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table of contents

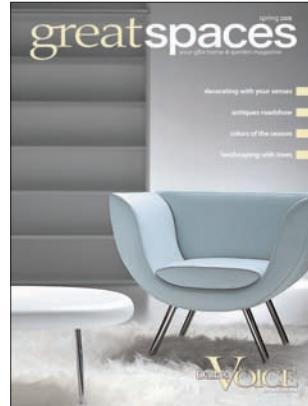


- 6** Stimulating the senses
- 10** In with the old
- 12** The reluctant do-it-yourselfer
- 16** Extreme pools
- 20** Let the sunshine in: A pictorial
- 22** Color my world
- 26** Gimme shelter
- 28** Run for cover
- 32** A tree grows in Dallas
- 38** Directory

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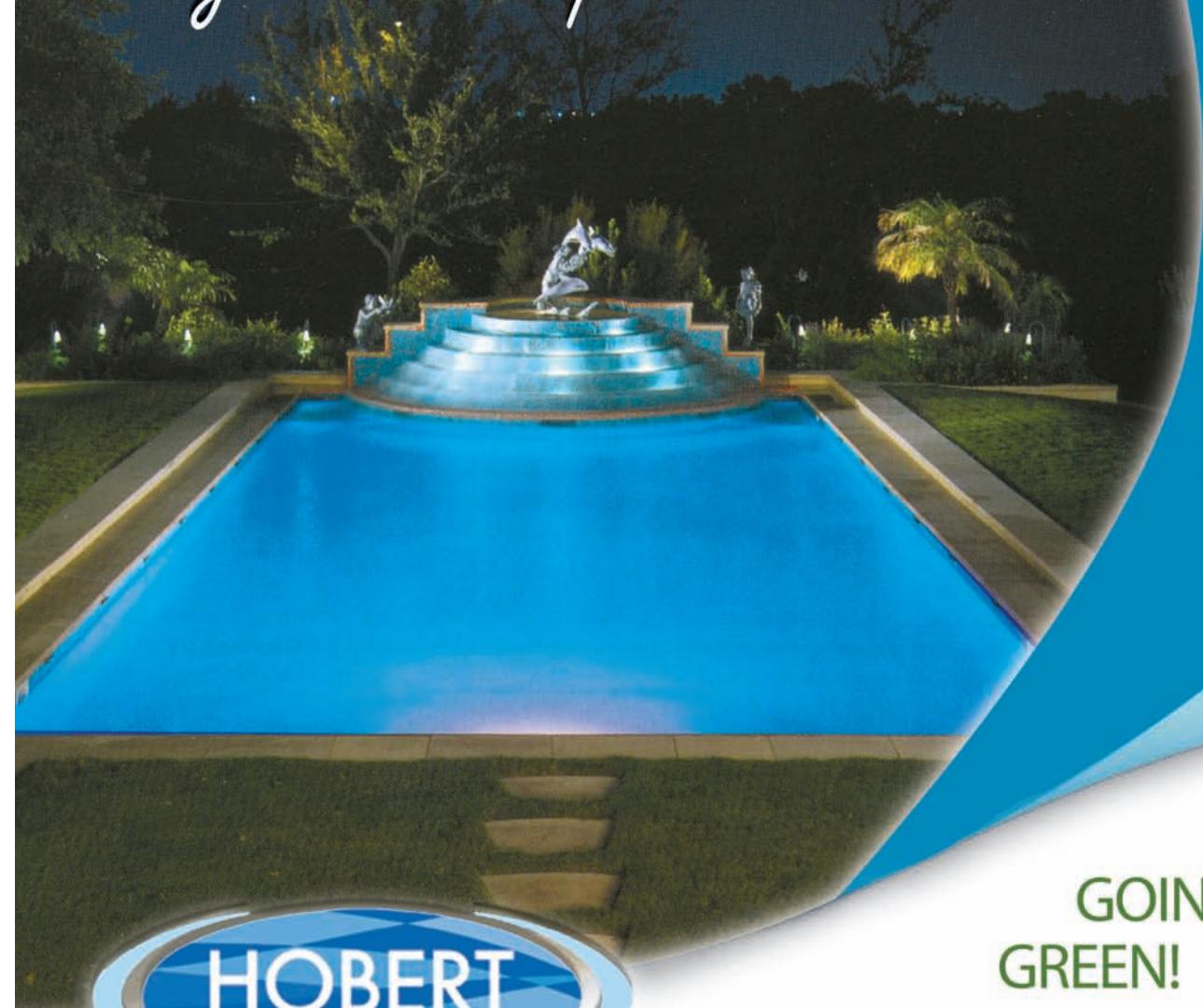
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"Let the sunshine in," Page 20.

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Stimulating the senses

To take advantage of design expert Mark Hopper's decorating system, look no further than the end of your nose

By Arnold Wayne Jones

Mark Hopper applies his "five senses" decorating regimen to his own home, pictured.

After four years with Design Within Reach, Mark Hopper has become an expert in how to style a room. But while Hopper works in the design field — he even served on the DIFFA/Dallas Style Council in 2006 — he says no formal training is required to put a room together. In fact, most people need only glance in the mirror.

"A great rule of thumb for any new homeowner or someone looking to make changes to their living environment is to look no further than the five senses," Hopper says. "Oftentimes we make the mistake of focusing on the look, feel, taste, touch and smell for others when it should all be about you."

Hopper calls his five senses approach "a good concept for people," and he's implemented it in his own Lake Highlands home, which he and his partner bought in 2006.

"When I walked into this house I loved the floor plan, but I knew there were touches that needed to be replaced — the heavy window treatments, the 1970s wallpaper," he says. Now, his living room incorporates all of the elements his preaches to his customers.

The formula is sensible, simple and best of all, easy to remember. Here, then, is Hopper's advice for turning your place into a showplace.

Look

Before taking on any project, big or small, know the "look" that defines who you are. What makes you most comfortable, what feels like home to you?

For those who don't know what look they are trying to capture, Hopper suggests thumbing through magazines to see if anything catches your eye.

