

Happy Holidays!

Can another holiday season and New Year be right around the corner? I must be getting older as time seems to fly by much quicker than when I was young. I still cherish the magical moments of the season however and am hoping my children will visit Lincoln Park Zoo with me next weekend to see the Zoolights. But, it better get a bit warmer. BBBBRRRR. Too cold now. The poor animals must be chilly other than the polar bears and seals- they love this weather!

Now that I am spending most of my weekends downtown, I must say that Chicago is just beautiful during this giving season. Almost every building is festooned with greens, boughs, wreaths, bows and twinkly lights. Trees (sometimes just their trunks) and sidewalk gardens on Michigan Avenue and inner Lake Shore Drive abound are lit with white lights. One block is more lovely than the next. The Hancock building and a few others are decked out in green and red lights for a festive look in the night sky. And most people are in a cheerful mood even while shopping til they are ready to drop or their arms are so full they can't hold any more packages.... Ha, that was me last weekend on a shopping extravaganza. At the One of A Kind Show at the Merchandise Mart I had loads of fun buying jewelry, purses, chocolate, pottery, recycled glass serving pieces, belts, scarves and other unique gifts plus an original piece of artwork for my condo that I have been thinking about since summer. Then I spent time retail shopping for more gifts and bumping into everyone as I had too many packages and the wind was blowing something fierce. I finally bought myself a schlepper. So now I really look like an old lady, but what the heck, at least I am not so old that all I talk about are my health issues.

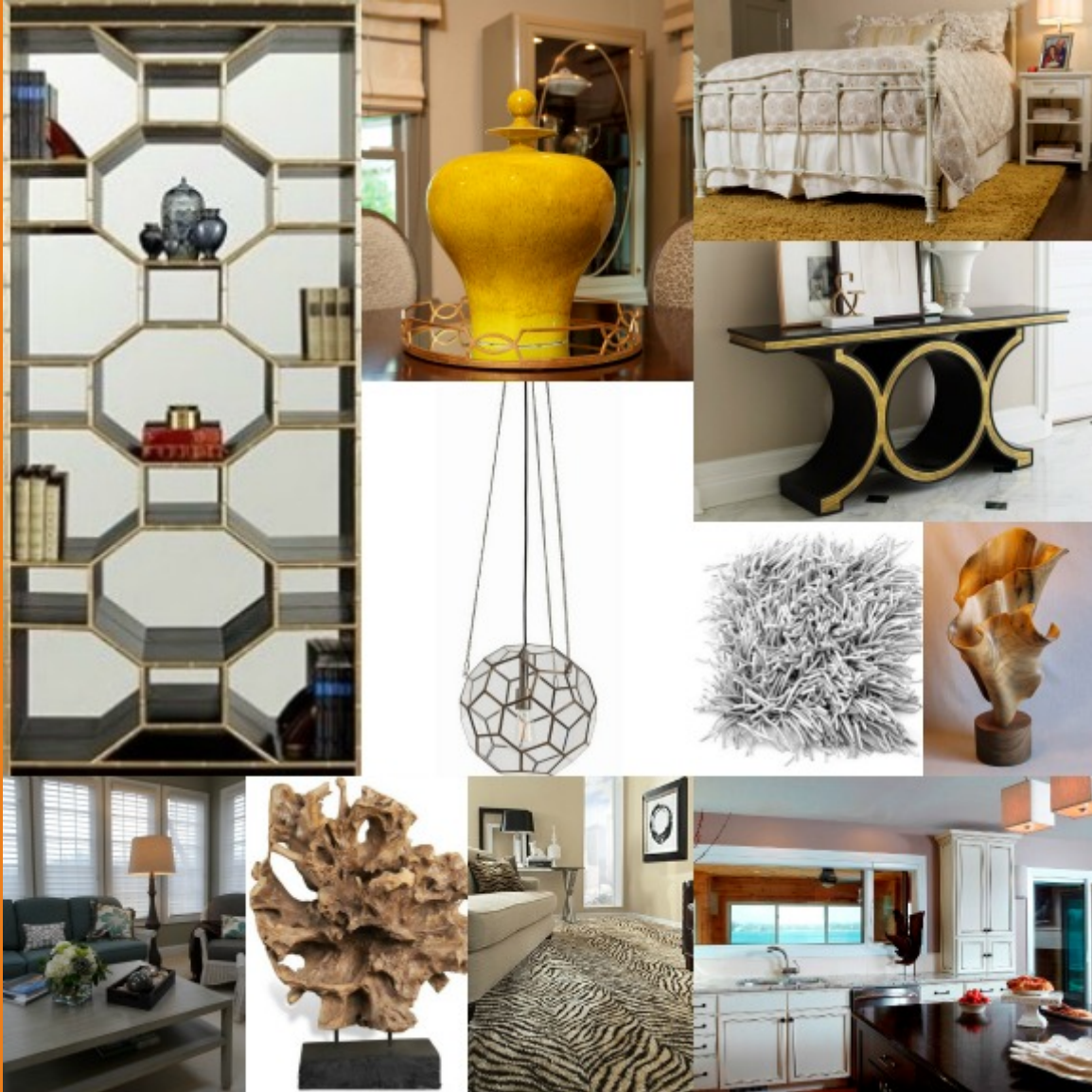
Have a safe and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

