

Creative Living
remembers when ...



Creative Living
with Sheryl Borden celebrates

30 years!

Home & Hearth Section

5200 Series

Table of Contents

Home and Hearth

QRB - Unique Wood Refinishing System	2
Color Trends in Decorating	3
Gift Giving.....	3
Showcasing a Collection	4
Space Saving Tips for the Home	4
Wallcoverings Assn.....	6
Furniture Techniques	7

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Home & Hearth



Lynn Gerhart is the spokesperson for QRB Industries, and here's her story. My father, Ron Hack started QRB in 1963 while working as an X-ray technician. My parents bought an old house and store on the highway in Niles Michigan. My dad decided to put the commercial property to good use so he started out selling fruit. Later on he began to visit the dump and pick out old discarded furniture. He taught himself how to reupholster and started a small used furniture store.

He bought some paint remover to refinish some of the furniture but wasn't happy with what he found. None of the products worked very well, they damaged the furniture, and were expensive. Having some background in chemistry he decided to make something for himself.

He came up with something he liked and refined it over time. Customers coming into our store asked him what he was using that did such a nice job. After explaining it was his own concoction many of them insisted he sell them some. He would have them bring in a jar and he would fill it for a couple dollars. Soon he decided to design a label and start marketing his new invention. He called it QRB for "Quick Restored Beauty".

My father came home from the hospital one day and told my mom "I quit my job today!" My mother was very concerned, being the conservative one in the family. But it has worked out quite nicely. Later my father added Instant Finish, Match-a-Color Stain, and Scratch-Remover to the product line.



Over the years much of our advertising has been by word of mouth and we have a loyal following of customers. We think this is due largely to the fact that we are not just trying to sell a product but to teach people how to refinish furniture. In 1981 we started doing local television shows. We often could not show our product but we would announce that we would be at a flea-market or a fair and that people could bring their own furniture to try it on. This proved to be a big success and thereafter we were convinced that *teaching* people how to refinish was the best approach. We have great products and we are sure you will agree if you try them.

COURTESY: Lynn Hack-Gerhart
QRB Industries
www.qrb.com

Color Trends in Decorating

Q. Color is always such an important part of decorating. What's hot in the world of color today?

A. Rich and luxurious colors set the stage – romantic reds, soft golds, striking blues and jewel tones.

Q. What can a person do to incorporate these colors other than completely redecorating their home?

A. You can create a whole new feel to a room by simply changing the accent colors, such as:

- Warm colors, such as red, orange and yellow, make a room feel cozy, warm and intimate.
- In comparison, blues, greens and violets have a cool and calming effect, and often make a room feel open.



Q. What else is "hot" in terms of decorating with color?

A. Monochromatic color combinations are hot – using several different colors in the same family: yellow with gold, white with beige, three different shades of blue.



Monochromatic color combinations are so much fun because they create a subtle sense of drama, and they are easy to work with. Even if you have little decorating experience, you simply can't go wrong with monochromatic color combos.



**COURTESY: Beth Vesco-Smith
PartyLite Gifts, Inc.
www.partylite.com**

Gift Giving

Candles and candle accessories make ideal gifts for every occasion!

Birthday: Imagine wrapping yourself in fragrance for an all-over experience — with bath gel, coordinating scented candles, moisturizing lotion and a CD playing soothing music... pure delight! Who wouldn't love to receive this as a gift?

Weddings: For weddings, you want to give something that will last as long as the happy couple's love. And crystal is as timeless as it is beautiful. But, remember, not all crystal is created equal! You want to give a gift that is something that is substantial and multifaceted to give you a lot of shine (i.e. 24% lead crystal.)



House warming: What better way to warm a new home than with candles!

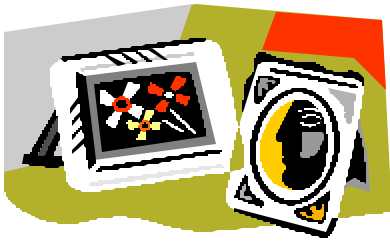
- Aroma Melts Warmer is perfect for kitchens, family rooms, bed and bath. Instant fragrance that lasts 12-14 hours! A perfect gift!
- Wrought iron wine caddy with hand-painted ceramic flowers. Paired with a bottle of wine and a matching candle holder, you know you'll be asked back again by your hostess and host!

