



Forever Young? No Thanks!

"Life stands before me like an eternal spring with new and brilliant clothes."

-Carl Friedrich Gauss, 18th Century German mathematician

We live in a youth-obsessed culture where botox and plastic surgery seem as common as haircuts and mani-pedis, but as we step into the fresh possibilities of Spring I've been contemplating how much I embrace my 50-something years on this planet.

I have to be honest, it's not necessarily the physical changes I relish but the emotional and psychological advantages that life experience grants us as we age. I feel as if I'm in a better place and time, when I know myself very well and accept who I am.

Opportunities seem to be expanding rather than contracting, and I know how to make sense of them. I can make decisions faster with less fear, because one of the most valuable benefits of age has been overcoming the fear of failure.

I have learned that if we say "no" too often, because we're afraid to fail, we hold ourselves back. A lot has come to me personally and professionally from saying, "Let's try it! What do we have to lose?"

Yes, the baby chicks of Spring are adorable, their feathers are soft and pretty, but it's older chicks like us who rule the roost!

Happy Spring from all of us at Sweet Peas Design!

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

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

WHAT'S IN



1. Floral-Inspired Lighting Flowers spring to mind at this time of year, so it's no surprise that these dramatic fixtures caught our eye - kind of like giant metallic posies sprouting from the ceiling! Though floral themes have been popular for centuries, these beauties take the concept in a new and exciting direction.

2. Marble Patterns Love the beauty and sophistication of marble? So do we! That's why we're excited about these gorgeous new marble-patterned wallcoverings. You get all the visual excitement without the expense (or weightiness) of the real thing. Perfect for a ceiling!

3. Clusters of Ginger Jars Yes it's true, ginger jars originally were used for storing aromatic spices, and they date all the way back to China's Tang Dynasty (618 to 907 AD). Today we appreciate them for their beauty more than their storage capabilities, though we might be tempted to use one for our secret chocolate stash! And, you can never have enough as each one is unique!

4. Maps as Wallcoverings Bad case of wanderlust? Try map wallpaper! We love it as a feature wall or covering all the walls in a small space like a powder room. Not only do maps have great texture but they eliminate the need for art...and a GPS!

5. Intricate Tile Patterns We know what you're thinking. "Isn't all that pattern going to overwhelm my kitchen or bathroom?" Nope! It's all in the way you use it. Mix them with plain tiles or just do an accent area and wait for the compliments to roll in. Richly patterned tiles like these actually date back to ancient times, and if it wasn't too much pattern then, it sure isn't now!

6. Throwback 60s Furniture The British Invasion in the 1960s wasn't just about the Beatles, long hair and Mod fashions. Furniture was part of the rebellion against the straight-laced 50s, and the look is back. Aren't those dining room chairs cool, man? Bell bottoms not required, but wouldn't it be fun?

> clockwise photos courtesy of: william-sonoma.com, housebeautiful.com, apartmenttherapy.com, decorpad.com, carlaaston.com, osborneandlittle.com, dwellerswithoutdecorators.blogspot.com, myhandsmadeit.com, remains.com, 1stdibs.com, whitegreysmemories.blogspot.com, modernista.ca, dimplesandtangles.blogspot.com

WHAT'S OUT

1. Whirlpool Tubs When it comes to bathroom renovations, one of the most common changes we make is removing those massive built-in whirlpool tubs with tile surrounds - even the thought of them are giving us 90s flash backs! We suggest a free standing soaker tub. Not only will they give you more floor space than a whirlpool tub but they're more design friendly. Free standing tubs come in different shapes and sizes and appear as a sculptural element in the space. Take your master bathroom from drab and dated to fancy and fab with a free standing tub!

sweet
tip

Rugs - Go Custom!

Struggling with finding the perfect rug? Our advice: custom, custom, custom! Designing a custom rug allows you to choose the colors, pattern, and material that will blend perfectly with the rest of the space. Remember that what goes on the floor is just as important as what goes on the walls, so why not make a statement you won't regret? Our go-to-guru for custom rugs is Julie Dasher of Julie Dasher Rugs. She allows us to create fabulous, one of a kind pieces that our clients will swoon over for years to come! Remember - if you do choose the custom rug route, always request a strike off (a sample of the finished product prior to production.) This allows you to make sure the pattern and colors are exactly right before the 1,500 hours are spent creating your rug!



>photo courtesy of: Sweet Peas Design

FABU FABRIC



BLOCK PRINTS

We are completely enamored with block-printed textiles, both fabric and wallcovering.

