



sweetpeasdesign  
inspirational interiors

january 2012

## hello new year!

Dear subscriber,

**Happy 2012!** A new year has begun and with it the anticipation of what's to come! All of us at *sweetpeasdesign* have jumped right in as our passion for contribution and possibility continues. We are determined to make a difference, stand out, connect and become indispensable to our clients, service providers and vendors this year.

**Over the holidays I had the pleasure of reading Seth Godin's latest bestselling book, *Linchpin*.** A must read for everyone!

"A linchpin is someone who figures out what to do when there is no rule book. They delight and challenge their customers and peers. They love their work, pour their best selves into it and turn each day into a work of art. Linchpins are the essential building blocks of great organizations. They may not be famous but they are indispensable."

Ahhh, that word indispensable. What does it mean? It means you possess a unique talent and that you have a superpower.

One can either fit in or stand out. Not both. It is a choice to do better, and it is an obligation. To do otherwise is a loss. Every day we each get the opportunity and a new chance to choose to be indispensable.

**Being indispensable isn't easy.** "If it was, it would already have been done and would no longer be of value. Most of us have everything we need, so we don't have to buy more products, items, services or even commodities. What we choose to buy are relationships, stories and yes, even magic. Whether it is our friends, our business or our family — it is all the same — we must figure out whom we can trust and work with and who we cannot. When we engage with others and our interactions are genuine and transparent, they usually work. When they are manipulative or artificial they usually fail. A linchpin (someone who is there to give a gift."

**"Genuine gifts, given with the right intent and a respectful posture, meet our sniff test...and the giver passes the test."** We believe. Now that we believe, a different relationship can occur. One about "us", not just "you".

Thus the communication of enthusiasm, connection and leadership starts with the gift we give.

Instead of writing resolutions for 2012, read "Linchpin" and become indispensable along with us. Look for our many gifts as the year progresses....

**the sweetpeasdesign team**  
we value being your destination for design

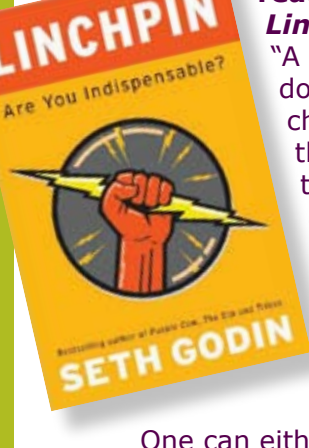
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## happenings!

### blah blah blah winter party

Join us for our **Second Annual Winter Blahs Party on Thursday, February 2nd from 5pm-9pm.** We will serve specialty cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and **unveil the new look of our studio!** Look for an invitation on my blog, Facebook or our website in mid January.



### observe

We are so excited to have one of our client collaborations featured in the January issue of *Fabulous Floors*. Click to look.



photo courtesy of *sweetpeasdesign* and Jerry Kalyniuk

### featured

As mentioned previously in my blog and Facebook, five of my family favorite recipes were published in the *Daily Herald's* Cook of the Week on December 14th. Click to see and hear the video and read the recipes for pecan encrusted salmon, fettuccine alfredo, green beans with eggs, ham and cheese strata and breakfast caramel rolls. Look good? Make a few.

### susan's blog

New ideas are always percolating at *sweetpeasdesign*! Read my blog and get the latest tips, trends and insights, 3x a week! To stay connected go to [www.susanbrunstrum.com](http://www.susanbrunstrum.com)

## sweet tip of the trade

### did you say dip it or trip it?

Oh, you said diptych and triptych. What funny words... and ones I had to look up in Wikipedia for the exact definition as I thought a diptych was a pair or two of a kind and a triptych was three of a kind. I first heard the term used by John Timony, owner of



photo courtesy of Verdana Jan Feb 2012

Curtis Frame and Gallery, but the definition differs from what I thought. A diptych is two identical images side by side that form one artistic statement. The image moves thematically across the panels to form the whole. A triptych is three images. Greek in origin and hinged to fold together when travelling, diptychs were often relief or carved after pieces. Today, the panels or artwork do not need to be connected but instead can be matted, framed and hung close together. Two or three are better than one!

## fabu fabrics

### it's not a croc! i guana have it!

Invite an alligator or lizard into any room or two...reptile fabrics and skins are a scaly, sassy and must-have addition to any home. Reptile designs are neutral in look but have a depth of character and personality. Their textured surface offers an intriguing variation of color. Reptile patterns are highly adaptable and seamlessly transcend all interior styles. See ostrich, alligator, crocodile and other serpentine inspired creatures on pillows, a paneled screen or headboard,



photos courtesy of Edelman

furniture, lamps or an accessory item. Slither through the pages of any design magazine and you're sure to "trip over" a python print, a lizard tray, or a snakeskin ottoman. Add a "hiss" to your mix.

