

# Tip from the pros: Plan ahead



Oriental Serenity creates a bedroom for relaxing. "Forestflair" wall paneling creates a woodland background for comfortable furnishings. Affordable paneling can be installed by the do-it-yourselfer. Paneling is repeated on the base of the platform bed for a custom look.

How often have you browsed through home furnishings magazines, wondering how decorators manage to create such beautiful rooms?

You may think an unlimited budget is the answer, but not so. Actually, designers will tell you that even the most casual rooms require careful planning. Because the real secret to any successful decorating or remodeling project is just that—meticulous planning of all the details.

Before lifting a pencil or a paint brush, professional decorators ask their clients many questions about their hobbies, family needs, and style of entertaining. Since most of us are our own "interior decorators," we should take a tip from the pro's and give our lifestyle some thought. Trying to create a formal interior for a family that's casual and sports-oriented will only lead to frustration!

First, ask yourself and your family why you want to undertake this project. Do you need more storage space? Want to create room for a favorite hobby? Or simply think it's time to put some sparkle into a tired decorating scheme?

Once you know what you want your room to do, decide how you want it to look. Study the materials and fabrics that are available. Today the resources are virtually unlimited. In fact, the task of creating a comfortable, tasteful interior is much easier than it was for our mothers or grandmothers. Paint, wallpapers and fabrics come in any color in the spectrum. And prefinished wall panelings are available in colors and textures that vary from natural woods to pretty pastels.

More popular than ever, wood is a natural material that survives fads in decorating, blending with contemporary or traditional interiors. It's hard to go wrong when decorating with prefinished paneling, because of its warmth and livability. Panelings are easy to maintain and they come in easy-to-install 4' x 8' sheets that even a novice can put up in a weekend.

A common problem for the do-it-yourself decorator is trying to envision the finished room. Here's another trick from the pro's. Assemble samples of all the colors, finishes, textures and fabrics you'll be using in the room. Arrange them against a neutral background. Keep the size of each sample proportionate to its importance in the room. Remember, wall paneling, carpet and drapes will dominate upholstery fabrics, accessories and paint trim.

The resulting "switchboard" will give you an excellent preview of how the finished room will look. Make your mistakes here—in miniature! Try out those wild color schemes—without spending a dime.

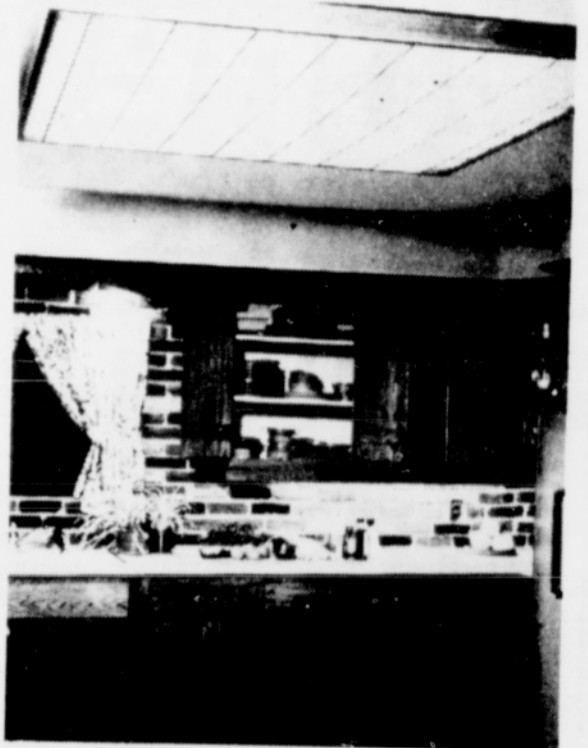
While you're gathering those samples, keep track of the costs of each material. Expenditures should be planned as carefully as color schemes. Select materials for durability as well as price. Compare. For example, did you know you could panel a 20' wall area for as little as \$25. To save even more, look for sales, and buy off-season.

The best way to save money is by doing the work yourself. Many remodeling jobs can be tackled by the do-it-yourselfer. Installing wall paneling requires only basic tools and no special skills, and it goes up quickly.

If you plan carefully along the way, you'll have a room that's not only beautiful and inviting, but one that works for your family.



Sweeping lines, graceful styling and high performance highlights the new island rangehoods. Many units are available in hammered or smooth metals and finishes, from pewter to antique brass and copper. All HVI-certified.



A handsome fixture that is also an effective light source for the kitchen, this is balanced by under-cabinet and sink "task" lighting as well, providing safety as well as vision.

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19" Color TV Set/Instant Interest

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