*. On a personal level, I love English country gardens filled with a variety of flowers. The wonder of nature- the melting of an icicle. The flow of the ocean over a sand castle that returns the sand to its source.

In my home, I love my *Barefoot Contessa Cookbook*; Ina Garten's food is so unpretentious and delicious. But I also love to cook without a recipe and taste as I create.

I love to host a fabulous party with a theme but also relish the tranquility of quiet moments with my children or offering a helping hand to others in need.

Nothing inspires me like the satisfaction of striking the perfect balance between function and character...trends and nostalgia... sophistication and creativity. Ahhh... contrast! It is a celebration of where style lives!

the *sweetpeasdesign* team

we value being your destination for design

susan *beth* *jennifer* *ann*
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what's happening?

join us. be there



winter blahs party

Inspiration starts here and is being unveiled at our studio from 7 – 9 p.m., Thurs., February 17, 2011.

You are cordially invited to discover the lost art of conversation. Come share an evening of spirits and desserts with a specialty cocktail created just for you.

Bring a close friend, neighbor or colleague and join us for a relaxing evening.

Chase away the winter blahs by having a dose of fun.

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

Parking available in front and rear of building.



photo courtesy of Trends magazine

here's what's in

2011 pantone color of the year

#18-22120 HONEYSUCKLE! Bet you're thinking a yellow tone — try a dynamic reddish pink — a fun color that is uplifting, instills confidence, courage and the spirit to meet life's challenges head on! If you can't quite bring yourself to paint a room or even one wall in #18-22120, try a patterned pillow, an accessory, some soft towels, a tabletop piece or maybe a new dress.

circles, rings, ovals and dots

These shapes are showing up in light fixtures, rug patterns, fabrics, tile designs, glass door mullions, decorative screens...you name it! They create a wonderful contrast to all the angles and lines naturally found in our homes. Circles and dots represent everlasting, eternal harmony.

large, oversized drawer pulls

These pulls are taking center stage and making strong statements. Rather than two pulls on wide drawers, try one extra large pull just to be different. As in fashion where today's trend in jewelry seems be larger and bolder, so does the "jewelry" for our homes — on built-ins, bath and powder room cabinetry, kitchen cabinetry and doors.

go for the gold

Gold is competing with the silver and bronze craze of the last 10 years. Watch for gold in lamp bases, accent tables, striping on furniture, frames, and mirrors. Furniture case pieces are being gold leafed as are legs and feet on upholstered pieces. Even tree trunk tables are being glazed in gold. Put on the golden glitz!

multiple seating options around your dining room table

Forget the traditional eight matching chairs at your dining table. Mix it up! Pair dining chairs with a bench or settee, combine head chairs with perching chairs and a bench! Try using a variety of fabrics and finishes on the seating pieces — a stripe with a texture, a floral with a plaid, linen with leather, a cream painted bench with dark walnut chairs...dare to be different!



photo courtesy of Lajos Kozma

spotlight on one table—two light fixtures!

Light up your table, your entry and your guests.

Why settle for one chandelier when you can have two? Trendy and awesome — two fixtures above a large table create wonderful ambience and become magnificent focal points.

Consider using two chandeliers over your dining room table, kitchen table or even a large foyer table. Size and scale, finish selection and the number of lights all factor in when selecting a pair of chandeliers.

By all means, put them on a dimmer switch so you can control the light intensity creating just the right mood for the occasion.

Don't forget the height rule of thumb — chandeliers should be positioned 30 – 36" above the top of your dining table.



photo courtesy of Trends magazine



photo courtesy of sweetpeasdesign

fabu fabrics

ikat...what's that?

And do you pronounce it eye-cat or eeeee-cat? We say eye-cat!

You can't open a magazine these days and not spot a fabulous, exotic zigzag weave. It is called Ikat and pops up in fabrics, rugs, wall coverings and decorative tile backsplashes...even in fashion — coats, skirts, and wraps. Although the Ikat has traditionally been woven in hundreds of colors for multitudes of years, today's version is crisp, clean and has a predominately two-color palette. Adding an Ikat creates a touch of the exotic without looking out of place.

Try one...even if just on a pillow!

get the look

rough luxe

The "not so perfect" interior design style that began quietly last year continues as a strong trend for 2011. Rough Luxe is a little bit of rough and a little bit of luxury. It allows your home and the things in it to "just be". It is a study of contradictions. It is artful dissonance. It is not ego-driven...instead it is rough, laid back and comforting.

Rough Luxe combines a polished, elegant, shiny, opulent, refined look with an unfinished, slightly chaotic, neglected, content and layered look. It is tricky to pull off! Think — old and new, girly and tough, light and dark, luxury and distressed, accumulated with newly acquired.

Some examples include:

- an acrylic table base with weathered hewn wood top
- mirrors layered on top of mirrors
- a Parsons table with a gilded Regency chair
- an acquired modern art with a Regency furniture
- an animal hide rug with a crystal chandelier
- fabrics with a sheen or glimmer and an antique garden pedestal
- a hard angular metal bed with soft feminine curvy bedding and window treatments
- exposed brick wall with sleek kitchen cabinets
- a freestanding copper bath tub with glass mosaic floor tiles
- rough weathered walls with a high gloss ceiling

Invest in a few great pieces to achieve this look. But keep it subtle. No more than a few examples per room. Retain your home's original features — the hardwood floors, doors, door hardware and plumbing fixtures. Try a neutral palette with metallic accents or create a cozy effect using warm colors.

I love this look! It is "perfectly imperfect".

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what happened?

looking back

We have changed our social media "signature" to make it easier for you to stay connected with us and share anything of interest with a friend.

Our icons instantly link you to our website, Susan's Blog, our newsletters, our Facebook page and Linked In. We've been posting on our Facebook page and Susan's Blog twice a week for three months. Give us a read, if you haven't!

See the changes we've made to our website www.sweetpeas-inspired.com! We've updated the "what every home needs" and "insights and inspirations" sections, our bios and of course have fabulous new client photos in the 2010 portfolio section. More client photos will come at the end of February.