



The Subtle Details

Ten days in Paris in September... priceless! Well, not quite. I was actually pretty naughty and did a lot of shopping, but I consider that a good thing. My philosophy has always been, when you see something that calls your name, buy it! You may never get the chance again.

I visited the Maison et Objet (lots of fabulous new vendors from the world over), spent a day at THE market at Saint-Ouen (starting at Marche Paul Bert), visited Chateau Vaux le Vicomte (the predecessor of Versailles), took a Segway tour, had lunch at the top of the Eiffel Tower and soaked in all the history, fashion and culture possible. Along the way I filled a lot of shopping bags! At the original Chanel store I bought a teeny little belt. At other shops I found a fun ring with a boy laying on the beach and a gorgeous hand-made zebra scarf.

But one purchase really goes soul-deep: the old painters' palettes and brushes I found at a small stall at the market. They are of various sizes and shapes, and still encrusted with globs of paint. It's hard to describe, but from somewhere deep inside I knew I had to have them. They all date to the early 1900s, and I couldn't help thinking about the masterpieces that might have been created with them and the artists who used them. Unbelievable. That work might be hanging in the Art Institute or the Louvre. I plan to create a montage with them at my new condo as they are feeding my creativity and bringing it to a whole new level.



Here's something else I discovered - At one level the architecture of Paris seems very similar, but when I looked more closely I discovered a wealth of detail. So many of the buildings are made of limestone and are the same height and have grillwork over their windows. But where they differ is in the two-story, arched double doors leading into all the flats. Each door design is different, from the color down to the knockers, door stops and metal grills. I took time to absorb the variations and appreciate the individuality of each one.

It reminded me of creating a timeless outfit or interior design. Instead of having one element that says "look at me" I like to create something elegant with subtle details that are well put together and lasting. Our interiors are a lot like that. Maybe I have some French DNA!

Sincerely,

Susan, Beth, Jennifer, Tod, Becca
The Sweet Peas Design Team



what's **in** what's *out*

WHAT'S IN

1. **FABULOUS CHANDELIERS** No longer just brass and or gloopity glitzy, the selections for chandeliers and sconces are over the top... think outside your comfort zone and look at chandeliers made of shells, beads, crystals, mixed metals, twigs, burnt wood and those that are organic, formal, deco, tiered and over-scaled. The choices are LIMITLESS! I found the most gorgeous rock crystal starburst chandelier in Paris....And it really needs a home!



2. SIMPLE FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS Small, elegant flowers of the same color and variety in a simple glass vase are the rage. Check out the "home" magazines and all the hip restaurants - that's what you'll see! Oh, and don't forget, you will often find multiples of the same arrangement throughout a space...

3. NATURAL, ORGANIC ACCESSORIES Wood vases and bowls with rough edges and objects found in nature's environment such as antlers, seed pods, stones and twigs add texture and interest to a space. They tell a story and give you a sense of history as well as being functional. We love mixing them with chrome and glass objects for a contrast.

4. PILES OF BOOKS ANYWHERE No longer just for shelves, stacks of books are being seen on floors, on stools, on cocktail tables, next to a favorite chair and even on the corner

of the end of a bed!

> clockwise: Sweet Peas Design, Made Goods, Studio A, Made Goods, Studio A, Paris Trip

WHAT'S OUT

1. Same wood tones throughout a room.
Or for that matter, the same style of furniture throughout a room.
Ho hum . . .
2. Victorian- too frilly and fussy!
3. Natural oak kitchen cabinets. My gosh, if nothing else,
please paint or stain them for a quick update.

sweet
tip

Lighten Up, Baby!

1. Recessed cans are most easily installed between ceiling joists.
2. Select a fixture that is rated for use near insulation - when ceiling insulation is present!
3. Spacing "rule of thumb" - whatever the diameter in inches of the recessed can, use the same number for the number of feet to place them apart from one another. In other words, if you select 4" diameter cans, space them 4' apart from each other.
4. To highlight a painting or sculpture center your recessed fixture in front of the object and make sure to use an "eyeball" so you can rotate it as needed for the perfect "spot".
5. Don't forget to select a "can"/fan combination for use in a bathroom or powder. Consider it a two for one!



FABU FABRIC



LINEN IS OUR MOST VERSATILE AND UNIVERSAL FABRIC OF CHOICE...

Linen is our "go-to" fabric for interiors. It is oh so textural and can be formal or informal depending on what it is paired with! It drapes beautifully, it upholsters wonderfully -especially if backed, and it is pleasing to both the eye and the hand. We love it for year around use and our clients gravitate to it for its natural beauty and crispness. It's incomparable - whether it's used for window treatments, bedding, upholstery, or pillows. The end result never disappoints! Linen is also a great choice for wrapped furniture case pieces. The linen look has been duplicated for wall coverings (think grass cloth), specialty paint techniques as well as furniture finishes. Why? Because of its subtlety, pattern and depth. The downside of 100% linen is that it wrinkles... So, we often specify a linen blend so it is wrinkle free. And who does not love wearing linen- a definite favorite of the SPD team.

