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FEATURE

24 Gemini Homes and Bowling Green designer and newcomer join talents to deliver last year's Parade of Homes distinguished Best in Show honors for homes less than 3,000 square feet.

DEPARTMENTS

6 SPARK

Breathtaking patterns, lines and colors begin to emerge when minerals are mixed with liquid glass.

8 HOME SHOWS

Presented by the Builders Association of South Central Kentucky, the Parade of Homes returns to the Bowling Green area September 19-22.

12 HUMOR

Color karma and the circle of style, design and life.

14 DÉCOR

Create the essence of romance with color, art and light.

18 STYLE

Color bursts into the culinary world and spices up the kitchen.

20 GOOD IDEAS

Adding color can be easy, fun and within your budget.

22 VIEWPOINT

Updating the shower can transform it from boring to beautiful.

30 DESIGN

Expert advice on using this versatile hue and capturing the desired effect it creates.

34 THE GARDEN

Vertical gardening reaches new heights as designers are incorporating living, breathing foliage to the most unlikely places.

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Home Lifestyle

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38 THE HOME TEAM

One writer's account of gardening at home and her renewed appreciation for Bowling Green's hard-working farmers.

42 FARMER'S MARKET

Paying homage to seven of our area's most respected farmers.

44 DISH

Fresh, colorful beans are delicious, plentiful and easy — and we have a recipe to prove it.

46 REFLECTIONS

The unexpected gift of color.



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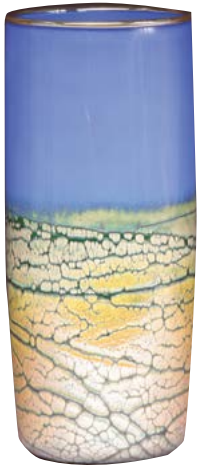
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THE WONDERMENT of color comes as no surprise to glassblower Jon Offutt. His vessels begin as clear glass, but when mixed with various minerals during the firing process, breathtaking patterns, lines and colors begin to emerge. See Jon Offutt House of Mulciber on Facebook.

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Builders Association of South Central Kentucky PARADE OF HOMES September 19-22, 2013

THE ANNUAL PARADE OF HOMES is coming to town September 19-22 and it has something for everyone! Whether you're interested in building, remodeling or just want some great interior design ideas or info on the latest trends and color, look no further.

Presented by the **Builders Association of South Central Kentucky** and sponsored by **Farmers National Bank** and **WBKO**, this is an opportunity to see new colors, building products, appliances, home fashions, special outdoor areas and much, much more. This year's event features homes ranging from 2,048 to 7,152 sq. ft.

The Parade gives you the chance to speak directly with many of those involved in the building of the home. You can ask questions and seek advice on anything from design choices to actual construction. Plus, you can find out about some other homes to help in your selection process.

The tour includes both *custom-built* homes designed for particular families and spec homes that are available for sale. All homes in the Parade are built by general contractors who have earned Registered Builder designation by meeting a stringent set of criteria including building education and experience. You won't want to miss the quality craftsmanship displayed by these professional builders and their teams of sub-contractors.

A nationwide survey found that nearly seven out of 10 American adults say it is a goal of theirs to buy a home. And, the current market offers many incredible opportunities for anyone thinking of buying a home, including a large selection of affordable homes for sale and interest rates at near historic low levels. And, the best news is that owning your own home is still one of the best ways to create financial security for your family. *Homeownership is the fulfillment of the American dream.*

Mark Your Calendar

FOR THE 2013 PARADE OF HOMES

Thursday, September 19	5-8 pm
Friday, September 20	5-8 pm
Saturday, September 21	10 am-5 pm
Sunday, September 22	1-5 pm

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The tour includes both custom-built homes designed for particular families and spec homes that are available for sale. All homes in the Parade are built by general contractors who have earned Registered Builder designation.



One of the main priorities of the Builders Association of South Central Kentucky is to make homeownership a reality for our families and neighbors. Homes provide safety and security and an environment for people in which to grow and thrive. We hope everyone will visit these homes to see the work of our Registered Builders and also our Associate members who represent all areas of the building industry including designers, landscapers, bankers, painters and much more.

We thank our co-sponsors, **Farmers National Bank** and **WBKO**, for helping

bring this event to the community. And, we are proud to say that each year, a portion of the proceeds are donated to a non-profit community organization and this year's recipient is Bowling Green Christian Academy.

