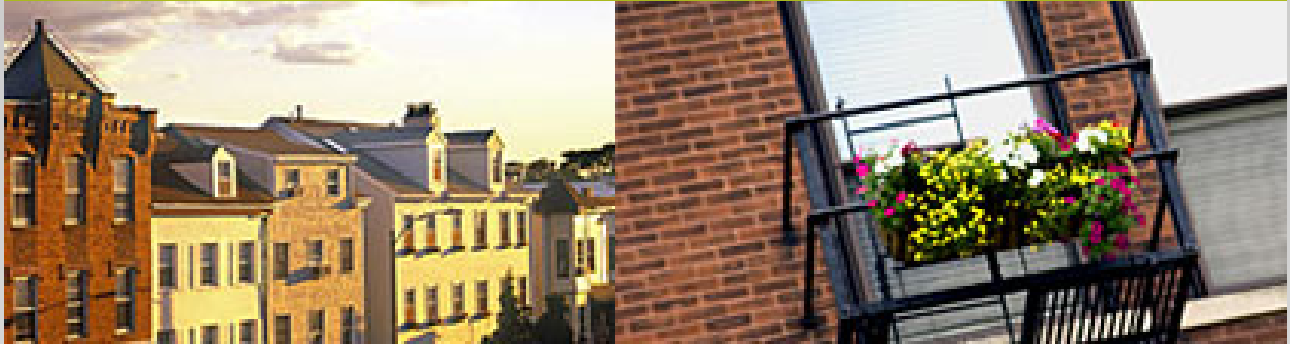


## SCRIBBLES...POSSIBILITIES...& DISCOVERIES



### *The past defines us but can't contain us*

For some reason, I have been a bit nostalgic this early summer... maybe because both my kids are home from college and I know it might be the last time we are all living together under one roof or maybe it's because I've been watching Downton Abbey (the hot PBS series about to start its fourth year) or because I spent sooooo many hours in a 1916 David Adler built Infant Welfare Society Showhome from February to May and history was enveloping me...

I have come to realize that while the past defines us, it can't contain us. Life is short, you can't always look back. To live every second you must decide where to go from here. Paying homage to the past is important but it is much more liberating to create a future with "who knows what" exciting adventures to be had! I've decided that with so much life ahead of me, I have the responsibility to do more with it.

So change and transformation, is once again, in the air! I recently purchased an "in town" condo in the Gold Coast opening a curtain of wider expansion of myself, my family and Sweet Peas Design. It will be the start of a second office for the business- maybe a whole new perspective to Sweet Peas Design - and an opportunity for me to let my "city" personality shine and instinct take over! Ironically, I lived in an apartment only a few blocks away 25 years ago... Who knows what will come from this new experience? Hopefully a bit of fun!

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

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

## WHAT'S IN Color Trends!



**Flat weave area rugs** (dhurrie like) in large geometric patterns

**Navy and White!** For a crisp, clean look, pair the two colors together whether you are going for a nautical look or a timeless traditional look.

**American made products** - it just feels good to know your purchase was made in the USA!

**Explosion of color** - blues, pinks, teals! Take a risk and add a bold color or two to a "quiet" room . . . even if in small doses. Change out accent pillows, the matting on your pictures frames, or add a large bowl of gorgeous vibrant color flowers. That will just get you started. Switch an area rug for the summer months from a subdued color palette to a fun, more colorful one.

**Shiny, shiny** - fabrics, lacquer finishes, wallcoverings, accessories, objects, etc. Something shiny perks up a neutral space especially one that is predominately more of a matte based.

> from left: *Surya, Nobilis, Dendro*

WHAT'S OUT

# Matching your art work to the color palette of your room.

Let your new painting speak for itself! Don't let it blend in with your sofa and other furniture pieces.

sweet  
tip



## Paint color DNA

Spring means time to get the paint brushes and rollers out! You can roll away with the windows open, listen to the birds, & get your house projects done before summer sets in!

Here's a tip regarding "reading" the paint cards you pick up at the paint and hardware stores.

Always refer to the bottom color on a card - it gives you the DNA to help you determine the undertone of the color series. For softer palettes, look to the Benjamin Moore Classics. For purer, more saturated colorways, try the Benjamin Moore Preview sample cards.

If you have to pick a color quickly and it's a gray day (no natural sun light available) put the color under a white halogen bulb. It's your best source of "unnatural" light!

Pick up a sample jar of the color(s) under consideration. Paint bold strokes on the walls. Eyeball the color on a sunny day, a gloomy day and at night. It helps determine if you have made the right color choice.

FABU FABRIC



## EMBELLISHMENTS

Would you ever consider walking out the door to an event without the perfect accessory (jewelry, handbag, scarf, etc.) or a great bowtie and fabulous pair of shoes?

We hope you would say no because in design the same "principle" holds true!

An embellishment is like a piece of jewelry - it makes for a total look. It's the icing on the cake! An embellishment can actually personalize a piece of furniture, a rug, a window or wall treatment . . . and make a fabulous statement in your room.

Try adding nail heads to an area rug border.

Imagine a tape running vertically down the walls - interesting!

Hang a mirror or a picture with a leather trim! Or use the trim as an inset in your picture frame!

> from left: Bretag, Hickory Chair, Kravet



## Thanks for the Memories . .

"We do not remember days, we remember moments. The richness of life lies in memories we have forgotten." Cesare Pavese

Preserve your favorite and dearest memories and family photos by creating a photo display in your home. Bringing a wall to life with your family images from vacations, events, and even quiet moments adds personality to any interior.

