

## Goldfish are nature's beauty



**GOLDFISH AQUARIUMS** are easy to set up, require minimal maintenance and provide a rewarding hobby for the entire family.

The arrival of spring signals that we will soon be enjoying the beauties of nature—blooming flowers and greening shrubs and trees.

Another natural beauty that can be enjoyed within the home is ornamental fish. The fascinating movements, bright and distinctive colors and various shapes of ornamental fish are a delight for the whole family.

Enclosed porches (or California or Florida rooms) are ideal locations for goldfish aquariums. Goldfish, unlike tropical fish, do not need a heated aquarium and are a great addition to spring and summer living.

### Benefits of goldfish

Goldfish are fun, goldfish are beautiful and, in fact, a study conducted by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania in 1980 concluded that watching ornamental fish in home aquariums was a definite benefit in relieving stress.

So, if you have some extra space and would like something your whole family could enjoy, consider an aquarium with ornamental goldfish.

To go about starting a goldfish aquarium, you will first want to locate a good dealer. If you have a friend who has an aquarium, ask for a reference; otherwise the phone book lists most tropical fish retailers.

Tropical fish are warm-blooded and require a heated aquarium. Goldfish do fine in an aquarium with a water temperature around 65°F.

### Investigate equipment

When visiting a tropical fish store, get an idea of different sizes of aquariums and the type of equipment you will need. A goldfish aquarium should be covered with a reflector using fluorescent lights, which do not throw off a significant amount of heat.

In terms of a stand for your aquarium, your dealer will have a selection, but you could also consider building one to match the decor of your room. This is relatively simple but be sure it's very sturdy since the weight of the aquarium and water is quite heavy.

A good idea is to build an open stand out of 2x4s and then cover the front with decorative paneling to match your room decor and leave the back open so that the wiring and tubing from your aquarium's pump and filter can be stored out of sight.

### Good filter important

In addition to the reflector you will also need a good filter since goldfish are rather messy. Your dealer can help with a selection.

Even though you don't need a heater, it's a good idea to use a thermometer to make sure the water temperature does not rise beyond 80°F.

A recent development in thermometer technology is the liquid crystal digital thermometer which affixes to the outside of the aquarium, yet measures most accurately the water temperature.

If you are going to keep a lot of fish, you will also want a separate air pump in addition to the filter to add more oxygen to the water.

### Attractive ornaments

Decorating your goldfish aquarium can be great fun. There are multi-colored gravels, highly decorative backgrounds, hundreds of ornaments as well as plastic plants so real in reproduction it's almost impossible to distinguish them from live plants.

Most good retailers will have a complete assortment, and your selection should be based on the size of your aquarium and the amount of money you decide to spend.

Once you have set up your aquarium, you should add a chlorine neutralizer to the water and initially add only a few fish. These few fish will help develop the proper biological conditions necessary to

maintain a fully stocked aquarium. After three or four weeks, assuming everything is functioning properly, you can then go ahead and add the rest of the fish.

Aquarium maintenance is much simpler than people think. Every two weeks, a partial water change (not greater than 20 percent), by siphoning the water from the bottom of the aquarium, is all that's required.

A device called the Hydro-Clean allows efficient siphoning by separating the debris from the gravel and removing it with the water from the aquarium. On a monthly basis, your filter will require minimal maintenance. That's all there is.

Following this simple routine, your goldfish will live a long and prosperous life. In fact, one of the biggest problems people have is spending too much time maintaining their aquarium. On a daily basis, goldfish should be fed a small quantity of a quality flake food or pellet.

Goldfish and tropical fish form the basis for a truly rewarding life-time hobby—and one the whole family can enjoy.

## Wallcoverings, rugs can create a mood

Pattern and color in wallcoverings, fabrics and rugs can transform a room into almost any style or mood desired: Romantic, traditional, contemporary or juvenile.

However, top designers note that in some cases architectural details in a room seem to dictate the decor, and should not be ignored when redecorating.

### Majestic patterns

For example, a living room which features an elaborately carved marble fireplace, decorative ceiling moldings and hardwood floors seems to demand traditional decor. Stroheim & Romann's second Stately Homes Collection of wallcoverings and fabrics has a tree-of-life wallcovering and fabric called "Castle Garden" which, because of its large-scale and gracious rendering, will en-

hance the architectural elements of such a room and complete the decor.

