

STATE

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SHOWTIMES

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LOQUITUR

I am the omniarch of things unreal
And sovereign of that shadow-realm where dwell
Phenomena incomprehensible.
Plenipotent am I that hold the seal
Of high authority. All woe and weal
Which man ascribes to heaven and hell
Is in my power to give and none may tell
What future miracles I may reveal.
The wonders manifold of land and air;
All man's achievement and accomplishment—
This have I granted as a bounty lent.
But, lest he wax too wise, let him beware;
For in my keeping forces dire are pent,
Avid for his undoing and despair.

—Chester Wittell



Submitted by the Marietta Restoration Associates

"The Interpretive Restoration"

Most people don't want to live in a museum. However, part of the charm and value of old houses lies in their craftsmanship and uniqueness—two qualities usually missing in today's houses.

This article deals with the old house owner's problem of creating a home that is livable and suits his tastes but at the same time, does not destroy the craftsmanship and flavor of an historic period.

An "interpretive restoration" is one that captures this flavor, but is **not** an exact recreation of the way the original owners had decorated.

Reversible Work

In today's throwaway culture of instant this and instant that, any solid old building that has survived for 50 or more years is deserving of attention. What moral right do we have to destroy the craftsmanship of a past generation? What will our children understand of craftsmanship and history if all old buildings are replaced with new pre-fab structure?

The problem at hand then, for the old house owner is to preserve architectural features that could not be replaced but still interject his own personal taste into his home.

There are many ways to alter the appearance of your house so that it suits your own taste but still remains

faithful to the character of the structure. The two key questions to keep in mind are:

1. Are my alterations reversible should some future owner want a more authentic house?

2. Are my decorating ideas, if not authentic, in harmony with the structural details of the house?

Changing paint and wallpaper is a good example of a reversible cosmetic change. With wallpaper, for instance, you can capture a period flavor without being specifically authentic. In fact, there are many interpretive Early American wallpapers on the market even though wallpaper was not readily available in the U.S. before 1840. The designs for this reproduction wallpaper comes from China, and fabrics from that era and so they blend with the architecture and will be in the spirit of that period.

If you own a Victorian house, you don't have to go in for the dark, cluttered look of your grandmother's parlor even though that may be an authentic appearance. Without removing such craftsmanship as stained glass windows, etched glass and lovely woodwork, you can make the Victorian house more livable by eliminating authentic heavy draperies thus allowing light to pour in. Also, you can keep the clutter to a

minimum with a few appropriate pieces of furniture and lots of greenery.