Tickets, which are only \$10, are **available for purchase at every home on the tour** during the Parade and *are good for all four days and entrance into all homes on the tour.* Tickets can also be purchased in advance at the Builders Association office at 859 Lovers Lane. *Children under twelve get in free.* Each ticket holder will

PARADE OF HOMES ENTRIES

Kirby Builders LLC

Kyle Kirby, Custom
1482 Mt. Ayr Circle, Mt. Ayr
From Cemetery Rd., turn on Hayes Ln., turn left on Mt. Ayr Circle second house on the left.

Hammer Homes LLC

Barrett Hammer, Spec
618 Ironwood Drive, Briarwood
Take Scottsville Rd. to Lovers Lane. Continue on Lovers Lane and take left at red light on Cemetery Rd. Proceed to Ironwood Drive and take left. Home is on the left.

Bennie Jones Construction

Bennie Jones, Spec
912 Cumberland Ridge Way,
Cumberland Ridge
Scottsville Road to Cumberland Trace Road to Cumberland Ridge Subdivision. Left at 1st stop sign, follow arrows to Bennie Jones Construction Parade Entry.

Jagoe Homes Inc.

Bill & Scott Jagoe, Spec
1351 Chicory Way, The Summit
From Scottsville Road take Three Springs Road 2.3 miles. Turn right onto Springfield Blvd. Follow Springfield Blvd. to the back of community. Fully-decorated model home located at 1351 Chicory Way.

The Jones Co. of KY II LLC

Kerry Jones, Custom
235 Grand Teton Way, The Summit
From Scottsville Rd. take Cave Mill Rd. to left on Smallhouse Rd. straight at three way stop onto Summit Blvd. right on Grand Teton Way. From 31-W South toward Franklin KY left at Dillard Rd. left at three way stop onto Summit Blvd. right on Grand Teton Way.

D & D Contracting

Dino & Darri Pinerola, Spec
385 Mount Everest Way, The Summit
From 31-W South toward Franklin KY left at Dillard Rd. left at three way stop onto Summit Blvd. right on Pike Peak left on Creststone Peak right on Mount Everest Ct.

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receive a Parade Magazine that includes information on the Registered Builder, the home, and decorator information that is known at the time of printing.

For more information, call the Builders Association of South Central Kentucky at 270-781-3375 or visit their website at www.bascky.com. If you are considering a building or remodeling project, please consider using one of our members. They are qualified professionals promoting the integrity and professionalism of the building industry. ✨

One of the main priorities of the Builders Association of South Central Kentucky is to make homeownership a reality for our families and neighbors.



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426 Mount Everest Ct., The Summit
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J Trapper Construction LLC

Trapper Pendleton, Custom
431 McIntyre Street, McLellan Farms
Travel 2.1 miles south of Natcher Parkway on Nashville Road. Turn right on McLellan Road then left onto McGlocklin Way. Take 2nd left onto McIntyre Street. Home will be on the right.

Harlan Construction Inc.

Steve Harlan, Spec
3333 Fox Fire Court
South Glen Gables
Take 31-W South (Nashville Road) out of town. At the new traffic light at South Warren High School turn right into South Glen Gables Subdivision. Turn left on 1st street which is Fox Fire Court. Signs will be posted.

Tony Henon Construction Inc.

Tony & Scott Henon, Spec
3386 South Glen Gables Blvd.
South Glen Gables
US 31-W Nashville Rd. to RichPond, entrance to South Glen Gables is directly across from South Warren High School.

Doug Martens Construction

Doug Martens, Spec
3378 South Glen Blvd.
South Glen Gables
Take Nashville Rd. (31-W) south towards Franklin. Turn right on South Glen Blvd. directly across from South Warren High School. House on corner of South Glen Blvd. and Thresher Dr.

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Color Karma

The in and outs of color.

BY **BERNIE ERICKSON**

THERE ARE CERTAIN laws that govern the life cycle of our possessions. Regardless of whether you believe in them or not, they exist, and they have consequences.

For example, within one week of throwing out something you haven't used for 10 years, you will have a dire need for the item, and you will have to spend at least four hours and \$100 to replace it with something that is not as good.

Conversely, there is that moment of elation when you are invited to that '70s

costume party and you still own the white John-Travolta-Saturday-Night-Fever suit in which you had your graduation photo taken. In spite of the fact your weight is the same as in high school, everything has shifted dramatically southward, and it just doesn't look quite as good as it did back then.

Another law is the one I call "color karma." This law states that whatever the color fad, we will love it, then hate it, and then love it when it becomes popular again.

If you were born in the '50s or '60s, you grew up in the era of "earth tones." Remember burnt orange, avocado green, harvest gold and copper?