"I have often stayed at hotels or other places where I thought, 'This is a really cool space,' and have incorporated that into my own

home. But be sure to avoid the catalogue look; you want your space to appear lived-in and inviting."

Those who like to change the look of a room often should keep the colors of the walls and furniture neutral.

"This will allow you to change out the punches of color with pil-

lows and small accessories that will have less of an impact on your wallets," he says. "When picking a paint color, pick a shade darker or bolder than what you feel is 'safe.' Painting is relatively inexpensive and easy, so why not experiment and go outside of your comfort zone; sometimes the



results will surprise you."

Feel

The overall feel of the room should be inviting and feel like home, Hopper says.

"You will want both you and your guests to feel as though they can relax and sit anywhere. How

many times have we all visited someone and were afraid to sit? The 'no rump zone' signs belong in the stores that choose not to allow customers to sit. That is still beyond me – you're trying to sell furniture, right?"

Patterned sofas and rugs that tend to make for a cluttered feel

should be replaced.

"Update the old sofa with a slipcover and replace the patterned rug with a simple rug in either cotton or wool. To give the room a bigger feel, try hanging the drapery wider and higher than the actual window dimensions," says Hopper.

"You also want your space to have a personal feel, but don't go overboard with the framed photographs. I know I said the space should be all about you, but there's a fine line between personal and 'look at me!' Photos should be individually framed and not cluttered."

See SENSES on PAGE 9



Photo by ARNOLD WANYE JONES

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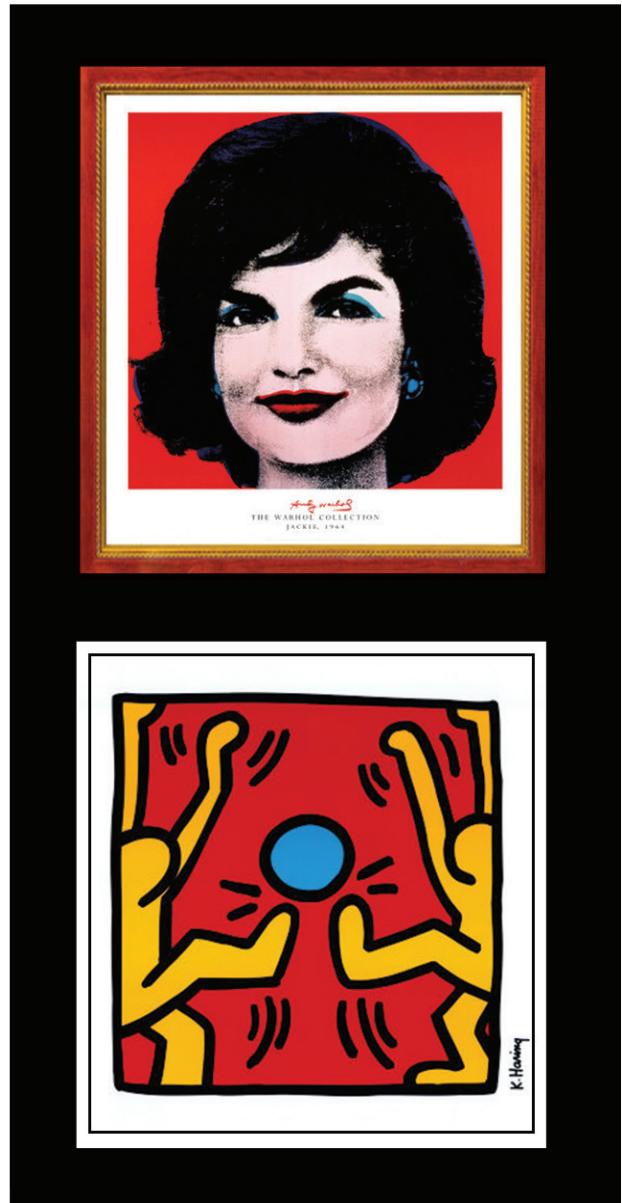
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SENSES

Continued from Page 7

Matching the mattes in the frames will bring a more subtle impact to any room, he says.

Being creative with how you display your photos is a good idea, too. Sepia, black and white, cropped or enlarged snapshots will make a huge difference to the most boring photo.

"Items purchased from your world travels neatly displayed will also bring a more personal feel to any space and will also serve as great conversation pieces," says Hopper.

Taste

Hopper says simply, "Know your taste. If you find yourself stuck in a time warp, look around to see what you already own. You'll be surprised to know that refurbishing your existing pieces will make all the difference."

The biggest mistake people make is to push the sofa against the wall to make the space appear bigger. In fact, moving the sofa away from the wall gives the room more interest and a division of space.

"I shouldn't even have to discuss the dried flower arrangements and the ficus in the corner that doubles as a Christmas tree every December. These both should never be inside and should have been placed in the garage sale next to your framed Nagel print you bought at Spencer Gifts in college," he adds.

Smell

The aroma of fresh cut flowers and lit candles will enhance and better the mood even after the worst day at the office.

"You want to bring the outdoors in. Once you have tossed the ficus, an elegant, live orchid will make a dramatic difference. Another place to look is none other than your own backyard. Although tree branches will not add to the aroma of a room, they certainly will add more

of an impact and give a natural element to it. I have to admit that I am a fan of room sprays, but less is more. Don't go overboard and leave the dog heaving on the living room floor," Hopper says.

Candles are a great, inexpensive way to add aroma and mood to any room and yes, they are meant to be used: "The room should feel lived-in and unlit candles belong to an abandoned bride. You bought these for a reason, now get out your Bic!"

Hear

Listen to your room; does it scream "Do not sit," or "Nate Berkus, help me!" Trust us, it knows.

"Don't let every piece of furniture scream at you when you walk in," Hopper suggests. "Invest in one signature piece that you have always wanted and build the room around that. I have always been a huge fan of the Eames lounge and ottoman set from Herman Miller; when I finally made that purchase, the room felt complete and made me feel good about the room. It speaks for itself and, quite honestly, it's the first thing people notice."

