

SCRIBBLES...POSSIBILITIES...& DISCOVERIES



Time

"My favorite things in life don't cost any money. It's really clear that the most precious resource we all have is time." -Steve Jobs

Time was on my mind this past summer when I was at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art with my friend Connie McCreight, riveted by a fascinating exhibit called "The Clock" by artist Christian Marclay.

"The Clock" is a montage of thousands of clips from 70 years of movie and television history depicting the passage of time, and synchronized to real time. So if you're watching the film from 10 AM to 11 AM you'll see scenes from movies and TV shows happening at that exact same time. Wow!

It is thought-provoking - do I rule time or does it rule me? Should we go-go-go and try to pack every waking minute with busy-ness or should we hit pause and spend more time relaxing and contemplating? Taking control of time is a challenge for everyone. For me it has always been a balancing act. My work days can run 12 to 14 hours long and be packed solid with things to do. Our cars used to be an oasis where we could just think and "be" while we listened to music; now I'm just as likely to be dealing with work on my cell phone.

But as a designer I know it is vital to carve out time to recharge my creativity, too. That's not wasted time, it's critical! My team and I don't want any two design projects to look the same, so it's a constant challenge - which we enjoy! - to imagine new combinations of colors, textures, materials and patterns and ingenious ways to lay out a room.

I am inspired by philosopher Bertrand Russell's advice about time: "The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time."

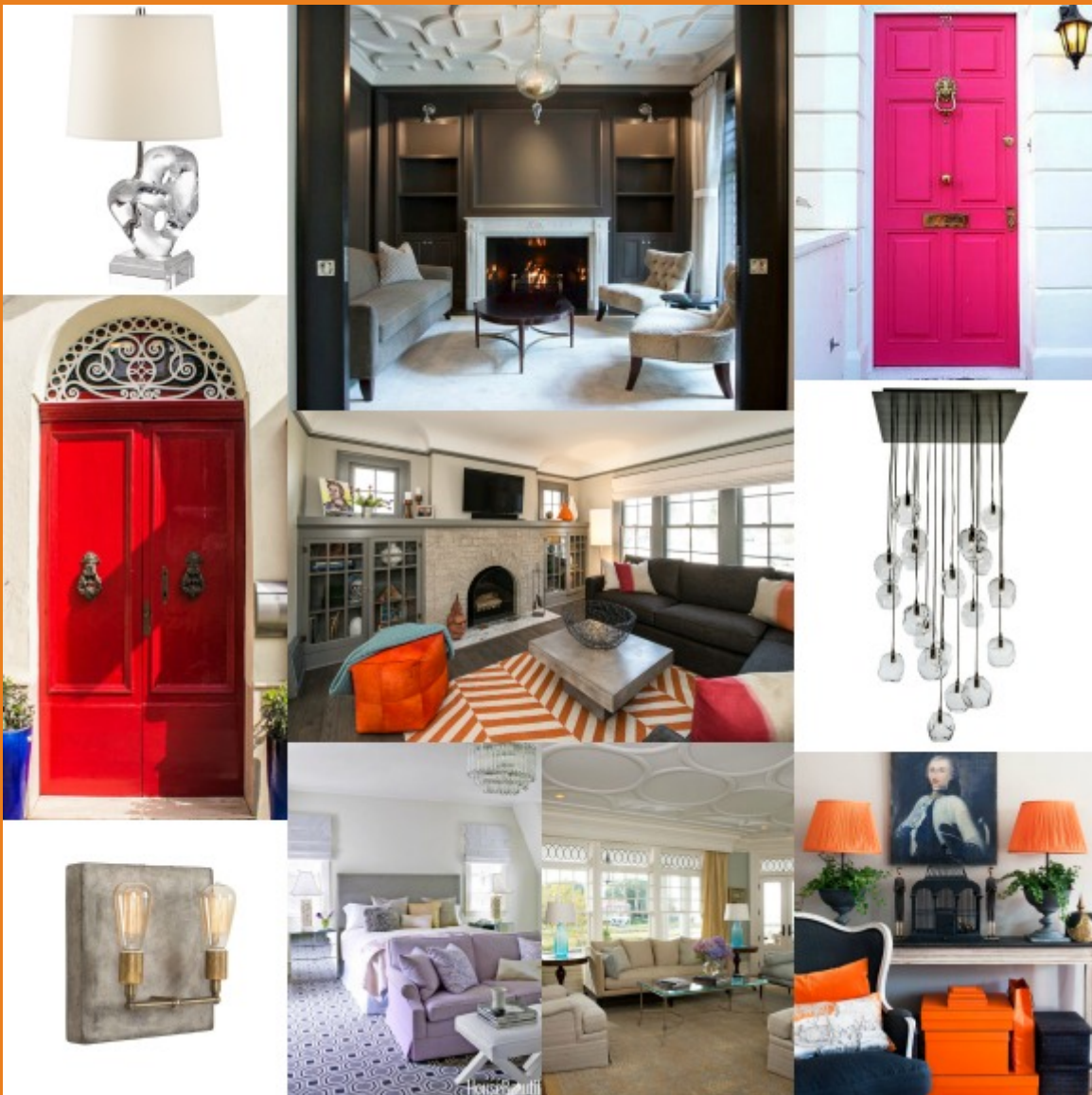
So here's to moments spent staring at the clouds outside the window, taking a long Sunday stroll crunching through the fall leaves or just listening to your favorite music, and doing nothing else.

