
New Year, New Look

Interior Design Spring 2004 cutline... By Stevie Wilson.



THE NEW YEAR GIVES PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE THINGS IN THEIR LIVES. With the opportunity of living up to new year's resolutions, it's a good time to think about what works—and what doesn't work—in one's life. While it applies to endless fitness programs and cleaning out closets, it's a great way to take a fresh look at your surroundings and see what changes you want to make in the look and feel of your home. It's a good time to do it now since you have just finished up all the holiday entertaining and perhaps you picked up some great ideas from while visiting another home or you feel that's it's time for a change! Living in Florida or even just having a "Florida- on-my-mind" perspective allows one to create an environment where interior and exterior merge simply because the weather allows for more year round outdoor activities.

Simply The Best Magazine consulted with Renee Rizzuto, a rising star interior designer best known for her innovative use of color and unique furnishings in homes and businesses. Renee shared with us some great ideas and new trends in colors, furnishings, accessories and more for 2004.

For most people, it's a question of where to start. One way is to do a bit of research on trends in color and textures. According to Rizzuto, Pantone publishes color projections for each season for both clothing and home interior. Some trends—particularly neutral colors like the "Boca Beige"—continue to be a dominant color themes. The seasonal color palette for floor and wall coverings as well as interior and exterior furniture are tweaked to blend with the neutrals or to spice them up. Grey-tinged blues; antique browns like patina-ed cognac or leather are hot especially since give a soft, warm luxurious tone. Spicing up a bland room with a little hot color can give



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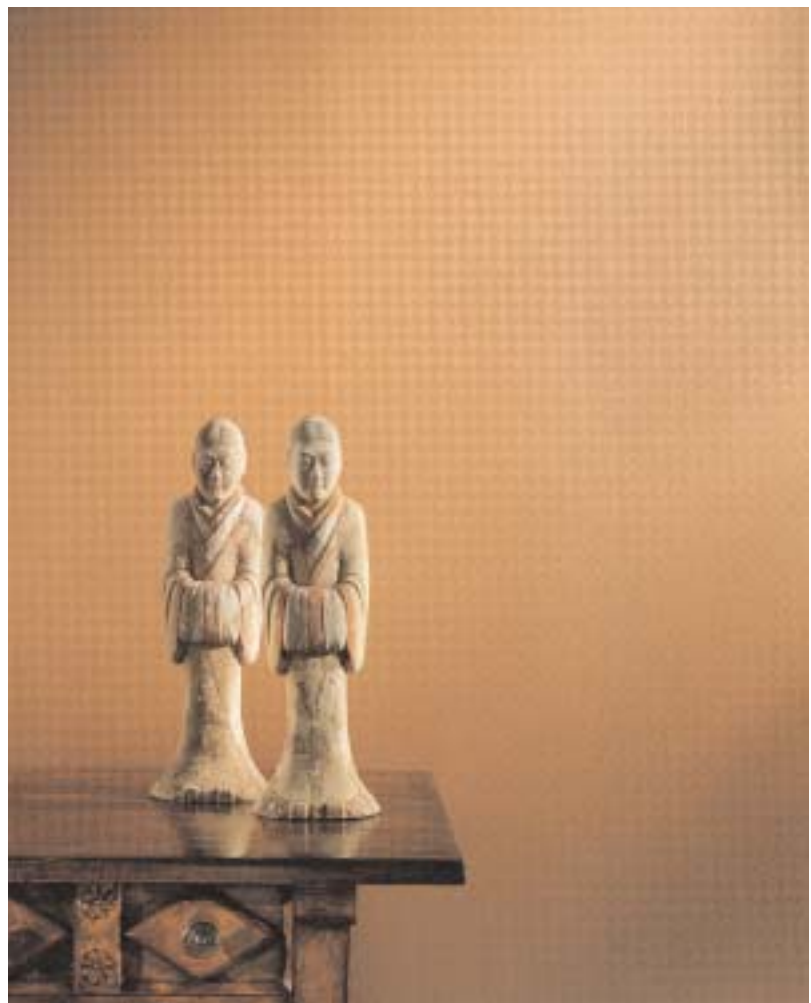
it new life : toss in a bright yellow, ruby, or deep pink pillow or rug. Bring in a forest of green shades: celadon, chartreuse, and leaf green in pottery, glassware, pillows, or in a tweedy rug. The key is to take your favorite colors, mix them with neutrals in various tonalities (from mild to wild) and play with various configurations. The mild is the dominant color; mid range tones play a smaller role and then deep or brights provide that splash of color that gives the room some zip.

While each room might be a different tone, the house could be used as a thematic whole so that each room reflects a consistent style or tone. . Consider that your home reflects you —your personality, dreams, thoughts and perspectives for you and your family. Perhaps making a list of the key elements of your life would be important to helping you decide what direction to go and where to start. What's important here is select things that integrate with the Florida lifestyle and blend harmoniously with the needs your family, guests and you!

So in selecting where to start, Rizzuto suggests starting with the dominant colors of the room or house. If Boca Beige is your main color, then you might want to do two things: add in some great pieces in shades either lighter or darker than this popular neutral ; and get some bright accents to spice up your living space. Picking one room that needs work is a great place to keep off the décor project. Perhaps you want to jazz up a bath or bedroom or maybe your main living area is just a little too bland. Either way, you will know just by taking a good look at your house now that the holidays are over and all the decorations are gone!