Back then, the most basic symbol that dad was doing okay financially was a kitchen full of harvest-gold or avocado-green appliances lounging on a low-nap, intricately patterned kitchen carpet. No one wanted to be seen owning white kitchen appliances languishing on an asbestos-laden linoleum floor.

In the '80s we decided that pastels were

the way to go. Everyone thought the most tastefully appointed homes had acres of mauve carpet with powder-blue accessories.

Those with a little more daring chose sea-foam green (not to be confused with pond-scum green) and peach; those living with completely wanton disregard for tasteful restraint chose teal with shocking pink and black accents.

Along came the '90s, when someone decided that color should be kept to a minimum, so everything had to be the same shade of off-white or beige. Rooms became so boring and undefined that you had to be careful you didn't fall over a sofa or end table because you couldn't tell where the carpet ended and the furniture began.

At the millennium, we realized that if we were going to invest money into our furnishings and décor, we wanted to be able to see it. We started adding to the color palette smoky shades of blue, gray, green and brown to go along with our beige carpet, beige walls and beige cabinets.

And now the color cycle begins again with burnt orange making its resurgence, luxurious shag carpeting in avocado green covering floors and coppery-toned kitchen appliances popping up in showrooms across the country.

Color karma. What goes around comes around.

In a slightly different shade, of course. Don't even think of dragging out those old accessories and trying to pass them off as new. Those in the know will know, and they will mock you behind your back.

So now that you know about color karma, how can you maximize this new knowledge to your best advantage?

Spend the big bucks on basic wood floors, neutral ceramic or glass wall tile and understated, sensible plumbing fixtures. Then rev it all up with lots of vibrant accessories and paint colors in today's fashion trends. You can redefine the look of a room quickly and easily with a change of colorful rugs, throws, pillows and window treatments.

There's more than one family who regrets selling Grandma's Exxon stock to purchase a cashmere/silk blend wall-to-wall carpet in fuchsia fandango.

Do not become one of them. ❁

Another law is the one I call "color karma." This law states that whatever the color fad, we will love it, then hate it, and then love it when it becomes popular again

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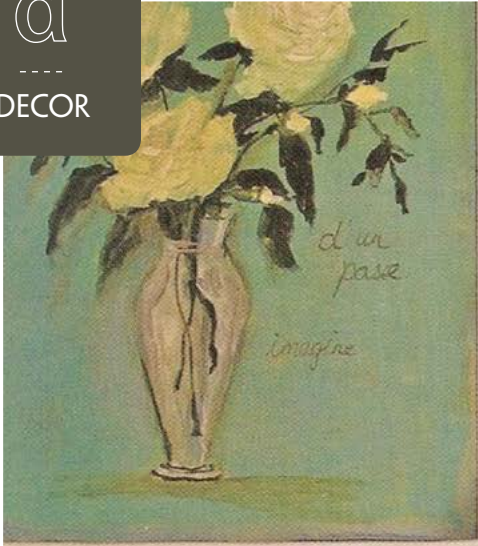


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BY DAYNA DEL VAL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ZAINAH HAIDER

JUST ABOUT 25 YEARS

ago, a friendship began based on a mutual love of antiques and art. Donna Ormitson at the time was living in California and owned an antique store, which specialized in decorating. Most of her pieces were updated with upholstery, hardware and paint. Susan Brown lived in the neighborhood and would periodically stop by Ormitson's antique shop. Armed with house paint, Brown would paint her signature roses on some of Ormitson's furniture pieces. Soon, Brown was finding furniture of her own on the boulevard, redoing it and selling it to several shops in the Los Angeles area.

Brown remembers, "Working with interior designers, I did decorative painting, I did murals. I painted on furniture. I really like home décor and interior design – that sort of thing. Living in California when I first started painting, I would see things that people would toss on the boulevard, and I would take it home and paint them."

As fate would have it, Brown and her daughter ended up living above Ormitson's store, and that's when Ormitson really began to understand the depth of the talent of this artist. Brown had painted her own apartment floor in an extraordinary leopard skin and rose motif.

The romantic look can come from chandeliers and uses less harsh light.

This was the beginning of a business relationship and also a friendship.

