

The Traditional Look is foolproof, comfortable, and always charming

If you can't make up your mind what way to go with your rooms, choose the Traditional Look. For it is entirely foolproof, immensely comfortable, and so diversified that no two rooms ever need look the same.

"Traditional encompasses so many styles down through American history," notes designer Arthur Glazer of Strahan Wallcoverings.

"It goes all the way from Early American through Victorian, and it can be rustic, formal or anything in-between. There is no other style that covers so much territory, and that's precisely the reason it's so easy to work with.

"You needn't worry about putting a Queen Anne sofa together with a Shaker-style chair. As long as the overall mood is Traditional, many diverse elements can be put together with complete confidence.

"The mix itself is very American, in fact. Our thrifty forefathers wouldn't have dreamed of discarding a good piece of furniture just because of some new-fangled style. Besides, mixing styles within the Traditional range helps give a room great personal charm."

Glazer feels that the easiest way to set that overall mood, which will spell Traditional, is to put wallcoverings and fabrics to work.

"The walls constitute the largest area of any room, and most of it is on eye level," he notes. "So, naturally, the right wallcoverings can do more for a room than the costliest furniture.

"Now think of what you can do with coordinating fabrics to spruce up windows and furniture, and it becomes obvious that it needn't cost a mint to create a beautifully Traditional room."



CLASSIC COUNTRY WALLCOVERINGS and fabrics from Strahan's Brookfield collection give this room great comfort and traditional charm. Note how the striped design yields a border for the fireplace wall.

For the type of look that we call Early American, Colonial or Provincial, Glazer suggests fruit-and-flower motifs and other themes from field and garden, checks, plaids, decorative stripes, and almost any small geometric.

Large-scaled florals, Oriental looks, and fleur-de-lis designs and similar classics suit all the more formal rooms and

most Victorian decors.

Textures are important considerations, too, but much easier to select than printed themes. Homespun textures, for example, are obviously countrified and informal, while silks, damasks and today's popular moires create elegant backgrounds for formal interiors.

Easy way to bring back rustic look to kitchens

Remember when kitchens used to have that heavy masonry detailing? Here's an idea for the casual, warm appeal of an old-fashioned country kitchen.

Bring that rustic look of masonry back into the kitchen with an arched range hood. This design, inspired by early American country kitchens, serves as a beautiful surrounding for hanging pots and kitchen implements.

Do it yourself

That old country kitchen look can be possible without the mess, expense and weight of masonry with Z-BRICK brand facing brick. And, you can do it yourself without calling in a contractor to totally rebuild the room.

The arch can be adapted to any room and ceiling height with a modest amount of carpentry skill. Building the arch is simple, and it is easy to finish it off with Z-BRICK.

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Value of kitchen remodeling

As family lifestyles change from formal dining to the more relaxed atmosphere of buffets, homeowners no longer isolate their kitchens from guests. Unless, of course, the kitchen is so unsightly it should be hidden.

One solution to the problem of an ugly or inefficient kitchen is remodeling. A new kitchen, says the National Kitchen Cabinet Association, immediately adds to the value of a home.

No matter what your layout or budget, chances are your present kitchen can become more efficient as well as better looking.

Good sources for remodeling information, adds NKCA, are kitchen dealers, remodeling contractors, home centers, building supply retailers and others with specialized kitchen and bath departments to assist consumers.

When shopping for kitchen cabinets, look for the blue NKCA certification seal inside a cabinet door or drawer. This means the cabinets have been tested to assure that they meet the tough construction and performance standards of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

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Yes there is. An agent works directly for one insurance company. An I.B.A.O. broker is independent and unbiased.

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