



Getting Personal

Are you in-the-know about the "Brangelina" wedding? I was reading People magazine awhile back as I was getting my hair cut and it started me thinking that couples and families are making everything more personal these days.

You might have heard already that Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's children baked their wedding cake, helped write the vows, designed the back of their mother's dress and that Brad, the kids and their guests all hummed "Here Comes the Bride" as Angelina walked down the aisle. So warm and yet, intensely creative! This couple has the financial wherewithal to have had a "sky's the limit" wedding and instead they chose to make it a small, intimate affair that involved their children and close friends- uniquely theirs- and something to be remembered.

I wasn't able to attend that one (teehee), but I'm seeing more and more "personalization" at weddings I've been attending. When my step-son Jeff got married last November, his bride, Lisa and her cousins have a tradition of coming up with a silly activity at family weddings, so they handed out glow in the dark necklaces and light sabers that we all wore and waved when the newlyweds were introduced at the reception.

At another wedding I attended the groom, who is a beekeeper, gave all the guests a jar of homemade, organic honey as a thank you gift. Sweet! And yet another one, the groom sewed all the bridesmaids dresses. Unbelievably talented.

It's encouraging to watch young couples develop a sense of who they are early on, and how that morphs or translates into their homes. Instead of showplaces, their houses are more individual and unique, designed around items that are meaningful to them. They don't always want to hang onto their parents' or grandparents' "stuff" but create a look that reflects their own personalities and lifestyle.

My kids aren't quite ready for all of that yet, but I'm preparing myself for when that time comes. What will their weddings be like? And, what will their homes look like? The ball will be in their court. But, hopefully, they will consult me or at least ask for my "expert" opinion.

Sincerely,

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

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

WHAT'S IN



1. One stone used throughout a bathroom Let the natural beauty of the stone be the focus while still highlighting certain elements with different patterns of the same material.

We've been seeing many bathrooms that are mono-stone-they only use one type of stone throughout the space. While the material itself may be consistent throughout, the pattern and shape of the tiles varies.

2. Copper We've been spotting pops of copper everywhere! As an accent piece, a great pendant light, or an apron sink, we're coo-coo for copper! Copper is a timeless, warm metal that can bring a little sparkle to any space. If you have a set of copper pots, try hanging a few as a display piece.

3. Reclaimed Wood Nothing beats the authentic patina and rich tones of reclaimed wood! Even a simple panel or shelf introduces a unique, natural element to a room, whether contemporary or traditional, adding character and warmth. We're seeing this sustainable material everywhere - especially in dining tables, shelving, ceiling beams, benches, and even custom sliding barn doors. We recently trimmed windows in a garden room and had shutters made for a brick home in reclaimed wood. Next up, we just specified reclaimed wood for beams and skins of white bookshelves in a great room. Talk about natural texture to give a little depth to a space!

4. Watercolor prints Interiors and art have always crossed paths. Watercolor printed fabric and wall coverings are the newest and trendiest example of this. Whether abstract splotches, splashes, brush strokes, or a soft floral, geometric, or stripe, watercolor prints can turn your space into a living canvas.

> clockwise photos courtesy of: Duralee, Sweet Peas Design, decozilla.com, elementsofstyleblog.com, Studio 41, Sweet Peas Design, decorpad.com, Sweet Peas Design, decor4all.com, Sweet Peas Design

sweet
tip

Sconce Height

Generally, it is recommended that sconces not be mounted less than 60" from the floor. However, always bear in mind the placement of the back plate in relation to the overall fixture.



When it comes to installing sconces, it's important to remember that not all back plates are the same size. Make a note of the size of the back plate to determine if it will cover an existing junction box. If your project is new construction and you are ordering a sconce with a small back plate, be sure to consult your electrician on the proper installation of the electrical box. For instance, on a sconce with a 2 1/2 x 4 1/2" back plate, you will want to have a switch box installed as opposed to a standard junction box.

FABU FABRIC



MOHAIR

Mohair... Nope, it's not the hair that comes from a Mo. It's actually the wool that is sheared from an angora goat. The word mohair is derived from the Arabic mukhayyar ("goat's hair fabric"), which became mockaire in medieval times. Did you know that mohair was used in vintage train cars and in movie theater seating? Due to its incredibly durable and stain resistant qualities, mohair is the perfect choice for upholstery in your home as it will be compatible with your busy and sometimes hectic life!