## trend alert

# what's in, what's out

### IN!

#### sweet dreams

Canopy beds are similar to four-poster beds but have a bit more fabric. You guessed it... fabric draped on the posts and the top or ceiling of the bed create the canopy that gives you a safe, secure, sometimes regal feeling. Curling up inside provides a hideaway from the day's routine and conflicts. Born of necessity, canopy beds were introduced when nobility and their attendants slept in the same room and thus gave a bit of shelter and privacy! Sounds like college life all over again, doesn't it? Canopies can be simple or extravagant but the end result is the same — a romantic "nest".



IN!

photo courtesy of Verdana Jan Feb 2012

#### and FURTHER more...

Even if it's faux or "fun" fur, it makes you feel fabulous to have a touch of it in your room on a pillow, a throw, or an upholstered ottoman. Nothing says elegant and luxurious more than fur — and faux looks as great as the real "McCoy"! Introduced in 1929, it became popular in the 50's as it was less expensive and promoted as an animal friendly alternative... could it be the very first "green" product? Having withstood the test of time, it appears fake fur will be in our lives forever.



IN!

photo courtesy of 2011 Trends

### plateability



IN!

photo courtesy of Global Views

I just heard Charlie Trotter will be closing his restaurant in August, boy, would I love a few of his dinner plates for wall décor. I would treat them as an art installation. Plate collections in big way!

Start going to the garage sales and auctions to find heirloom plates that have a history. Or you may want to buy some of the new, unusual shaped plates popping up at art fairs and design shops. Either way, displaying multiple plates on kitchen, dining room, foyer, living room and bedroom walls in free form or symmetrical arrangements can fill large spaces and add dime pattern and color—often times inexpensively.



IN!

photo courtesy of Pantone

**orangeya wondering what the color of the year is?**  
**It is Pantone 17-1463 Tangerine Tango.** An attention getting, provocative, energetic, vibrant and exotic reddish orange. Look for it everywhere in 2012 as it will pop up in homes, fashion, small appliances, accessories,

flowers, nail polish and personal electronics — cover cell phone covers.... Recharge and move forward this year, no mopey moods with this color in the lead and in charge. Previous year's colors include: 2011 honey suckle, 2010 turquoise, 2009 mimosa, 2008 blue iris.



IN!

photo courtesy of sweetpeasdesign and Jerry Kalyniuk

### OUT!

#### anything you don't like or need...

As it is the beginning of a new year, get organized. Lose the clutter and all that is "too" much. Do with just enough!

#### skirts

Long skirts, short skirts, mini skirts, skirts with boots and tights. Skirts are IT for fashion but on the decline on upholstered furniture. Why? Because tight backed sofas and chairs are in and they look beat to look better with a leg of sorts. I'm not telling you NO skirts, just don't overskirt.

## get the look

### big, bigger or biggest?

Bigger is definitely better. Why buy three small accessories, when one large of the same would make a bigger statement? Don't "overdo" a room with multiple accessories — go for the one large, in-your-face piece that becomes a focal point in your room. Too many small accessories and the room will feel crowded and too "scaped".

**To get the look...**Lean a floor mirror against a wall or behind a piece of furniture. Select an over scaled piece of artwork and hang it on a narrow wall where it will get the biggest impact.



### did you enjoy this issue?

if you or your friend would like to subscribe, please email [susan@sweetpeas-inspired.com](mailto:susan@sweetpeas-inspired.com)

## spotlight on a favorite!

### etagere

#### show it all off!

The etagere has returned... and is it possibly replacing built-in bookshelves? It just might be! Etageres are very functional and help you display your favorite objects or collections — glass vases, sculptures, globes, books, photographs...you name it.

Similar to the English "what-not", an etagere is a piece of lightweight furniture that has a series of shelves. Originally designed in France, etageres come in a variety of sizes and shapes and are made of different materials such as wood, glass, metal, bamboo and even rope.

Often shaped to fit in a corner, etageres sometimes have a closed cabinet base and fit into any room. Their design runs the



photo courtesy of Global Views

gamut from graceful and elegant to sturdy and masculine.

Let your treasures be seen and shared. They tell a story about who you are and where you've been!

Add a large sphere in a corner on the floor for visual to an otherwise empty space. Place a large scale glass vase with twigs as a centerpiece for an

immediate focal point on your dining room table. Put a pair of tall floor lanterns on a buffet, fireplace mantel, perched on the side of a spa tub or in your entryway to add a source of light and a little romance.

photo courtesy of sweetpeasdesign and Jerry Kalyniuk

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