One signature piece makes a statement, but be careful — a room full of statements makes a speech.

"Your home is your sanctuary and it should speak to you," he says.

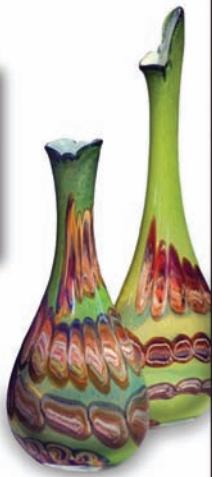
The best way to achieve this: Stand back, look at your room and look at what it is you want to accomplish. Once you do, it will all make sense.

"Remember: make your room and your home all about you," Hopper says. "I have made the mistake before of purchasing and furnishing a home because it seemed like a cool party house and we were inviting people over and hosting parties all the time," Hopper says. "I was living in a home for other people, but guess what: Those people weren't paying the mortgage. I now live in my home." *

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In with the old

From Victorian writing desks to kitschy Bakelite doodads, antiques and collectibles can spruce up any decor

By David Taffet

Joey Edwards, opposite page, holds a wood carving at his store Debris; it's one of his personal favorite items.

Years ago, a walk or drive along Fairmount-McKinney, Inwood-Lovers and Knox-Henderson would have landed you in antiques central. But skyrocketing rents and land values have forced antique stores from their traditional areas, having been replaced by upper-end stores, bars and restaurants that cater to expensive new high rises in the area. (One of the first gay-owned stores on Cedar Springs, Crossroads Market, began its life as an antique store.)

Antique dealer Joey Edwards' three stores — Lost, Found and Debris — are in the Design District, which offers large buildings and less expensive real estate. Roughly bounded by Oak Lawn Avenue to Continental and I-35 to the levees, older industrial buildings that once served as wholesale and manufacturing facilities now house more than a hundred antique shops and art galleries that are open to the public. Others are popping up further north along Irving Boulevard.

One store that has prospered in another neighborhood is Lula B's. Located on Lowest Greenville Avenue, the store is the only one remaining in an area where antique stores once thrived.

Owner Pat Springer credits a great long-term relationship with his landlord and says he recently signed a lease for 3,000 additional feet of space that will open

WHERE TO FIND OLD STUFF

Debris, 1205 Slocum St. 214-752-8855. **Found**, 1225 N. Industrial Blvd. 214-741-5533. **Lost**, 1201 N. Industrial Blvd. 214-741-4411. All open Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Lula B's Antique Mall, 2004 Greenville Ave. 214-824-2185. Mondays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sundays, noon-7 p.m.

the end of May. A coffee shop will be included in the store's expansion.

But if the locations have moved, there's still nothing better than discovering a "gently owned" item that speaks to you today. And wherever you go — from antique stores to estate sales to garage sales — there are some good pieces of advice everybody should follow.

Some people like simple, some like intricate, some like gold some like wood but a true antique can fit well into any decor.

For shoppers new to antique buying, Edwards says rather than look for that rare bargain that's worth much more than it's priced, look for something you like. He picks up a wooden statue he says he purchased about two years ago that he thinks was a study for a bronze casting. Although it hasn't sold, the sculpture is among his favorite items.

"Some people like simple, some like intricate, some like gold, some like wood," Edwards says. But he believes a true antique can fit into any décor. Even in a modern house with minimalist furnishings, a special piece can be the conversation starter.

Buyers looking for interesting accents should keep their eyes open for "bronze statues, a wonderful clock, antique art," Edwards suggests. Also popular in his stores are "writing desks, arm chairs, corner chairs, hall tables, consoles. Anything unusual enough, people pay attention."

Still, some older pieces of furniture just don't work in a modern

house. Contemporary houses tend to have plenty of closet space, so armoires are often repurposed as entertainment centers or wet bars, rather than used as originally intended. Old beds, he says, are hard to use, since older ones were rarely larger than full size.

Edwards defines a proper antique as anything made before the Industrial Revolution. "As soon as they started making it in a factory, it's not an antique to the purist," he says. But he acknowledges that a more commonly accepted definition is anything over 100 years old. He calls mid-century items that are rapidly gaining in popularity collectibles.

Lula B's is known for having a wide range of goods displayed by a variety of dealers with a good concentration of 20th century collectibles. Among Springer's favorites are hi-fi consoles, which he reconditions and even outfits with new diamond needles.

Other pieces from the period include sofas, lamps, chairs and unique pieces like molded epoxy and two-dimensional metal wall sculptures. His partner, Maryann Kaylor, particularly likes Midwestern pottery brands such as McCoy, Hull and Frankoma.

Will using an antique decrease its value through wear? Springer urges people to take "reasonably good care of" antiques. "Use it and recover it," he suggests of sofas.

Polish furniture and care for it as you would any good furniture. If areas are damaged, they can be restored; scratches can be treated with wax and polish, but a big water spot takes professional refinishing.

Springer says to decide if it's worn or damaged before making a purchase. Minor wear can actually add to the value and too much restoration can diminish it.

See ANTIQUES on PAGE 36



Photo by DAVID TAFFET

The reluctant do-it-yourselfer

How a quick coat of paint became an obsessive hobby in home improvement for Kelly Murphy

by David Taffet

Kelly Murphy's bathroom redo cost him only \$800. Now he can't stop remodeling.

For Kelly Murphy, "The whole project started with a can of paint someone gave me."

The project wasn't supposed to be much of a project at all. When he first surveyed his bathroom, Murphy's plan was to quickly slap up a coat of paint to freshen the walls. Then he decided he preferred a smooth surface to the heavy texture already there. So before applying any paint, he began sanding.

At first, Murphy was simply going to paint the wainscoting white. Instead, he decided to replace it. Wainscoting, a tongue-and-groove paneling hung on the lower part of a wall, is often used as an inexpensive and easy way to finish a room.

"I ripped that out and the wall wasn't finished underneath, so I resurfaced the wall," he says. But to finish the wall, "I had to remove the toilet and the fixtures had to come out."