### A fine romance

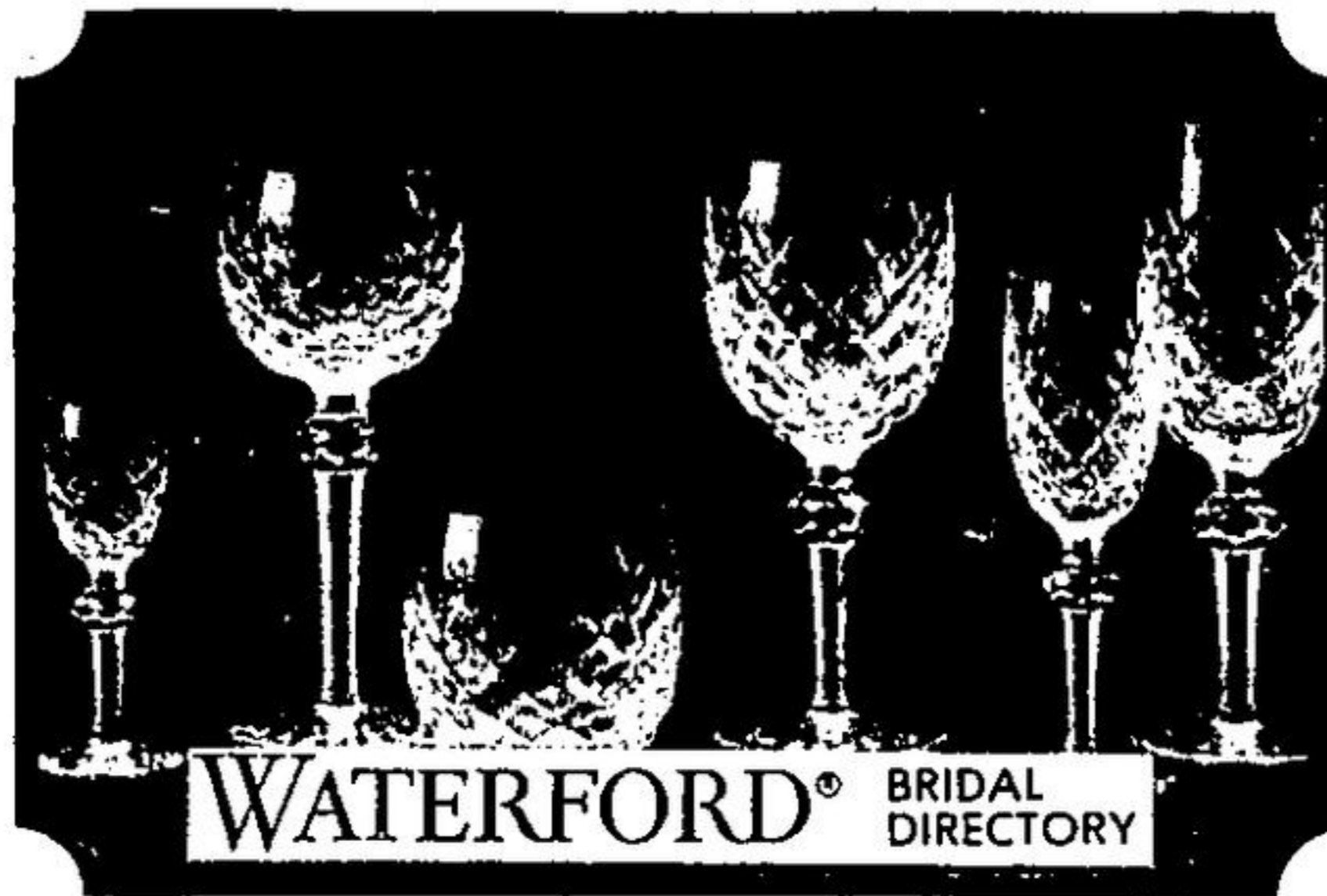
Similarly, a small bedroom with a window seat, whose windows have stained glass panels at the top, seems to call out for romantic, Victorian decor. Lace curtains, which will show off the stained glass windows, and floral chintz fabric on the window seat cushion, the dust ruffle and on the bedspread will complement the turn-of-the-century detailing.

Stroheim & Romann notes that colors are also an important factor when matching architecture to decor. Traditional colors tend to be rich and dark, such as hunter green, claret and navy blue. Victorian colors—while rich—are lighter and almost appear to be faded: Rose, seafoam green and ivory.



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