Wall coverings are often the frame for a room—providing color and texture in one easy piece. Rizzuto suggests Maya Romanoff for interesting textures like Ajiro Diamond which is available in various sizes (2 to 18 inches) to create dramatic scale. Other choices from the Romanoff collection would include Moulin Rouge for great color and texture or Marquetry for a distinctive woodwork finish in a paper wall covering.

With wall coverings setting the stage, you can select furnishings. Rizzuto usually mixes different furniture designers to create an eclectic look yet one that still holds the overall theme of the room or home. Janus et Cie has furniture that exemplifies the Florida lifestyle whether used inside or outdoors. The Janus et Cie collections include both indoor and outdoor furniture; the designs are functional and esthetically pleasing with tropically influenced details. The Daydream Bed would work inside as well as outside. The Miramar Chaise is a







fresh update of the classic chaise lounge that is larger and more ergonomically designed. The Solid Cabin Table and Chairs would be perfect for indoor and outdoor dining because of its relaxed yet solid feel.

Because of the same fresh yet retro feel, Renee often selects furniture from Barbara Taylor because of styling and that Taylor does a "green" line (environmentally conscious). The chairs and tables all have a similar Asian or tropical feel and the materials would definitely fit into a Florida lifestyle. The clean lines of the Supanee Chaise, Kyoto Bench, Racha Chair, Ottoman, and Bamboo Cube work in any home, whether done in the neutrals or patterns.

Deciding on colors and fabrics of furniture is one of the hardest choices one faces in adding or reupholstering furniture. Lulu DK makes it easy! With top quality fabrics in bright hues as well as neutral tones available in florals, stripes, and solids in 100% silk and linen-cotton blends, Lulu DK makes selecting



the right fabrics and patterns a breeze. Lulu DK is one of the first places Renee Rizzuto turns to for fabrics with a vibrant color scheme and those more neutral.

What makes a bedroom absolutely sensational? Great bedding! It's the first thing people notice along with the bed when walking into a bedroom. Bypass the 300, 400, 500 thread Egyptian cotton sheets for pure silk! Kookoon comforters and bedding are made from 100% pure grade "A" mulberry silk, not. Grade "A" silk is the highest quality, consisting of long fibers which make a stronger blend. Kookoon silk-filled cotton comforters; silk comforters, blankets, throws, sheets, pillows, and baby linens deliver unsurpassed quality and unmatched comfort in an array of colors that are sure to fit your color palette!

Flooring is an important part of interior design. What's hot these days are some new textures for flooring both indoors and outdoors. Bamboo flooring is a growing trend that makes sense. Not only does it handle water well, it's resilient and is harder than most hardwood floors. Bare floors beg to be covered and Mitchell Denberg Custom Carpets aims to please. What's special about Denberg Custom Carpets? According to Renee Rizzuto, they make gorgeous, amazing rugs from wonderful materials like cotton and sisal combinations, jute and other natural materials in custom designs that you create! They can match many fabric patterns and do it so that the rugs are durable and fabulous! Renee used a couple of these custom carpets in a Nantucket project and singer Jimmy Buffet has these carpets in his home! Also concrete





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has taken a turn towards being used for more than just outdoor projects. Buddy Rhodes Studio It's often used to create custom colors and designed floor tiles for residential and commercial use.

Bathrooms are a complex project since they are highly personal areas. The ideal bath is exceptionally functional, yet has the look and feel of a spa or vacation and reflects your own personal tastes (easier said than done!) With tile for floors, walls and counters, fixtures, hardware and accessories, Waterworks simplifies the bath (and kitchens too!) dilemma by having stores with all the essentials for a one-stop shop! The Waterworks collections provide design options from sleek art deco to the more antique styles of the Edwardian era. The Aero Retro bath and shower fixtures are perfect if you want a more casual feel, but with that retro style. The Easton collection shows a slightly more formal presentation, yet when mixed with the soft turquoise and aqua tiles provide an ambiance that is very much in tune with Florida surf and sand lifestyles.

Home furnishing accessories can make or break a house. Much like how you finish a great outfit with the right shoes or jewelry, finishing your home with the right accessories will give it the polish that you want. It's the little touches that matter and set off the great pieces that you already have. A group of photographs are one way of showing off a great table. The Toscana frames are from Match, a line of Italian made pewter accessories. Another great selection from the Match collection would be a pewter clock. It's the small touches of more traditional lines that create a nice counterpoint to the clean lines of the furniture and décor. Match has pewter candlesticks, flatware, glassware, trays, frames, serving items plus great bath accessories.

Candles are a popular addition to the home. Whether it's in the bathroom or the living room, candles provide fragrance and light. Rigaud candles are known for fine fragrances for over a century. Each color is a different scent and the longevity of the burning candle is a testament to the quality of the Rigaud brand. The three wick candle is perfect for a larger room where you want more scent and soft illumination.

For those who love scented rooms, but aren't big candle aficionados, Xela Aromasticks is the perfect fragrance accessory! This new product is quite unique in the fragrance market. A sensuous blend of fragrant oils is diffused via long bamboo reeds that absorb the oil in this streamlined glass bottle. The fragrances come in four scents: floral, woody, citrus and stimulating spice and are rich yet subtle. ❖

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