s p d scribbles...possibilities...& discoveries

sweetpeasdesign
inspirational interiors

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Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to our introductory e-newsletter, entitled Sweet Peas Design's Scribbles… Possibilities… and Discoveries or SPD's SPDs!

We hope you find it to be…significant…problem solving…& descriptive, sensational…practical…& delightful, surprising…personalized…& dynamic! Our goal is to publish 6 times a year- every other month. In each issue you can expect to find one in-depth interior design article and three short sections- Top 10 Trends, Suggestions and Insights, Get the Look and last, a fourth and changing section we would like your response to. We promise to keep each newsletter short, sweet and informative.

As a new member of MainStreet Libertyville, Sweet Peas Design will be participating in the Saturday, February 21, 2009 "Wine About Winter" festivities. We invite you to "Brew With the Crew" anytime between 11 AM to 1 PM. Sample a variety of coffees and sweets and meet our team (if you haven't already.) Tour our studio/showroom and ask a design question or two before you head off to MainStreet and drink wine! As a reminder, we have parking not only in the front, but the back of our building also.

Sweet Peas Design is now featured on the Merchandise Mart's website! Please go to www.merchandisemartdesigncenter.com/designerportfolios if you would like to view our portfolio. And don't forget to visit our updated website at www.sweetpeas-inspired.com! As of February 2nd, we've added lots of new photos, insights (formerly the tips section) and copy. We plan on adding new photos to our website every six months or so…

Thank you to those who had their homes photographed. One of the most enjoyable aspects of a home is sharing it with others and our best compliment is the referral of your friends, colleagues and acquaintances.

As always, your input is important to us, so please call or email susan@sweetpeas-inspired.com with your comments, suggestions and ideas for what you would like featured and or discussed in our newsletter.

Susan *Beth* *Ann* *Jennifer*

Susan Brunstrum Beth Kweton Ann Faith Jennifer Cioni Tarello

The Sweet Peas Design Team

helping you help others

While developing our first e-newsletter and determining our list of recipients, we realized and recognized our good fortunes -- good health, family, happiness, enduring friendships and relationships with you – our readers. The result of our collaboration heightened our awareness that we need to give back… to you … in the best way possible as a design team.

If you have a charitable organization that is near and dear to your heart, please connect us. We would like to offer our services and participate in upcoming fundraising events and or brainstorm/execute any other ideas that could be beneficial. For example, if you see an opportunity to involve us in a raffle, a silent auction, a creative and informative "Lunch and Learn" engagement, please let us know. Good causes are good for the soul!

top 10 trends in color & texture

1
For 2009 – colors are dustier with intriguing undertones.

2
Grays are becoming the new neutral. Watch out when using neutral beiges and tans as gray is being added to your paint cans for a cooled-down effect to bridge the gap between black and brown.

3
Yellow green is the dominant hue in the green category (i.e. Michelle Obama's day-time Inaugural dress). Yellow stands for energy and optimism.

4
Red-based violets and blues continue to influence our design choices with emphasis on purple, purple, purple.

5
The "other" red is orange – it's everywhere.

6
Textures in wall coverings are emerging, including flocked papers and papers with embedded specks of glass and silver leaf.

7
Now for the "M Word"! It's back... MAUVE. That's all we can say about it.

8
Every year the most popular question seems to be – Are animal prints still "in"? Spot on – grrrrrrrrrrrrrander than ever… in bigger, bolder patterns and colors.

9
Velvets are replacing chenilles for upholstery choices.

10
Threads of silver, gold, and copper are showing up in fabrics that add sparkle, interest and dimension to your design project.

10+
Chic, large scale patterns in floral designs, paisleys, bold silk stripes and damasks are prevalent as many of the patterns take on a tapestry appearance

10++
Here's a hint for the latest two-color combination –"I've Got Sunshine on a Cloudy Day" If you guessed yellow and gray, you're correct!

how to make your home warm and cozy in the winter months

It's hard to feel hot, hot, hot when it's cold, cold, cold outside- but we've got some ideas on how to make that happen…

some like it hot!