Today, Ormitson owns Reed and Taylor on Main Avenue in Fargo, North Dakota. Her store has an enticing, romantic tranquility that never fails to greet visitors. Scented candles linger on beautiful antique tables. Trinkets and jewelry are nestled in and amongst depression glass, silver tea sets and exquisite 18th- and 19th-century furniture that Ormitson has often whimsically re-covered in bold prints to showcase the contrast of old and new to its fullest. A mixed variety of exquisite chandeliers drop down from the ceiling. Hanging on the walls are many of Brown's pieces of romantic art, pieces



↑ Donna Ormitson turned her self-proclaimed addiction of buying antiques into her life's career by owning and operating antique stores.

"I love chandeliers, and I always decorate with them."

– Donna Ormitson

"It needs to have layers of things going on, color you might not expect – something feminine."

– Susan Brown



↑ Susan Brown's beautiful art is helping to bring about a romantic renaissance.

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→ → "Red Chinoiserie" utilizes flowers and color in a most traditional romantic way.



→ This elegant French iron chandelier is of the 1930s era.



Brown's signature romantic art coupled with Ormitson's antique chandeliers — romance any room with color and soft light.

that Ormitson is constantly replacing because Brown's work is so popular.

Brown's refreshing signature style of romantic art, increasingly popular, was featured in the April 2013 issue of *Romantic Homes*, a national publication dedicated to showcasing nostalgic homes and romantic motifs in interior design. Romantic décor is definitely on the rise as people are finding and incorporating antiques and other traditionally feminine design into home décor again. But before you do anything to change your environment, determine how romantic or feminine you want your home to be.

Both Ormitson and Brown agree that the romantic design style has some obvious necessary elements. Ormitson begins, "I love chandeliers, and I always decorate with them. They give a softer light. I love mirrors. First of all, I suggest buying original art and books, but after that, go with mirrors."

Brown adds, "Lighting does definitely play a part in creating an ambiance. My place is sunny, which makes it more cheery. The romantic look can come from chandeliers and uses less harsh light."

Another element is color. Brown continues, "With my own art and pieces

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← “Pour Femme” ups the drama with the addition of this exotic woman, who seems to nearly burst into a bouquet.

← The pink ceramic roses of this American 1950s - era chandelier add romantic charm and femininity to the space.

I have in my home, I look for what pleases my eye when I'm done. It needs to have layers of things going on, color you might not expect — something feminine. The coloring is the main thing — a little bit of gold underneath, pink and some floral influence. The shabby chic element can be limiting, so I want to explore with color and still retain my signature style.”

Softening the room is also an important step to creating romance. Brown notes, “You don't have to completely remodel. It doesn't always have to be the shabby chic look. It's very eclectic. Try to change out some of the pieces, soften some of the edges.”

Both women feel strongly that whatever style you go with, it needs to reflect who you are. Ormitson says, “I love chairs. If you are just starting out, start with an investment piece, and then go from there. Mix old with new. I think it's good to be eclectic, and then you have your own personality. It's important to express yourself through design. Be selective, buy quality, and don't be afraid to experiment. Don't be afraid to mix it up so your space doesn't look like everybody else's.”

Brown currently resides in Arizona. Ormitson owns Reed & Taylor, an antique shop in Fargo, North Dakota. *

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S

STYLE



← ↓ Modern kitchens get loads of vintage personality with 1950s-inspired appliances. Images courtesy of bigchillfridge.com and elmirastove-works.com.

CULINARY COLOR

Vibrant hues spice up the kitchen

BY PAUL STENQUIST

IT WAS IN THE EARLY 1950s that Brook Stevens, the world-famous industrial designer, woke up America's kitchens by creating robin's-egg-blue appliances. In the years that followed, we were treated to a plethora of colors from manufacturers of large appliances. But for the past 20 years or so, color has largely yielded to the pure, unadorned appeal of bare stainless steel. The trend in the small appliance category has been similar — and only rarely have we been offered colorful choices in blenders, mixers, and the like.

Granted, stainless steel and appliance white can be very attractive in the kitchen. But now we can have more.

Vivid color is back, both in small and major appliances. For example, TurboChef's 50-amp convection ovens are now available in custom hues ranging from deep blue to vivid orange and more. Even Viking gas ranges, the top-of-the-line and utilitarian choice of many professional chefs and restaurants, are offered in colors as blatantly non-utilitarian as pumpkin, plum and chocolate. Ooh-la-la. Legendary French chef Auguste Escoffier would have been tickled by this splash of color.

Color bursts onto kitchen countertops in small appliances and gadgets too cool to hide in cupboards. Consider a vibrant orange kitchen scale from Leifheit Page. A long-time friend of home chefs, the KitchenAid stand mixer is now available in interesting colors including yummy buttercup. And, yes, you can still get a Cuisinart 12-cup food processor in white, but you could opt for brilliant red instead. Hungering for avocado? Hamilton Beach makes a stylish toaster in a shade of green that is a near perfect match for fresh guacamole. Not colorful enough? Try a toaster that's resplendent with red poppies on a pink background. That'll make your toast pop.

