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Spring 2011 Newsletter

DESIGN TRIVIA

Pineapples For Rent

Did you know? Christopher Columbus discovered pineapple in the Caribbean Islands and transported it to Europe where it was grown in hot houses. From there it made its way to the American colonies and on to Hawaii, where it was cultivated on large plantations. The Europeans gave it the name pineapple because the outside of the fruit resembled a pine cone and the inside was sweet like an apple.



Hostesses in the American colonies would rent them from produce grocers for their special dinners and then return them to be sold to the wealthy for consumption! Because of pineapple's great popularity for entertaining, it soon became the symbol of hospitality and friendship and the motif was incorporated by artisans into many decorative carvings used above doorways, as finials on gate posts and other elements in the home. Today we still see the motif in dishes, platters, bedpost finials and many more home accents including fabrics used for decorative pillows, upholstery and drapery.



STYLE- Color Trends

I see soothing shades of turquoise paired with hot and spicy orange hues in home interiors as well as on the fashion runway.

Combos such as black and white (orange is a great accent color with this graphic and bold look) and blue and white remain timeless classics.

Deep, rich and royal, purple still reigns.

Fuchsia – gorgeous with pale chartreuse!

All shades of blue from classic navy to ice.



FEATURED ARTIST

Katherine Bowling paints, she says, “ordinary stuff.....” Her dreamy, lush landscapes touch the soul and are anything but ordinary. Visit www.katherinebowling.com and check out her work.



“Shine”



WHAT'S HAUTE!!

Hand painted silk and batik “looks” on fabrics, especially silk and linen with exotic themes and animal prints.....very artsy!

Velvet.....luxuriously elegant in updated patterns and motifs.

Damask, timeless and classic for over 2000 years makes a comeback newly interpreted in a more casual and modern way.

TRAVEL AND DÉCOR

I had the pleasure, several years ago, to visit the Waverly Plantation Mansion in West Point, MS. My first impression of this stately example of Antebellum Greek Revival architecture still remains strong in my mind today; it was a breathtaking two story structure built around a third story octagonal shaped cupola. All of the rooms in the house opened on to the central area and created a natural air conditioning effect with the hot air rising up, as in a chimney, and escaping through the open windows in the top floor cupola. But the thing that so impressed me was the extensive faux painting techniques used in the interiors. The pine doors (pine was the most plentiful wood available in the area) were faux painted in wood grained Mahogany, Walnut or Birdseye Maple finishes and wood baseboards were painted to replicate marble. Until that visit I had not given much thought to the history of faux painting and had assumed it was a contemporary art; now I know that the art dates back millennia to the first cave paintings but the faux finishes in the decorative arts began 5000 years ago in Mesopotamia.



Waverly Mansion

ON THE HOME FRONT

I continue to work independently from my home office through **Clay Stephens Lifestyles** to provide you with the same timeless and inspired interiors I have been producing for 27 years.

We now offer free in home consultations to accessorize and provide those special finishing touches for you home interior. Delivery and set up are free in Brevard and Orange counties with your purchase of \$300.00 or more. Please visit our on-line shop at www.claystephens.com. Watch for more fabulous finds to be posted!

Call today and let us find the special and unique art and accessory pieces that will make your home a very special place to live. 321-208-7449.



Textured African Vase
\$139.00

LAGNAIPPE



Fried Pineapple Recipe:

This is wonderful with pork or chicken dishes! Yummy! Peel and core a fresh, ripe pineapple then slice into rounds that are about ½ inch thick. Melt about 3 or 4 tablespoons of butter in a heavy skillet and fry the pineapple slices till lightly browned. Add a touch of cinnamon and a handful of raisins and heat for a few minutes. Flambé with brandy or Sherry; this is optional but adds a nice flavor. Serve and enjoy!

AND FINALLY !

I invite you to send your ideas or suggestions to dcstephens@cfl.rr.com for topics you would like to see discussed in our newsletter.

Also if you would like to unsubscribe send an e-mail with the word “unsubscribe” in the subject line or mail request to PO Box address.

Please forward or share this newsletter to your friends that you think might enjoy! And, as always, remember to Live Life with Joy, Wonder and Style!

Compiled and written by Clay Stephens
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Interior Design * Accessories * Art * Accent Furniture