After that, there was no stopping him.

Murphy never considered himself much of a do-it-yourselfer before, but as with many people who first begin to tinker, the home improvement bug proved to be a chronic disease. What started as a quick afternoon project became a months-long renovation.

Murphy never liked the tile and didn't really care for the sink, and since he was already so invested, he began looking for replacements. A store called Floor & Décor in North Dallas offered free classes in how to lay tile, so he decided to look into it.

He was lucky in that he was the only person to show up for class that day, which meant he got individual instruction on the dos and don'ts of cutting and laying tile. He learned to plan his layout to minimize cutting by working around outlets and corners.

The tile he eventually used,



Before



After

however, he found elsewhere. A friend had installed some he loved that cost \$12 per square foot. After searching a number of places, he says, "I found these two hot Israeli brothers who have a store on Harry Hines. I paid 79 cents a square foot" for virtually the same slate and granite pieces.

Murphy's tub had been recently replaced and he reused the original toilet, but the rest of the room was new. He accessorized the bathroom with an oversized framed mirror from Ikea and turned a wine rack into a towel holder, rolling towels to fit where bottles were intended. He found a sink and 1950s-era metal cabinets at Discount Home Warehouse, an architectural salvage store on Empire Central. He exchanged the traditional wooden door for one made one of frosted glass.

Doing all of the work himself and scouring the city for the best bargains he could find, Murphy estimates the entire bathroom redo cost him only \$800.

But that was just the beginning. In the three years he lived in the house, Murphy estimates that he made about \$4,000 in improvements. When he sold it, he pocketed a \$50,000 profit.

And as much as he liked the color of that original can of paint that started the project, he found it just wasn't suitable for a high-humidity area. The can remains unused.

Murphy has continued to renovate ever since, bringing value and his own personal style to his house. When he recently moved to Beaumont, he got a great price on a house but knew the kitchen had to be updated. After his recent bathroom adventure, a complete gutting just didn't seem daunting.

The original 1950s kitchen had a refrigerator in one corner and the stove in another separated by six feet of counter space. A big table fit in the middle of the room.

"I love to bake and you need

counter space for that," Murphy says.

He thought of relocating the kitchen, but because of the slab foundation, the plumbing couldn't easily be moved. He planned the layout with a designer at Ikea and got the cabinets from them, but knew he needed to get creative again to stay on budget and find interesting fixtures he wanted.

In Dallas, he saw a stainless steel farm sink for \$1,400. On eBay, he found a similar fixture for \$500. He priced faucets at Lowe's for \$200 to \$500. He eventually purchased one for \$89 on eBay.

The original kitchen had one shallow pantry and a spring-loaded door that wouldn't do for his tastes.

"I hate cabinet doors slamming," Murphy says. His new kitchen features six pantries that each pull out with springs that prevent them from banging shut.

While he hired an electrician and a plumber to hook up the gas line and plumbing and connect the wiring to the boxes, he saved money by pulling new wiring through the walls and attic himself. Outlets are concealed under the counters so wiring for appliances such as the coffeemaker and microwave remain out of sight.

Murphy saved money on appliances by shopping at the Sears Outlet store in North Dallas. He says he was careful about what he bought, but found pieces with minor scratches and dents on the sides that were completely obscured when slid into place.

Although he wanted to build a center island, he felt that the new, bigger cabinets and appliances took up too much space. Instead, he settled on a two-foot-by-four-foot stainless steel moveable island. With two bar stools, it serves the same purpose.

Including appliances, Murphy's kitchen project cost about \$10,000. But if he has learned one thing, it's that you can't judge

See REMODEL on PAGE 39

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Extreme pools

Hanging out by the cement pond has never been more glamorous — or more achievable

By David Taffet

Homeowner Miguel Flores bought his Oak Cliff home in part because of the pool, which was cleverly integrated into the steep landscape of the lot.



Photo by DAVID TAFFET

Conventional wisdom has it that swimming pools don't add much value to a home and can even detract from resale prices. That may be true of the drab old rectangular pool in the middle of a barren backyard, but landscaping to make the pool an integral part of the entire property — let's call them "extreme pools" — can add value and enjoyment to your home.

Jason Hardy, sales manager of Hobert Pools, says home appraisers agree, "If you've got two houses side by side, exactly the same, the one with the pool is worth \$10,000 more."

But it is true there are limits to the upside. "If you spend 50 grand on a pool, you're not going to get 50 grand more for your house."

Oak Cliff homeowner Miguel Flores echoes Hardy's view.

When he moved from Miami to Dallas recently, "I knew nothing about the neighborhood. But I saw this house and it looked like a resort to me — all the vegetation, the manicured landscaping, the trees and the beautiful blue water in the middle. It was a garden oasis." It sold him on purchasing the house.

Building the pool that wooed Flores took more than clearing an area of the yard and digging. The house sits on a hill just south of Kiest Park, and the street level driveway is more than a flight of stairs above the front door. From an oversized back deck, 20 steps lead down to the pool area. The street behind the yard is another level lower.

On one side, the pool is dug into the limestone cliff. There, the deck sits three feet above the

water level. On the lower street side of the pool, a five-foot high slate retaining wall holds in the water.

Logistically challenging for the builder? Absolutely. But also dramatic. Flores says he eats, reads and does most of his entertaining out at the pool, whenever weather permits. With tall trees throughout the property, he says he's comfortable poolside even throughout Dallas' sweltering summers.

Hardy says a pool with well done landscaping becomes an extension of the house. While building a pool into a hillside presents certain problems, putting a pool in a Downtown high-rise presents others. Still, several conversions of older buildings have included dramatic swimming pool designs.

The Mosaic, a 32-story, 400-

Infinity pools, like this dramatic one at the Mosaic high rise Downtown, create the illusion of a waterline that fades into the horizon.

unit apartment conversion that opened in December, occupies a building that had been vacant for more than 15 years. On top of the attached parking structure sits a 130-foot long infinity pool and "dive-in theater."

