



When you  
combine colors  
you love, objects  
that speak to you,  
and textures that  
feel wonderful,  
you have defined  
your style

**W**hen you move into your new home, it may take some time to decide on a decorating scheme that will work for you. Since decorating is both personal and subjective, the emphasis should be on the "feeling" you want your home to have. A successfully decorated home will not only be comfortable, it will reflect your lifestyle and personality as well.

A well-decorated home can bring years of satisfaction. It is important to develop a long-range plan before you begin to decorate. A well-thought-out decorating plan will help you make wise purchasing decisions and avoid buying items which may never tie together. Highly personal and beautiful surroundings are usually the result of vision and resourcefulness rather than a generous budget. Sticking to a plan that includes a color scheme unifies the various components in your home and assures that each room easily flows into the next.

### Styles

Four main decorating styles are in use today: traditional, contemporary, eclectic, and country. Specific themes such as soft contemporary or international country stem from these styles. An eclectic style successfully mixes different styles and ties them together by a common denominator, such as color.

### Interior Design

When it comes to a particular style, most people tend to have fairly consistent likes and dislikes. By determining your preferences you can make consistent style decisions. Start by looking at your favorite furnishings. The style can be found in the detail: shapes and lines, fabric colors, and patterns.

Many interior decorators or designers offer consultation services to help you get started. They get to

know your tastes and work with you to develop a pulled-together look that is attractive and makes sense.

Getting this type of experienced input will help you use color wisely, select the proper furniture and accessories, and create the overall effect you want to achieve. This service is not expensive, and the fee might be applied to purchases you make through the decorator.

### Design Basics

Should you choose to do some decorating on your own, it is best to remember these important points of interior design.

Start with the wallcoverings, flooring and window treatments. Coordinating these will go a long way toward providing a uniform background for your furnishings.

Select a primary fabric pattern and build from that. Be sure all other fabric patterns complement

the main fabric.

Coordinate; don't match. Matching eliminates visual variety in a room.

Vary the heights of furniture pieces. When a room is filled with furniture of the same height, it loses its focal point.

Take into consideration the size of the furniture. Large, heavy pieces can overpower a room. Vary the sizes. Don't put a lot of furniture into a small area. Leaving some space unoccupied allows the natural beauty of the furniture to display itself.

Once you have implemented your decorating plan with coordinating colors, textures, accessories, and personal flair, your home will radiate your particular warmth and uniqueness. You will have achieved the feeling of "home."

