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T O R O N T O A N D V I C I N I T Y



The Love Shack

Success by Design...

by: Sharon Nease

Partners Holly Liddell and Anita Wiklem are more than just associates - they are soul mates as well as the force behind Wiklem Design inc. Their personal life intermingles with work and it is this flexibility and versatility that brings them a steady stream of happy clients. Holly holds down the "fort" and manages the company books and is often the initial contact for suppliers and new clients. No matter what the design, Anita is up for the challenge.

"It is all about the customer and striking a balance between what they already have and what they want," says Wiklem.

Travelling regularly, the two pick up ideas and interesting pieces from trips abroad. Anita also draws from her Norwegian heritage, which often lends itself to simplistic designs with a rustic approach. Details make all the difference. Attention grabbing accents add a texture and vibrancy that can transform a room.

Take the "Loveshack" as a case study.

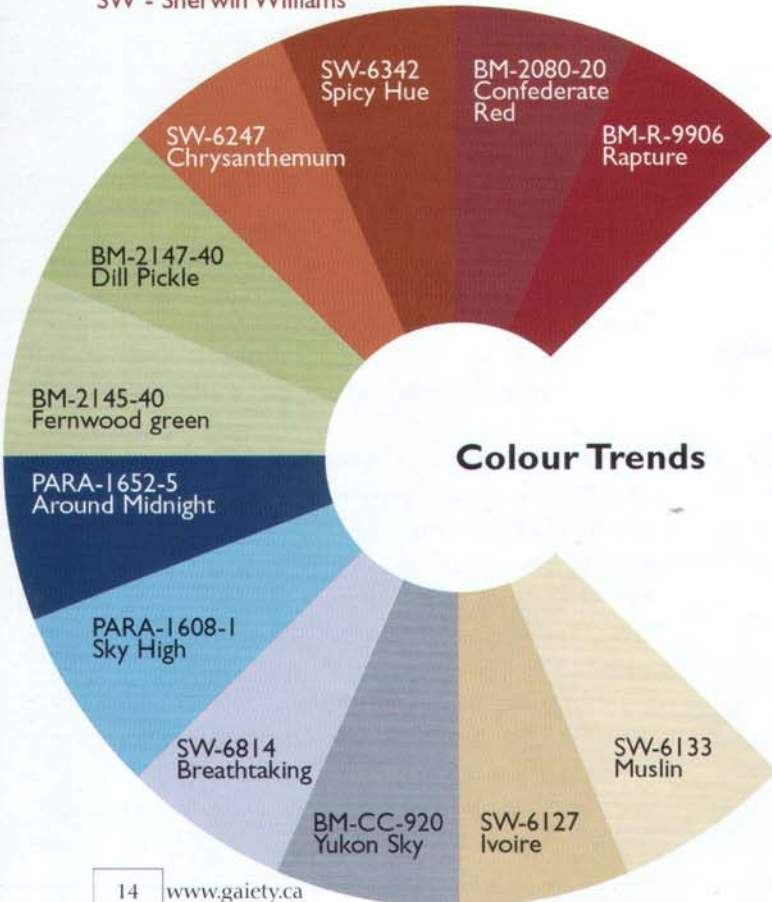
At the Gay Life & Style Show earlier this year, Wiklem Design inc. won first prize for the Love Nest pictured in this article. There were some criteria, such as using the word love and working within a 10'x10' area, but otherwise the designers were given carte blanche to redefine the space. Many bedrooms are not considered romantic unless they are heavy or dark. Anita and Holly felt that white was a statement in itself because it is inviting and sensual and innocent - with a bit of kink. A raised king bed and over-sized down pillows were draped in a lazy muslin haze. Sensual details made the room: the lip portrait, live models, bamboo shoots, techno music, candles and a striking triangulated aluminum bed table. The Loveshack was a hit at the show with numerous guests kicking off their shoes and visiting for hours.



Tradition meets today thanks to blue-red drapery, camel walls and blue damask sofa anchored by colours in Persian rug.

Ebony leather sofa back dropped by champagne walls comes to life thanks to vibrant amber and lush greens in the Gabbeh rug.

