

Happier Homes

Color know-how in your room decor



TEXTURE, STRONG DESIGN INTEREST, or some vivid accent color are always needed in a neutral decorating scheme. Here, the strong stripes and herringbone pattern of two wallcoverings by Columbus Coated Fabrics, a zebra-striped area rug, and lots of texture contrasts bring great success to a strictly beige, black and white color scheme.

Did you ever stop to think how often we use color to express our feelings? We talk about being green with envy, in a black rage, or true blue. And then there's the proverbial "scarlet woman," and all those people with "green thumbs."

We've talked about color this way for centuries, and now psychologists are confirming what every woman has always known: the emotional impact of colors is serious business.

Color can make us see or overlook, for example. And lift our spirits, ease our tensions, evoke whatever mood we want.

The problem is figuring out what color — or combination of colors — will do what. And oddly enough even the woman who'll pick the right color dress without a moment's hesitation finds color scheming for her home an awesome task.

So here, from the Wall-covering Industry Bureau, are some helpful hints:

- Get to know the room you're decorating. Note architectural oddities. Be armed with swatches of carpeting, upholstery, etc., when you go shopping. And if you don't have swatches, at least bring along some paint chips or even some

magazine pictures that'll give you a handle on the colors you'll be working with. For few people have as good a color memory as they may think. And the lighting difference between home and store may fool you, too.

- Since the walls represent the largest area of any

room, and most of it at eye level, your choice of wall-covering becomes very important.

- Light-colored wallcoverings will brighten a dark room, and warm colors will benefit a too-cold room. Strong wall colors will minimize the size of a room.

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