> *clockwise: Kravet, Kravet, Innovations, Schumacher, Restoration Hardware, Clarence House*



Not Just for Pumpkins

Orange is the new black . . . a quote as heard on the recent Emmy Show!

An unexpected color, orange is the hot new color trend. And why not . . . it's happy, spicy, fresh and oh so fall, summer or spring depending on the hue you choose. If you're a slug and can't get

motivated, add orange to your life! Use orange in place of caffeine - it's proven to stimulate your appetite and productivity. It can even put you in a more social frame of mind.

If you are a bit intimidated by orange, add it in small doses. Find a great vase, a throw or a pillow. Paint a yummy orange color behind built-in shelves or only on one wall. Layer orange into a neutral space as it really amps up a gray or brown palette! You know this color has weight as the NBC Today Show just changed their set to orange!

Orange is the ONE color I wear consistently and is my favorite accent. If I can wear it, so can you. Go ahead . . . get happy. Find that perfect "jumpstart" orange!



> clockwise: Bungalow5, Arteriors, Zinc Textiles, LeeJofa, Hermes, Farrow and Ball, Benjamin Moore

At Sweet Peas Design we don't let any grass grow under our feet. Here's an update

MEDIA MADNESS

We've been happily granting interviews and scheduling photo shoots for several media outlets lately. Here's the scoop:



Check your newsstands for the 2013 issue of Color Made Easy from Meredith magazines, the publishers of Better Homes & Gardens. Editor Samantha Hart is showcasing one of our dining room projects from Lake Bluff in all its beautiful blue and white elegance. Samantha told us "the dining room turned out great" and may get picked up by BH&G. Exciting!

While the dining room was being photographed Meredith editor Marie McCartan was shooting the powder room at this home for Kitchen + Bath Makeovers. It won't run until next summer - such is life in the magazine world - but we'll keep you posted. Big thanks to our wonderful clients, Rick and Linda!

Next in line - Meredith was impressed with the built-in storage in the master bedroom and bathroom at a whole-house project in Libertyville so it was photographed this month for a six-page spread in Storage magazine, another of Meredith's specialty pubs. Thanks to our client Nancy!

Coming this month, an article in Professional Builder magazine about "delivering the biggest bang for the buck in kitchen design and finishes." Thanks to writer Susan Bady for including Susan's comments and photos of projects.

Look in NS magazine this month too for a blurb about some fun round tiles we recently installed in a client's laundry room. You're going to love them!



ON THE HORIZON

An interview with Susan for CheekyChicago, the online lifestyle magazine for women (mostly). Kate Nettenstrom from Cheeky chose Susan for the "Real Talk with Cheeky Women" series. "We're trying to showcase women of Chicago who are incredibly influential in their fields and positive influences on their communities," says Kate. We'll post a link to the article when it appears.

GET THE LOOK



RETRO

Want to take a step back in time? What goes around comes around - and that 70's look is back! Actually, don't forget to include the 50's and the 60's! Whether you call it Retro or Mid Century Modern, the "post-war" (WW II) look is getting a lot of attention.

The Mid Century era evokes a very clean and simple style. It includes teak wood, organic forms, wood, metal and plastic! Furniture was sleek, elegant and yet functional. There was a polished sophistication in its simplicity! Maybe that came from the Scandinavian influence. Bold geometric patterns and whimsical motifs were evident in fabrics - remember the Marimekko and Maharam prints!? Bubble lights and sputnik chandeliers were "must-haves"!

Mixing Retro with contemporary will give you a fabulous result! Just add a few nostalgic pieces and still keep the "cool" of your modern look. Try an Eames lounge chair, a sunburst mirror or a plexi glass table when layering in a piece from the post-war era. Find them at flea markets and estate sales, but be prepared for lots of competition as they won't be quite as cost effective as a few years ago! I found a few treasures in Paris...

A bit of advice - don't go overboard! Buy one or two great authentic pieces. Step back and enjoy and know when to stop.

> clockwise: Herman Miller, Kartell, HomeAdore.com, Two's Company

connect with us

- > **Website:** www.sweetpeas-inspired.com
- > **Blog:** www.susanbrunstrum.com
- > **Subscribe to Susan's Blog by Email**



Care to Share? If so, please email Susan with the email addresses of those you shared this newsletter with.

We'd love to hear from you!
email susan@sweetpeas-inspired.com

SWEET PEAS DESIGN

507 East Park Avenue
Libertyville, Illinois 60048 ([map](#))
tel 847.816.1296 / 312.572.9090

100 East Bellevue Place
Chicago, Illinois 60611 ([map](#))
tel 312.572.9090

Sweet Peas Design, Inc., 507 E. Park Avenue, Libertyville, IL 60048

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by susan@sweetpeas-inspired.com in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

Try it free today