An infinity (or vanishing edge) pool gives the illusion of extending to the horizon and dropping off without a wall. Actually, water fills to the top ledge and spills over into a catch basin where it runs through a filter and is returned to the pool. But from the correct angle, it appears to have no outer boundary.

The Mosaic's "zero edge" pool might not be for the acrophobic, but it does provide wonderful city views. Adding to the fun of a pool that appears to spill over onto Akard Street is the dive-in theater. Football games and movies are projected onto two giant screens that rise above the pool's street-side edges. The entertainment can be enjoyed either from the deck or in the water.

You don't need to live in a high-rise to enjoy the effect of an infinity pool — or other equally eye-catching designs. Hardy says his company has created a number of interesting residential pools. For a competitive swimmer, he built a pool with a 40 to 50 foot lane to swim laps. To recreate a Mexican vacation, he built a tiki bar complete with thatched canopy in the middle of a pool for one North Dallas couple.

Among his favorites is one currently under construction. From the 800-square-foot main pool, a lazy river meanders around the yard, akin to the Roaring Rapids ride at Six Flags Over Texas. A river runs out of the pool and flows about 125 feet around the perimeter before emptying back into the pool. The owners will enjoy their stream on inner tubes or floats.

You don't need to go to such extremes to make it look like you



Photo by ARNOLD WANEY JONES

have. A plain pool becomes more interesting with a stone berm added on one side. For charm, Hardy likes to include a stone or iron bridge across a narrow section of an oddly shaped pool. Fountains and waterfalls not only add an interesting architectural

option but also are functional in drowning out unwanted city noise.

"We have people who call and say, 'I have a backyard that is tiny.' In most cases we surprise them. They can't believe it's possible," Hardy says.

What about the cost of maintaining a pool, especially with today's soaring energy costs? And how much upkeep does it require?

While energy rates are soaring, Flores says the enjoyment and health benefits from swimming

See POOLS on PAGE 39

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Let the sunshine in

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Pay no attention to the naysayers predicting a dark future — things have never looked so bright. We're not talking about the price of gas or politics, of course, but the colors of the season. Spring and summer of 2008 will be dominated by the freshest, most vibrant yellows and oranges, sky-blues and mossy-greens.

And the mossiness is carried over in textures, too. The green movement has taken root (literally) with an emphasis on natural fabrics and organic finishes this year.

We polled the inventories of several area home furnishing retailers — Jones Walker, Aneita Fern, Zuri, West Elm and Haven — and put together a room that's looking so bright, you gotta wear shades. *

PHOTOGRAPHY AND STYLING BY TERRY THOMPSON AND ARNOLD WAYNE JONES

Aneita Fern, 5213 Alpha Road, 972-392-9277, Aneitafern.com.

Haven, 2416 Victory Park Lane, 214-954-1515.

Jones Walker Furniture, 3010 Henderson St., 469-816-5500, Joneswalkerfurniture.com.

West Elm, 5307 E. Mockingbird Lane, 214-821-3999, Westelm.com.

Zuri Furniture, 4880 Alpha Road, 972-716-9874, Zurifurniture.com.

1 Luxor couch in vibrant yellow leather finish; starting at \$1,910 at Jones Walker.

2 Abstract wall art available in many sizes and artists; as shown, \$1,400 to \$2,880 at Jones Walker.



3 Green silk button pillow available in a variety of sunny colors; \$24 at West Elm.

4 Ponyhair boxes available in a variety of sizes; \$110 to \$135 at Haven.

5 Pillow in orange with raffia-stitched case; \$34 at West Elm.

6 Birch-wood wrapped vases available in three sizes; \$55 to \$65 at Haven.

7 Distratto chrome lattice-shade lamp in tabletop and floor models; starting at \$147 at Zuri.

8 Martini pitcher and glasses, available as a set; \$54 at Zuri.

ng the outdoors indoors with the season's fresh colors and organic textures



9 "Fair trade" hand-sewn pillows from South America, available in custom styles and sizes; starting at \$195 at Aneita Fern.

10 Banduan wicker basket; \$79 at West Elm.

11 Ponyhair magazine rack; \$250 at Haven.

12 Blenko glass vases and bowl, available in a variety of styles and colors; \$149 to \$250 at Aneita Fern.

13 Bench box coffee table; \$399 at Jones Walker.

Color my world

Why stop
decorating with
your interior?
Colorful plants can
make any yard
stand out

By David Taffet

Daffodils, like these that bloomed at the Dallas Arboretum, can turn an ordinary landscape into one bursting with spring and summer colors.

Do you like having a garden but find too much green uninteresting? Bob Watchorn with Calloway Nurseries says there are a number of ways to add color to a garden.

Watchorn advises buying plants right for the area and to plant them in appropriate sun. Too much heat radiated from the house can be more damaging to some plants than too much sunlight.

The easiest way to add instant color is with annuals, but bulbs, bushes and perennials are other good options, though they require some planning. Here's a guide:

Annuals

Begonias: red, white, pink and yellow varieties are easy to propagate from cuttings; they thrive in full sun to shade.

Vinca (or periwinkle): violet flowers that like sun to partial shade; good drought tolerance.

Petunias: bloom continuously through summer if faded flowers are pruned; over-fertilizing produces more leaves but fewer blooms.

Bulbs and tubers

Tulips are pretty but grow best in Holland or the northern U.S., and their season is basically over. For North Texas, Watchorn recommends these other bloomers.

Daffodils and narcissus (a small daffodil): colorful, they grow in full sunlight; plan to plant from October into November (plant too early and they'll sprout too early).



Photo by ARNOLD WANEY JONES

Canna: Large, showy blooms in yellow, orange and red bloom through summer until the first frost; they flourish in heat with plenty of water.

Iris: "Once the flowers are spent, cut the stems off, but don't cut the leaves off — the leaves replenish the bulb for next year," Watchorn says. The bulbs multiply and he recommends digging some of them up to thin some years.

