

HOME *Sweet* HOME

Interior design should reflect your personality

The interior décor of a home is intimately connected to the personality of its owner, according to local interior designer Jean Bisnaire.

As owner of Niche Décor in Markham, Bisnaire has witnessed a dramatic shift in recent years away from tired, predictable interiors. "With all of the entertaining being done at home, people are taking much more pride in their living space," says Bisnaire, whose store specializes in unique decorating items from around the world. He also offers professional interior design consultation for those planning to renovate or remodel their homes.

Bisnaire believes that living space can influence how one views the world, and how one is viewed by others. "If your living space is drab and uninspired, it can have a negative impact upon your personality," he says. "Alternatively, when you take pride in your surroundings, it can have a very salutary effect upon you and those around you."

With people spending more time entertaining at home, they are coming to realize the importance of creating design elements that reflect their tastes, styles and personalities. "People spend a good deal of their lives at home among family members, and entertaining others," says Bisnaire. "Why not feel good about your surroundings and create living space that is truly inspiring to you - and to others?"

What kinds of interior design motifs are hot these days? "We're seeing a real desire to make homes look worldly and sophisticated," says Bisnaire. "Whether it's exotic art from the Far East, Persian rugs from the Middle East or wrought-iron

accessories from the southern U.S., home owners today want to incorporate design elements from many parts of the world."

Living in a multi-cultural community, home owners are choosing more eclectic themes than ever before.

Another popular design motif is a casual, elegant look. "With the increasing popularity of computers in our life, and the increasing slickness of many working environments, people are opting for a more casual elements that don't remind them of being at the office. "For the most part, when people are at home, they want to relax and forget about work," says Bisnaire. "Consequently, traditional or formal interiors are being replaced with funky, exotic and fun décors."

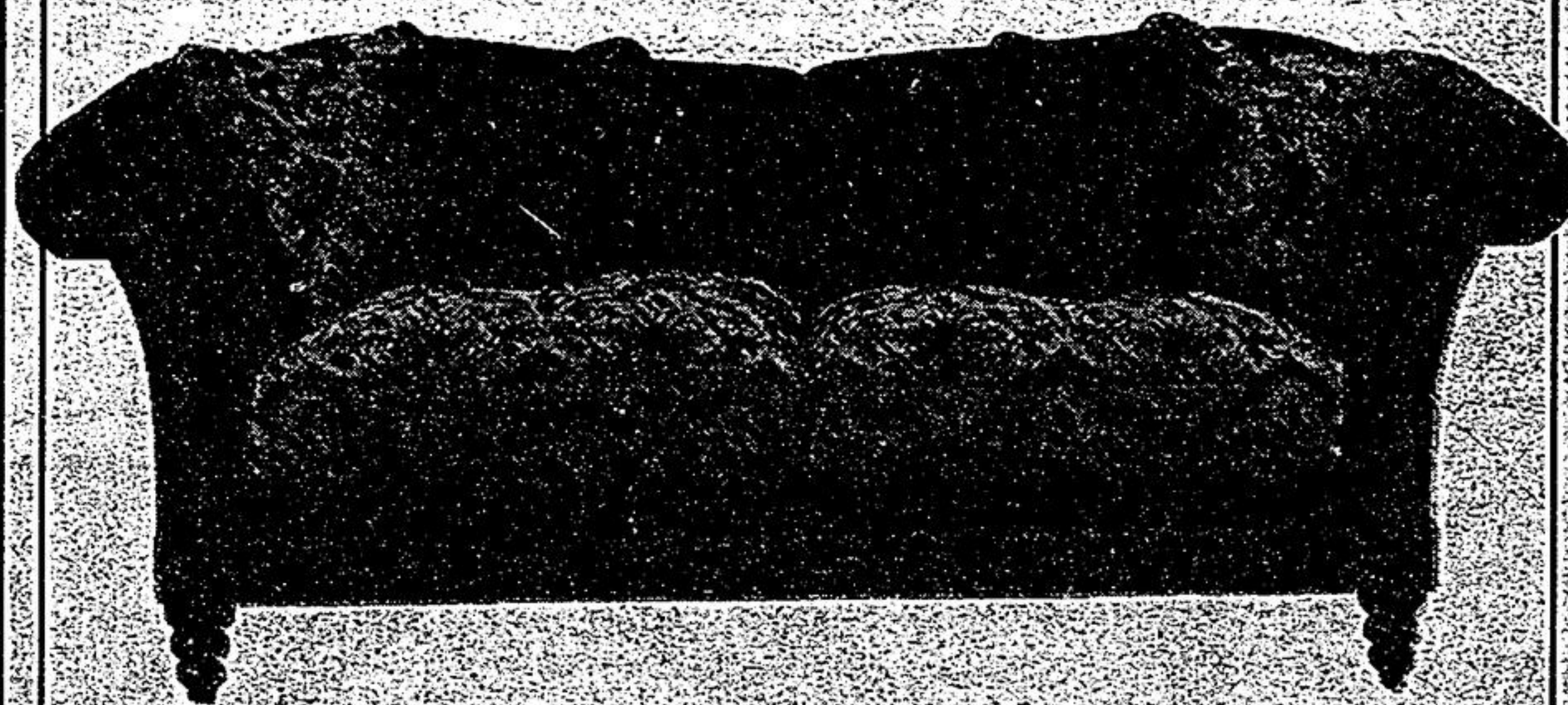
There is a myth that redecorating a home will cost a small fortune. "Redesigning your home doesn't have to be expensive," says Bisnaire. "In some cases it may just be a matter of re-arranging design elements that are already in place, or selecting a colour scheme that complements your existing décor."

If you have been considering a new design motif for your living space, make sure that you know what options are available. Finding an interior designer that you can trust should be your first step. "It's also important to remember that decorating should be a fun and enjoyable experience," says Bisnaire.

For more information on adding spice to your living space, call Niche Décor at (905) 479-8385.

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