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

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

WHAT'S IN



1. The Hexagon. Geometrically pleasing. The hexagon motif is the perfect addition for rooms lacking in architectural details or rooms with lots of curves. Look for it in area rugs, accessories, lighting fixtures, tile patterns and even case pieces.

2. Black and Gold. Together again! There has been a resurgence in this classic combination in clothing, jewelry and interiors.

3. Wood Sculptures. Au naturel. If you love trees and all their imperfections - burls, rings and striations - consider an organic sculpture. I'm in awe of the talent of these carvings.

4. Shaggy rugs. What goes around comes around! Step out of bed and give your toes a treat with a lush, plush shag, circa 1970. With their long twisted fibers they are fantastic under foot. Curl up on a wooly dense shag during these cold, wintry days with a glass of wine and a great book, but be careful: you may find an ornament hanger or a crumbled Christmas cookie buried in your shag come January!

5. Trays. Need an anchor for a collection? Try a tray. Display an arrangement of candles, a mix of glass vases, family heirlooms, holiday ornaments, perfume bottles in your spa, your TV remotes . . . and the list goes on! A tray adds weight and keeps your objects organized and interesting.

> clockwise photos courtesy of: Henredon, Sweet Peas Design, Sweet Peas Design, Global Views, John McAbery, Delos, Arteriors, Sweet Peas Design, Stanton Carpet, Interlude Home, Sweet Peas Design

WHAT'S OUT

1. The big, blow-up holiday Santa, snowmen and or reindeer in your front yard. Tacky. Need I say more?
2. Updating your home only because you want to sell it. Why not make the changes so you can enjoy them? Buy the rug you've been coveting. Add a tile backsplash in your kitchen. Paint your walls. Change your foyer chandelier. Love the home you live in.
3. Complaining that you have no time to finish everything you need to do before the holidays. Really? Instead of griping use the time to tackle your to-do list. You'll be surprised how much you can get done.
4. Writing a list of resolutions with 20+ items. That's me, every year. I always think the more I put on the list the better chance I have to accomplish some of them. Right? Wrong! This year, I plan to pare it down and pick 5 of my 20 and feel good about it. By this time next year I will let you know if my top resolution- be more spontaneous and try new things- was a success. I'm thinking belly dance lessons, dancing with a cowboy, lounging in a mud bath in Calistoga or zipping down a luge in Park City, UT. Wahoo!

sweet
tip

**Determining your
Seat-to-TV Screen
Distance**



Holidays and pre Super Bowl are the best times to consider a TV purchase - just think of all those bargains out there!

But before you go shopping, make sure to determine the optimum distance between your TV and your seating area (think of your favorite spot on the sectional or stretched out on your recliner). Industry standards recommend viewing distances relative to the screen size.

An easy way to calculate the recommended distance between the TV and your seating area is to multiply the TV screen by 1.2 for the minimum distance and by 1.9 for the maximum. Then divide the figure by 12 to get the number of feet to leave between your TV and sofa.

For a 42-inch screen size the minimum viewing distance is 4 feet-2 inches and the max is 6 feet-7 inches.

For a 50-inch screen size the minimum viewing distance is 5 feet and the max is 7 feet-9 inches.

Now the decision is which TV? LED, LCD, plasma....

> *photo courtesy of: Digital Digest*



WOOL - NOT JUST FOR SHEEP

'Tis the season for wooly-wool! That cozy-warm fabric fills my thoughts with cold winter nights, handsome men in pin-striped suits, the iconic Ralph Lauren and yummy throws to wrap up in while watching a movie at home. I also think of New Zealand, thick stadium blankets to huddle under during a football game and counting sheep before sleep.

But wool isn't just for sheep or to keep us warm. We select gorgeous wool window treatments because we love their lightness and drapeability, or flannel upholstered sectionals, chairs and chaise lounges for their magnificent texture and the way they add warmth to a room year-round. We've also used flannel for the door fronts on upholstered case pieces - think chests and armoires - and even entire pieces. The contrast of wool, wood and metal is elegant and understated, just like our handsome friend, Mr. Lauren.