Perennials

Dianthus: Common varieties that grow well in Texas includes Sweet William; they thrive in full sun.

Lantana: these bloomers grow best in full sun.

Echinacea (or coneflower): "One of the easiest things to grow," Watchorn says. "They will come back each year from the same plant but also produces voluminous amount of seed."

Bushes

Crape myrtle: Though native to Asia, this plant with white, pink, red and purple blooms was introduced to North America in 1747 and is now the official state shrub. There are many varieties in all sizes, from 18 inches to more than 20 feet tall.

Photinia: Grow thick and make good hedges; the new growth leaves are red in color. *

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Gimme shelter

What you put over your head can make as much as of a statement as what you put in your house, but you'll want to prevent prices from going through the roof

By Howard Lewis Russell

Spanish tile roofs, like the one pictured opposite, cost more than traditional shingles, but add value and beauty.

The dictum that as long as you have a roof over your head, you shouldn't complain too much has taken on new dimensions over the years. Like choosing a vice presidential running mate, deciding on which roofing material to use won't salvage a bad house, but a bad roof will certainly damage the value of a good one.

Conventional wisdom says that even the most solid roof only lasts about 25 years, so just because you don't detect any leaks doesn't mean your roof is fine, especially in drought pervasive Texas.

Cost: what to expect

Kirk Scott, owner of Scott Roofing-Siding-Windows, works frequently in the Oak Cliff and Oak Lawn areas and says the average cost of re-roofing an existing house runs from \$4,000 to \$5,000.

"Prices vary depending on how many layers of shingles must be removed first; if just one layer, it's a straightforward process, usually requiring no more than two to three days, and a crew of 8 to 10 men," he says.

Usually the more dramatic looking a roof is, the more you can expect to pay.

"Price can increase dramatically if the roof is steep, or if we have logistical issues, which can easily double the job time," Scott says. And some older houses may have

three or four layers of old shingling to remove. "With new plywood decking, well, you can take a \$4,000 roof to \$8,000 really fast."

The basics

Composition roofing (also known as asphalt roofing) still ranks no. 1 in residential preference in the United States, doubtless for two reasons: It costs the least and is the easiest to install. But a stroll down the roofing aisle of any national hardware superstore can still be an overwhelming experience. Picking a color is only the start of the decision-making process — and your expense.

You might expect all colors of the same product to cost the same, but that's not necessarily so. Red composition roofing, for example, is more expensive than black or gray, probably because it looks more beautiful against red brick stone. That said, the average cost of even the least pricy composition shingles runs at least \$35 per bundle (three bundles will cover about 100 square feet).

One new roofing option Scott says to consider is "radiant barrier," a layer added to the back of the plywood decking that saves considerably on cooling and heating costs; additionally, the homeowner may qualify for a tax credit up to \$500. Adding class-4 hail-

resistant composition shingles "will allow for up to a 27 percent discount" on their insurance premiums, he adds. (Homeowners should check with their insurance agents to see if they qualify.)

"Impact-resistant shingles will cost an average of 40 percent more," admits Scott, "but if your insurance discount is enough, they're well worth it. The buyer has to weigh the cost/benefit against his budget."

For those who can afford a 100-year roof, ceramic tile (also known as Spanish tile) is the way to go. Interlocking ceramic tiles require a very beefy support structure, though — even "lightweight" versions weigh 6 pounds per square foot; the denser types can weigh up to 18 pounds per square foot.

Slate, arguably the classiest of all roofing materials, is another heavyweight option (7 to 8 pounds per square foot). Slate's primary appeal is its dazzling texture and fire-retardant qualities — neither of which come cheap.

For those desiring the lightest roof possible that appears to be tiles, metal-mimic tile is ideal. Metal-mimic looks like ceramic and weighs only a pound per square foot, is quick and easy to install and sheds rain.

Wooden shingles are another lightweight option. Ruggedly

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beautiful, they're definitely the right aesthetic choice for shingle-style houses. Their drawback, however, is that the wooden shingles of today are not made from lumber even remotely as durable as that which once came from slow-growing, old-growth trees a century ago (or even 50 years ago). Today's wooden shingles are basically fine for exterior walls, not roofs.

Not your daddy's rooftop

On top of it all, there's the uniquely 21st century dilemma of whether one should "go green." Green may be *au courant*, but renewably green-energy roofing is cost-prohibitive at the moment. Currently, solar roof panels run three to five times the price of standard, oil-based composition roofing.

Nonetheless, the technological breakthroughs in solar shingling seem to be developing at almost warp speed. According to a recent New York Times article, "The cost of solar energy is expected to fall steeply as cheaper new technologies reach economies of scale. There are also huge challenges ahead, not the least of which is the continued dominance of fossil fuels."

Meanwhile, clean, green, solar roof panels, known as "photo-



voltaic modules" (or PV for short) represents less than one-tenth of one percent of the \$3 trillion global energy market.

The extras

Your overall roofing expense has only started when you decided on the materials, especially in Dallas, where summer heat expansion is always a major concern.

All-weather roof cement (also known as roof and foundation caulk or liquid asphalt) costs

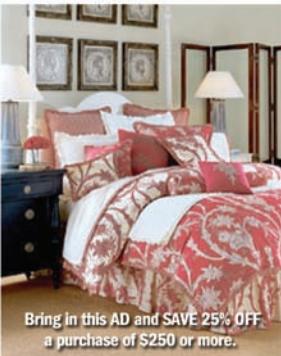
about \$30 per five-gallon container. Siliconized elastomeric coating (ideal for standing-seam metal or tile roofing) is twice that much still, even though metal roofing, which comes in 5-rib packs, can run as little as \$3 per rib. To its credit, elastomeric coating can substantially lower cooling costs, and depending upon the brand purchased, will flex anywhere from 250 to 350 percent, substantially reducing cracking.

Other accessory roofing costs to

keep in mind are chimney caps (to arrest sparks to help reduce fires), ridge caps and ridge vents (to release hot, moist air from attics); and, to further increase weather protection and add curb appeal, drip edges, flashing and custom gutters.

