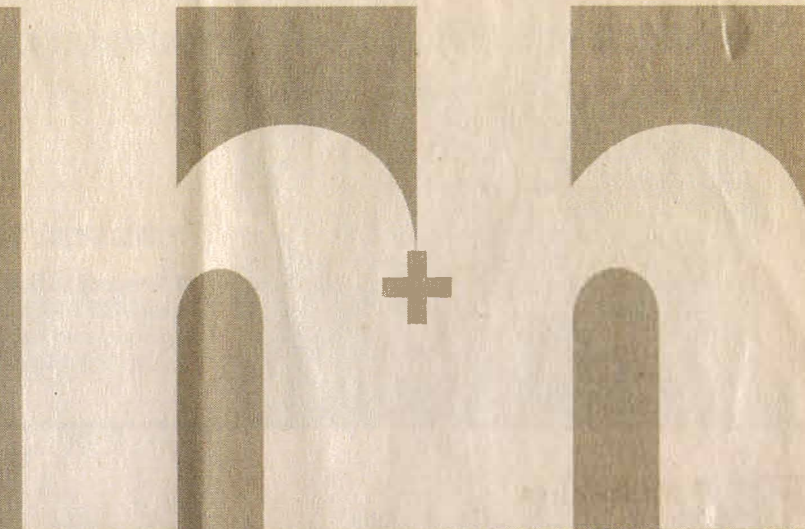


toying around

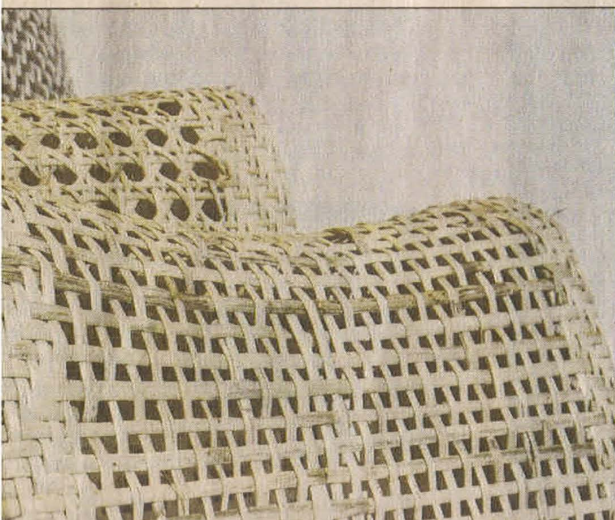
Cotton canvas bins help
your household corral
toys and books — they're
cute, too. Mom Time | D2