If a steaming cup of Espresso is part of your morning routine, you might enjoy owning a machine that's as lively as the beverage. Nestle's diminutive Nespresso Pixie Espresso Maker





← The colorful line of appliances from Viking Range features a deep rich palette that offers professional performance with style. Photography courtesy of vikingrange.com.

↓ Splashes of bold colors with modern design are more common in many small appliances as shown here. Images courtesy of bodum.com.

Legendary French chef Auguste Escoffier would have been tickled by this splash of color



is available in wake-you-up electric lime and persimmon red.

A check of gourmet cooking stores in the metro area revealed classic kitchen tools — those without plugs or moving parts—emerging from the drudgery of drabness. For example, Le Creuset makes a traditional teakettle that’s available in both blue and red. That same manufacturer’s oven-to-table enameled cast-iron cookware is available in other beautiful shades, including a purple that is as pleasing as a plump eggplant.

KitchenAid has introduced a line of pink “Cook for the Cure” kitchen appliances. A portion of each sale will go to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Other tools pretty in pink: a digital timer, a hand mixer, a 5-speed blender, a measuring tool set, and a 5-quart stand mixer.

Big Chill has a clever line of major appliances sporting a decidedly ’50s look. It’s available... you guessed it... in the same robin’s-egg-blue that Brook Stevens introduced a half-century ago. Which just goes to show that, even in the kitchen, if you wait long enough, what’s old becomes new again. ✨

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Mix and match dinnerware for a festive table. No worries if you break a plate; there's no matching set—just fill in with a new color! This is especially great if you have kids. They'll love picking their favorite one. Check out new shapes and colors at www.fiestaware.com.



Floral INFUSION

Nothing adds color like a bright floral bouquet. Purchase flowers at the supermarket or local farmers market and place them in household containers—teacups with pansies, glass soda bottles with Gerber daisies, or a child's discarded rain boot with a summer mix. Place them all around the house.

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A: If you have space available, I would suggest you lose the shower door completely. Door-less showers open a world of possibilities. Not only do they create an open, expansive feel in a bathroom, but they also lend themselves well to universal design and aging in place. Done properly, a door-less shower will give you and your family many years of enjoyment, but they require careful planning. Here are four things to consider if you're thinking about the door-less approach.*



1. ADD A RAIN-STYLE SHOWER HEAD. Consider adding a rain-style shower head mounted from above to cast water straight down as another way to control splashing. Or if you want to stay with a standard showerhead that angles out, have the spray hit the opposite wall of the shower to control splashing.



2. BARRIER FREE. With today's population choosing to age-in-place, removing the shower threshold can be a great long term solution. It's also a great choice for those who don't like the appearance of a shower threshold.



3. WATERPROOF. Design the entire shower area with materials that hold up to getting wet so you don't have to worry about getting a little water on the floor. For the floor outside the shower, consider a non-gloss finish to reduce slipping hazards.

Proper planning and a little additional space will ensure you and your family enjoy your door-less shower experience for many years to come.



4. ADD A HALF WALL TO PROTECT AGAINST SPLASHES. Ideally, an open shower requires at least a six foot buffer on every side to avoid splashing outside the shower area. But adding a half wall or an offset entry like the one pictured above will contain the shower splash while still maintaining the open feel of a door-less shower.



Tim Graham has been building homes in South Central, KY for over 20 years. He is a Master Builder, a Registered Builder and a Certified Green Professional.

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↑ Designer Sheryl Lett Chapman pulled out the stops to give this home its sparkle. Barbara Stewart Interiors provided most of the furnishings for this project that took Best of Show in the 2012 Parade of Homes.

→ Curb appeal is critical and here, the dynamic roofline, the combination of Tuscan stone and brick on the façade, a covered front porch and expert landscaping make a winning combination.





↑ The view toward the front door showcases the arched passageways, with squared columns as well as the iron details on the balustrade.

Behind the Scenes of Best in Show

WRITTEN BY **MARY NESTOR**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **JOE IMEL**
LAYOUT BY **S. WALKER**



THE DISTINCTION OF “BEST IN SHOW” is made annually during the Parade of Homes celebration. A Best in Show is a peer award that speaks to the level of craftsmanship and the integrity of the design. It also recognizes the innovative and stylized finishes that give a home panache.

