

Fall 2004

SUSAN FRUIT
ASID

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DESIGN *T*RANSFORMATION

a design newsletter from Susan Fruit Interiors

DESIGN TRENDS

Every space has a unique set of criteria, which acts as the foundation of the entire design. However, the finishes and materials fall in and out of favor. The favorability relies upon the durability, cost and the manufacturers improvements of a particular product. Combining different finishes and materials to add creativity and interest to a space.

Materials favorable are:

- **Metals:** satin finish aluminum, raw steel, copper and other unique metal finishes
- **Woods:** natural maple, zebra wood, black walnut, brazilian cherry
- **Naturals fibers:** seagrass, sisal, jute
- **Glass:** sandblasted, safety, textured, stained, etched, colored
- **Fabrics:** plush velvet, natural silks, cotton, other natural fibers, sheers
- **Colors:** browns, neutral tones, greens, bold colors
- **Lighting:** gels, LED, fiber optic, sconces, backlit lighting effects
- **Misc.:** faux finishes, cork, leather floor tiles, granite and all types of stone

Again, everything is relative to its use and the concept. My best advice is to be open to all ideas and don't be a slave to trends. Don't try to forecast what will look trendy in six months. Develop a concept that works for your clientele, image and location.

Side Note:

When designing a residence the clientele is your family and friends and how they use the space. The image is your personality and personal style.

DESIGN EVENTS

Design Classes

About Susan



Susan Fruit, ASID is a licensed interior designer and registered remodeling contractor in Texas, with 30 years of professional design experience. She has designed interiors for homes in Texas, California, the Midwest and South America and her work has been published in numerous design magazines. Susan is a recognized expert in solving difficult design dilemma, whether it's finding just the right accessory, creating the perfect window treatment, or tackling a major home remodeling project.

Susan recently was the recipients of the Texas Association of Builders 2004 Star Award. The Star Award recognizes builders, developers, and individuals who have created the best that can be found in building in 2004 - from web sites and marketing to custom homes and interior.

Tip of the Month

Add your personal touch to your interior room by adding family

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Fall 2004 Class Schedule...

A fun four-week class on the hottest trends in design for today!

Oct. 27 Wow with Windows!

Help! My windows need a new wardrobe!

Do you know what the best-dressed windows are wearing these days?

If not, learn about exciting new drapery treatments taking the country

by storm. Fall into fashion with a fresh new look for your windows.

Nov. 3 Have a Seat!

Goodbye Mr. Chippendale, hello Barbara Berry

From timeless traditional to classic transitional, you won't believe what

they've done to the chair! Discover exciting new furniture styles in

traditional and contemporary design. So, take a seat, please.

Nov. 10 Attention, please!

Excuse me, but is your room yawning?

Do your rooms grab your attention? If not, it's time to "wake 'em up" with

dramatic, fun focal points. Learn about A-B-A balance (a designer's best

friend), rhythm, color and transition. Design like a pro once you know.

Nov. 17 Entertain without Strain

Oh no! Company's coming!

What's more fun (and nerve racking) than having family and friend

over for dinner!? Relax. Help is at hand. Discover the secrets of putting

together tablescapes quickly and easily—just in time for the holidays!

When:

Four Wednesdays

October 27 – November 17

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Sheraton Brookhollow Hotel

Hy. 290 at Loop 610

Cost:

\$99 in advance

\$120 after October 20, or at the door

photos, creating a gallery and at the same time adding personality to a room.

Fresh flowers and fruit in a room add color and warmth. Use bowls and vases in unusual shapes to perk up interest. Fill a clear base with apples or float flowers in a bowl.

Q & A

Yes, yes, yes - sign me up now!

ACCESSORIES

Question:

I have one big open room 15 x 26 which we use for living room and dining room. Also has 13' cathedral ceiling with skylights. Room(s) has plenty of light but want to keep colors light. Furnishings are white leather couch, beautiful but massive oak entertainment center, fossil stone and iron (gold and black) dining room table base and coffee table base with glass tops, and matching iron dining chairs. We are well into the process of remodeling this room. Whew... what advice can you give me? TIA

Advice:

You want to gently bridge the white and the colors together. I would try bringing in some varying tones of white, light tans and off whites. Try to do this with natural materials, such as wooden candlesticks something weathered, keeping the fossil stone table in mind. They can be small for an end table or you can get larger ones that would sit on the floor, put them in a nice grouping. For the centerpiece, I would add a very simple classic vase; add fresh flowers as often as possible.

Ask a Question?

BEFORE.....

I started out with a typical builders kitchen.....



AFTER



When I finished the new look.....