Just being.

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

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

WHAT'S IN



1. Patterned Carpeting Carpeting is often the wall flower of design - meant to hover quietly in the background while the rest of the furnishings do all the talking. But carpet is starting to speak up and demand attention in animal patterns, plaids and geometrics. Done

right it's an exciting textural element in a simple space or it can work in a room with other more subtle patterns and textures. We say yes - be adventuresome!

2. Millwork on Ceilings Want to make a statement on all surfaces? Don't forget about your ceilings! Add textural depth with millwork. Even painted all white, the light in the space will highlight or shadow the right nooks and crannies creating a real WOW!

3. Blown Glass Fragile but substantial, organic but manmade, blown glass light fixtures (chandeliers or lamps) are a wonderful paradox and a stunning focal point for a room. We're seeing some incredible, one-of-kind pieces that are calling our names! Some look like a splash of frozen water, others like bubbles or jewelry. Classy glass.

4. Concrete Concrete used to be relegated to sidewalks and foundations, then it was a must have for countertops, now it's been elevated to industrial-chic status as lamps, tables, flooring and light fixtures. Of course, it's ultra-strong - talk about durability for dogs and kiddos!

5. Orange Accents Unless you've been stranded on a remote island recently you've probably noticed that orange accents are hot in both fashion and home décor. How about the iconic orange purse from Hermes? At home we like a splash of orange for warmth in cool blue and gray spaces. Plus, it is the only color I wear other than black, navy, charcoal, taupe, ivory, white or camel.

6. Door Knockers I love doors and my favorite doors are in Paris. What a variety of colors, styles, and of course door knockers. Before anyone crosses the threshold into your home you can set the tone with a door knocker that reflects your personality. Are you whimsical? Traditional? Funky and fun or clean and contemporary? You'll have them at hello.

> clockwise photos courtesy of: visualcomfort.com, homedesignlover.com, cherishtoronto.blogspot.com, johnpompstudios.com, skonahem.com, homedit.com, housebeautiful.com, andrewmartin.com, thetraveltester.com, [Sweet Peas Design](http://SweetPeasDesign.com)

WHAT'S OUT

Same Pattern Everywhere! Here's a trend we're going to skip - no, we're going to run from it! The matchy-matchy excess of the past is making an unexpected comeback, but we're not impressed. Too much of the same pattern overwhelms a room and leads to sensory overload and boredom. Your eyes have no focal point so you can't discern the individual elements that collectively make up the room, and how long could you live with all that busy-ness? We like clean lines, simplicity and mixed patterns in moderation. If you have the urge to go matchy-matchy, just call one of us and we'll stage an intervention!

sweet tip

Two by Two

We call it the power of two and it's one of our design mantras - every room needs a pair of something. It could be a pair of chairs, lamps, mirrors, chandeliers, pillows or ottos, as long as you provide that symmetrical element that's so darned pleasing to the human psyche. Maybe we love symmetry because we're born with so many pairs! Think eyes, ears, hands, feet...