You're Special Gifts:

Birthdays and special occasions aren't the only reasons to give gifts. Mom, sister, aunt, teacher, friend — sometimes you just want to tell someone "you're special!"

- C'est moi. French for "It is I!" A refreshing and optimistic blend of florals and greens, C'est moi is like having a fragrance that's all your own.





SHOWCASING A COLLECTION



When showcasing any collection of items, keep in mind the following points:

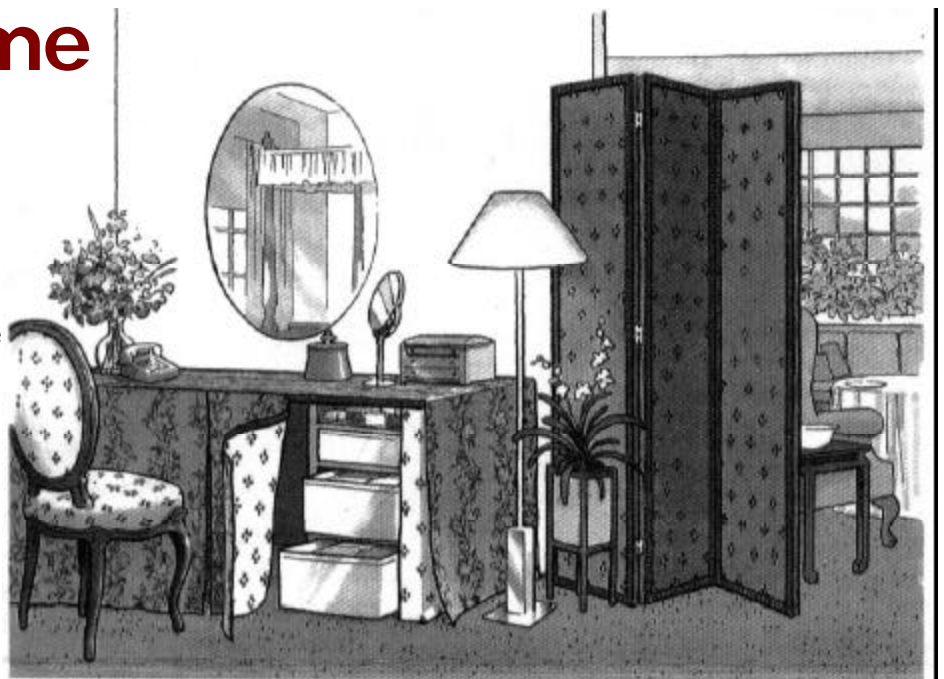
- √ It's a big mistake to display everything "in line" or all spread out throughout the room.
- √ Harmony is achieved with color.
- √ Consider combinations of "short and fat" items with "shiny and matte" items.
- √ Crunch up table runners to unify groupings on a tabletop.
- √ When displaying picture frames, avoid having all the frames in a line. Create balance and scale by using three heights and place one large picture to the size or having two groups of odd numbers of pictures.
- √ Use greenery to add interest to a grouping.
- √ Repeat colors and mix textures for even more interest.
- √ Enjoy your books by displaying them so they can be seen. Their colors can compliment the group, and you can also add history by using vintage books.
- √ A basket can be placed on its side, and then add greenery, candles and small frames.
- √ Colors tend to unify items.
- √ Greenery is an embellishment and you should use some of it throughout the room. When considering a collection you want to display, sort it by category, sentimental value, somewhat treasured, or things that don't matter to you.
- √ When showcasing a collection of items above a sofa, keep in mind that the collection should take up 2/3 of the sofa and allow at least 3 to 4 inches between items.

The bottom line is to keep things close together when you're showcasing a collection of items.

COIURTESY: Latriece Brooks
Brooks Interior Re-Decorating

Space-Saving Tips For The Home

Key to being organized is putting things in their proper place so they're easy to find when you need them. With space usually at a premium, look for storage alternatives by utilizing the space under beds and sinks, on walls and behind doors. Consider wicker baskets, hampers, boxes and chests of all sizes to store everything from personal papers and documents to clothing, linens and toys. Baskets can be stacked and used as



decorative accessories or placed under console tables, file cabinets are easily disguised with fabric covers and used as end tables or night stands. Following are more tips to help you get started.