Mohair fibers are long, lustrous, and strong. It is soft to the touch yet is one of the most resilient natural textile fibers. It dyes well so it can be produced in a vast array of rich, brilliant colors. It has non-crush, non-mat and non-pill qualities and resists fading. Mohair remains entirely resilient while still appearing glamorous with his high sheen and soft texture.

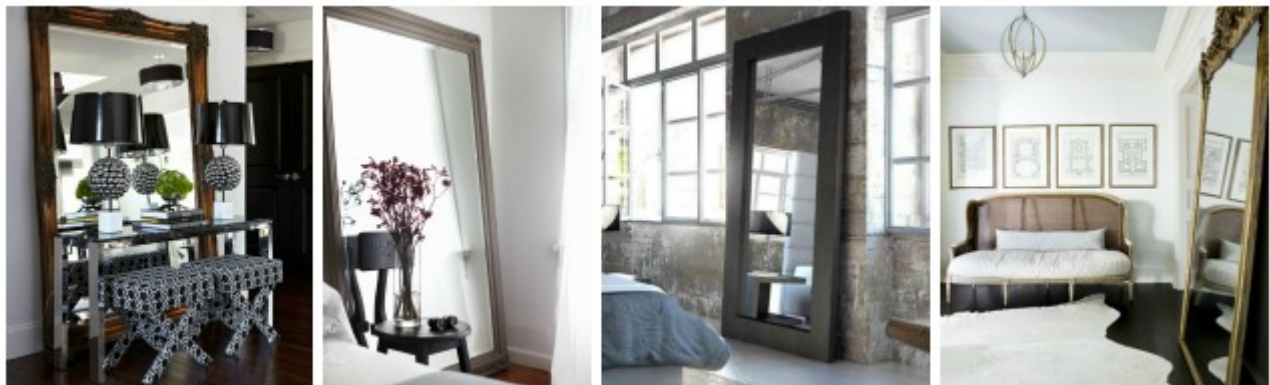
SWEET TIP: Remember, never self-welt in mohair or you will be sorry!

> *clockwise photos courtesy of: grahnsupholstery.com, josephnoble.com, semimodern.wordpress.com*

SPOT LIGHT ON A FAVORITE

Floor Mirrors

Mirror, mirror, on the...floor? Gone are the days of a wall mounted full length mirror! We love the look of a large scale mirror with a beautiful, thick frame casually resting against a wall. The simple elegance of a leaning floor mirror can be a sophisticated and elegant, yet effortless highlight of any space, casual or formal! These leaning beauties can be placed on their own or behind a console table where we typically see a wall-mounted smaller mirror. Talk about impact! These oversized mirrors are a great way to brighten and expand the appearance of any room. Just remember to be mindful of what your mirror is reflecting. A tip: mount your mirror to the wall even if it rests on the floor. Better safe than sorry.



>photos courtesy of worthingcourtblog.com, ruedaily.com, blacklapel.com, mydesignchic.com

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

WE'RE GROWING AGAIN!

Please join us in welcoming our newest junior designer, Lauren Benditzky, a life-long resident of Libertyville who interned with us last summer while finishing design school. Lauren has a BFA in interior design from Chicago's Harrington College of Design and is now living her dream of becoming a designer.

"Since I was 9 or 10 I would spend my time watching design shows or sketching my dream room," Lauren told us. "Now I love scouring the internet for great design, fashion and lifestyle blogs for inspiration."

Among her other obsessions are visiting the Chicago Art Institute, trying new restaurants, reading in Millennium Park, walking by Lake Michigan, scouting out the city's cute shops or playing with her new puppy. Awww!



BE DARING!

