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Originality is the key to home decor

By Darla Jackson **Emerald Supplements Editor**

Successful home and apartment decoration in the '90s will require one essential element, one "must-have" component, in order to be complete.

Creativity

No more worrying about what style of furniture is in, or if the rage at the moment is toward minimalism or ornamentation. Homes in this decade should reflect a person's individual tastes and imagination, according to Gigi Suclescy, a designer at Scan-Design in Eugene

'Decoration in the '90s is almost like fine art; what you like, you put in," she said. "In the '70s you had to match sofas and loveseats and every-

thing else, and the '80s were almost as bad. Now people are mixing periods of furniture, kinds of art, colors, even two different prints if they go well together.

Although decorating costs are ever-skyrocketing. Suclescy said it's possible to create an attractive home or apartment without spending a fortune. For budget-conscious collegians, garage sales are prime spots for inexpensive treasures, she said.

"You can find an old frame that's beautiful by itself and hang it up alone. You don't have to have any artwork in it," she said. For imaginative lighting, Suclescy suggests throwing a patterned scarf over the top of an old lampshade, which will add color and coziness to the room.

In the kitchen, Suclescy said glass shelves can be built inside a kitchen window to hold colorful glassware. When the light hits the different glasses, it looks kind of like stained glass," she explained.

For those with a little more cash to invest in decorating, Suclescy said leather is a hot commodity for the '90s.

.....TRENDS

'Leather furniture is easy to take care of and it's guaranteed for life," she said. "It ages beautifully, too."

Some decorating trends come about because of customs and lifestyles of the population as a whole, Suclescy said. For example, homes and apartments are built smaller now than before, so the scale of furniture has also decreased in recent years.

Other general fashions trends in decorating include the use of bold colors instead of grays and mauve, simpler lines in all furniture and lighter woods with less finish. But the latest trends shouldn't play too large of a role when it comes to decorating one's own home or apartment, Suclescy said.

'You aren't limited to what's in style or what color is in at the moment," she added. "You should find out what you like and just do it."

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Simple lines and geometric patterns are popular trends for home furnishings, as are wood components with minimal ornamentation

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