Let's start by putting the focus on your fireplace which is probably the HOTTEST place in your home. First, you might consider physically moving closer to your fireplace by rearranging your furniture. A new furniture arrangement revitalizes a room. A winter arrangement often starts by putting two cozy chairs closer to the fireplace or pulling up ottomans or floor pillows to sit on while relaxing in front of the fire. The addition of a small inviting throw rug can add interest, warmth, color and fun. Pulling furniture in from cold exterior walls and floating it in the middle of the room gives the space a cozier feeling.

If you don't have a fireplace, add a biofuel fireplace unit! They are a HOT new trend. Surprisingly, no ventilator is required, making installation a snap!

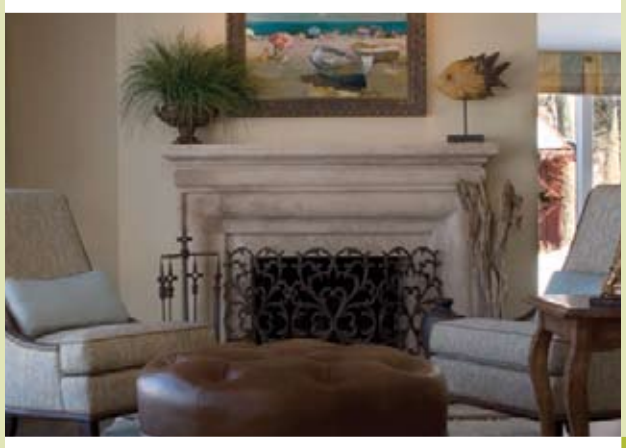
add textures to feel the warmth

Add texture to your spaces like fur throws, cashmere blankets and quilted pillows to create warmth and softness as well as wrapping you in luxury! Try adding a slipcover to your sofas or chairs – for winter, use velvet or chenille.

no dark corners

Lighting can change the entire ambience and feel of a room! A good rule of thumb – no dark corners! Use light pink bulbs for a softer glow. Paint or line the inside of your lamp shades with HOT pink to create a warm glow and to replace the cool light from the fluores-cent bulbs.

The best lighting trick – use dimmer switches everywhere!



red hot!

Add something RED HOT to your living space! Red is a "feel good" passionate color – try it! Experiment using red in candles, sofa pillows, a vase full of flowers, a piece of pottery or artwork – the options are endless. A splash of red can instantly warm up your environment.

bubble-icious

When you've finished cozying up your living space, create a cozy spa – dim the HOT pink lights, light your candles, choose your favorite fluffy towels in a warm color palette, and take a bubble bath! Don't forget the music . . . and the RED wine.

suggestions & insights

When you opt to paint over red-toned walls, select Benjamin Moore's AURA paint. You won't even need a primer and it covers in two coats. It has a matte finish, yet it's washable and outlasts all the "other" paints!

If you dare to be different, forget the traditional white ceiling – be bold and add a color that complements other colors in the room. Painted ceilings provide coziness and drama to your space.

get the look

botox for the home …& you!

Forget the cosmetologists and the plastic surgeons, here's an inexpensive and less painless home "botox" that will give you (and your home) a lift! Buy a vintage glass mirror with a bit of mottling. Your laugh lines and wrinkles will miraculously disappear!

Lighter, brighter colors on your walls and in your fashion selections will brighten up your face resulting in a more youthful appearance! Try a warm Provencal yellow with a bit of ochre to lift your spirits and your face such as Farrow and Ball's Citron #74.

suggestions & insights

To get the best results when painting on cold winter days, wait for your walls to be warmed by the sun before starting.

Looking for the perfect white paint for your ceiling that reflects light beautifully? Try Farrow and Ball's All White #2005 estate emulsion finish.

Comments? Let us know, email: susan@sweetpeas-inspired.com