You've seen our work on Houzz and Pinterest, now you can visit us at DeringHall.com. It's a savvy, sophisticated, international community of interior designers, architects and others targeted to high-end design and home furnishings. Look for our portfolio and announcements here:

<http://www.deringhall.com/interior-designers/sweet-peas-design/portfolio>

BETH IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Congrats to senior designer Beth Kweton, who took the lead on a multi-room project being featured on inspired.Kravet.com, a blog produced by the New York-based fabric and furnishings firm, Kravet Inc. <http://www.kravet.com/services/designshare/Sweet-Peas-Design/>

Beth and the Sweet Peas Design team updated the family room, breakfast room and sitting area from florals, jewel tones and golden oak to sophisticated neutrals, intriguing textures and pops of green like grass in spring.



HEADLINES...

SHOWHOUSE GRABS HEADLINES

Daily Herald writer Debbie Donovan featured our family room from the Gracious House Designer Showhouse in the Sept. 21 Home & Garden section. She called it "one of the brightest in the house" and said she loved the fluffy, Icelandic sheepskin-covered bench. <http://sweetpeas-inspired.com/blog/susans-blog/daily-herald-raves-about-dramatic-edgy-s>

WGN-TV also included a tour of our Family Room when they stopped by to film a segment promoting the show house. Watch it here: <http://wgntv.com/2014/09/09/8-designers-unite-for-style-charity/>

SPLISH SPLASH!

The Sun-Times' weekly lifestyle magazine Splash featured us twice in the past two months, and we're "bathing" in the attention. In August freelancer Ashley Devick focused on one of our favorite kitchens. The light-filled, airy space is part of a whole-house renovation in a charming 1920s residence in Libertyville's Heritage Area. Take a peek inside at

<http://splash.suntimes.com/2014/08/01/slh-interior-life-everything-and-the-kitchen-sink/#.U-OtKfidVKI>

Ashley also included Susan in her September round-up of "fall's hottest trends." In it she talked about the latest in paint, wood flooring and kitchen and bath finishes. Find it here:

http://splash.suntimes.com/2014/09/02/sho-in-season-interior-trends/#.VA3N9_lidVKI

ORGANIZATION PAYS OFF

Storage magazine from Better Homes and Gardens devoted six pages to one of our storage-packed master baths in the Fall/Winter issue. Writer Mara Boo notes "you don't need to expand in order to create a high-quality space." <http://sweetpeas-inspired.com/blog/susans-blog/storage-magazine-loves-ultimate-bath--cl>

WE'RE "COVERED"

The editors at Cover magazine, an industry publication for carpeting and textiles, featured one of our most beautiful area rugs in its Autumn 2014 issue. "Lily Pad" was inspired by a small corner of a client's Monet-like painting of a lily pond. [Click here for article.](#)

GET THE LOOK



White Kitchens

Clean, crisp, and bright: A white kitchen is an ideal setting for the home cook, whether your taste is traditional or contemporary, urban or suburban. White not only makes a kitchen look bigger and airier, it also provides a clean canvas for showcasing other elements to create an inviting and functional space. Wood finishes look richer against white; printed fabrics really pop; tile appears more textural and chandeliers and pendants stand out as sculptural elements against the neutral backdrop.

White cabinets can be incredibly versatile depending on your choice of design style. For a traditional look, it's all about the details. There's a bit of embellishment or adornment everywhere you look, but the best traditional kitchens just feel layered rather than overbearing. Flush inset raised panel cabinet doors are associated with an Old World or "furniture-style" way of building cabinets. You may also want to choose exposed piano hinges and ornate hardware in silver, oil-rubbed bronze or even antique brass. Include an apron front sink, a classic backsplash pattern, and a warm granite or Carrara marble countertop and your traditional white kitchen look is complete!

For a more contemporary look, choose a flat panel door style with a full overlay (meaning each cabinet and drawer will be flush with the one next to it, allowing no space for the cabinet frame to be revealed.) A high gloss white finish is often a go-to for contemporary kitchens. Select industrial appliances and sleek countertop materials - often we see stainless steel or a shiny quartz. Finish off your urban-chic look with the same simple and sleek C-channel hardware for both the cabinets and drawers, in a chrome or stainless finish.

Whether classic, contemporary, or somewhere in between, the white kitchen is here to stay!

> *clockwise photos courtesy of: Sweet Peas Design, Housekaboodle.com, Architectural Digest, Sweet Peas Design*

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