For Bed And Bath

- Stream-line closet space by getting rid of clothes you

haven't worn over the past year. Discard extra hanger wires. They take up valuable space. Group like articles such as jackets, blouses, shirts and trousers together so they're easy to find. Utilize the space above the clothes bar by installing shelves for storing out-of-season clothes. Plastic see-through boxes are especially suitable.

- ~~Increase under-the-bed storage by adding bed leg extenders.~~ Wrap storage boxes with VELCRO® brand Get-A-Grip® straps so they're easy to pull out from under and reseal easily.
- To conceal under-the-bed storage, a longer dust ruffle may be needed. Keep it in place by attaching it to the bed frame with VELCRO® brand Half & Half™ tape.
- Bulky quilts and towels come down in size when encircled with a few GET-A-GRIP® Multi-Use straps. Keep a 9' roll handy in the linen closet.
- Under sink pipes cut down on stacking storage. Utilize the wasted space by sewing up some fabric "pockets" that can be filled with bath toys, sponges and more. Attach pockets with VELCRO® brand

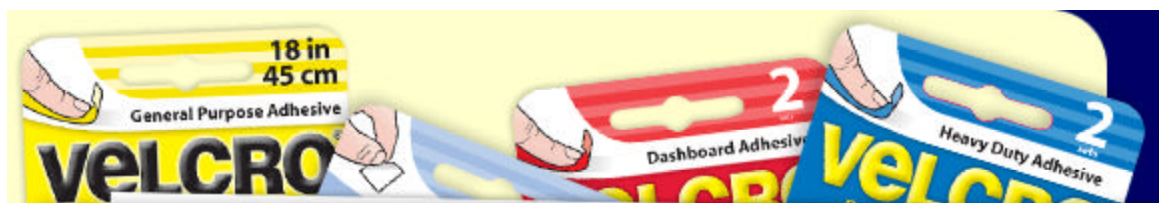
Half & Half™ tape. Use Sew-On side of tape on "pockets" and STICKY BACK® side on wall. Press hook and loop sides to secure.

- Make a tailored table skirt to hide a console television. For show time, use VELCRO® brand Soft & Flexible Sew-On tape to hold the panels in place.

For Kids' Quarters

- Create a rotating gallery of artwork by your future Picassos. Use clear sheet protectors or fashion poster size ones with clear vinyl and use VELCRO® brand STICKY BACK® coins. Update gallery as new pictures are created.
- Use a cheerful fabric to camouflage cluttered shelves. Attach fabric to shelves with VELCRO® brand Half & Half™ tape. Affix the STICKY BACK® hook side to the edge of each shelf and the Sew-On loop side on the fabric. Press sides together to attach.
- A jungle corner is a perfect place for taming stuffed toys. To do it, use VELCRO® brand hook and loop coins. Draw a scene on the wall and attach the hook side of STICKY BACK® coins within the fauna. Paint in bold colors, hook tape and all. Affix a loop Sew-On coin to each stuffed critter and soon you'll have a peaceful kingdom.
- Misplaced mittens? Make a mitten-minder by affixing the adhesive side of VELCRO® brand Half & Half™ tape to the back of a door, sew the loop side on mittens, scarves, hats and gloves. Kids will get the hang of it very quickly and know where to find dry mittens for the next outing. A hook Sew-On strip on jacket sleeves keeps mittens in tow when traveling.

COURTESY: Deborah Durham
VELCRO®
www.velcro.com





wallcoverings association

why wallpaper?

With so many decorating options, why choose wallpaper?

1. Wallpaper is a great impersonator. It can change the visual appearance of your room in many ways.

Decide what you want to accomplish in each room in your home. How do you want to feel when you go into a particular room? Wallpaper, like a fine set of clothing helps you make the most of your room's strong points, while masking its weaker features.

Wallpaper:

- brightens a dark room
- adds character to a dull room
- warms up a room with no architectural features
- creates a cozy atmosphere
- frames the room's best features
- reveals your personality more than any other wall treatment



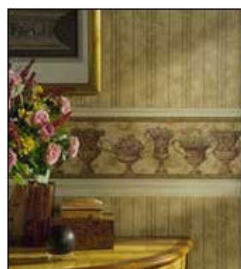
In addition, wallpaper featuring certain patterns such as stripes and overall prints to perform optical illusions that make rooms that ordinarily look too long, too boxy or have low ceilings appear more proportionate.

2. Wallpaper makes the greatest impact in your room, in a single-application.

No other decorating product offers so much color, design and coverage to suit any mood, taste and need.