A few steps to follow when creating a photo wall-

For continuity, find the right frame and matting and use them for all the prints. Select the frame and matting that best complements your personal style and the space you have chosen.

Hang your pictures at eye level.

Create a rhythm with the pattern of the pictures- lay them out on the floor or lean them up against the wall- avoid creating negative spaces.

Measure the height and width of the group of pictures to make sure they will fit your space.

When hanging the pictures, begin with the central picture and work outward.

Use a level for obvious reasons!

Stay focused and try not to get distracted with all the wonderful family and friend memories! Enjoy forever!



> from left: [AbsolutelyBeautifulThings.com](http://AbsolutelyBeautifulThings.com), [ItsWrittenOnTheWalls.com](http://ItsWrittenOnTheWalls.com), [Shelterness.com](http://Shelterness.com)

We've been crazy busy during the past few months working on some exciting projects, but we can't complain. Here's an update:

### Speaking Engagements

Anyone who knows me understands I love to talk about what I do (I'm never at a loss for words!) and I'm always eager to share ideas and information. So I was honored and delighted recently to be invited to speak to two very different groups: 20 students at Vernon Hills High School who are just contemplating a career in design and 25 established professionals in the Illinois Chapter of IFDA (International Furnishings and Design Association), eager to learn what it takes to participate in the Lake Forest Showhouse.



There is something so inspirational about high school students just beginning to make their way in the world. They are interesting and enthusiastic, and they have so many options and so much ahead of them. Rebecca Snow, our junior designer, and I talked about how they can build a career in this field and we described the design process, the inspiration for our projects, client communication and business management.

For the IFDA, I led a tour of the Showhouse and at a luncheon after, described the application process that led to our selection for the 2013 event and the participation parameters.

The contrast of these two groups reminds me that whether we're teenagers or adults of a certain age, education never stops!



## Press

Speaking of the Lake Forest Showhouse, we spent hours and hours of painstaking detail work on our Garden Level Powder Room. And what an event it was from the opening night gala through the very last day! Over 10,000 guests... and our cozy little powder room captured headlines in three local papers. Freelancer Anne Moore for Crain's Chicago Business and Tribune correspondent Elaine Markoutsas highlighted the "whimsical, dotty" walls and Daily Herald staff writer Debby Donovan focused on some of our design "tricks," including the custom, stepped metallic ceiling that hid unsightly pipes and the Deco-style mirror that doubled as a window covering and camouflage for the off-center window. If you missed the press or did not have an opportunity to attend the Showhouse, no worries, our technology guru, Zach, just completed a movie of it for us! Check it out...<[Click here to view link](#)>

In April, Susan debuted as a "Cheeky Girl" as she became the interior design guru for CheekyChicago.com, a sizzlin' hot online lifestyle magazine for women founded by Jessica Zweig and Erica Bethe Levin, now reaching roughly 50,000 sassy Chicagoans.

You can find Susan's tips, trends, design ideas and inspiration at [Cheekychicago.com](http://Cheekychicago.com). She'll be located under the "lifestyle" category found at the top of the home page.

What does it mean to be cheeky? The magazine defines it as "definitely bold; impudent and saucy".

Also in April, New York-based freelancer Barbara Ballinger included Susan's luscious master bedroom in her "Small Spaces" series for HGTV Remodels magazine online. And earlier in the first quarter, LXTV Open House made a return trip to Libertyville to film one of our favorite projects for national distribution on NBC5 <[Click here to view link](#)> . A big thanks to our delightful clients- Dee and Derek! In addition, DesignShuffle spotlighted four of our top kitchens in a special feature we

earned by being one of 2012's Top 10 most-viewed designers in the Midwest on their popular website <[Click here to view link](#)>. And last, the Chicago Merchandise Mart eblasted a tip from Susan on making the most of your living room to its 11,000 online consumer subscribers.

Next up, Barbara Ballinger is including two Sweet Peas Design projects in a series she is writing for HGTV magazine. It's hush-hush for now, but we can tell you this: Susan isn't the only one whose work will be featured. (Tease, tease.) Beth's home is the lead! And, a national publication will be onsite in June to photograph one of our favorite powder rooms!

## GET THE LOOK



### WHAT'S GIRLY-GIRL?

Things that come to mind when a project demands a "feminine" theme- pastels, jewel tones, beads, glass, mirror finishes, curvy furniture legs, embroidery, sheer & shiny fabrics, upholstered headboards, painted furniture, candles, books, pot pourri . . . Silver, glass and crystal become even more fabulous in candlelight providing a bit of luxe and glam. A touch of silk adds a wonderful shimmer whether it's woven into an area rug or your window fabric!

We have discovered that most of our female clients want a little space of their own - just to be a girl! They may have spent the day in a drab work environment, come home to a house full of more work, partners and kids, and just want a simple "getaway" . . . if only for a few minutes! The getaway space might mean a few square feet carved out of a closet, a sitting room off the master bedroom, a spare bedroom . . . a space behind a screen!

> from left: Coco Pendant Light Fixture (made from coconut shells) from Ochre, Acrylic Stool from McLaughlin Collection, Beaded Drapery Tie Backs (similar to a necklace or

bracelet) from Kravet

## connect with us

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- **Blog:** [www.susanbrunstrum.com](http://www.susanbrunstrum.com)
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