Ultimately, as with everything necessary in life, a good roof comes down to affordability. And if you can afford the best, run with it — high quality shelter is worth the price. *

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Tired of seeding, watering, mowing, feeding and weeding your lawn and still only coming up with mixed results? Trying replacing some or all of it with ground cover.

"Ground cover" is the term landscapers use for plants that propagate easily with a low profile, and which generally takes much less care and add nice variety to a yard.

The granddaddy of ground covers is ivy, pictured, which grows well in shade. Although it creeps along the ground and covers large areas quickly, it also climbs trees and houses, and can do some damage. Cut it away from branches and trunks because it can eventually smother them. Roots that get into the mortar in a brick house can cause cracks and other damage.

Mondo grass flourishes in shade to partial sun. This tall, showy grass is often used as borders and to accent other ground covers.

Liriope thrives in shade, grows



two to four inches tall and produces violet flowers in late spring. Asian jasmine is a fast grower — after reaching 12 to 18 inches, it should be cut back to four inches once a year to keep it tidy.

Ajuga is a member of the mint family with broad green and white leaves that produces spikes of purple flowers and grows in full sun to shade.

— David Taffet

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Interested in developing your green thumb but unsure where to start? Dallas' gay community is lucky enough to be home to the Rainbow Garden Club. The club, which meets at least once a month, holds seminars on topics such as container gardening and Texas-native plants, presented by many local experts. Next up on the club's calendar: Participating in the Earth Day celebration, presented by Friends of Oak Cliff on April 20. The May 11 meeting topic is shade gardening. For more information, visit Rainbowgardenclub.com.

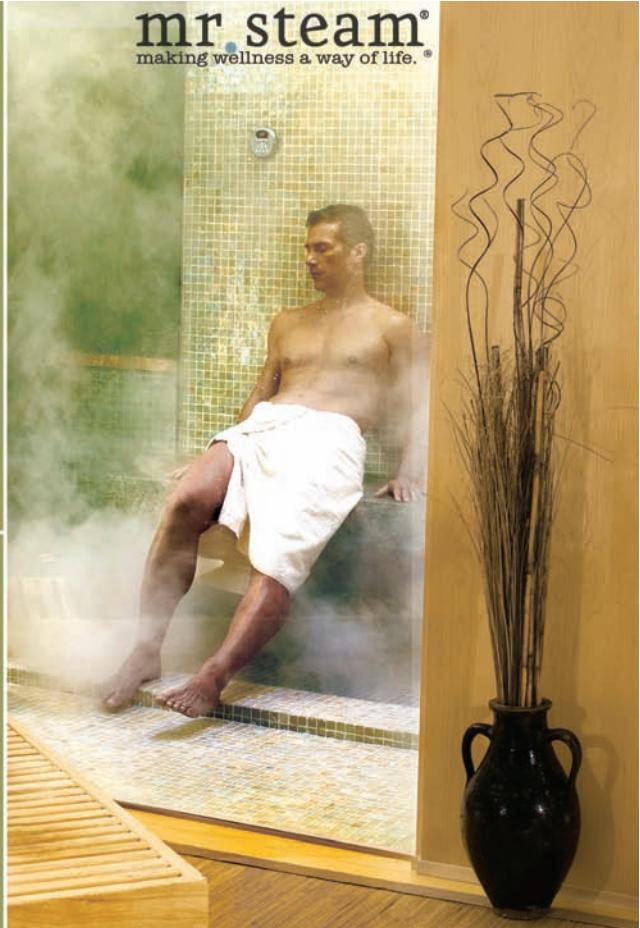
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A tree grows in Dallas

There's no better way to do your part to encourage the green movement than to work trees into your landscape plans

By Howard Lewis Russell

Arborist Steve Houser, opposite page, is a vocal cheerleader for the benefits of trees in any landscape. He's a huge fan of Reverchon Park, which was named for Texas' most notable early botanist.

Has spring fever suddenly got you sweating to dig a little dirt? Plant a little something? Do a little dance? If you're feeling it, it may be time to get grooving with the scene and finally go more "green." Yes, for those pondering what small thing they can do to give back to our fragile environment, your moment has arrived.

April may be the cruellest month, poetically put, but planting a tough Texas native tree now will ensure that your own backyard — and all of planet Earth — is prepared for the years ahead. And happily enough, April is also when Arbor Day rolls around [see sidebar].

Most everyone knows the benefits of trees, especially in densely-populated cities like Dallas. They are green, long-lasting and environmentally munificent. Trees breathe life-giving oxygen into the atmosphere, scrub away planet-frying carbon dioxide, support wildlife and add aesthetic value to landscapes and monetary value to property.

But before you start digging a

hole, begin with a little careful planning.

Local arborist and master gardener Steve Houser is chair of the Dallas Urban Forestry and Advisory Committee whose goal it is to create and maintain a greener Dallas for future generations to enjoy.

"A tree planted correctly will grow twice as fast and live twice as long as one that is incorrectly planted," says Houser, "but when choosing a tree you must first consider the right tree for the right location. That's number one. Your second consideration is to decide whether to go with a shade or an ornamental."

The main problem with growing a tree in Dallas is that this neck of the country has a shallow layer of topsoil, "as thin as only 6 to 8 inches in some places," Houser says. So finding the right plant to thrive under certain conditions is key.

"Oak trees grow well in Dallas if shade is what you're after, especially white oaks, bur oaks and chinquapin oaks," says Houser.

"Crape myrtles make excellentamentals, but you need to purchase from a reputable nursery with a knowledgeable staff who can guide you to choose between container-grown or ball-and-burlap."

The difference between the two is how their root systems develop.

"With ball-and-burlap, the roots have grown out horizontally as they should, but since they've been cut, the tree itself takes longer to get a growing head start than a container tree, whose root system has been growing in a circle," Houser explains. "When removing the tree from the container, it's important to splay the roots outward 360 degrees, all the way around."

