



Home's art work should reflect owner's individuality

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ing to achieve, the colors of my new room and the space I was trying to create," said Shelby Martin, Interlochen resident and vice president of public relations for Huntington Bank. "I started with a clean canvas and taking into account my personal tastes created a space and an atmosphere using the art pieces we chose."

Marcia Bellinger, owner of Belstone Gallery in Traverse City, recommends sampling art before purchasing it.

"At Belstone, we allow customers to take a piece home and place it in the space it will be for a period of time to see if it works," said Bellinger. "You don't want to be stuck with a piece that you thought would be great but turns out to be wrong, it is too important a part of home to risk that."

Bellinger also recommends that customers take their time when picking out art for the home.

"People are often in a rush when they should be taking their time and waiting for the right pieces," said Bellinger. "The important thing is that the owner of the home is pleased with their purchase. Art is an essential component of a home and should be something that you spend time

choosing." All art should convey something — an emotion, a flavor, a personal taste. Art should communicate a message, a theme, a like or dislike and it should be expressive of the person in whose home it is displayed.

"Making a decision about what

to purchase and where to place art can be a difficult one," said Loveless. "Home owners just need to remember that it becomes easier if they know what they like and stick to pieces that they are comfortable with."

Kelly L. Rohe is a local freelance writer.

Photos by Record-Eagle/Elizabeth Conley
Everyday objects can also be used as function of art. These wine glasses and wine rack, bottom and right, are examples. They are available at Traverse City's Belstone Gallery and were created by local artists.



Finding the 'right' style for your home

By CAROL MCGARVEY
The Associated Press

Television decorating-maven Lynette Jennings understands the frustrations of decorating your home.

"If you're like me, you often find yourself attracted to totally different styles," she said.

That's okay. Picking out what's right for you — not what others say is "right" — can become one of the toughest hurdles. Design is not absolute, she insists.

"We need to own up to who we are and what we like and then have the courage to live the way we want," she said. "Now that's design."

Jennings said too many homeowners get caught up in what others think. Taste is personal, and there are no mysteries or hidden agendas for living with space the way you love it.

She encourages families to take a good, hard look at their space. If time is spent mostly with children, then it doesn't make sense to put the often-used family room in the basement with no view or natural light. If you have a formal living room that you save for guests and you don't find time to have many, then perhaps that room should become the family room. If your family would enjoy putting a pool table into that room, do it. The room will become a true "living room."

In like manner, porches don't have to be for sitting only. If an old-fashioned sleeping porch would make you happy, there's no rule saying you can't turn your screened porch into one.

"Homes should better conform to our needs," she said. "The American house plan hasn't kept up with our varying lifestyles."

The same thing is true with color. For example, little girls' rooms don't have to be pink. Kitchens don't have to be yellow, a throwback to the 1940s.

The decorating guru understands firsthand. With a blended family of five children and two parents, she soon found out that it was imperative to go with the flow in terms of recognizing different styles and tastes.

For example, she learned that the kitchen worked best if there was a sandwich-making corner with all the makings at hand. It cut down on confusion, clutter and helped to establish some general order to a busy space.

Jennings offers some tools, not rules, regarding home decor:

■ To pick your favorite colors, look at your closet, your car and the artwork in your home. See what colors you choose and which ones make you happiest. Forget about trendy colors by deciding what you can live with.

■ Define a color with a white trim. White trim can brighten and sharpen a color.

■ Show some emotion in your decorating. Show off a colorful decorating personality, not just a white box.

■ If beige is your bag, fine. But be sure to add a bit of drama to it. Use rich tones, and show that you're confident in your choices.