>photos courtesy of: Sweet Peas Design



FABU FABRIC



PLAID

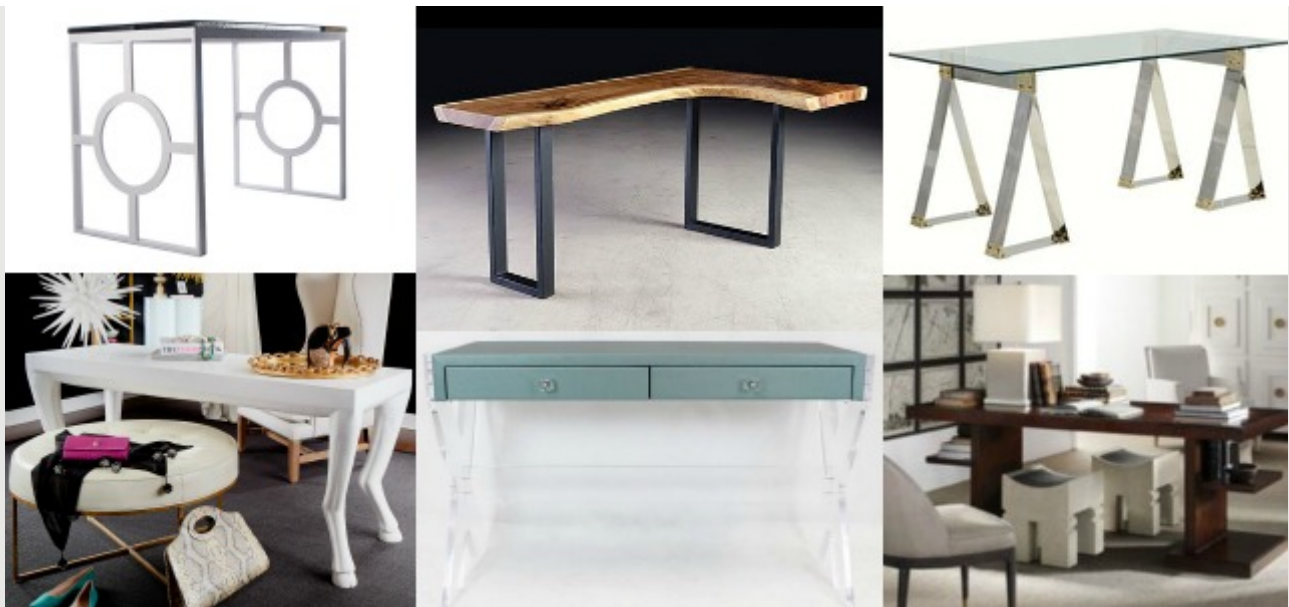
Plaid may be the go-to fabric for hipster attire, but this timeless classic remains a perennial favorite for home décor, too. It always reminds us of fall and its new, back-to-school outfits and football games celebrated under a warm, wool blanket in bright plaid. We recommend plaids for traditional spaces or as a bold print in a more modern home. They can be masculine or feminine, luxe or lodge casual, and here's a fun fact to impress your friends: Plaid was actually banned in Britain during the 1700s! It was seen as a symbol of the 1745 Scottish Rebellion against the union of Scotland and England. Plaid was legalized again in 1782, when it was in vogue to wear plaid gowns to formal occasions!

> *clockwise photos courtesy of: Desiretoinspire.com, designchalk.wordpress.com, thibautdesign.com, homesandproperty.co.uk*



Desks

Notice something interesting about these desks? A lot of them look like tables! We may not be a paperless society yet, but many firms use less paper in their offices (we try, but can't), so the need for a lot of deep, heavy drawer space is no longer as important in a home office. Here's another interesting observation - you can deduce a lot about a person from their desk. Is it girly and glam? Industrial and minimalist? Elementary, dear Watson.