Of course, Best in Show honors the finished home, but it's always fun to peek behind the curtain to see how the project developed...

Kelly Arnold of Gemini Homes has been building homes in Bowling Green for many years and he puts a premium on being graceful under pressure. In fact he says, he “works better” when the rush is on.

Maybe that explains how, in the four month run up to the Parade, he customized a blueprint, took a chance on a new designer and delivered last year's 2012 Best in Show for a home less than 3,000 square feet.

The “new” designer Sheryl Lett Chapman is a pastor's wife, who had never even owned her own home. Before settling in Bowling Green she says she, “always lived in a parsonage.” But



from their first meeting, which took place in one of Arnold's model homes, the conversation turned to design and very quickly, a deal was struck.

Arnold felt he had a very livable blueprint for a family home. Even before he broke ground he specified certain signature elements of a Gemini Home like a dramatic roofline, covered porches, a large laundry room, energy efficient building methods that save money and resources, and an efficient, flexible layout.

For her part, Lett Chapman jumped at the chance to do the project. A newcomer to Bowling Green, she moved here with her husband from Hardin County where she founded a program that actively mentored at risk youth using art and art

↑ The designer chose Porter Paints for the wall color. The great room is "Assateague Sand" and the dining room is "Classic Brown." "Lotus Petal" was used for the trim throughout the home.

↓ The plate rail that circles the perimeter of the dining room was a defining touch inspired by the functional architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright.

↑ A Thomasville Collection® dining arrangement is capped by a candelabra style chandelier from Capital Lighting.





history to help them better see their own creative potential.

She says she really enjoyed working with Arnold because it offered an opportunity to “sparkle,” and because he is a perfectionist who isn’t afraid to rework elements on site. From granite countertops and arched passageways, to the more intimate touches like the “Moulin Rouge” wallpaper in the powder bath, both the architectural and design details were always open for discussion between builder and designer.

A perfect example of their collaboration can be found in the finished fireplace with its crisp white tile and contrasting black mantle. Initially the design was much more “pedestrian.” The designer wanted to up the ante and she had an idea. She and Arnold took a break in the middle of construction. He used a discarded milk carton to sketch while she talked and then he went to work building this two-tiered two-toned fireplace that creates a more dramatic focal point.

Even Lady Luck seemed to play a part in making sure that this project stood out. Arnold says that he had intended to use a

↑ In the kitchen, the designer sought “diamond” perfection. She paired glazed maple and ebony finishes on the custom cabinets, with a stack-stoned veneer backsplash, and Caravaggio granite countertops all lit up with a Crystorama Chandelier sourced locally from Winn-Electric.



↑ Energy Star appliances were used throughout, including the range in this prep island. The intricate detail of the granite surround is the primary focal point of the open kitchen.



↑ Brooks Cabinets of Bowling Green did the cabinets throughout the home. Here raised panel glazed maple with a staggered profile pairs visual interest with high-functionality.



← The designer's daughter is a self-described "Moulin Rouge" freak and she encouraged her mother to go "Spectacular, Spectacular" in choosing finishes for the powder bath.

different wood for the floors, but at the last minute, that color was unavailable. He can't help but appreciate the difference. "I love this floor," he admits as he surveys the rich hues of the engineered hardwood that replaced his original plan.

Opposite the fireplace is a Caravaggio granite counter top that anchors the large kitchen island. Lett Chapman chose raised panel glazed maple cabinets and illuminated the kitchen area with wrought iron fixtures.

Arnold's flexible blueprint will allow homeowners to customize their living space. The three upstairs bedrooms can be mixed and matched for use as guest rooms, a playroom, a home office, a man cave, or a craft room. The master suite is on the first level and again combines Lett Chapman's eye for the dramatic with Arnold's ability to bring a project to fruition.

In the master bath, they chose a large frosted glass shower with a scalloped ribbon along the top. It is a decorative detail enhanced by the simple fact of being placed opposite the mirror. The granite countertops and glazed maple cabinets are actually the same finishes they used in the kitchen. This technique of transporting finishes from one room to the next helps maintain continuity throughout.

And although aesthetics are crucial to success, Best in Show has its foundation in the combined effect of form and function. According to Anita Napier of the Bowling Green Home Builder's Association, the jury looks for custom styling but also for the quality of the workmanship. They chart interiors and exteriors and give points for such broad categories as how a home is sited on the lot.

