

Make Your House Your Home

LOU ANN GOOD

**Lancaster Farming Staff
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.)** — Spring housecleaning often inspires real house cleaning: those curtains really are too old to rehang after washing, those walls really do need a fresh look. Or maybe your critical appraisal reveals that your home portrays a sterile, unwelcoming aura.

Sometimes changes don't require a large outlay of money, only the know-how of how to tie everything together.

Kathy Shenk and Carol Mylin synchronize their talents to give homes personality and vibrancy.

Carol, whose husband Jay Mylin is president of Lancaster DHIA, began a floral designing business about 10 years ago. Over the years, she has been asked again and again to come to homes to design the right arrangement for a

specific spot.

She did, but often found that people needed a lot more interior decorating touches than a few floral arrangements.

With an eye for color and design, Carol offered a few suggestions for decorating, but she said, "I really wasn't trained for interior design."

When a best friend's daughter graduated from the Pennsylvania School of Art and Design with a degree in interior design, the pair started comparing notes.

"We found we had a lot in common and worked well together," Carol said.

Carol, who owns a shop called Carol's Creations, created a nook in her shop for Kathy's fledgling interior design business, called Interior Fancies.

Together or individually, the two go out on house calls.

"We find there is a real need for accessorizing in homes. Even if a decorator helps a client select furniture, often little attention has been paid to detail and the house can look as empty as a barn," Carol said.

"We make your house your home," Kathy promises.

The two women are diligent to make customers' homes reflect the tastes of the homeowners.

"People in this area are often surprised that Kathy and Carol are not limited to country decor.

"We specialize in custom designs that include country, traditional, oriental, and contemporary," Kathy said.

Kathy charges \$20 an hour, but that fee is waived depending upon the amount of services ordered — such as window treatments or furniture.

Some people are hesitant to use a decorator because of the expense. But Kathy said, "Mistakes are costly. If you do it wrong, it costs more money."

On her initial visit to a client's home, Kathy takes pictures and measurements. She discusses likes and dislikes with the owner to determine preferred style and interests.

She likes to see whatever accessories are already on hand and, if desired, will incorporate them into the overall decorating scheme.

"During the initial house call, I get a feel for the home. Then I do research and come back with fabric swatches and accessory pieces," she said.

Kathy will do as much or as little as the homeowner prefers.

"Some people want me to do everything — selecting furniture, window treatments, and accessories. Others like to help choose items," Kathy said.

Carol designs flower arrangements and sells high quality silk plants and trees.

At Carol's Creations, wreaths, swags, dried and silk arrangements are ready for pick up, but Carol is always eager to arrange custom designs to match draperies, wallpaper, and upholstery.

The shop is located at 1592 Old Line Rd., in Manheim. Directions: Route 72 N. in Manheim, turn left onto Colebrook Street. Carol's Creations is located 2½ miles on the right. The floral design store is open Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment. Call (717) 664-2834 for more information on either Carol's Creations or Interior Fancies.



Carol Mylin, standing, and Kathy Shenk combine their talents "to make your house your home." Carol arranges the floral designs to coordinate with furnishings.

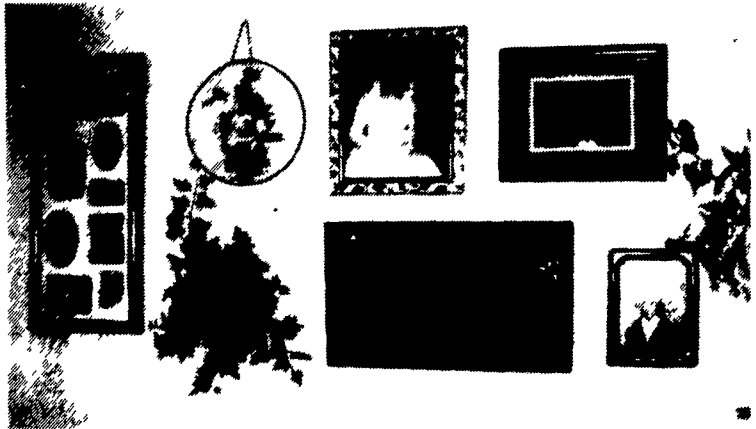


Photo arrangements are a simple but attractive way to give a room personality and display favorite mementoes.



In creating attractive interiors, Kathy uses items the homeowner has to the fullest advantage. Here the picture on the wall is actually an antique embroidered pillow cover that Kathy had framed. The matching bedspread and window swags are accented with throw pillows.



In this home, Kathy suggested sponge painting the walls a muted rose. Old photographs are edged with crocheted lace and framed in double glass. Heirloom dishes are arranged and the window treatment and tablecloth pull together the accent colors.



Linda Garman, a floral designer for Carol's creations, preserves flowers from bridal bouquets to arrange into a wreath for the wall.

Fraud Alert

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Consumers should beware of misleading and exaggerated advertising claims about grass seed as they prepare for the spring gardening season, according to Agriculture Secretary Charles C. Brosius.

"Certain advertisements for mail order grass seeds promise sensational results and charge exorbitant prices," Brosius said. "Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Consumers need to stay alert for products which may not live up to the claims of the advertising."

Brosius suggested that consumers check with reputable dealers before purchasing grass seed, comparing packaging labels to be sure they are getting the most appropriate seed for their particular lawn. There are many improved varieties available on the market, and some less expensive seeds may provide the same results as those being sold at higher prices.

Most exaggerated advertising claims are for seeds only available by mail, but some retail stores carry these products.