Understanding the Style of Your House

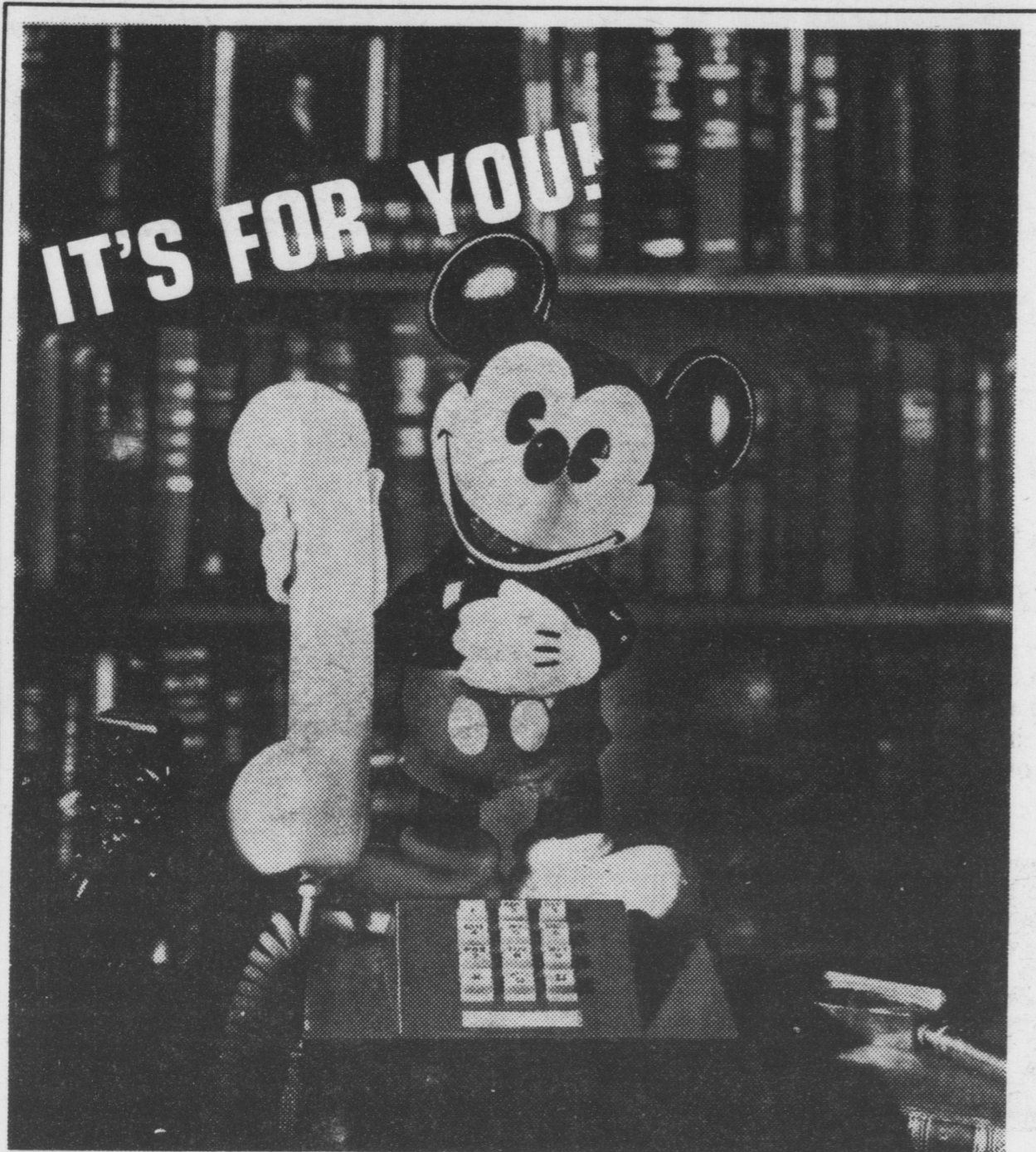
You will need to do some research about the period of your house if you want to do "an Interpretive Restoration". You will probably need to know more than the general differences between "Colonial" and "Victorian" because there were many other varied "Substyles", (future articles will deal with some of these.)

Try to focus on a style around the time your house was built. This will give your design cohesiveness.

For instance, a Colonial saltbox would have a rustic early american flavor; a Greek Revival would have a classically oriented interior; a Queen Anne Victorian, an "aesthetic-movement" interior; a Classic American Farmhouse would be based on the "Catalog Style" etc.

In summary then—

1. Find out what style or styles your house is closest to.
2. Research the period.
3. Pick the elements of the period you like and build your theme around them.
4. Have fun with cosmetic features.
5. Don't destroy architectural features.
6. Go slow! You are bound to change your mind as you learn more. Hasty work is usually regretted later on.



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"Over the Back Fence"

Radiation danger over now is over now

by Max Smith,
County Agent

Now that the nuclear fallout problem at Three Mile Island is over we can get back to normal. I'd like to assure local folks that the soil and water is still fit for human and livestock consumption. According to all monitoring counts we did not have enough radioactive fallout to endanger

the 1979 cropping season.

I realize that folks in the northwestern part of the county may still be concerned but time has allowed further decay of any small amount of fallout. We hope that folks will make their spring plantings as usual.

I'm aware that some of

our local products may not be fully accepted in other parts of the East, but there is not any foundation for these items not being safe to use. Continued monitoring of soil, feeding materials, milk and water has not uncovered any reason for not returning to normal living.