

HOME & Garden

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Easy steps to the tub
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the TOOLBOX OPEN BOOK



In the new book "Feather Your Nest," home decorating expert Mary Carol Garrity suggests readers and homeowners figure out what works for them and continue that personal style throughout the home.

"I wanted to help homeowners develop self-confidence and avoid pitfalls as they created a decorating blueprint to feather a nest they'll love for years to come," writes Garrity, owner of three home furnishings stores called Nell Hill's. The book, from Andrews McMeel Publishing and priced at \$29.95, is online and in stores.

IN THE KNOW



Courier-Post file

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society will sponsor a tour of courtyard gardens at Medford Leas (above), 1 Medford Leas, Medford, Oct. 20 from 10 a.m. to noon. Each of the Leas 33 gardens is designed by landscape artists or horticulturalists from the staff of the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia.

Fee for the workshop is \$18 for members, \$23 for non-members. For information or required registration, call (215) 988-8869 or programreg@pennhort.org

DECORATING

We can all add a bit of charming cottage-style detail to our homes, whether we live in a house that's California craftsman, Southern shotgun or mid-century ranch. That's the encouraging message in Creating Cottage Style, a special edition of Cottage Living magazine. Here are some ideas:

- Age new floors with historically inspired finishes such as whitewashing or staining.
- Lay reclaimed bricks for an established look.
- Greet guests with an old front door.
- Install vintage-inspired plumbing such as a claw-foot tub or faucets with a period feel. Use period hardware on drawers and cabinets.

—Courier-Post wire services

Builder draws his inspiration from historic cottage living



"When I walk in the door, I feel the pressure drop from my shoulders," says Mike Curcio, a co-owner of this Stone Harbor vacation home.

Photos provided



A hint of Nantucket IN STONE HARBOR



Photos provided

A two-story Stone Harbor beach house features such craftsman-style touches as copper gutters, downspouts and cedar shakes.

By EILEEN SMITH
Courier-Post Staff

In the early 20th century, when salt marshes were filled in to form a budding resort community, Stone Harbor's cottages might have been plucked from Nantucket, with their many gables and cedar shake siding that weathered in harmony with the sea and sun.

"I've always loved the style of those great old houses," says Bill Freeborn of Dewson Construction Co. "You can still find them here and there — sometimes covered up, sometimes added on to, but with their original core."

Four years ago, when he decided to build a new four-bedroom, four-and-a-half bath home on a rare waterfront lot, he turned to the original cottages for inspiration, meticulously researching plans at the Stone Harbor Museum.

Outside, the two-story house features such craftsman-style touches as a fieldstone foundation, copper gutters and downspouts, open-air porches decked in mahogany and, of course, cedar shakes.

Inside, Freeborn laid floors of bamboo, a readily renewable re-

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WEB EXTRA

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source, and constructed coffered ceilings with beadboard detailing. Sunlight pours through a dormer set into the vaulted ceiling in the master bedroom, part of a sumptuous 600-square-foot suite that includes a whirlpool soaking tub. Naturally, there are views of the bay.

Custom cabinetry was installed throughout the house, including the painted black built-ins that flank the fireplace in the living room.

He built the house on spec and completely to his taste, adding such niceties as outdoor stereo speakers in hopes a buyer would become as smitten with the home as he was.

"It's a house with a definite style that also requires a little bit of maintenance, so it appealed to a narrow segment of the luxury mar-

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Mauve and lavender make color comebacks

By HOLLIE DEESE
Gannett News Service

Like anything in design and fashion, colors are cyclical. Remember the mauve-tinted home style of the 1980s?

"Mauve is making a comeback," says Margaret Walch, director of the Color Association of the United States. "When color comes back, it always comes back in new ways, which means it is even grayer this time around."

The new mauve dubs itself dusty rose and haute pink, but

it's still a close relative of its '80s predecessor.

"We are seeing a revival of a lot of colors from the 1980s," says Walch, who notes that mauve is actually a heritage color. "It goes back to England and to Victorian times."

Also big a couple of decades ago and on the rebound is lavender.

One of the reasons for the colors' return is versatility. People are adding lavender, which comes in shades that range from pink and blue to gray and white, as a neutral instead of an accent

color because it works with the qualities of almost any color.

"I really think it has a lot to do with the fact that the rosy pink tones complement chocolate, which is so hot," says Lyssa Styers, who runs Right At Home, her Nashville-area interior design business.

"The colors are popular now because of how they are used," particularly in teen rooms, says Styers.

Denise Simons, owner of Denise Simons Interiors in Nash-

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A bedroom painted in Sherwin-Williams' Blackberry shows an updated take on the color mauve. "Mauve is making a comeback," says Margaret Walch, a director at the Color Association of the United States.

Courtesy of Sherwin Williams