



LIVE in STYLE *Newsletter*

FEBRUARY 27, 2009

LIVE IN STYLE 613-721-3342 WWW.LIVEINSTYLE.CA

"It is better to have enough ideas for some of them to be wrong, than to be always right by having no ideas at all."

Edward De Bono

LET'S SAVE SOME TREES:

If you are still receiving my newsletters printed on paper, PLEASE send your e-mail address to mila@liveinstyle.ca to receive future issues electronically

Your ideas and suggestions for the following issues are always welcome

Style File: Eco-friendly Textiles

There are a variety of materials considered "environmentally-friendly" for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, the renewability of the product. Renewable resources are items that can be replenished in a relatively short amount of time (as opposed to millennia). The second factor is the ecological footprint of the resource - how much land it takes to bring one of the plants to full growth and support it. The third thing to consider is how many chemicals it requires to grow/process the product to make it ready for market.

HEMP. By far, the crop with the most potential for eco-friendly textile use is hemp. The ecological footprint of hemp is considerably smaller than that of most other plants considered for their fibers. Hemp plants grow very quickly and densely which makes it difficult for weeds to take hold, eliminating the need for herbicides and artificial fertilizers. It requires no irrigation as it thrives on the amount of water in the average rainfall, and it is highly pest-resistant.

Organic Cotton. Organic cotton is much more environmentally friendly than the traditional variety as it uses no pesticides, herbicides, or insecticides during the growing cycle. There are many growers of this crop, and the number is steadily increasing. Usually manufacturers using this plant to make textiles follow up the process by using natural dyes to further reduce the amount of chemicals dumped into our ecosystem.

Soy Silk. Soy silk is made from the by-products of the tofu-making process. The liquefied proteins are extruded into fibers which are then spun, and used like any other fiber (woven, knitted, etc.). The high protein content makes it very receptive to natural dyes.

Bamboo. Bamboo is a highly renewable grass, and it is probably this property that has resulted in its being classified as "eco-friendly". It also has natural antibacterial properties and the fabric "breathes". The resultant cloth is biodegradable.

Fortrel. A polyester fiber made out of recycled plastic bottles which can be made into fleece. Manufacturing this fiber is preferable to creating new petroleum-based fibers, and given the sheer amount of plastic bottles in existence, finding a new use for them is a plus.

Furniture Tips: Buy New or Reupholster?

Furniture purchases can often be one of the biggest investments in your home, so careful thought and planning should go into making the right decisions. The upholstered furniture is often the first to be considered as it sets the style of the room and is the basis of the color scheme. You generally have two options to consider:

- Reupholster your existing furniture.
- Purchase new ready made furniture.

Let's consider the option of reupholstery. Your old pieces might have value that you often can't buy today. These pieces can very successfully be restored. If your old sofa or chair has a good frame, it is usually worth the cost of reupholstery, with the added bonus of a panoramic range of colors and textures in new fabrics. Chances are that the factory made furniture, put together on an assembly line, might be less durable than a fine quality piece of furniture, build by a trained craftsman, and reupholstered using top quality foam and fabric. You want quality furniture that will suit your decor, and last a good long time, without having to worry about the springs holding up. The economics of reupholstery works very well. Dollars and cents, it can be one of today's best buys! One of the disadvantages of buying mass produced factory furniture is the fact you can't see what is inside. An attractive looking exterior and bargain price might just be covering up a very defective interior. A professional decorator can advise you if your old furniture is worth reupholstering, as well as help you redesign and change your old furniture into a work of art. Upholsterers are skilled craftsmen, but usually don't advise you on the design, scale or pattern you need. Professional decorators work with only the best upholsterers who will do a quality job for you. Even if your furniture needs repair, an experienced upholsterer can easily replace the springs, rebuild the frame, and add new padding and foam to make it like new again.

If your old furniture is not worth reupholstering, the decorator will help you select new furniture that will suit your home's size and style, and will ensure good quality for your money.

LIVE in STYLE
Home Décor Services

Mila Tarsky

Phone:

613. 721. 3342

E-mail:

mila@liveinstyle.ca

On the Web:

www.liveinstyle.ca

*Please let me know
if you would like to
be removed from
the receiving list*

Décor Ideas: Accessorizing

Do not place accessories on shelves and tables like soldiers lined up for battle. Avoid a level assemblage.

Do mix sizes, scale and textures. This is the key to good accessorizing. Vary the heights of objects to be used together to create a staggered altitude, usually working with an odd number of items.

Plants and greenery help to break up heights and add texture. Stacking books can be a great pedestal for a small item and will add height to your vignette.

Use these simple techniques and available items in your home to help you get the most from your possessions. You don't always have to buy the perfect thing!

Practical Ideas: Choosing Window Treatments

Window treatments are an essential décor item and functional necessity. Your choice of window treatments will vary, depending on what you want the particular treatment to accomplish. This is where you must start! Consider some of the following questions:

1. Do I need privacy?
2. Does privacy need to be partial or total?
3. Is filtered sunlight okay?
4. Do I want as much sunlight as possible?
5. Do I have a good view I would like to frame?
6. Do I want function only, or both function and window décor?
7. Do I want to block out the view through the window?
8. Do I want the window(s) to be decorative focal point in the room?

Once you have decided on the objective for your window treatment, your options for choice become more manageable. Soft treatments are just what the name describes... fabric window treatments. Hard treatments are blinds, shades, and shutters. In each style imaginable, fabric choices and trims add thousands of different looks and possibilities. Patterned fabric, solids, textures, stripes, plaids, sheers, semi-sheers, etc. can all become the most dazzling window treatments. Your taste, style, color scheme and required function are the variables that should be considered before you decide what type of window treatment you want to have for your home.