It's also very important that the hole be no deeper than the depth of the container or root ball, and the hole should be dug outward, two to three times the base diameter because "the roots need loose soil to penetrate," says Houser.

As you put soil back, compact it into a berm (ring) to contain

See TREES on PAGE 39

GREEN DAY

Quick, what's the state tree of Texas? A raise of hands: Bueller? Anyone?

As we all make preparations for National Arbor Day — which, as every fourth-grader knows, is celebrated annually on the last Friday in April — let's pause a moment and pay our brave new millennium's politically-correct green movement homage, at last, where it's due: with President Grover A. Cleveland.

Arbor Day began in 1872 as basically a publicity stunt to improve Nebraska's bleak landscape (the wide-scale planting of trees was the brainchild Cleveland's Secretary of Agriculture, Julius Morton, who was from Nebraska). A century later, it stands as the green movement's moment of conception. In 1970, President Nixon used April 22 (Morton's birthday) to officially proclaim the last Friday of April a sort of commemorative holiday for all the species of trees lost in our nation since it was founded.

Today, 136 years after the eco-friendly inaugural, planet Earth is at a dangerous precipice: too much carbon dioxide in the air, too few trees are left to absorb it all. It's a bleak picture: Earth hosts approximately 25,000 known species of tree, but more than 6,000 of those are considered threatened. Bluntly put: 24 percent of the world's trees now hover at the brink of manmade extinction.

The United States alone has deforested more native species of trees than any other temperate-climate country. In fact, the U.S. has the ignoble distinction of being the only non-tropical country to make the top 10 list of *destroyer* nations of its indigenous fauna: Indonesia (with 426 threatened species) tops the list, followed by Brazil, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Peru, Malaysia, Philippines, India, Jamaica and the U.S. ... which is where Texas comes in.

Of our globe's 25,000 tree species, only 680 are here before the Europeans; of those, Texas lays claim to growing a full 45

percent.

The Lone Star State's native trees range the entire climate zone spectrum: from much sought-after flowering yuccas (with names like Spanish dagger and Texas sotol) to tall, leafy shades that grow well in dry, windswept soils (live oaks, Shumard red oaks, the common hackberry and Texas ash); from cold-hardy, panhandle palmettos and persimmons, to flowering acacias and western soapberry, ornamental redbuds and crape myrtles, to arid-friendly desert willow and mesquite trees.

So we Texans should do the planet a favor on this last Friday of the month. The average American, alone, uses one ton of wood each year, equivalent to one 100-foot-tall tree, 18 inches in diameter . . . obviously, National Arbor Day's moment has arrived. In the immortal words of Joyce Kilmer, "I think I shall never see/A poem as lovely as a tree."

Oh, and the state tree of Texas? Pecan pie, anyone? Bueller?

— Howard Lewis Russell



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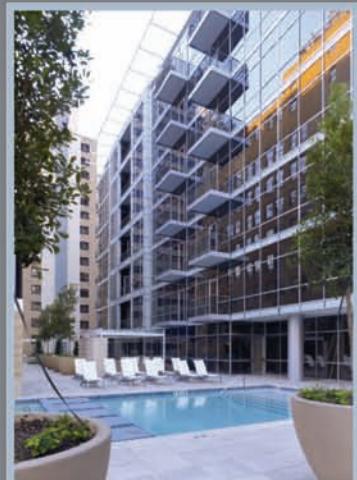
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ANTIQUES

Continued from Page 11

Damaged veneer can be replaced without losing value if the repair is done properly.

"Better refinished than damaged," Springer says.

Both Edwards and Springer warn about buying antiques for investment.

"Just because it's old doesn't make it good," Edwards warns. "A lot of people do buy antiques as investments, but you have to be careful. You should know the dealer's reputation. Verify who it was made by."

"You shouldn't buy it unless you really like it," adds Springer. After all, one man's antique is another man's junk. *

Patrick Springer, co-owner of Lula B's Antique Mall on Lowest Greenville, sits among the many mid-century items sold there.



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REMODEL

Continued from Page 13

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POOLS

Continued from Page 17

daily outweigh the costs. He runs the filter just six hours daily, which includes the skimmer and vacuum. Flores says that probably adds less than \$50 a month to his electric bill, but he's looking forward to a time when solar options become available.

Although trees surround his pool, Flores spends just five to 10 minutes a day skimming the surface with a net and cleaning out the filter basket and vacuum bag. A pool service cleans and balances the chemicals weekly in summer, twice a month in winter for \$50 a visit.

As for the cost to build, Hardy says all building estimates should be done in-home, not over the phone. Visiting the property allows a salesperson to assess available access to the yard, elevations and drainage issues. These may affect what equipment can be brought in to excavate and any necessary plumbing or grading that must be included.

He also looks at the existing landscape. The root systems of some trees can get into the plumbing and crack the walls. Hardy says landscaping is important and recommends the homeowner consult a landscaper to add to the enjoyment and ambiance.

Hardy says spring is a great time to buy a pool, locking in before the busy summer season when a nice dip in cool water sounds so seductive. You also want to plan ahead for the summer: The goal is to complete the pool in 32 days from the day the building permit is issued but he promises four to six weeks, weather permitting. Last year's record rain played havoc with his construction schedule.

Texans being Texans, you might think the world's largest extreme swimming pool is in the state, but no. According to Business Week, that honor goes to a pool at the San Alfonso del Mar resort in Chile at 3,324 feet long, covering over 19 acres and containing 66 million gallons of water. Now that's extreme. *

TREES

Continued from Page 33

water, then add two to four inches of chip mulch. "The mulch not only helps hold in moisture and prevent evaporation in the hot summer months, but it also stimulates microbial activity in the soil and improves soil by helping the roots." Houser says. Then he

smiles. "If we can make the soil healthy, we can end up making the plant healthy, and if done correctly, you can plant a tree anytime of the year."

In the words of Chinese wisdom: "If you are thinking one year ahead, sow a seed. If you are thinking 10 years ahead, plant a tree. If you are thinking 100 years ahead, educate the people." *

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