With a new decade upon us, interior designer Elaine Griffin, author of "Design Rules: The Insider's Guide to Becoming Your Own Decorator" (Gotham Books), offers the following advice for what design trends to look out for as the new era begins:

• Furniture: Dark wood is no longer the only stylish option. According to Griffin, consumers are turning towards honey-brown walnut and midtone finishes rather than to wenge and espresso looks as they diverge away from the cold accents and into the warm and welcoming ones.

· Rugs and Throws: Flat woven or dhurrie rugs take the place of the ornate shag rugs, as a result of a shift towards simplicity. "They were marvelous while their comeback lasted," Griffin says about shag rugs, quickly adding, "Which it didn't." Similarly, she offers that throws will take on a simpler form and be folded in neat verticals and placed over a chair back, sofa or across the foot of the bed rather than extravagantly draped over furniture.

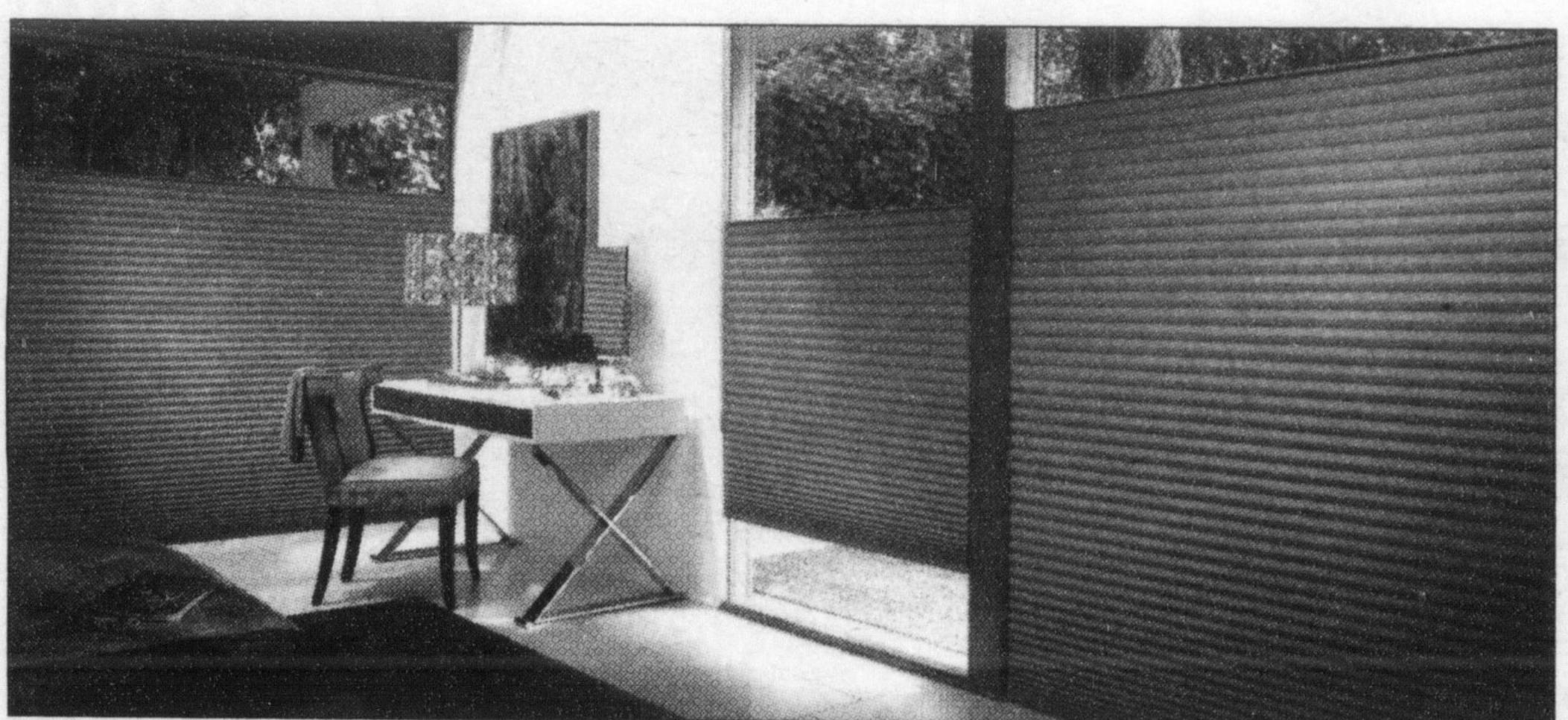
 Sustainability: Of course all experts agree that sustainability has become a major factor in consumers' product selection as not only a trend, but now as an established way

of life. For decorating the home, items such as Duette Architella honeycomb shades from Hunter Douglas, Canada's leading manufacturer of custom window fashions, feature a patented cell-within-a-cell design that more than doubles the energy efficiency of the window, helping to lower heating and cooling costs when properly installed. "And don't forget that shades should never be stark white," Griffin says. "Go for softer ivories and palest grays or beiges, whichever is closest in tone to the paint colour of your window trim or, for trimless windows, walls."

• Prints: With the rebirth of the 80s, "boring florals and timid patterns" are a thing of the past, says Griffin. Instead, she notes, geometric prints in bold patterns are on the horizon for 2010, with herringbone, ikat and bargello patterns at the style forefront.

· Custom and Tailored: For Griffin, "all things shabby and saggy" are out. Instead, aim to use all things tailored. Hunter Douglas window fashions add a customized look to the window, as well as comfort and beauty to the home.

More information is available online at www.hunterdouglas.ca or toll-free at 1-800-265-8000. www.newscanada.com



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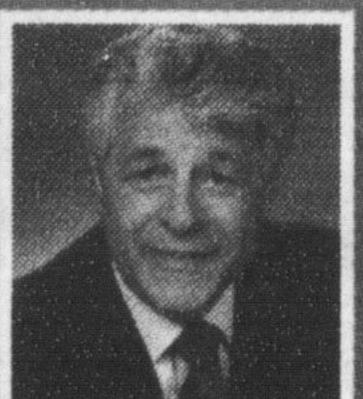




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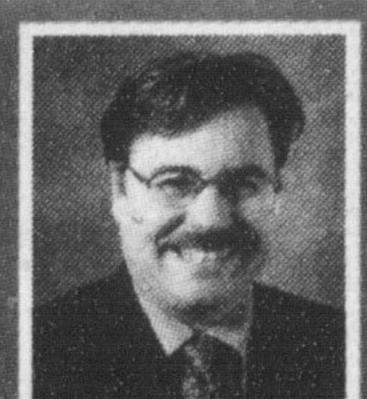
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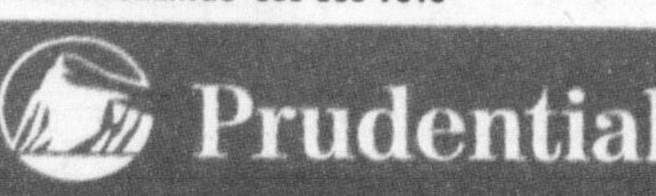
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