

SCRIBBLES...POSSIBILITIES...& DISCOVERIES



Second Home, Second Style

Hard to believe a chunk of the summer is over and July 4th weekend is upon us! Summer always makes me think of water related activities such as kayaking, jet skiing, swimming, fishing and pontoon boat rides. And where does all this summer fun take place? Vacation homes. As we take on more projects outside of the Chicago area, finding ways to make a client's second home look and feel different from their primary residence is important. Why recreate what you already have? Each home needs to tell the family story, but the plot should be different for each one. Of course, you want both homes to reflect your personality. However, be mindful of how your second home will be used, who will be living in it and who will be visiting it.

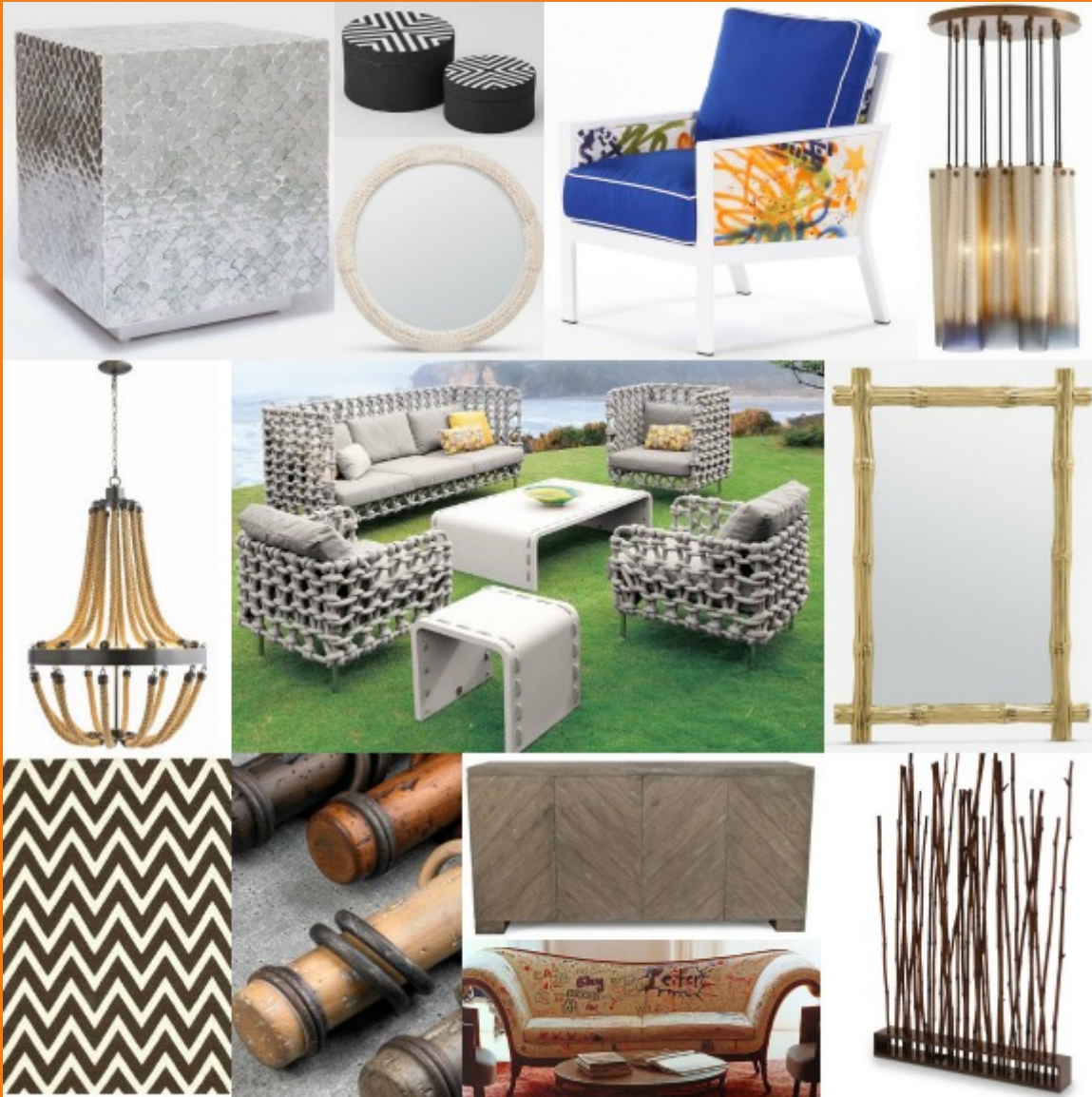
When you have a vacation home you know you're going to have visitors! Your home will have to withstand the wear-and-tear of heavy use: sandy feet, salt water, snow boots and mittens. Think durability for floors, rugs and upholstered furnishings. Formal living spaces are typically less important in second homes. You might prefer to have two less-formal family rooms - one for the kids, one for adults - instead of a traditional living room. Extra sleeping accommodations are a must. A "bunk room" might be considered for all the young cousins, or two twin beds instead of a queen bed in a bedroom to give greater sleeping flexibility. You'll need extra seating too, and ottomans are perfect as they're portable and they can be tucked away under a console table when not in use. Oh and don't forget the extra laundry... always good to have a pair of washers and dryers to handle all the sheets and towels! Accessories take on a new look at second homes and should be a bit "collected". Not perfect. I also like to include some original artwork from local artists. And don't forget, vacation get-aways can be a great place to display treasures from your travels.

