

Local Designer Creates Home Project Organizer

BY SUE HORNOR

Like any good interior designer, Patrice Barge-Munden is a keen observer. The Ballwin interior designer and interior design instructor has an eye for color, balance, pattern and style. During her years of working with clients and students, Barge-Munden also observed a common problem shared by many do-it-yourself decorators, and she decided to do something about it.

"After seeing my clients and students bring me their home decorating ideas, magazine pages, fabric swatches, paint chips, tile samples and furniture photos in paper sacks, zip-lock bags and shoe boxes, I knew there was a market for this product," Barge-Munden said in reference to "The Home Project File: A Decorating & Remodeling Organizer," a tool she created to help people organize home decorating and remodeling materials.

"The Home Project File" is a durable, three-ring binder designed to corral product swatches and information, measurements, costs and other materials in one convenient place. The product contains:

- "Room" or "project" pages for recording ideas, notes, progress and important product/store information and for tracking costs and budgets.
- Graph paper for drawing room, window and door measurements to scale.

- Six large, acid-free, transparent pockets to hold photographs, wood and tile samples, fabric swatches, product information, receipts, etc.

- A page for listing contractors' names, phone numbers, hourly charges and bids.

- Six pages of designer tips.

Barge-Munden recommends that people keep the binder in the car so its contents are readily available

when shopping. "How many times have you not had what you needed to make a good buying decision?" Barge-Munden asked. "You find some discontinued blinds, but you don't have your window measurements. Or, you see some potential tile for your bathroom but your paint chips are at home. Or, you stumble on the perfect fabric for your old chair but only

six yards are left. If you don't have your upholsterer's phone number, you can't call to ask if he or she can squeeze out what's needed to finish your chair. When you take your binder in your car you'll have all your information at your fingertips."

Asia Sharif-Clark is preparing to move to a new house and said that "The Home Project File" has helped keep her on track with decorating projects for two homes at once. "I was doing just a little decorating in the house we have for sale and also in the house we are moving to," Sharif-Clark said. "It was so easy just to keep the binder on the front seat of my car and slip things in. It's really been

helpful for someone who wants to stay organized and doesn't want to keep running back to the store. She came along with this at the right time for me. I feel like I finally have some organization in my life."

"The Home Project File" is available for \$24.99 at www.homeprojectfile.com.

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