

Bedrooms, offices and other multi-purpose rooms

By Mike Dale
Copley News Service

Home is where the heart is, and in the turbulent 1990s, the heart has decided to be far from the madding crowd.

Experts predict that as the decade progresses, Americans will spend more money and more time at home. Instead of moving up by moving out, homeowners have been upwardly mobile by remodeling their homes, top to bottom.

Consequently, definitions of bathrooms, kitchens, living rooms, dens and bedrooms are changing. The emphasis now is on open space.

The kitchen and family rooms are combining as the great meeting ground. The bathroom has been divided into his-and-hers suites for showers, tubs, toilets and sinks.

ROOM DESIGN

Interior design is a dicey game. Ask 10 experts their opinion of a great room and you get 10 different answers. But there's one ingredient they do agree on — good basics.

The basics include pattern, color, texture, proportion, scale, line and lighting. They must mix and match with your particular floor plan for each room.

Start by taking measurements of the furniture you own and decide what you want to buy. Measure walls and ceiling height. Check the light exposure. Note the placement of electrical outlets. Now draw your own room to scale. Play house by cutting out

miniature furniture pieces and juggling them around. Generally, it's easier to plan a smaller room than a larger one. But always remember to establish a central focus point, such as a fireplace.

BEDROOMS

Hard to believe, but we spend one-third of our lives in bed. So master bedrooms can be many things to many people — from something as simple as a futon tossed on the floor of a sparsely

decorated minimalist apartment to a lavish media-entertainment center.

Mixing periods and pieces, draping bedside tables with lace and accenting furniture new and old is part of the furnishing fun. If possible, choose beds with built-in storage. If not, try an armoire as a substitute for a chest of drawers.

Placing a comfortable chair in your sleeping quarters will give the room a finished look. If the room can accommodate it, per-

haps you can try adding a sofa or chaise to give your special place a boudoir feel.

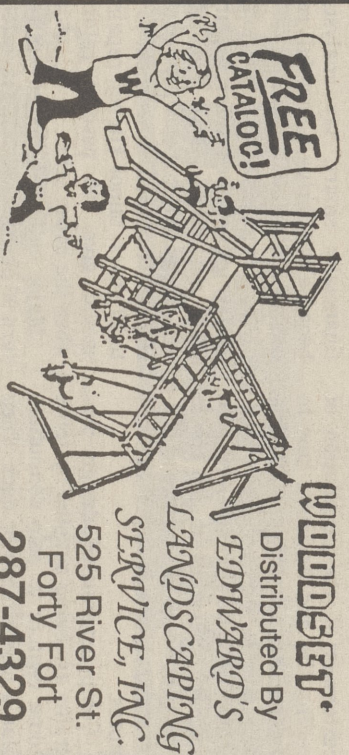
As for decor, designers suggest that you choose a color and pattern of design, or motif, and carry it through. Mishmash interior design, or *opoussouffiant*, as the French call it, is very difficult to pull off unless you know what you're doing.

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FURNITURE WAREHOUSE

Cozy interior decor for cool weather

By Sharon Williams
Copley News Service

Let the fall and winter storms rage and blow. You've found shelter within.

Perhaps you're curled up on a pillow-laden couch, or in the comforter on your bed — a stack of books and magazines at your side and a fire crackling in the fireplace.

You couldn't be happier. When it's cold outside, there's no place like home — especially when you've spruced things up with a few home-decorating tricks.

There are ways to turn up the heat in your home without touching the thermostat.

Instead, prepare your home for winter in the same way you dress for cool weather — by adding light layers of warmth that soothe without suffocating.

When Jack Frost's chill manages to slip in through the cracks, many home owners reach for quilts, afghans and throws — and not just for the physical comfort they bring. When strewn over a chair, tossed on a couch, displayed on a quilt rack or layered atop an armoire, these cool-weather coverings add psychological warmth to any room.

As trendy as they are high-touch, the best blankets range from slightly worn, hand-stitched quilts of yesteryear and Scottish-inspired plaid throws to rough-and-rugged saddle styles and brilliantly hued afghans.

Chances are you have a few cool-weather finds lurking in your linen closet. Antique shops, craft fairs, home-decorating emporiums and gift boutiques also are overflowing with heavy afghans, thick throws and elaborately patterned quilts with which to adorn your home.

You also can whip up your own creations with patterns, yarns and materials found at fabric and craft shops. Many offer how-to classes that take such large-scale projects from start to finish.

In the bedroom, you might find comfort with a down-filled comforter. As inviting as a giant pillow, a comforter could create the perfect spot for evening and weekend hibernation while giving your bedroom a new look for the cooler weather months.

The spicy hues of fall don't merely please the eye. Rather, the deep golds, rich browns, burnt oranges, deep yellows, muted greens and misty grays surround and enfold you — warming and welcoming like no other color palette.