Think of your second home as an opportunity to explore a different side of your personality and creativity. At the very least try a new color palette!

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

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

WHAT'S IN



1. Graffiti What once offended is now recommended! No longer are you just seeing graffiti on train cars, urban underpasses and vacant buildings. Graffiti is on the runway and making a splash in interiors. It's new, fun, and totally artistic!

2. Rope Lasso me a cowboy! Rope is no longer just for yacht interiors, seaside beach homes or rural ranches. This chic textural item is IN and wrapping mirror frames, lamps, chandeliers, stools, chairs, sofa tables and even chests.

3. Bamboo Don't panda bears eat bamboo? Considered "green", durable and aesthetically beautiful, bamboo continues to make a big impact on design, architecture and

art! It is lightweight, bendable, and ecologically sustainable. I selected bamboo dining chairs 30 years ago and love them to this day! They make a wonderful statement and more importantly, have stood the test of time.

4. Fish Scales Fishing for a compliment? Add a fish scale pattern or motif to your home, and the compliments will be abundant! Reflective fish scale patterns make a striking statement in any décor and you don't have to be an angler to appreciate them.

5. Chevron Not the gas station, the pattern. One of our favorites, the chevron is a V pattern laid out in a row. It is so very graphic, crisp and clean. Even though it's a current trend, it's been around for a very long time. The chevron can be very subtle or very bold depending on color and scale. We are specifying it for rugs, floors, accessories, wall tiles, fabrics and wallpapers. It is the perfect complement to florals, circles and small patterns.

> clockwise photos courtesy of: madegoods.com, globalviews.com, madegoods.com, fab.com, arteriors.com, madegoods.com, palecek.com, zuburbia.com, bradley-usa.com, kravet.com, leejofa.com, arteriors.com, kennethcobonpue.com

WHAT'S OUT

1. An Overabundance of Wallpaper. The days of a different wallpaper in every room are gone. Yes, wallpaper is back in, but use it judiciously and it will make a greater impact.

sweet
tip



FADS

Don't Fall for Fads!

One of our client mantras - don't fall for FADS! They are exactly what they are - and they come and they go - usually quite quickly! If you don't like orchid (the color of the year), laser cut fabrics, bold prints or anything else that is IN, don't include them in your home. Stick to your inner design self. Be true to who you are and create an environment in which you are comfortable.

FABU FABRIC



EMBELLISHED FABRICS

I've been mystified by how fabrics are embellished today. Little wooden beads, sequins, embroidery, crystals and lace are subtly woven into fabrics to add texture, contrast, and glam! A trip to a textile factory to see exactly how the accents are woven into the fabric is on my design bucket list.

> *clockwise photos courtesy of: Harlequin.uk.com, Harlequin.uk.com, Seemakrish.com, Weitzner.com, Kravet.com*

SPOT LIGHT ON A FAVORITE

Woven Furniture

Woven furniture isn't just for the exterior. We like to add a pair of beautiful woven chairs, a table or an end table into interior living spaces to add unexpected interest and texture. Popular materials that we are seeing being woven are rawhide, aluminum, rattan, leather, bamboo . . . just to name a few!