> clockwise photos courtesy of: Sweet Peas Design, Ralph Lauren, Macy's, Ralph Lauren, F.Schumacher, Sweet Peas Design, Macy's

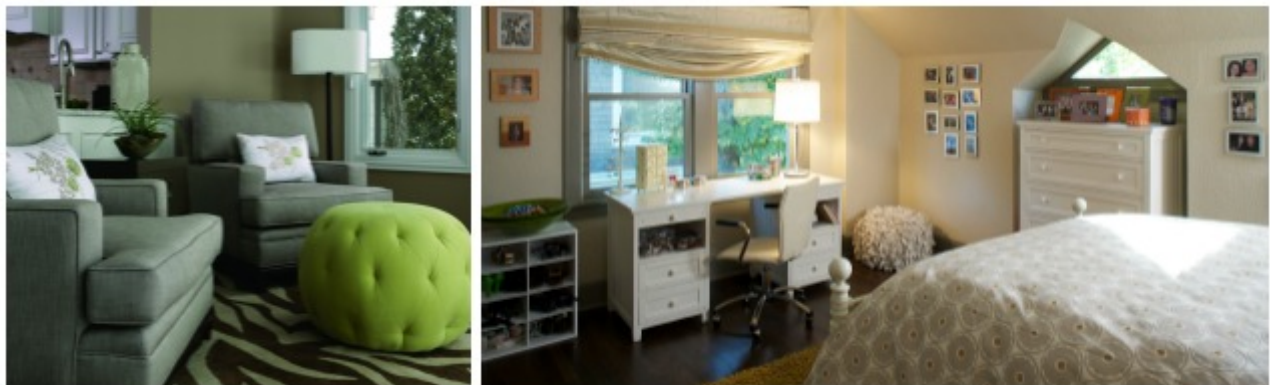
SPOT LIGHT ON A FAVORITE

Poufs

Pouf! Pouf! Not woof, woof. Everyone's gotta have one!

Poufs are a more whimsical, uninhibited version of an ottoman, and just as versatile. They fill up corners, can be carried easily from room to room and in a pinch, they make a handy step stool. Often they are used as seating pieces, cocktail tables and catch-alls, but mostly they are fantastic foot rests.

We selected this bright green pouf for a client's breakfast room sitting area. How's that for a little pouf with your Cocoa Puffs!



> projects by Sweet Peas Design and photos courtesy of Jerry Kalyniuk

At Sweet Peas we don't let any grass (or snow!) grow under our feet. Here's an update of our comings and goings.

APPEARING SOON ON LATE NIGHT TV: SUSAN



Tune in to NBC's LX-TV at 11 p.m. (or maybe 11:30!) on Sunday, January 12 as I lead my third home tour on the "Open House" program. Or if you aren't a night owl, no problem! I will post a link to the show on my blog so you can watch at your convenience.

In this episode I'll take you inside a two-story brick, 1920s home not far from where I live in the Heritage Area of Libertyville. We renovated this one from top to bottom, so it's like creating a brand new home within the confines of a 90+-year-old structure. Pretty neat.

Thanks and Happy New Year to Patrick Barkley, associate producer at NBC LXTV, for including me once again on the show.

WE'RE "TREND-Y" AGAIN!

The New Zealand-based Trends magazine is featuring us again, this time in an article for Bathroom Trends on the snazzy powder room we created for the 2013 Lake Forest Showhouse. Watch your newsstands in January or keep checking my blog. I'll post a link there once the article appears. Thanks and Happy New Year also to Paul Taylor, editorial director for Trends Publishing International Ltd.



Time Well Spent With Family and Friends

Our studio will be closed on Tuesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve) through Wednesday, January 1st (New Years Day) so we all have a little downtime to recharge our creativity. We will return on Thursday, January 2 ready for a fabulous 2014!

GET THE LOOK



Global Glam- India

Do you want to look well traveled and totally trendy? Add to your global cred and glam with treasures from around the world! Interest in other cultures and traditions has never been greater, so finding hand-made objects (originals or knock-offs) from around the globe is easier than ever.

Exotic accessories can spice up your interiors, and even small touches can make a big impact. Who knows, you might be tempted to book a round-trip ticket to the region of the world that sparks your inner glam.

This month we set off for India, the land of patterned and richly colored textiles, gold accents and elaborate mosaics and marbles. We love the ornately carved architectural features and furniture and prints prints prints! It is sensory overload to be sure, and gorgeous. Glamorous.

> clockwise photos courtesy of: abhiinspi.blogspot.co.uk, panpaliya.com, abhiinspi.blogspot.co.uk, arteriors

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