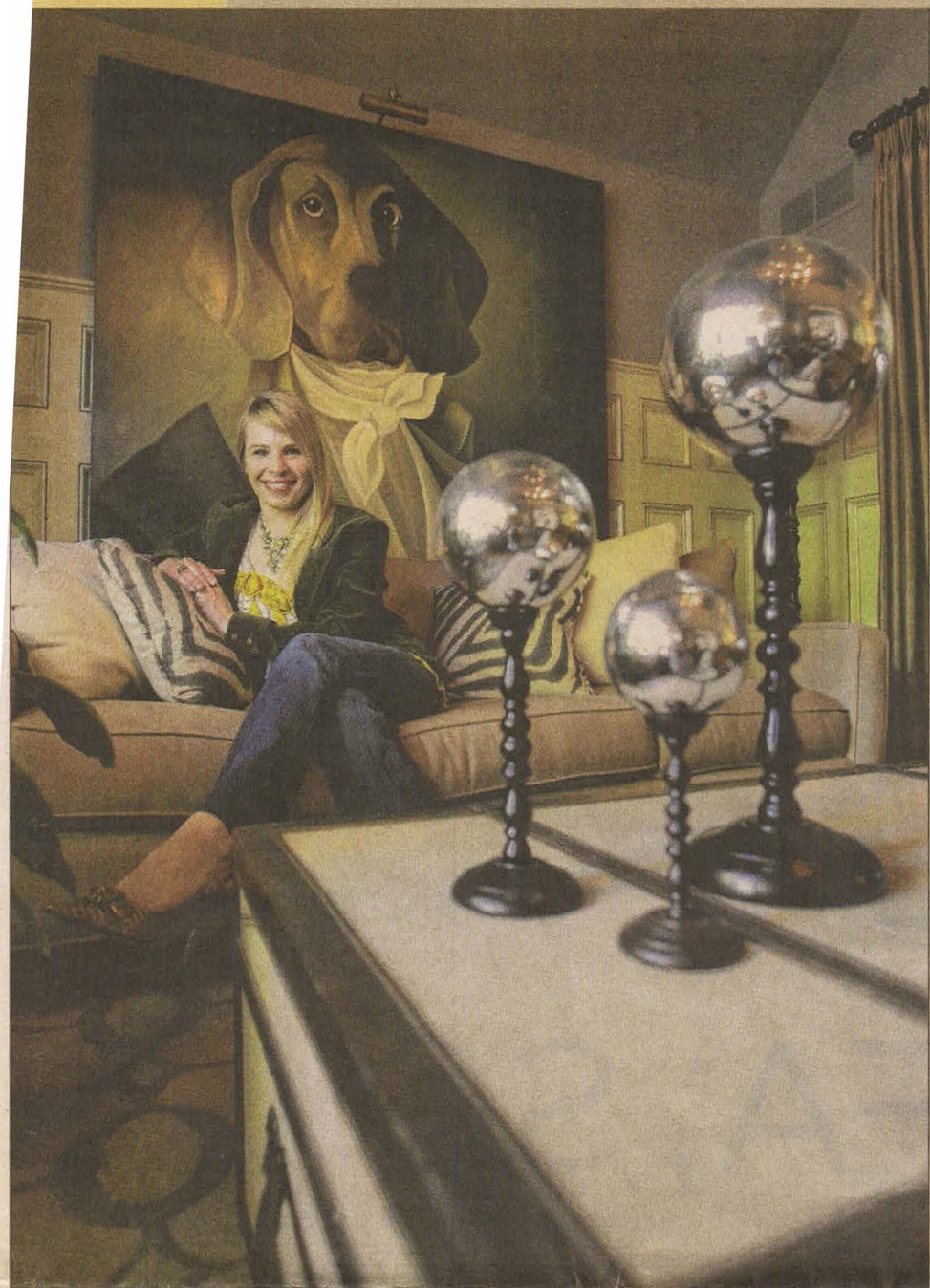


house and home

EXPERT ADVICE | NEW PRODUCTS | SECRET SOURCES | EVERY WEEK

LOWES | Six designers spice up a clean slate





JIM BARCUS | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Interior designer Jill Tran of Shawnee — seen here at a client's home — regularly attends the twice-yearly High Point Furniture Market trade show in North Carolina.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Owner of Jill Tran Interior Design, 913-268-9595, www.jilltran.com. Tran recently returned from the spring High Point Furniture Market in North Carolina.

How long have you been attending High Point?

Twenty years. I grew up in this business. My mom (Jean Greeson) is an interior designer.

How have you seen the market change?

A ton of people from all over the world descend upon this small town, filling the streets. But a few years ago, when the economy went south, it was quiet. But this spring, the masses of people were back. There was a real pulse of upcoming things. I'm excited.

See anything new in furniture?

Upholstered pieces are cleaner, straighter and

smaller. It's much smaller than the Tuscan look, which is long gone. I'm seeing fewer cushions, fewer skirts on sofas. There's more attention to sofa legs now. I also saw a new chair style.

Describe the chair.

Kind of a beaded chair in the arms and backs. Turned wood, kind of like spools. I also saw a lot of tiny, cool side tables. The furniture is closer to the ground, which is unusual because we're getting taller as a society.

What's new in upholstery?

Softness is huge. There are more linens and low-pile chenilles that resemble velvet. The colors are beach colors: white, blues and greens. It was fresh and summery. Everything's been so dark, and this is uplifting, happy but still masculine. I also saw a lot of red, kind of a wine color. I hate to use

the word burgundy because people associate that with decades ago. Kind of an oxblood color. There were also lots of nailheads on upholstery.

What did you see in lighting?

Lots of retro stuff. Smooth, rounded shapes with die cuts along the edging. Tri-legged floor lighting, kind of like off a Hollywood movie set, is popular, whether it's wood with metal, an industrial factory look or high-polished chrome. Barbara Cosgrove of Kansas City has designed that style of lighting.

Sum up this spring's High Point in a few words.

A juxtaposition of antiques with modern art. Styles are mixing up.

| Stacy Downs,
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Trends spotted at the market include "beaded chairs" (Spool by C.R. Laine); Hollywood studio-style lighting (Ralph Lauren Home Cutter Rustic Tripod Floor Lamp by Visual Comfort); and details like metal fringe (Masquerade by Century).