The use of color is one of the best ways to warm to a living space. Just a few strokes of paint or several yards of fabric are all that's required to get your room glowing.

You could, for instance, revitalize a forgotten chair by painting it with an assortment of fall colors for a folk-art inspired look, or liven a boring wall with a step-

ciled or wallpaper border of leaves, houses or geese.

Or learn how to apply a faux tortoise-shell finish through a how-to book or class, then apply it to a plain-Jane tabletop or mantel for instant elegance and warmth.

As for fabric, use warm, spicy hues and rich patterns to create dozens of throw pillows for tossing on sofas, bed and chairs, or valances to adorn bare windows.

The effective use of light, and the subtle use of scent are two sure-fire ways to bring a warming glow into the home.

With light, subdued and subtle are the way to go if you want an inviting, intimate environment.

Create such an ambience by replacing regular switches with a dimmer that allows you to control

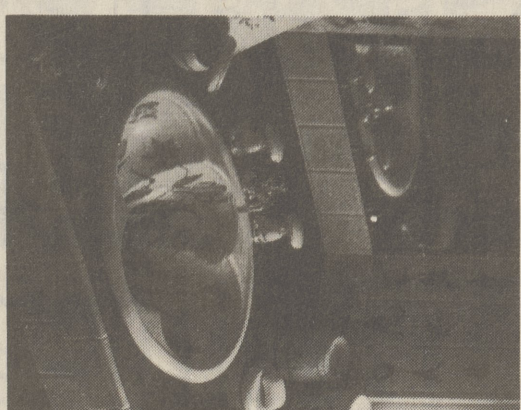
the degree of lighting in a room, or by adding wooden mini blinds, shutters or coordinating shades to your existing window treatments for an extra layer of warmth.

You also might consider lamp shades that are wider at the bottom for free-standing light fixtures; they create a softer, warmer feeling than other styles because they throw more light

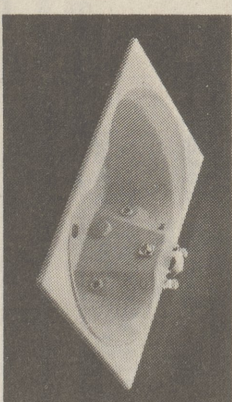
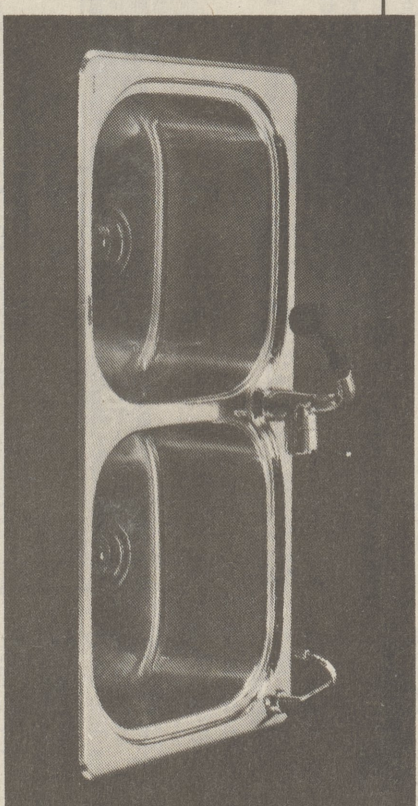
down on the surfaces below.

As for candles, look for colors and scents inspired by the cooler weather season. An artful grouping of lit harvest-hued tapers or votive candles could be the next best thing to a roaring fire in the fireplace. Spicy potpourris, oils and fragrant candles are second only to the aroma of a pumpkin pie baking in the oven.

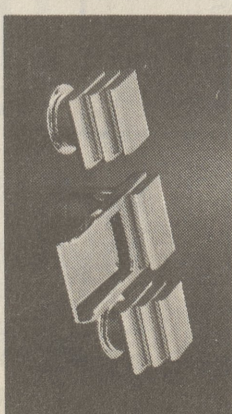
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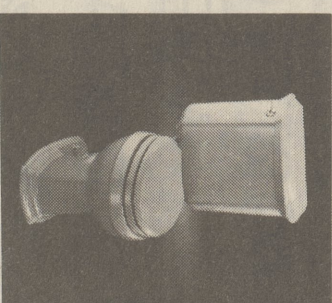
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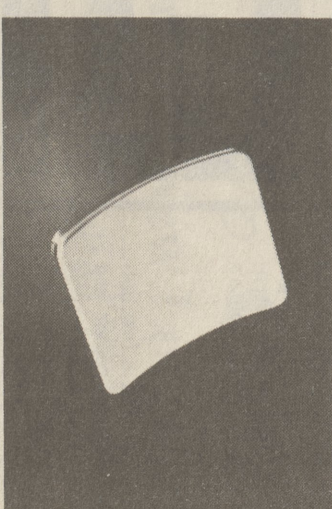
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