

HOME STYLE

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Provided

Find: Musical fruit

We love the novelty of West Elm's new "musical fruit" – yes, that's really what they're called – as a perfectly unexpected mantel-top conversation-starter. The natural wood pieces have graceful graining and look like any other fruit sculpture, yet the apple plays Burt Bacharach's "What the World Needs Now" and the pear plays a Chopin's "Nocturne."

The 5½-inch- and 7¼-inch-tall pieces are \$26 each at West Elm in Kenwood Towne Centre and at www.westelm.com until late November/early December.

Amy Howell Hirt



Tools: Pink power

From laundry detergent and body wash to leaf bags, many household products are shedding their drab green, black and white in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The appealing part is that these consumables need to be replenished sooner or later anyway, so why not pick up a perky color and pass along a little money in the fight against breast cancer.

The neon-pink **Cool Colors Outdoor Extension Cord** from Coleman Cable will never get lost in the grass or the garage.

The 12-gauge 15-amp cord is outdoor-rated and water- and UV-resistant.

This month, CableOrganizer.com will donate \$1 from each cord to the Donna Foundation, which raises money for the critical needs of women living with breast cancer.

A 25-foot cord (also available in 50 and 100 feet) is \$23.75 at www.cableorganizer.com. Also available at Ackerman Chacco in Blue Ash and some True Value and Ace stores.

Through December, **Duraflame Colorlog**s – which contain a small amount of mineral salts to produce flames with hints of teal, green and blue – will be packaged in pink, and 2 percent of sales will go to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. The fire logs are made of recycled sawdust and renewable bio-wax and burn for up to three hours.

\$3.99-\$4.99 per log and \$25.99-\$27.99 for a six-log pack; available at Meijer stores.

Amy Howell Hirt



Provided photos

Thoughtful touches say 'Welcome to my home'



Photo by Carrie Cochran / The Enquirer

Inside

Holiday hosts should focus on table decorations, says Tracy Burske, E4

Setting out attractively arranged toiletries and other goodies in the guest bedroom makes out-of-town guests feel special.

By Amy Howell Hirt
 ahowell@enquirer.com

During the holidays, designer Tracy Burske's house is a popular destination, although it's not as much about her festive decorations or use of color as you might think.

Whether she's hosting guests for dinner or a two-week stay, the senior designer with Macy's Interior Design Studio uses simple, thoughtful touches and relaxed décor to make everyone – including herself – feel comfortable.

Out-of-towners are welcomed with little luxuries that could make even the grouchiest guest melt after a long drive.

The extra bedroom is staged with a toiletry basket on the bed – filled with extras like a toothbrush, soap and mini bottles of shampoo and conditioner.

Towels are set out hotel-style in the extra bathroom – which visitors have exclusive rights to during their stay.

"It's nice for them to feel like they have their own space and like you've given it some thought," Burske says.

Her crowning touch is a display of two or

Get guest-ready

What: Free seminar on "Getting your home ready for the holidays," presented by Tracy Burske and Barb Donnellon with the Macy's Interior Design Studio

When: 1 p.m. next Saturday

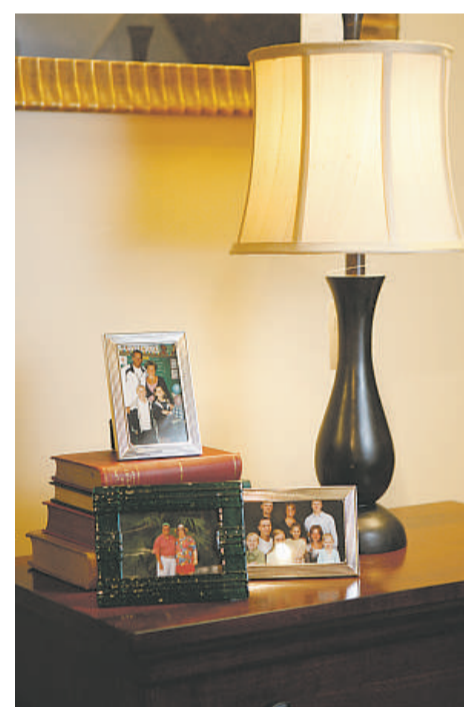
Where: Macy's Kenwood Furniture Gallery at Sycamore Plaza, 7800 Montgomery Road

Registration: Required. Call 513-745-8980, option 6

three candid photos of the guests, which Burske prints from her computer and places in little frames that can be found at most dollar stores.

"Then I usually give it to them when they leave," she says.

As Burske and fellow designer Barb Donnellon will share at a seminar next Saturday at the Kenwood Furniture Gallery, these small preparations take little to no time or money and can spread a great deal of good cheer when it's your turn to host for the holidays.



Personalizing photographs for the guest room is one way Tracy Burske welcomes company.

Craftsman, designer conquer decay

By Jenny Callison
 Enquirer contributor

Before Tim and Thelma Kiser purchased it three years ago, the 1878 Italianate row house in Newport had been on a downward spiral. In recent years, the once-gracious, single-family structure had been chopped into five apartments; for the past 10 years, it sat vacant and decaying.

For Tim Kiser, a contractor who specializes in renovation work, restoring the structure to good form and function was a labor of love. His design partner in the project was Marilyn Kurelis, owner of Kurelis Interiors of Anderson Township, who is also trained as an architect.

An album of photos chronicles the extreme condition of the dwelling when the Kisers bought it: Every surface was seriously deteriorated, ceilings had collapsed, the staircase was untrustworthy, and animals had made it their home.

The first task was to gut the interior and remove the debris.

"We filled 10 yard dumpsters," Kiser recalls.

The new floor plan is simple, creating living space for one family. On the first and second floors, 12-foot ceilings create space and light.

"Tim and I wanted to duplicate some of the originality of the home; to bring back



Photos by Amie Dworecki / The Enquirer

Dark maple cabinets, cream-and-brown granite countertops, mosaic backsplash and stainless steel appliances give the kitchen sleek appeal.



A tall, mirrored headboard and graphic appointments are part of the contemporary design of one of the Kisers' three bedrooms.

some of its charm," Kurelis explains. "Key elements include the arched lintels over the windows, the recessed windows and the wide woodwork."

The front door opens onto an entrance hall that terminates at the kitchen and breakfast room at the rear of the house. A door to the left leads into a great room, with living area centered around a newly reconstructed fireplace and dining area to the back. While everything is new, there's a reverence for the period that permeates Kiser's choice of colors and materials as well as his craftsmanship.

"I pay attention to details that many guys don't," he says, noting a particularly challenging edging cut on the staircase flooring, and the 16-inch panels that line the door jambs.

The two front windows in the great room maintain their original arched shape, although they are replacements. The fireplace has been converted to gas, and a flat screen TV is set into the mantel. Kurelis' unusual design covers the mantel area with tiger's eye glass mosaic tiles, which create a rippling brown effect.

"I had a vision for it that came from some other homes I've done," she says. "I didn't want a traditional mantel shelf. This feels very flat, and draws the eye up the height of the room. It's a very simple design with lots of

See ITALIANATE, Page E7