BM - Benjamin Moore
 PARA - PARA
 SW - Sherwin Williams



What's Now and What's Not

Let's talk a bit about trends - what is in and what is out - and how to know what to look for. If you really want to know what the decorating trends are look no further than the world of fashion. Six months before a season the runways are full of new ideas and inspiration from the fashion houses in Europe. We know fashion can be fickle. Sometimes a trend will stick and become all the rage. Sometime, mercifully, a style will drop right out or the scene (we all remember gauchos).

More often than not, a trend borrows from the past and recreates itself years later as did the 70s decade. It is back with the "hippy chic" thrown in for an updated twist.



What you see as a clothing trend today will become apparent in home decorating, usually in a year or two. You will notice trends in furniture, fabric offerings, and drapes, paint pairings and designer showrooms. A short time after that the same type of design trend will move into the automotive industry and from the style will influence the architecture.

The 80s was a decade of being "over the top" - frills, ribbons, layers and big patterns. In the 90s we matured! We traded in the clutter for a quiet, minimalist calm. Colours were neutral, understated and designs were modern. Less was more. Now, in the new millennium, we are feeling a need for more colour. Using full spectrum colour to celebrate life and say, "we've arrived".

Colour trends for now include lavender with a tinge of gray to make it subtle and sophisticated. Green is important now because it takes us back to nature and growth. Yellow-based greens, like a fresh leaf or an avocado, are making a statement. Orange also takes us back to nature showing more brown or terra cotta shades and lending an aura of comfort

and warmth. While red will never be dead, the type of red does change over time. Red itself is in a cooling off period moving away from brick colours to cool, blue red hues. Red is very strong as an accent for accessories. Strong sea blues continue to show through from last year embracing the return to nature theme.

One may think a neutral is a neutral is a neutral. However, even a neutral can be updated to reflect a change in styles. The last few seasons we have seen a harder take on neutrals in strong sand and sable colours. Grays have been more sterile. The neutral for now has pulled back. Designs are calling for natural colours like limestone, camel and champagne that lend warmth to your living space.



A large focal mirror and tiles laid on the diagonal give the illusion of vastness. White window frames, blinds and the counter top make the space crisp and clean. As well, stainless steel doorknobs, taps and bath accessories lend a modern feel. The hand-textured walls are actually wallpapered in a warm camel tone. The fabric shower curtain and valance box have burnt amber squares that match the cabinets and tie the design elements together.

Change is in the Details

People change their tastes. On average, people move every 4.3 years and use this as for a fresh start for designing their new space. More often than not, their furnishings will be moving with them. However, there is a great deal you can do to update your home by working with what you have. There are instant, inexpensive updates you can make to reflect current styles. Throw-blankets, cushions, flower arrangements, table cloths, small rugs and coffee table books are quick and easy ways to change the look of your room. When planning the design of your home, Liddell and



A strategic use of accents gives this room an economical facelift. Lavender-blue gauze frames the window while champagne accents and a floral quilt heighten interest. The bench at the foot of the bed even holds shoes. Ivy across the ceiling and three 6-inch arches create the Mediterranean feel.

Wiklem suggest using colour and theme to make your house flow from one room to another. If you are someone who likes change, you can easily mix and match accessories and move your things around to create a new look at a low cost. Painting is a safe and fast way of redoing a room and making a statement and it is less costly than replacing a sofa. More intense design suggestions include hardwood staining, wallpaper, and broadloom and window treatments.

First Time's a Charm

Each one of us creates a style based on what we like and what we have to choose from by way of furnishings and accessories. Anita is a believer of designing it right the first time. If you plan smart at the beginning and properly incorporate the Elements and Principles of Design, you will avoid costly mistakes in the future. The Design Elements are categorized as form, line, texture, pattern and colour. The Principles include proportion, balance, emphasis, rhythm, unity, variety, harmony, safety and function. Wiklem uses them everyday in her work but says they come by instinct and experience.

It is this instinctive approach that has contributed to her success since Anita began designing in 1993. "We really strive to help make a house a home - and there is a difference," she says. "We really listen to our clients and provide full-spectrum solutions that work".

* Next issue: Anita talks to us about Feng Shui