

SUBURBAN JOURNALS

Saturday, November 17, 2007

Search this site

Go!

Advanced Archive Search

LOCAL WEATHER

57
fahrenheit

SUBURBAN
JOURNALS
Old Newsboys Day



Help St. Louis Children!

MORE LOCAL NEWS

Select a Suburban Journal

Select a Community/Neighborhood

HOME | NEWS | EDUCATION | SPORTS | OPINIONS | BUSINESS | ENTERTAINMENT | LIFE & STYLE | STLTODAY | CLASSIFIEDS | jobs | homes | autos

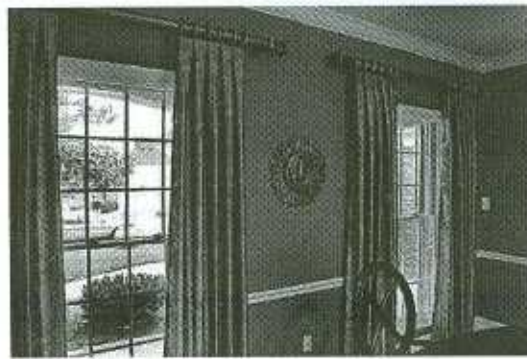
LIFE & STYLE > HOME & GARDEN

"Ask, ask, ask" for answers from designer

By Jenice Denham
Tuesday, November 6, 2007 10:24 PM CST

Unlike television makeovers, a home update takes more than two hours or even a weekend.

An interior decorator and the person whose home is being brushed with a new look must find a partnership, says Patrice Barge-Munden of Patrice Munden Interior Design.



This is what she thinks provides the best results:

- > Ask about everything. Ask during the initial consultation. Find out the time frame, the billing, who will be present for installations. Nothing should be hiding in the dark.
- > Involve family members. Husbands, wives, children all live there and hopefully will later. Architecture, colors and flooring impact them as well. > Concentrate on the style. Show the designer photos of rooms with what looks or feels agreeable. It can be decoration or design, furniture or fabric.
- > Let the decorator design. Don't micromanage. The initial attraction probably was her work, so let the creativity flow before stifling it. Neither partner should overwhelm or intimidate.
- > Share collections or sentimental designs early that should be kept. Antiques, photographs and other memorabilia exhibit a home's personality.
- > Decide whether to use the "nice stuff," as Munden calls it, "most people already have." Often it needs recovering or repositioning.
- > Don't continue working with a designer just because a neighbor or sister had good results. It's important to strike a personal rapport. The project should support the home's lifestyle. The homeowner has the final say.
- > Call the designer's references. It is the best way to find out early if she is attentive, prompt, listens and keeps the client informed.
- > Invest in items that "speak to you," says Munden, because they reflect a personal style. Walking by them repeatedly should result in a sale. "They will work with whatever you have."
- > Be prepared to pay for an initial consultation.
- > Resources: The American Society of Interior Designers (<http://www.asid.org>) offers names of members by location and information about current interior design.

The Home Project File by Munden is available for \$24.99 at <http://www.homeprojectfile.com> or <http://www.amazon.com>. Her home site is <http://www.patricemunden.com>.

EMAIL THIS STORY PRINT FRIENDLY GET RSS HEADLINES WRITE LETTER TO EDITOR



Tell others why your community is the best.
Share your stories and photos at
Celebrate Your Town