

## Smart Solutions

# Use your environment for decorating inspiration

While it's common to look for inspiration beyond our four walls, existing elements can supply ideas, too, especially for entertaining.



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Just ask Staci Meyers, owner of S|A|M Interiors in Bloomfield Township, who created a vignette in the Marie-Howard Showroom for the Michigan Design Center Celebrations event. Her inspiration came from a period painting on the wall.

"The painting sparked an idea and really set the tone," Meyers says.

The designer was trying to capture the essence of the past. When you watch an old movie or travel abroad, there is a level of detail and ambience that is missing in our everyday lives, she says.

"We're so quick to do everything so simply that we short-change ourselves because of budget and time restrictions," Meyers says.

While not everything in her creation is true to the 18th century, it has the feel of how things used to be.

The canopy that was the chuppa for her wedding was made by her father-in-law from PVC pipes. People who attended the event asked if they could re-create the tented effect in their dining rooms. One wanted to incorporate a garden structure.

"It depends on the height of the room," Meyers says.

Making sure your structure is secure should be a top priority.

Enhance the mood by switch-



ing the bulbs in your chandelier. For this setting, the designer chose the ones that flicker to simulate candlelight. The down-

side is that this will make your space darker, says Meyers, who suggests compensating with some extra candles on the table.

The chandelier from Pine Tree Lighting in Lake Orion was installed through an opening in the canopy.

Meyers suggests hiring a professional for this type of project. A Victorian domed floral display from Judy Frankel Antiques Centre in Troy adds an unexpected element that doesn't require any care. "A lot of people

think they have to get fresh flowers," Meyers says. "It can be something from your garden or different textures of wood."

Assorted tableware lends visual interest. Sometimes it's nice to have an eclectic mix as long as it looks like it was intentional, Meyers says.

Remember that anything can provide inspiration for an elaborate table setting. For instance, a fabric remnant can become a simple runner down the center of the table.

"It can be a rug from another room that takes on a new persona when placed in the dining room," Meyers says. "It's not necessarily color; it can even be an antique piece of furniture that you inherited or found at an estate sale."

For information, call (248) 390-4286.

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