>clockwise photos courtesy of: bradley-usa.com, phillipscollection.com, somersetbay.com, hickorychair.com, festoni.com, Oly via Sweet Peas Design

At Sweet Peas Design no matter what the fall day, overcast and rainy or my favorite, sunny and crisp, we just keep getting it done!



ASID ILLINOIS AWARD

We are thrilled to announce that the Sweet Peas Design team recently won the ASID Illinois 2015 Design Excellence Award for "Showcase Space!" Judges from several ASID chapters across the country selected our Fashion Blogger's Retreat from the 2015 Lake Forest Showhouse <http://www.sweetpeas-inspired.com/portfolio/haute-couture-> for recognition in this statewide competition.

Receiving an award from your peers is a very special honor and certainly required a team effort. Thanks to Beth Kweton, senior designer, Jennifer Cioni Tarello, architectural associate, Lauren Benditzky, associate designer and Tod Snyder-Grube, financial manager, for helping bring this distinction to the studio.

TWO NEW HOUZZ HONORS

We didn't see this coming! The popular online design community, Houzz, recently awarded us two new distinctions: "Influencer" and "Recommended" studio. The first is for designers whose advice and posts are most appreciated by the website's community, which numbers 25 million unique users monthly. The second is given to top-rated designers on the site. Thanks to Houzz and its legions of fans! We love you.

INTERIOR DESIGN 101

Just call me Professor Susan! I certainly loved presenting a series of three interior design workshops at the Lake Bluff Library last month. We had to pull out more chairs to accommodate the unexpected number of people who attended, and I loaded everyone up with tips for creating great rooms, bathrooms and kitchens. Thanks to Carol Ann Carter, head of adult programs, for this opportunity!

HGTV INTERVIEWS SUSAN

My credit card was sizzling last month at Randolph Street Market Festival's "Tastemaker's Choice for Charity." I was honored to be chosen as one of 55 Tastemakers who pinned ribbons on their favorite booth and favorite items. A portion of the sales benefited the charity of each tastemaker's choice - mine was Lake County Cares. The Market Festival runs year round, indoors and/or out, depending on the weather. Check the schedule here:

<http://www.randolphstreetmarket.com/schedule.php>



HGTV INTERVIEW

Writer Liz Gray from HGTV's "Design Happens" blog reveals all (hahaha!) in a fun interview with Susan this summer. What are her pet peeves in design and who are her style idols? What's her favorite lunch order? (Oh my!) Read all about it here.

<http://blog.hgtv.com/design/2015/07/29/design-happens-interviews-susan-brustrum>

Thanks to Nina Winston and Jackie Moss for the invite!

VOTE FOR US, PLEASE!

If you like our Gracious House Showhouse family room, please vote for us in the "Impact of Design" competition sponsored by Houzz and ASID (American Society of Interior Designers).

<http://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/53820983/thumbs/impactofdesign>

We think this space is a perfect fit for the contest theme: "The Next 40 Years of Design." Polls are open until October 30.

SUSAN SAYS

I always try to respond to calls from writers and reporters working on interior design articles, especially freelance writer Barbara Ballinger, author of "The Kitchen Bible." Barbara calls regularly from her New York office for quotes and photos which land in local and national publications. We recently came across several articles Barbara wrote featuring the studio, including "House Guests 101" in the Chicago Tribune <http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/home/sc-home-0928-guest-bedroom-20150923-story.html> and "9 Modest Fixes for the Problem Kitchen"

<http://realtormag.realtor.org/home-and-design/feature/article/2015/05/9-modest-fixes-for-problem-kitchen>

Talk to you soon, Barbara!

GET THE LOOK



Wild Kingdom

"Going wild" is one of our favorite styles at Sweet Peas Design. We just can't resist those animal prints, hair-on-hide rugs and accessories fashioned from antlers or horns. You don't have to go hog wild, though! Just a touch will add some grrrreatness to a room, whether your home is urban industrial or Ralph Lauren elegance.

> clockwise photos courtesy of: luxe.com, Sweet Peas Design, Sweet Peas Design, decorpad.com

connect with us

- **Website:** www.sweetpeas-inspired.com
- **Blog:** www.susanbrunstrum.com

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