

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



### *Trust Me...It Is ALL In The Details*

*"The details are not the details. They make the design."*

*-Charles Eames, American Designer 1907-1978*

These are wise words from a giant in the design field who with his wife, Ray, made groundbreaking contributions to architecture and furniture design. Charles and Ray were sticklers for details - they were as focused on function as on design. Remember the famous Eames Lounge chair and Eames Ottoman from the 1950s? They spent years developing those two iconic pieces, getting every detail just right.

Focusing not only on the big picture - the ultimate goal - but the tiny steps that lead to that finished product is of uber importance. We work the very same way. It is our job to seamlessly envision your completed project while focusing on the hundreds of details that will bring it all together. While we're selecting the color and style of kitchen cabinets we have to think ahead about how that will affect the selections of tile, plumbing fixtures, appliances, walls, floors and "negative space," those critical open areas that help define everything else. It's a little like playing chess - we always plan five or six moves ahead but keep the end-game in mind. And to think we do this for more than one client at a time! In fact, we collaborate with many clients and the details are different for each and every project, as they should be!

Eames' quote inspired us to focus on details for this month's newsletter - the individual puzzle pieces that "make the design" and get us to our goal - a home that captures the personality of the client and the soul of the space.

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

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

## WHAT'S IN



**1. Metal Accents** It doesn't take a whole lot of metal to make a statement - nail head details on a piece of furniture, or a little metal cap (a ferrule), on a chair leg or a kitchen

range hood with metal strapping does the job. Metal accents can be sophisticated or rugged, shiny, polished or hammered, but they always bring a gleam to our eye.

**2. Millwork** We're not talking about the treadmill here! Crown moldings, tray ceilings, raised-panel doors, baseboards and wainscoting are all architectural details known as millwork that bring depth, character and elegance to a room. These decorative interior trims can be elaborate or subtle, and while the treadmill can be a boring trip to nowhere, this kind of millwork is always a lovely journey.

**3. Swirl-Print Pattern** Like waves breaking on the beach or the sensuous curves in marble, swirl-print fabrics create visual excitement at home. Known for their energetic movement and multi-colored palettes we're seeing these kinetic patterns on large pieces, such as rugs and wall coverings and smaller accents such as pillows. Limit yourself to one swirly element in a room or you may start feeling dizzy!

**4. Tassels** They're baaaack! The swishy decorative tassels your great-grandmother loved on her lamps and draperies are popping up in traditional and unexpected places. Yes, you'll find them on drapes and shower curtain tie-backs, valances and lamps, but we also found a lamp that IS a tassel, or at least the base of the lamp. We're tickled with sassy little tassels as decorative accents on drawer pulls too. Check out the white chest- the tassels look a little like a woman's strapless dress.

**5. Clear Window Treatment Hardware** One thing is crystal clear, transparent window treatment hardware is making its way into homes with transitional or traditional décor. Made of acrylic, Lucite or glass, we like this look because it is often unexpected, adds a new texture to a room and changes appearance in different lighting. Clear hardware can be a little glitzy-glam when it reflects light, or it can disappear on the wall. We like to play with combinations of transparent and metal hardware, too - pairing a clear rod with perhaps oil-rubbed finials or rings.

*> upper left photos courtesy of: [elledecor.com](http://elledecor.com), [rockymountainhardware.com](http://rockymountainhardware.com), [mydesignchc.com](http://mydesignchc.com), [etsy.com](http://etsy.com), [katespace.com](http://katespace.com), [oomphonline.com](http://oomphonline.com), [terrysfabrics.com](http://terrysfabrics.com), [kravet.com](http://kravet.com) [jaggodesign.com](http://jaggodesign.com), [areteriorshome.com](http://areteriorshome.com)*

## WHAT'S OUT

### Being Trendy

Have you ever noticed how hung-up the media can be on trends? They make it sound like we all have to rush out and completely change our wardrobes, our homes, even the way we eat! Well, I still like my basic white, button-down shirts, a good-old 1950s pot roast and I'm not about to jump on the band wagon for every interior design trend that comes down the road.

My team and I know it is important to be aware of the latest trends, learn from them and incorporate whatever might be appropriate for a specific client. But it is more important for us to help you find your own personal style and make it the best it can be.

Yes, we have a "What's In" column in the newsletter each month, but we aren't married to those concepts. I always say that we are style spotters, not the trend police! When we recommend a trendy color or style we always suggest doing it with accessories which can be easily changed out.

I feel the same way about trends as I do about recipes - they are just suggestions and open to endless tweaks and interpretations! We don't want your home to look like everyone else's, we want it to reflect your personality and your lifestyle.

sweet  
tip

### **Buying The Perfect Pillows**

Did you know that one out of three people is sleep deprived? That's the word from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Maybe they aren't paying attention to their pillows! We think one of the keys to a good night's sleep is the right pillow. Here's how to make a good choice:



1. *First, consider how you sleep.* In general, side sleepers need a thicker pillow, stomach sleepers a thinner pillow and back sleepers in between. Here's the key: Chiropractors recommend that your neck aligns with your spine in a neutral position as you sleep. If your neck is tipping forward or backward, it's not right.

2. *Then know when to replace them.* Are your pillows getting saggy and lumpy? It's time to go shopping. Try this test with a fiberfill pillow - fold it in half and place a book on it. If it springs back to shape it's still good. If it stays folded it's time to kick it to the curb.