3. Wallpaper is economical.

While many wall treatments may seem inexpensive, you have to consider the long-term care of them. Many of today's wallpaper varieties have a life of seven to ten years. In addition, wallpapers defined as scrubbable may be cleaned with soap, warm water and a gentle sponging - a must in the active family's busy where every square inch of space is used.



4. Wallpaper is easy to install.

Don't be fooled! Hanging wallpaper is fun and easy when you follow the manufacturer's instructions

that come with each roll of your wallpaper. You also can speak to your local retailer who will be happy to provide helpful hints and tips to make your job easier. Many retailers, in fact, offer wallpaper hanging clinics geared to the first-time hanger. Make it a party. Invite a friend, put on some music and watch your walls come to life!



5. Wallpaper sets a theme.

Use it throughout the house. Today's wallpaper collections are user-friendly, featuring a host of coordinating patterns, borders and color schemes that create a unified design theme throughout your home. Spread some personality in every room!

6. Wallpaper makes the most of your favorite things.

Do you love sailing, golfing, the seashore? Do you collect pipes, dolls, china or impressionistic prints? Frame out a favorite collection or pastime with wallpaper that helps accentuate your favorite things.

7. Wallpaper creates detail where there once was none.

Moved in to a house that has all the personality of a plain white box? Try some wallpaper. Wallpaper is the economical way to add missing architectural elements to your room without hiring a general contractor. Create a chair rail with a wallpaper border. Use a full-wall pattern cut into proportionate shapes to make a paneled effect up a wall leading to a vaulted ceiling. Draw attention to a fireplace focal-point wall by wrapping it with a strong pattern, or create a focal-point wall using the same strong pattern on any blank wall. All it takes is a little imagination.

8. Wallpaper coordinates with the looks you love.

Today's wallpaper designers have captured virtually every fashion statement popular today from fresh country looks to upscale modern motifs.



9. Wallpaper adds value to your home.

- Covers flaws in the wall surface that paint can't.
- Protects the wall surface from marks made by today's busy family.
- Provides certain air of quality and richness not found in uncovered walls.
- An excellent fast-fix for those selling their home. Wallpaper offers a wide range of subtle patterns and colors to neutralize the interior to fit anyone's style.
- Adds value to your most important investment.

Retail studies show that a tastefully decorated home can attain a 10 to 15 percent increase in property value.

10. Wallpaper is always IN.

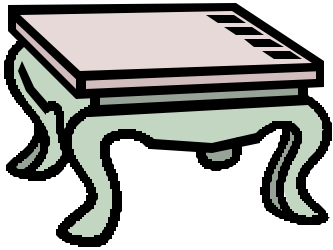
Wallpaper is a timeless decorating product. As new styles emerge, wallpaper designers capture it, define it and present it in a variety of color choices. With its ability to capture any style or color scheme, wallpaper helps you express your personality and style - from contemporary to romantic to country or eclectic!

**COURTESY: Anne Martin
The Wallcoverings Assn.
www.wallcoverings.org**

FURNITURE TECHNIQUES

Creating the Arts & Crafts Look

The Arts & Crafts style continues to surge in popularity, prompting many homeowners and apartment dwellers to seek out both antiques from the original movement (1900-1929) and reproductions. However, both Arts & Crafts antiques and the new reproductions are expensive, but a third



alternative now exists: unfinished Arts & Crafts furniture. Using the same staining and finishing techniques and, in some instances, some of the same products, you can create the Arts & Crafts look for a small fraction of the cost of antiques or reproductions.

Creating the Stenciled Look - Without Stencils

While there is a wide assortment of stencils available for us, we still cannot always find the exact pattern we want. Or perhaps we find it, but not in the right size to fit our project. Rather than going to the trouble of designing and cutting your own stencil, you can create the stenciled look using art masking fluid.

Steps:

- 1 Apply wood conditioner to the piece and wait 15 minutes for it to dry.
- 2 Apply a base coat of water-based stain. Let dry.
- 3 Trace the outline of your design onto the wood, either freehand or using a pattern.
- 4 Fill in the outline using art masking fluid and a small brush. Let dry.
- 5 Apply a coat of stain over the entire piece.
- 6 Peel *off* the art masking fluid to reveal the design.
- 7 Protect the wood and the stain with a water-based finish.

**COURTESY: Bruce Johnson
Minwax
www.minwax.com**

