

## HOMEFRONT

Home and Outdoor Magazine Staff and Contributors

## **COLOR WATCH**

What shades will be trendy in 2006?

t's a new year. Time to put away holiday decorations and begin home improvement projects. Why not start 2006 by using new colors? Color has more impact than any other aspect of interior design. A new color scheme can literally transform your home. You don't have to completely redesign a space. Think simple. Paint is the quickest and least expensive way to perk up your home.

Recent catastrophic events, as well as the war, have affected the 2006 color palette. It's more subdued than 2005; many colors have brown influences. Right after 9/11, we gravitated toward blues and browns. We have done the same in 2006. Browns connect us to the earth, while blues calm us emotionally.

Browns continue to gain in popularity and are expected to be the "new black" for the next two years. Brown has become a "hue" in its own right; it's classic, versatile and invaluable.

Blues are traditional and comforting, reminding us of blue-gray flannel, historic homes and clear, peaceful waters.

Greens are highly diverse, refreshing with citrus and tropical foliage influences.

Reds have united with purples, making it highly diverse. Reds vary from true red, reddish-orange, burgundy, mauve and reddish-brown.

Oranges have gained their place in society. They are brighter, spicier, warmer, yet authentic, resembling terra cotta pots, koi fish and Spanish rice.

Yellows are becoming creamier, with brown influences evoking an Old World appeal.

Be adventurous! You no longer have to live with off-white interiors. Remember "Navajo White" isn't on the color wheel. If you have a few hours, paint a room! H&O By Denise Turner, ASID, CID, member, Color Marketing Group. Denise is a certified interior designer, specializing in color and product development for the interior design industry and owner of the Room Turners in Alta Loma (www.theroomturners.com).

The California Council for Interior



Design Certification (CCIDC) is a nonprofit certification board administering Section 5800 of the California Business and Professions Code, the Certified Interior Designers Law. For a free list of certified interior designers in your area, call 760.761.4734 or e-mail ccidc@ccidc.org. Be sure to include your city or zip code.

## STICKS STONES



By Steve Smith

## **A Cut Above**

King for a day!

arlier this year, my wife gave me the thoughtful present of a gardening service. More accurately, it's a lawn-mowing service.

But the price is right. I'd have trouble believing that even the neighborhood kid could compete with the three guys who "mow, blow and go" twice a month. The only negative so far is that their lawn mowing is rather aggressive and I usually have to replace a sprinkler head or two after they've left.

Before the mowing team, I used to do it myself. Now, I feel like a king and have more time to do other useful things around the house, such as watch old movies to make sure the DVD and VHS players are in proper working order.

Letting someone else do the work can be contagious. In fact, I may have caught the bug.

A few weeks ago, my wife and I decided to get rid of our wall-to-wall carpeting in phases, to be replaced by bamboo flooring. If you haven't seen it, bamboo flooring is not what you think it is. As with other hardwood floors, it comes in two flavors, a solid and a veneer, which is a thin sheet of the bamboo glued over layers of wood.

Both styles come in light and dark. That's it – just light and dark. And in case you were wondering, it's not a series of rounded poles glued side by side, it's perfectly flat, just like other floors. The feature we like most about bamboo is its character. It doesn't have the typical wood grain and it's very attractive for that reason.

I was going to put in the first 200 square feet myself. That would have covered the area in our entry and all of

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