



september 2011

home is where the heart is

Dear subscriber,

"we are in transition"

Transition is a word we are hearing A LOT lately from our clients and in the design community. A transition is a move FROM something TO something. It is the journey that you take to get to your end result. Transitioning is a lot like remodeling or renovating. It is often harder than starting new or building from the ground up. It takes more strategy and guidance.

Our responsibility is to help navigate your "space" transitions. Space transitions occur because of people transitions- the changes occurring in your life... You've just had a third child, your youngest child left for college, your mom has moved in with you, your going back to work full time and need help with the children, you are travelling more and need someone to watch your home... People transitions not only change the way you use a space but the way you live.

And, let's be honest, we all desire to live better. So, how do you do that? It's easy...indulge in the way you WANT to live. Start by removing unnecessary excess and clutter. We all "fill" the space we have. Unload your excess, it is a burden. Then think about how you want or need to use the space. What should it look like? How should it function? How do you want to feel and what do you want to do and accomplish in the space?

If you are uncertain or apprehensive as to how to proceed, you need a guide and/or consultant who will be your advocate so that your experience of design is a comfortable and inviting journey. The value of design and the expert advice that comes with it is worth more than ever before.

Home is the place to be these days... renovate, rejuvenate, refresh as you "transition"!

the sweetpeasdesign team
we value being your destination for design

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what's happening?

join us. be there

don't start from scratch...

Click here to check out our two kitchen renovations featured in the **Daily Herald Home and Garden section on Sunday, August 28, 2011.**

No sledge hammers needed... just lots of planning!

it is party time!

Clients and friends have all been wondering when they can "see" Susan's new house...

Look for an invitation for the weekend of September 23-25 as we will be hosting a few events. The house will be in pristine shape after a week-long photo shoot and we will all be ready to have some fun!

sweet tips of the trade

rules of 36

- a chandelier should hang 36" above a dining room table
- standard kitchen counter height is 36" high and the same is now true for bathroom counter heights
- install light switches 36" up from the floor
- a 36" round table is a romantic dining table for two...

what's in what's out

in

heavy on the metals— get your shine on

Don't use just one metal...mix metals to add texture and depth. A variety of metals add luster and reflect light creating a warm glow or sparkle to an otherwise dull space. Try a combination of gold, copper or forged steel and your interior will instantly take on a new life. The "in" metals are the white metals such as chrome, platinum, silver leaf and nickel used primarily in traditional to contemporary spaces. Hammered metals are chosen for their textured, worn and dimensional appeal. Antiqued gold metals generate old world and classic statements unlike blackened forged steel which represents casual earthiness and honesty.

Metals are everywhere on furniture, accessories, architectural elements, lamps, tiles, cabinetry, window hardware, fabrics and even trims.

some of our top metal favorites include:

1. metal cabinets
2. chrome stools
3. wire mesh chairs
4. metal beaded fringe
5. nailheads
6. free form sculptures
7. trays

out

staying with the same metal throughout

Your door knobs do not need to match your cabinet knobs nor do all your vanity fixtures need to match your plumbing hardware.

Yuck— too much of one thing is not good! Too safe. Too monotonous.

photos courtesy of Arteriors
bottom photo courtesy of Kravet



in



in



in



in

spotlight on a favorite!



photo courtesy of Vanguard

so cool



photo courtesy of Arteriors

accent tables "aka" drinks/cigarette tables

The resurgence of the drinks table – a trendy "little table" that packs a BIG punch! Not big enough to qualify as an end or lamp table, but, a new "must-have" to place a drink, fill a small space between two chairs, or use as an attention-getter in any living room, dining room or family room setting.

Drinks tables are popping up everywhere in a variety of shapes, colors, and materials adding an element of surprise, texture and character. Look for two or more in a room as they provide a functional element. Place one by each chair. Who doesn't need a spot to place a cup of coffee or glass of wine?

Unlike bigger more substantial cocktail and end tables, these little tables can easily be moved from one spot to another in your space. Very portable. No need for them to match— *each can be unique!*

get the look



color blocking

As seen in *Vogue*, Max Mara and Neiman Marcus color blocking is all the rage in this fall's fashion magazines. No longer do you pair a red shoe with a gray sheath and tights, unless of course you have a red, gray and brown bag to go with it and don't forget the chocolate tights. Maybe even ditch the red shoe. Instead — *add a red coat*.

color blocking is also quickly finding a "home" in interior design

Color blocking refers to using primary colors (usually reds) in various sizes. You can color block window treatments, pillows, paint, rugs and even furniture. Mix proportions and colors. Shapes can vary from stripes, rectangles, squares, or a mix of several. Create a sophisticated look or a fun look — the shapes and colors will influence the result.



photo courtesy of sweetpeasdesign

Paint color blocks in an entire room — select one color for the walls, a second for the ceiling and a third for the trim.

Keep each window and doorway within one color block.

Try striping a room or a wall horizontally and painting in multiple color blocks.

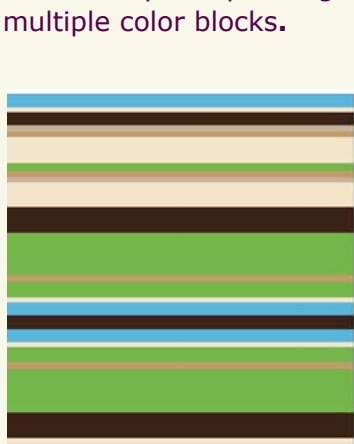


photo courtesy of Kravet

fabu fabrics

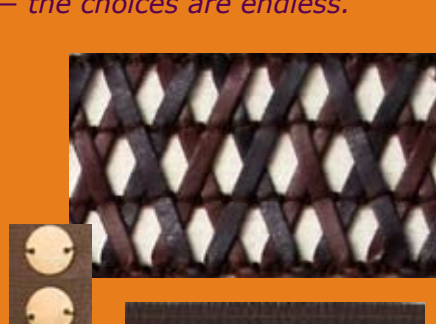
trim trim trimmery

Trims are the often overlooked design element that can change an ordinary project into extraordinary!

Add a trim or two to a pillow, window treatment, bedding or upholstery for a bit of embellishment. Apply a trim above a baseboard molding, on a matted picture frame, bulletin board or even a lamp shade.

Trims add whimsy, color, pattern, interest and surprise. They run the gamut from formal to informal, casual to elegant.

Trim options include leather, metal, beading, glass, fabric banding, feathers, shells, ribbon, buttons, pearls, wooden bobbles, studs on braids, classic motifs (such as the Greek Key) and beaded chains — *the choices are endless.*



photos courtesy of (clockwise) Brimar, Fabricut and Kravet

run a trim...

- vertically, horizontally or diagonally
- in rows
- create a box frame
- tic-tac-toe

Get creative by using multiple trim applications. Use a trim to create a frame on your pillow and use a second trim for the outside wetting. Place a small beaded trim on top of a ribbon trim. Use a window treatment panel. On two horizontal rows of a trim at the top and a second style trim at the hem.

Whew... Susan and her children, Matt and Kelsey, finally moved and settled into their new home in the heritage area of Libertyville in early summer. A big thank you to all who attended and or made purchases at the estate, moving and accessories sales we had at her home and the *sweetpeasdesign* office! Paring down, editing and just plain getting rid of "stuff" really is cathartic. Susan's new home is 1/4 of the size of her previous home. Organization was key to making it all fit. Remember, just because you have space does not mean you need to fill the space. Ask yourself... do I really need, want or use this? If not, bye-bye! Give it or sell it to someone else.

what happened?

looking back

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coming soon in our upcoming issue...

holiday ideas!