



# Set The Stage

Let the furniture tell your story.

By Susan Kehoe, Ph.D.



**H**ave you ever wanted to be a movie star in your own home? Dawn Newkirk, director of fashion merchandising at Gorman's Home Furnishings, has designed sets for television and movies during her career. She is now doing the same for homes.

"In a movie, the rooms are an extension of the actor's character," Newkirk says. "When the camera pans the room before focusing on the actor, it's telling the story. We do the same thing for our customers. Instead of reading a script, we talk and create a 'set' in their home to tell their story."

At Gorman's, Newkirk has created room groupings throughout the five area stores so customers can stroll through to find examples of furniture

*Continued on page 94*

With **European Classic** (above and left), the designs look as though they came from all over Europe. The style reflects the multidimensional nature of the owner's interests and travels. The dark Baroque mood of the setting above is reminiscent of modern-day Berlin with a mirrored entertainment center, books and collections. The obscure profile art creates a feature wall flanked by shiny metal display cases and love seats. The dining set shows Euro-style carving and arches. The chairs feature embossed, patterned fabric and nailhead design on wood frames with graceful legs. A traditional chandelier is redesigned with sweeping wood-tone arms.



*Continued from page 92*

**Above:** In the style named *Costal Cottage*, collections from Tommy Bahama and others are a breath of fresh air inside the home. Organic tables appear sculptured from light woods that contrast with the rustic metal of the fireplace surround. It delivers the ambience of exotic places where objects from journeys were placed there as the bookmark of a story. This room might belong to a modern-day Harrison Ford returning home from *The Temple of Doom*.

**Left:** *New Traditional* in this living area brings an unexpected off-white and pastel pallet to this room, which is on-trend for 2016. A faux classical painting embraces the idea of "old art" presented in a new way to create a statement wall. Tufting appears on the sides of a sofa within a border of nailhead trim, which extends into the room to embellish end tables, ottomans and stools. The mixture of woods is not overbearing like traditional mahogany and redwoods. Metal and glass combine with lighter wood in a console table that grounds the room. It weaves together surfaces that create a casual feeling while affirming the look of "next-century" traditional. The setting might be a pied-à-terre for a movie starring Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson.

*Continued on page 96*

**Hidden Treasure**  
 Discovered in Oakland County

Elegant estate jewelry and beautiful one-of-a-kind pieces can be yours for less than you would imagine

**R & R Estate and Fine Jewelry**  
 Since 1956 at David Wachler & Sons  
 112 South Old Woodward Ave, Birmingham, MI  
 248.385.0100

» FEATURE

Continued from page 94



**New Traditional in the bedroom.** Could this be the bedroom of *Mad Men*'s Don Draper transplanted to a 2016 movie set? Slate gray walls provide the backdrop for muted, layered tones punctuated with tufting, nailheads and quilting. Textures of velvet, fur and an embroidered-look in pillows and rug complete the look. A traditional canopy bed is transformed into the clean lines of gold-finished metal. The gold tones continue into the room with matching night chests that features drawers outlined in nailheads. The quilted velvet of the headboard and coverlet extend to the tufted chairs and quilted loveseat. An unexpected fretwork table with a glass top centers the casual seating area.

**Le Shoppe Too**  
 Upscale Consignment & Auction House



**MID CENTURY MODERN FURNITURE, FINE ART, DECOR, LIGHTING**  
 LET US HANDLE YOUR ESTATE SALE! NOW BUYING & ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS  
 3325 ORCHARD LAKE RD, KEEGO HARBOR MI 48320 TUE-SAT 12-6, SUN 12-4  
**248-481-8884 WWW.LESHOPPE.NET**



**New Traditional in the dining room.** Fundamental, uncluttered lines are used with simple woods and organic accessories. Rounded chair backs add interest, and the contrast between vanilla white and darker trim and woods make an original statement different from previous traditional styles.

and decor that fit their personality. Most of the staff at the Gorman's stores are interior designers and can customize a room if you show them what you like. They will even come to your home to consider space, living style and price point.

Walking around the large Novi showroom, Newkirk pointed out many current styles and trends using her room vignettes as examples.

"New Traditional is the most pop-

ular and has multiple expressions. The signature of the style is clean, uncluttered lines. With upholstered furniture, it lacks the formal, tight lines characteristic of traditional style; New Traditional is soft and comfortable. Nailhead trim has become the hallmark of this style, and it's used in unconventional ways. Tufting is another significant trend.

"When we go to market [High

Continued on page 98

A FRESH TWIST FOR A CLASSIC STONE



Unique Jewelry,  
Affordably Priced



**MB JEWELRY DESIGN**  
Bloomfield Plaza - 6600 Telegraph Rd.  
Bloomfield Twp., MI 48301  
248-671-0087  
www.mbjewelrydesign.com



Deliciously  
**GRAND**  
for 22 Years!!



☺️ so exhausted from all the festivities this weekend but I just want to thank you for helping make our celebration so delicious! People were literally so excited about the brunch food! The waffles and salads etc.! I only wish I could've eaten more but, of course, I had to talk too much!). The sangria was delicious! And, then again, people raved about the dinner and everything was displayed so beautifully! You guys are so good at what you do! And so supportive:)  
Thanks again,  
Jenny☺️

**annabel's  
& CO. CATERING**  
(248) 813-7800

**CATERING FOR YOUR EVERY OCCASION!!!**

» FEATURE

Continued from page 96



If the movie *Carol* were filmed today, Cate Blanchett would be entertaining Rooney Mara in her Manhattan apartment in this Uptown Modern setting. The simple, light wood design for dining plays against strong colored walls and carpet, creating a retreat that is at once chic, strong and confident.



Elegance incorporates antique mirrors and gold-gilded, hand-carved chairs. In this example, an antique carved chest and mirrored glass wardrobe complement the crystal chandelier. The bed's high, tufted backboard of carved wood is also adorned with sparkling jewels. People who throw big parties with extensive guest lists could use this style to tell their story. If *Gatsby* were starting over in 2016, he'd probably gravitate toward this Elegance style.

Point Market in North Carolina, where she grew up and started her design career], we're seeing lots of velvet this season, but it's cut velvet, often with patterned textures and sophisticated tone-on-tone colors," she adds.

"Gray continues as a background, a canvas for pops of color and contrasting metals. But you'll also find bright wall colors or feature walls framing neutral-colored furniture this year."

Gorman's new Southfield show-

room is dedicated to contemporary furnishings that range from simple to streamlined to exaggerated silhouettes. It's a must-see for anyone interested in contemporary design.

To learn how to tell your story through your home, visit Gorman's for inspiration, abundant choices and professional design assistance that caters to your budget. **NS**

Gorman's Home Furnishings,  
(248) 344-0880, gormans.com