

Design a pleasing home

This ends the three part series on interior design presented in conjunction with workshops by Doris Thomas, Home Extension Economist at the Farm and Home Center

LANCASTER— This week's tips on interior design deal mainly with coordination of all the parts discussed thus far. Once you have the colors and the accessories picked, you must coordinate them in the most pleasing manner possible.

When you coordinate things in a pleasing fashion, you have reached a harmony in your home.

Harmony is nothing more than the result of the basics of design presenting an impression of unity with enough of your own taste and variety to add interest.

One way to coordinate and arrange furniture is to move it around again and again until something pleases you. However, not only is this bad for your back, it's liable to leave marks on your floor.

Another way to lay out your room is to measure each piece of furniture and scale it to a piece of graph paper. An inch of furniture may equal a foot of flooring on your chart. Cut out pieces of furniture the correct size and shape and arrange them on the paper until you have a pleasing layout. Remember to include doors and windows on your chart.

After the furniture is arranged, you may want to dress the room with your personal accessories; vases, pictures, lamps, rugs, etc.

Each house is unique. The home is the one place where ideas and resources can be brought together by the whole family. Things happen in your home which are different than things happening

down the street. Emphasize your individual tastes and interests in the home. Don't try to make it a museum showroom.

Accessories can make your home unique. If you have a collection, display it. A favorite vase? Make it the center of interest. And follow these principles of good composition:

-Place objects in such a way that the eye is carried to the center of interest.

-Create rhythm with different heights and sizes.

-Arrange small objects in a group, so that they will be in better proportion to a larger object.

-Strive for unity, rather than a scattered effect.

Another way to add accessories to your rooms is by hanging them, whether they be pictures or other items. Follow these decorating guidelines:

-When forming a composition of a picture and a piece of furniture, hang the picture close to the furniture.

-Pictures near decorative objects and lamps should be part of the grouping.

-Keep outside edges of the grouping even when pictures vary in size and shape.

-Keep bottom edges of pictures straight over a long, straight object such as a couch or buffet.

-When furniture varies in height, hang pictures so that tops of frames form a straight line.

-Hang a large important picture by itself as a center of interest, rather than as part of a grouping.

-Tall pictures or hangings usually look best on a narrow wall, broad pictures on the widest wall.

-Keep the weight of the composition evenly distributed. Fancy

frames, dark mats and most oil paintings look heavier than watercolors, etchings, engravings and drawings. Integrate the arrangement to achieve balance.

-If permanent accessories enter the picture, such as lamps or vases, include them in the picture wall.

-Variation is the spice of good wall arrangements. Combine large and small squares and rectangles and circles in the same grouping, but scatter the various shapes and sizes throughout the composition to produce design interest instead of homogenized hanging.


Remember, good composition is the key to an attractive arrangement of art objects and accessories. You supply the principles of balance, rhythm and unity to your home by coordinating all the parts appropriately. These design principles have become accepted practice; however, the best decorating rule may well be that rules were meant to be broken. You decide, it's your home.—DK



- Saturday, May 16**
 Lancaster Society 19 meets for a formal dinner and dessert.
 Lancaster Society 3 meets with Erla Gehman for a tour of Ephrata Cloisters.
 Lancaster Society 15 meets at 10 for a brunch.
 Lancaster Society 14 meets for a book review program with Mrs. Grace Koser.

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



There are many activities to fill the days in May.

Some people are busy with 4-H meetings and Little League baseball games for their children. Others, like farmers and gardeners, are outside in nice weather planting corn and beans.

The days don't seem to be long enough to accomplish everything we plan to do.

One pleasant interruption to my husbands' and my endeavors have been the luncheons and banquets to which we've been invited as a result of our children winning various scholarships. We are thankful for them but several such affairs don't get the rye in the silo or the fence put up at the blooming peas.

And Cindy has her own special interests so that she isn't available to provide much help.

She spent a weekend at Penn State attending the Pennsylvania Junior Horticultural meeting of which she was president. Then on Monday morning, she went with a group of 4-H members to visit legislators and senators at Harrisburg for two days.

If you think Saturdays are free to help at home, you are wrong. There might be a Jazz Band Concert, a Loyalty Day Parade or simply a bowling party. But there is always something. Although I must admit that last Saturday, Cindy did decorate a cake for me to take to our square dance group's covered dish supper and it was beautiful.

She also attempts to mow the lawn regularly because, if it doesn't get done on time, them it must be raked too. And, all we need around here is one more job.

- Monday, May 18**
 Lancaster Society 31 meets with Paul Neff for a cheese demonstration.
Tuesday, May 19
 Lancaster Society 18 meets for a walking tour of Lancaster with Martha Stoner, tour guide.

- Berks Society 6 meets with Joan Noll.
Wednesday, May 20
 Lancaster Society 33 meets for a program by Edith Herr.
Thursday, May 21
 Spring Rally, Dickinson College, Carlisle.

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