Arnold is honored by the distinction of being named best in show. All the judges are themselves registered builders, and he believes that the Parade offers everybody the chance to see what is trending and measure it against the tried and true. ✿

← Best of Show rewards big picture building blocks as well as the smallest of details. The designer says she thoroughly enjoyed the entire process, right down to choosing the bathroom sink!





↑ ↑ In the master bath, the same architectural details that made an appearance in the kitchen are repeated. This technique creates an imperceptible but essential continuum in the design.

↗ ↗ The bathroom should be peaceful and easy to clean, and here are subtle hues of linen on walls, floors, cabinets and countertops. By keeping it simple, the palette is both restful and easy to maintain.

↑ The foyer is illuminated with plenty of natural light as well as the worked iron Capital chandelier.

↗ Engineered hardwood flooring was used throughout the communal spaces to enhance the glow.

→ A bead board ceiling, crisp white trim, and the brick detail gives the back porch its style, while the ceiling fan, open circulation and easy access from the kitchen make it an ideal environ for relaxing at home.





Not so Mellow Yellow

~ Expert Advice on Using this Versatile Hue

BY **MARY NESTOR**



DESPITE ITS RELATIVELY NARROW bandwidth, yellow is among the most versatile shades in the spectrum. It can be playful, casual, soothing or electrifying. The golden arches demand attention, a sunny yellow kitchen invites warm conversation, and ivory sheers gently filter sunlight through a room.

For help in capturing yellow in its many forms, we turn to award-winning interior designer Constance Ramos who explains that the beauty of design is in part due to the fact that there is no uniform response to any color. “Blue does not make everyone feel peaceful. Red does not make everyone feel excited. And yellow does not make everyone feel ‘sunny’,” she says.



Autumn yellows like mustard, russet, and terra cotta calm and subdue interior spaces. But keep nature in mind when decorating and don't create an alarming contrast. Avoid pairing fall hues with bright green or sky blue.

Ramos was an original member of the Emmy-award winning *Extreme Makeover Home Edition*. She earned her stripes by winning the Designers' Challenge on HGTV. She has done projects for Walt Disney Imagineering, SONY and Mattel, and is the president and CEO of her company, Constance Carrell Design, Inc. Here, she offers valuable insights to utilizing the many shades of yellow.

Because of its versatility it is important to pair yellow correctly for a desired effect, and do a little soul searching beforehand because each home and every homeowner is unique, and what works for some may not work for others.

"We each get to experience color in our own unique way and I find that to be fascinating." Ramos herself had to overcome an adversity to the color yellow—which she believes was the result of schooldays spent studying decimals and long division in a fourth-grade classroom that was intended to be cheery yellow but turned "dingy" against the fluorescent lighting and cinder block foundation. But since then she has changed her mind about yellow and now, "almost can't get enough of it."

Her personal favorite shade, she calls "summer lemonade" and defines as crisp refreshing lemon yellow with a splash of

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Spring shades of saffron or daffodil love to be paired with bright blues, pure green and even purple for a dramatic, almost formal effect.

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iced tea. She says “summer lemonade” is cheeky, sassy, determined to be cheerful, and offers the perfect medium to achieve what she calls “melting away the walls to merge the inside rooms with the outside environment.”

Ramos recommends utilizing “soft goods” like accent pillows and throws to enhance the palette and then double the impact by bringing each element into focus utilizing the path of the sun’s travel as a guide. Yellow reflects light, so a floral arrangement with fresh or silk blooms of large gossamer petals will bring forth a burst of color and offer a nod to the natural landscaping just outside the windows. When the sun goes down, strategically placed lights can be paired with yellow hues and used for the same reflective quality.

Yellow follows certain rules and has plenty of natural partners. With blue or green undertones, it becomes cooler and brighter at once—think of lime green and lemon yellow. With reddish undertones, yellow turns to butterscotch, gold, ochre or terra cotta. This is important because



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Remember, a southern exposure naturally brightens a room, making colors appear lighter. With yellow it is very important to utilize the technique of gathering “swatches” of color and moving them around the space to gauge the effect that the path of the sun has on the interior.

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in addition to a purpose, yellow needs a partner and mixing golden yellows with cool yellows is hard to do. It is much better to recognize the undertone and pair yellow hues accordingly.

Ramos advises adding a color opposite yellow on the color wheel to create a complementary scheme that “pulsates with energy.” She says yellows paired with indigo, blue, purple, lilac, lavender, green and plum will create high-contrast interiors. To calm the space, pair yellow with a color closer on the wheel like apple, olive, or khaki green. Bright summer yellows work well with misty gray shades and can be kicked up a notch when combined with charcoal, or even chocolate. Ramos says that the emotional impact of color should reflect the activities being performed in the space—be it active, social or introspective.