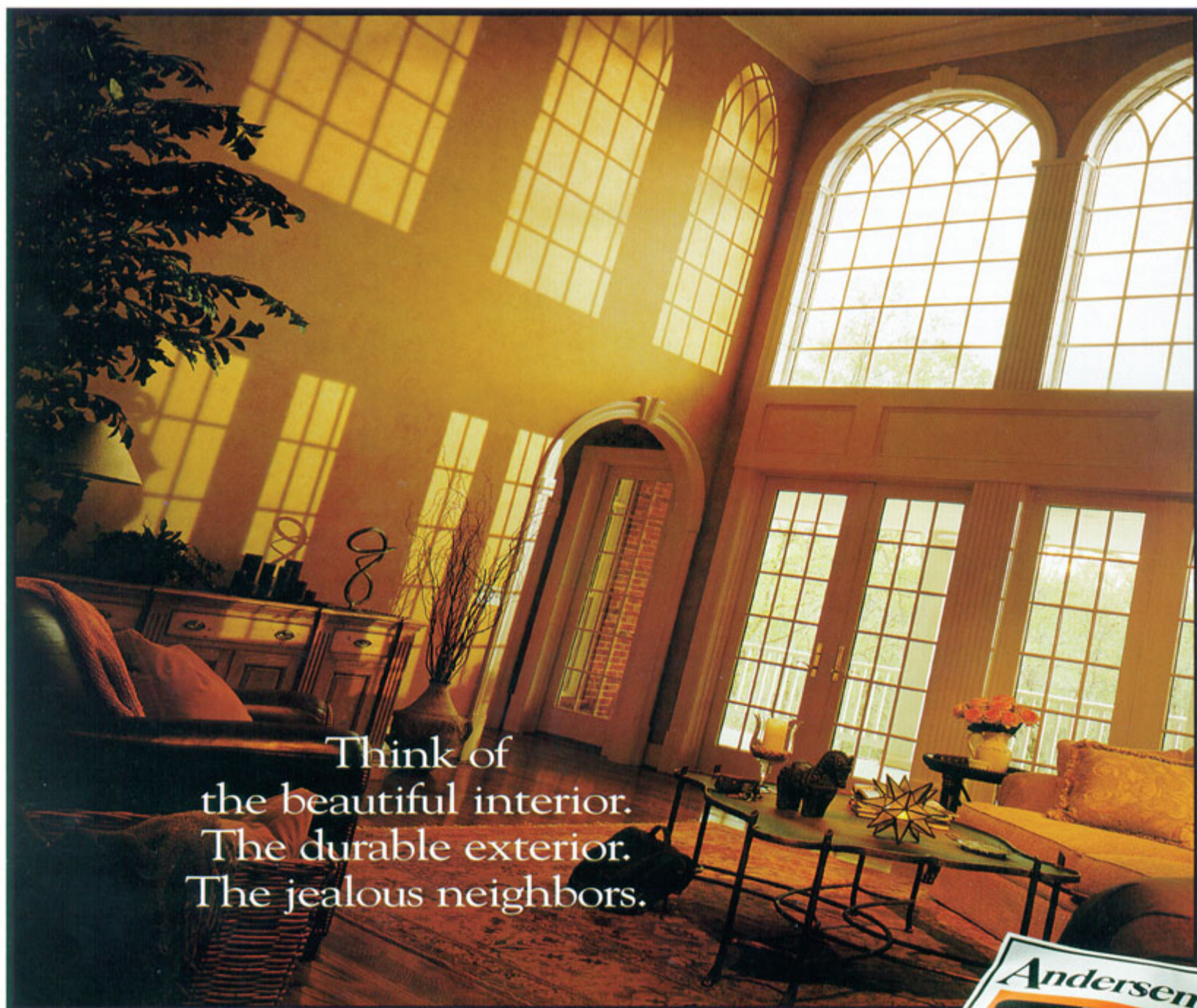
■ Add a touch of black or a bit of dark color. Just a hint of it anchors the total color scheme of a room. For example, ordinary cabinetry gains fresh style with new black knobs. Or try a black countertop or black picture frames on photos.

■ Color is the grand connector in your home. Rooms aren't islands. They share borders with each other.

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