>clockwise photos courtesy of madegoods.com, palecek.com, madegoods.com, mcguirefurniture.com, mcguirefurniture.com

At Sweet Peas Design we always have our eyes (and hands) on the ball. Here's an update on our comings and goings.



NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS: SPD ONLINE SHOPPING!

Early this month we launched the long-awaited Sweet Peas Design online store, a carefully edited collection of our favorite things, from lamps and occasional pieces to a wide range of accessories. Now you can browse 24/7 through our studio without leaving the comfort of your computer and favorite online shopping beverage. We'll be adding inventory regularly, so please check back often to catch the latest pieces!

<http://www.sweetpeas-inspired.com/StoreCategory.aspx>

THE SHOW (HOUSE) MUST GO ON

It's three months until the curtain goes up at the Gracious House Designer Showhouse, but we are elbow-deep into plans for our family room. Lucky us: It is the largest room in the house at roughly 22 by 19 feet with a lofty ceiling, so we have a very large "canvas" for displaying our best work.

Here's what we have so far: We are sketching out two distinct seating areas, covering an accent wall with torn, stripped wallpaper and installing a new fireplace mantle and surround. We have chosen a neutral color palette of creams, ivories, whites and mushroom with an eclectic mix of metals and animal print accents. Naturally, we couldn't resist adding playful and interesting textures,

including a hide-on-hair rug and big fluffy ottomans. Most of the color pops will come from art work and pillows.

More details to come, but for now it's back to the drawing board!

"CHANGING THE GUARD" AT LAKE COUNTY CARES

A big thank you and best wishes to Nini Lustig, who is stepping down as executive director of Lake County Cares after 15 years. I have had the pleasure of knowing Nini for 34 years and working with her over the past 20 months since I joined the board. She really cares about helping Lake County's neediest people and has promised to remain active in the organization! Through her leadership the organization has greatly expanded its outreach.

I'm happy to say that Megan McCann of Highland Park will be the new executive director. Megan has been an active member of LCC for more than two years.

Good luck to both of you, Nini and Megan!

A SWINGING SPRING SOIREE

We chased away the winter blues at our annual Spring Soiree last month with a delightful evening of nibbles, cocktails and conversation. New and old friends stopped by the studio to celebrate the season and took home a potted spring flower as a token of our thanks. Hope to see all of you and more next year!



HEADLINES...

SPD FEATURED IN MIDWEST DESIGN BOOK

On sale now at Amazon or Barnes and Noble: the latest edition of Interiors Midwest published by Panache. This beautifully sleek coffee table book features a photo spread and story on my Libertyville home. You'll also find dozens of other upscale urban and suburban homes and quiet lakeside get-aways within these pages. Great for inspiration! [Click here for article.](#)

PITCHING A CURVE TO KITCHEN + BATH MAKEOVERS

One of our favorite powder rooms is highlighted in the summer 2014 issue of Kitchen + Bath Makeovers, a specialty magazine from Better Homes & Gardens. Editor Marie McCartan calls it "a

little gem of a space. You did an amazing job." Thanks to the Sweet Peas Design team for another great project. [Click here for article.](#)

GET THE LOOK



Color & Pattern

Open up any 2014 design magazine and plan on being dazzled by all the color and pattern. Such a divergence from the neutral, calming palettes we've been accustomed to seeing for the last decade. Not that neutrals are leaving the scene, mind you. Neutrals are just sharing the spotlight with bright, saturated colors . . . and of course, with color comes lots of prints!

Adding bold colors and patterns can be challenging. Layering patterns with solids is the key to working with prints as well as varying the color intensity and the scale of fabric choices.

Take baby steps and use pattern subtly if you have a fear of making a mistake. Consider patterned pillows first (a small investment) or even window panels where the pattern is folded into the panel and not so evident. A patterned rug is also a good starting point. You can strategically position your furniture on the pattern to show off your favorite part of the pattern. Lots of pattern is not for everyone, using a big scale and bold pattern on something as large as a sofa or sectional may end up being a visual mistake - the elephant in the room and one you may tire of easily in a few years.

> *clockwise photos courtesy of: grahamandgreen.co.uk, romo.com, jonathanadler.com, fabricut.com*

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