



ENHANCE YOUR HOME

Design Your Christmas Decor

By Valerie Clubine



If you love to decorate your home, it makes sense to follow many of the same design principles in creating your own Christmas look. Choosing a theme that coordinates with your decor creates a unified look that flows from room to room and tree to table with ease and simplicity.

In a traditional home, red, green, gold and silver are reliable choices, on their own or combined with one another. But consider copper, bronze and brown for a warm, updated colour scheme that looks stunning with your rich mahogany furniture and vegetable dyed Persian carpets, as well as with your old silver and gold ornaments.

You'll find lots of Christmas merchandise in these colours, so you can fill your tree and garlands throughout the house with beautiful hydrangea, boughs of leaves and berries, and uniquely crafted ornaments for a traditional look that is refreshingly new. Make sure there's lots of sparkle on the ornaments and in glass accessories to catch the light and add beautiful contrast to the rest of the room.

Don't forget to mix fresh boughs with your artificial ones. Wander outside and selectively trim your large evergreens, or visit the local nursery to pick up pine boughs, aspen leaves, boxwood wreaths, curly willow branches and magnolia leaves. Next, a trip to the grocery store for pomegranates, lemons, lemons, limes and nuts in the shell. Then let your creative side take over - apothecary jars filled with fruit and nuts, garlands strewn with pomegranates, and doors hung with wreaths to welcome family and friends.

However, if your home is contemporary or

modern, you may want something a little more unexpected to update a tired Christmas décor. Look for decorations in soft blue, acid green and lots of white. Gorgeous! Instead of boughs of greenery on the mantle, drape white feather boas interspersed with silver bells, glass reindeer and green or blush hydrangea. You can make a knockout centerpiece in a low, contemporary crystal bowl, with groupings of paper white narcissus or amaryllis 'planted' on a bed of beach glass and topped up with water.

A modern sensibility is also enhanced with natural elements, especially magnolia leaves, curly willow branches, tall grasses, orchids and palm leaves. Create a dramatic table by simply lining up votive candles from one end to the other. The low profile doesn't interfere with conversation across the table, and the light is flattering, no matter how exhausted you are from getting Christmas dinner on the table!

Whatever your look, don't forget the importance of soft ambient light. Use lots of candles throughout and be sure that ceiling fixtures are all on

dimmers. The variations are endless for creating a holiday look that is uniquely you - now, relax and enjoy your hard work. Blessings to you and your family as you celebrate a very Merry Christmas!

Valerie Clubine can be contacted at Signature Interiors
905-534-0344 • 647-403-4924
email: vclubine@rogers.com

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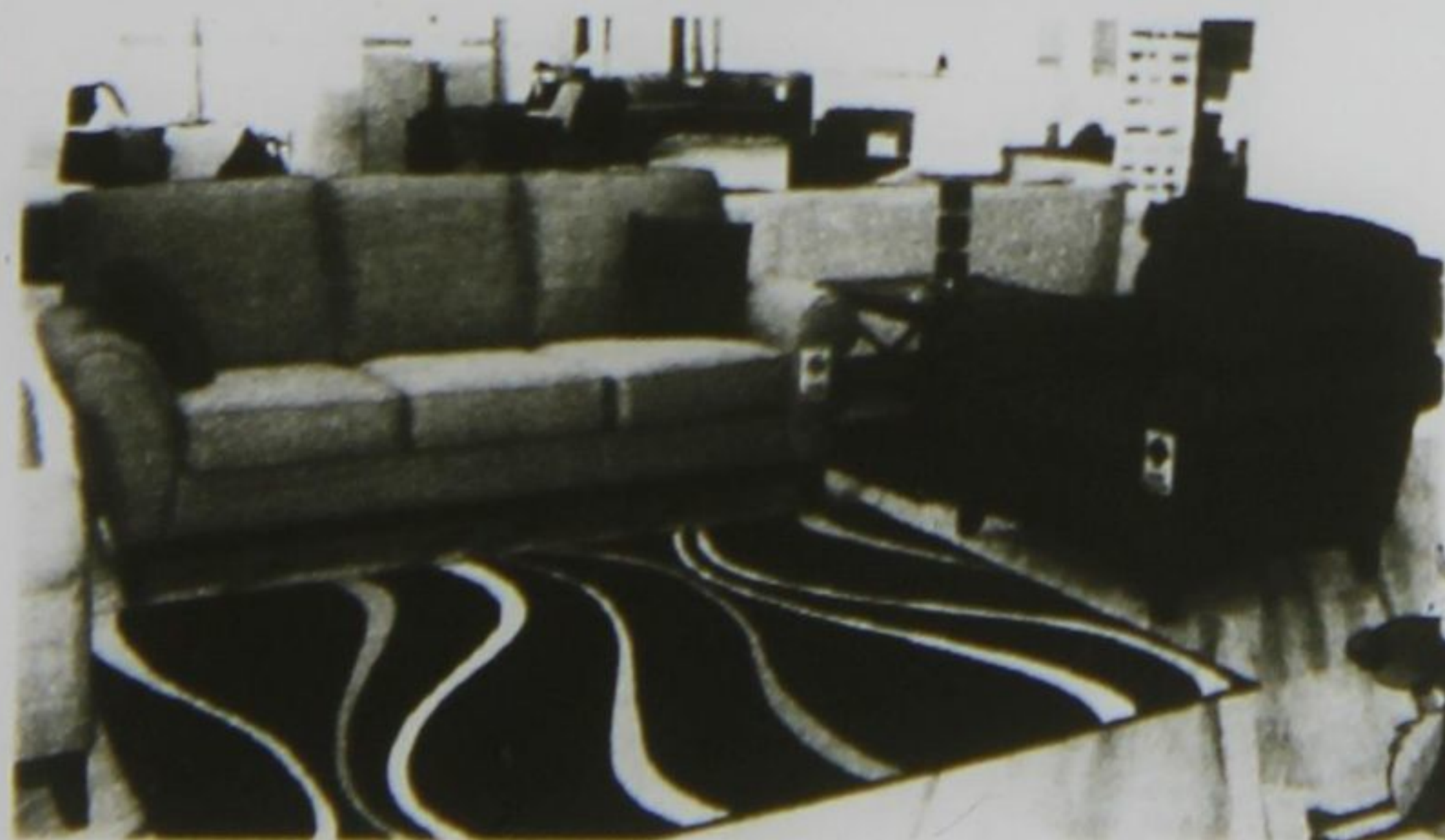


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