3. *Check out the "fill."* For softness, down pillows are the best, unless you're allergic to them. If you prefer a firmer pillow, try one filled with feathers or a blend of down and feathers. Synthetic pillows generally offer more support and run the gamut from soft to ultra-firm, such as the "memory foam" varieties.

4. *Take it for a test drive.* Really. Take your pillow home, leave the plastic wrap on and give it a 10-minute trial. If your neck isn't in line with your spine, or you have other discomfort, try something

different.

5. *Maintenance.* Good Housekeeping magazine says pillows should be washed two to four times a year. Using a pillow protector will help keep it clean between washings.

*>photo courtesy of: mydomaine.com*



## METALLICS

Hollywood's red-carpet events are glittering with celebrities in sparkly, metallic fabrics, so why not bring some of that bling home? Metallic fabrics introduce another element of light and texture in a room and make it feel a bit fancy-pants. You can go as glamorous or subtle as you like. Some metallic fabrics have a lustrous, overall sheen and others just a glint of light from an occasional metallic thread. Pillows are a good way to ease yourself into precious metals, but the right metallic fabric can go just about anywhere. Maybe it's time to shop for that gold lame gown you always wanted? Or perhaps an Elvis suit for your husband?

*> clockwise from upper left photos courtesy of: stylebubble.com, brentanofabrics.com, zinctextile.com, garretleather.com*

## Embellishments

If you've ever had a little black dress you know you can give it your own personality - and change its mood - with jewelry and scarves or a statement handbag. We can do the same for window treatments, pillows and upholstered furniture by adding trims and embellishments such as decorative tapes, and beadwork. If you're feeling glamorous, choose jeweled or metallic trim or go subtle and reserved with a simple colored border. A leather welt sends a mixed rough-luxe message while fur says "indulgent and fun."



*>clockwise from upper left photos courtesy of: [designmanifest.com](http://designmanifest.com), [adri.com](http://adri.com), [lifeonsundays.com](http://lifeonsundays.com), [decorpad.com](http://decorpad.com), [pyarandco.com](http://pyarandco.com), [restorationhardware.com](http://restorationhardware.com)*

### ABBEY AWARD

It's the month to celebrate love, and we're loving our ABBEY award for Small Size Employer from the Daily Herald's Business Ledger. Officially known as the Annual Awards for Business Excellence, the 26-year-old recognition program reaches out to businesses throughout six suburban counties. We could not have achieved this without the talent and hard work of the entire Sweet Peas staff:

Senior Designer Beth Kweton, Junior Designer Lauren Benditzky, Senior Architectural Associate Jennifer Cioni Tarello and Financial Manager Tod Snyder-Grube. Big thanks too from all of us to everyone at the Business Ledger for this honor.



### HGTV LIKES OUR BEDROOM

Cozy fireplace + luscious Mongolian sheepskin otto = a master bedroom that caught the eyes of editors at HGTV.com. This bedroom in a Utah vacation home was included in a photo-feature of 20 bedroom fireplace designs. It makes us feel warm and cozy just to look at it!



### FEATURED DESIGN PRO

DeringHall.com recently pulled Sweet Peas Design out of the crowd to spotlight as one of its featured design professionals. You can find us here: [http://www.deringhall.com/search-design-professionals?utf8=%E2%9C%93&search\\_for=sweet+peas+design](http://www.deringhall.com/search-design-professionals?utf8=%E2%9C%93&search_for=sweet+peas+design)

### TOURING TEXAS

Susan joined her other board members in The Design Trust Ltd. for a confab in Houston that included a side trip to the must-see Menil Park, founded by John and Dominique de Menil in a residential area of the city. It is home to the Rothko Chapel and the Menil Collection museum. The Chapel is an intimate sanctuary that pays tribute to the nuanced murals of Russian-born American painter Mark Rothko. The Collection includes Surrealist, Modern, Contemporary, Byzantine, Ancient and African art and much more. Y'all come down! All exhibits are free of charge.

### SPEAKER'S BUREAU

His-and-hers master baths, multi-purpose kitchens and the growing interest in edible landscape - fruits and veggies! - were among the discussions Susan and her fellow panelists discussed during an open house in Winnetka sponsored by real estate agent Linda Martin of Coldwell Banker and Luxe magazine. Susan's co-panelists were Jeffrey Harting, president of GTH Architects, Northbrook and Nate Robinson, registered landscape architect with Chalet Landscape, Nursery and Garden Center, Wilmette. Thanks to everyone who attended!

# GET THE LOOK



## Asian Accents

Americans have always been influenced by the Far East, whether it's Feng Shui or sushi, lacquer work or minimalism, and we know why. Asian concepts, designs and themes tend to be serene, soothing and balanced, but intriguing and exotic at the same time. Colors and themes are often drawn from nature and are wide-ranging, from delicate cherry trees to fierce dragons, from neutrals to deeply saturated colors. Some elements are breathtakingly simple, others rich in detail.

Most of us don't want to go full-out Asian, but one or two accents can go a long way toward giving your space a well-traveled, elegant flair without looking too Disney-esque. You could choose Pagoda-style cabinetry or chandeliers, Ming jars, inverted-foot table bases or chinoiserie wallpaper, or imagine a ferocious ceramic dragon standing guard over your living room!

*> upper left photos courtesy of: [houseandgarden.com](http://houseandgarden.com), [elledecor.com](http://elledecor.com), [luxesource.com](http://luxesource.com), [homedit.com](http://homedit.com), [houseandhome.com](http://houseandhome.com)*



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