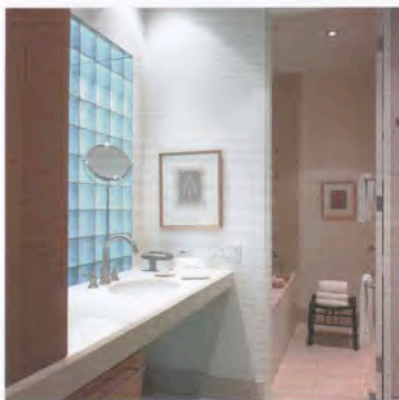


Green Design & Your Home

By Penny K. Bartlow, ASID, CID

Green design, which has been prevalent in commercial interiors for several years, is rapidly expanding in the residential market. More homeowners want to provide a healthy environment for their families and conserve energy. After all, no one wants to pay too much for an electric bill or live in a home that may cause health problems. It is becoming easier and easier to live in a green environment. Some of the basic principles of green design are conserving energy and water, reducing waste, improving indoor air quality, and using materials that minimize the impact on our environment.



Structural glass block, limestone, low flow faucets and the use of low VOC paint in this bathroom, all contribute to a more natural, energy saving environment. Interior Design by: DCA DESIGN INC. Photography: Mahovich Photography.

When remodeling an existing home or building new, work with an interior designer who has experience in green design. They can help you identify green building techniques and specify environmentally friendly finishes and materials such as low VOC paints and countertops made from recycled materials. Most interior designers are familiar with green flooring options including, cork, linoleum and bamboo. Low flow faucets and dual flush toilets can be specified to conserve water, while energy efficient lighting will reduce electric bills. An interior designer, who utilizes green design principles, will make your home attractive, affordable and safe.

Even if you are not remodeling, there are a few simple things that everyone can do to incorporate green principles in a home.

Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, only purchase energy star appliances, contact your energy supplier to request clean power and, of course, recycle more.

Green homes create healthier environments for families, reduce utility bills, and help to preserve our limited natural resources for future generations. ❖



Natural materials including 100% linen fabrics, 100% cotton fabrics, and a pure wool area rug not only make this bedroom pleasing to the eye and the touch, but also environmentally friendly. Interior Designer: Arlene A. Wright, ASID, CID. Photo source: Wright Design Associates.

Penny K. Bartlow, ASID, CID, is a NYS Certified Interior Designer and President of PKB DESIGN, LLC, located in Owego, NY. www.pkbdesign.com. She was the ASID NYU/CE Chapter President in 2005-2006.



ASID is the largest professional organization for interior designers. The society consists of 38,000 members in 48 chapters throughout the US and Canada. ASID is a community of people—designers, industry representatives, educators and students—committed to interior design. To learn more about the organization or to find an ASID designer near you, go to www.asid.org.

How to Choose an Appraiser

By John Davis

My first article in this series on appraisals addressed "the art of the appraisal"—an introduction to the general meaning and purpose of appraisals. Once you have decided and determined the reason for having your possessions appraised, you are ready to choose an appraiser. What qualifications are necessary? Make sure you study an appraiser's resume and references.

Having your valuables appraised is a serious matter and should be carefully investigated before you make a decision on

retaining the services of an individual. They should have a high level of education, knowledge and experience in this field. Remember, a scrupulous evaluation of one's credentials can only lead to a more satisfying and successful result.

For starters, you may want to get recommendations from friends, family, other professionals, qualified antique dealers or associations, such as the American Society of Appraisers. Initially, you should be prepared to conduct a telephone interview, and then a scheduled meeting if you feel comfortable after this initial conversation. Before you call, you should have a prepared list of the items you want appraised.

The following questions should be asked when interviewing a prospective appraiser: What is your procedure when doing an appraisal? What are your charges? What exactly do you include in your formal appraisal? An appraiser should be very specific when outlining his or her fees. It is important to know if they charge by the hour—if so, does this include travel time, research and reference time and referral time? It is necessary to establish these parameters now to avoid confusion later on. Other questions that should be asked: What is your major area of expertise? Do you go to auctions...conduct auctions yourself...attend shows and sales to compare prices? And finally, how extensive is your knowledge—is it local, or more widespread? Be aware of an appraiser who wants to purchase some of your things—his opinion will be biased if he or she has a monetary interest in your inventory. You should consult another appraiser.

A warning sign or a red flag should go up with the following responses: Appraiser: "My charge is based on a percentage of the total appraisal." Most often they will inflate the value and include items that are not even saleable; Appraiser: "After I review your items, we can make a deal and I will take some of the items in lieu of payment." In this case, items are often appraised at a fraction of the market value. Both of these practices are unethical and by all means should not be considered. Never trade your possessions in place of payment.

Be aware of an appraiser who says: "I work for \$100 an hour, but if you put the items I select in my auction, I can cancel or adjust the fee." This is another example of an unorthodox procedure—more often than not, the appraiser will select only the best items, and leave what is less valuable to you.

It is important to listen carefully and then make some evaluations. If an appraiser says, "I do it all, I know it all," you should seriously consider interviewing another appraiser. Appraising is a lifelong learning