We love their ability to bring an artistic feel to modern interiors by adding punches of color, bold patterns, and intricate detail work to even the simplest spaces. Based on a thousand-year-old Indian tradition, block printing uses hand-carved hardwood to apply color and pattern onto fabric or paper. Block-printed pieces feel distinctive as a result of the crafting process; each piece really is an original work of art!

> photos courtesy of: quadrillefabrics.com, galbraithandpaul-tumblr.com, interiormusings.com, decorpad.com

SPOT LIGHT ON A FAVORITE

Mirrors

Mirrors reflect light, create the illusion of depth and magnify a view. From the simplicity of a leather-framed, rectangular mirror to the texture of a twig mirror or intricate pattern of a key-hole mirror, mirrors, if positioned correctly, can be as gorgeous as a piece of art.

Remember to place your mirror where it reflects something beautiful in the room such as a chandelier, vase, staircase, bookshelf, fireplace, or outdoor view.

We love this pair of Bradley mirrors, and we're using the Oly sunburst mirror in the Lake Forest Showhouse!



>photos courtesy of: arteriorshome.com, bradley-usa.com, olystudio.com

At Sweet Peas Design no matter what the weather, winter or spring, rain, snow or sun we just keep getting it done...

SWEET PEAS TO THE RESCUE!

We are all so excited and happy to help make a wish come true for a single Waukegan father and his 9-year-old twins. We have teamed up with NBC's George Oliphant of



"George to the Rescue" and talk show host Meredith Vieira to create an art studio and renovate the living room of artist Drew Davis's 1920s Sears home.

The segment, featuring Drew with Susan and George, will air on LXTV at 11:35 p.m. on Sunday, May 3 and Sunday May 10.

Drew's sister nominated him for the much-needed home makeover through the Meredith Vieira Show's "Wish Booth" segment <http://meredithvieirashow.com/videos/wish-booth-sister-nominates-brother/>. A recovering alcoholic of more than 30 years, Drew's artwork www.12stepdesigns.com reflects his commitment to helping others overcome this addiction. We can't wait for the big reveal!

INTERIOR DESIGN, SAY HELLO TO FASHION

In what may be a first for the venerable Lake Forest Showhouse, the Sweet Peas Design team has invited four Chicago fashion designers to partner in their room, opening to the public Sat., April 25.

We have named our space the "Fashion Writer's Retreat" and created a fictional Chicago fashion blogger who works there!

We chose a simple but dramatic black and white backdrop with almost all white furniture and gold metallic accents. One of our favorite pieces is the whimsical dining table with shapely deer legs which serves as a desk.

The "writer's retreat" also will feature fashions from Azeeza Khan and Maria Pinto, handbag designer Diego Rocha and bespoke shoe designer James Sommerfeldt.

Stop by and see us between April 25 to May 17. Details, including the preview gala April 24, are available here: <http://www.lakeforestshowhouse.com/2015showhouse.html>.

OUT OF THE OLD, INTO THE NEW

It has been exhausting but I have moved once again, this time from one condo to the other in the same building in downtown Chicago. As a little farewell here are a couple photos from my former home as I put the finishing touches on the new one.

Come on down and meet me for coffee or drinks some day!



SPOTLIGHT ON BETH

Congratulations to senior designer Beth Kweton whose home was splashed across the front page of the Daily Herald's Home & Garden section on Sunday, March 29.

<https://www.dailyherald.com/article/20150329/entlife/150329252/>

Thanks to freelance writer Debbie Donovan for spotlighting Beth's buzz-worthy design of a 1,200-square-foot, post-World War II ranch in Libertyville.

WEBSITE UPDATES INCLUDE NEW PROJECT PHOTOS

Websites are like our homes, they need to be updated occasionally to keep them fresh and approachable. We think you'll like the recent changes we have incorporated into www.SweetPeas-Inspired.com and the newest additions to our portfolio, which include a mountain home and a 1920s whole-house project. Let us know what you think of our renovation!

GET THE LOOK



Office Oasis

Those of us who work at home know that we are more productive and feel better if our office is attractive, organized and takes us away from the distractions of domestic duties. We want it to be comfortable and reflect our personality because we spend a lot of time there. Even if you're carving a corner out of a spare bedroom you can make the most of it. Why shouldn't you have a beautiful chandelier, inspirational artwork and clever storage space? Bright and cheerful or elegant and sophisticated, this time it's all about you.

Home sweet office!

> *clockwise photos courtesy of: domainehome.com, traditionalhome.com, stylemepretty.com, elledecor.com*

> **Website:** www.sweetpeas-inspired.com

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