So when life gives you lemons, grab a little golden honey, warm it up and pour it on to create landscapes or mellow yellow hideaways. Pair it with cinnamon toast or butterscotch cake and life is suddenly sweet again. ✿

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Growing "Up"



↑ The living wall created for this residential home brings warmth and ambiance to the outdoor living space.

BY **ASHLEY F. JOHNSON** | PHOTOS COURTESY **SEASONS NATURAL ENGINEERING**

VERTICAL GARDENING SEEMS to be one of the hottest trends among those with or without a green thumb, but it is not a new concept. For centuries, people have been placing trellises alongside homes and places of business, encouraging the vertical growth of ivy and vines. We have all seen moss and clematis slowly creeping their way up an aged brick surface.

Living Walls and Vertical Gardens are on the 'Rise.'



Nothing compares to the artistic genius of designer Scott Hutcheon of Seasons Natural Engineering in Laguna Beach, California. He has taken horizontal gardening to a new level — straight up. Since 2004, Hutcheon has been incorporating living, breathing foliage

“People respond very well to living things, and to be surrounded by something like this in your home is pretty amazing.”

– Scott Hutcheon

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↑ An otherwise ordinary wall comes to life through whimsical landscape design.

into the most unlikely places. Facades of buildings, outdoor fireplaces and indoor spaces can be completely transformed by planting succulents and other varieties of vegetation to create “living walls.”

Seasons specializes in creating custom, one-of-a-kind vertical gardens. Residential projects continue to be Seasons main focus, though they have completed a number of larger-scale projects for the commercial world. The caliber of Hutcheon’s work even drew the attention of Martha Stewart, expert in all things home and garden. Hutcheon appeared on the Martha Stewart Show to display his indoor vertical gardens in October of 2008. Aside from appearing on national television, Hutcheon’s work can be viewed in many well-known corporations across the country, such as the McMonigle Group, a world-renowned luxury real estate firm in Orange County, the lavish Venetian in Las Vegas and the Laguna Beach Art Museum.

Hutcheon works closely with his team of designers and draftsman to assure that the vision of his clientele is achieved. His dedication to his client and commitment to create a unique, detailed piece is the most important part of what he does. “With keeping the client’s vision in mind, we hand pick all of the materials, including planting, pottery, furniture and décor, so you feel the comfort of a well-designed landscape,” he says.

There comes a sense of peace and serenity when surrounding oneself with living things. Hutcheon says, “People respond very well to living things, and to be surrounded by something like this in your home is pretty amazing.”

Some of Seasons’ pieces are in home interiors, which creates a pop of life and lush texture. Imagine a rough-hewn picture frame made of reclaimed wood that encases a breathtaking garden that hangs on the wall. The greenery can be arranged in almost any way imaginable — orderly and purposeful or whimsical and unpredictable. The positive energy fed



↑ Scott Hutcheon, landscape architect and creative mind behind Season’s Landscaping.

into a room by nature’s greenery creates a rejuvenating expression within the home.

In order to reap the benefits and truly enjoy the living piece of art, some attention is needed. Hutcheon says, “The maintenance with our walls is simple yet fairly continuous. We are often replanting during the winter months. You have to remember that these are living things, and they do need attention.”

For do-it-yourselfers, Bright Green USA produces and markets a living wall planter, an excellent resource to create easy adaptable vertical gardens.



↑ Foliage in the foreground creates depth and texture.

Partners Hutcheon and Jim Rizzo offer a simple way to design and create your own living wall with their GroVert Designer Living Planter. You simply fill the frame with the foliage of your choice, mount the bracket and bring your walls to life.

Facades of buildings, outdoor fireplaces and indoor spaces can be completely transformed by planting succulents and other varieties of vegetation to create “living walls.”

In a world where sustainability and a more organic way of life are appreciated, living walls have become increasingly popular with interior designers and architects. And with a little TLC, what you achieve is priceless — a living, breathing, inspirational work of art.

Hutcheon received his bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He lives in Laguna Beach with his wife, Jennifer, and their three children, Jaxson, Auston and Landon. For more information on Seasons Natural Engineering or Bright Green USA, visit their websites at www.seasonslandscaping.com and www.brightgreenusa.com. ❁

There comes a sense of peace and serenity when surrounding oneself with living things.



↑ Little Owl Preschool in Long Beach, California, has a facade that is alive.

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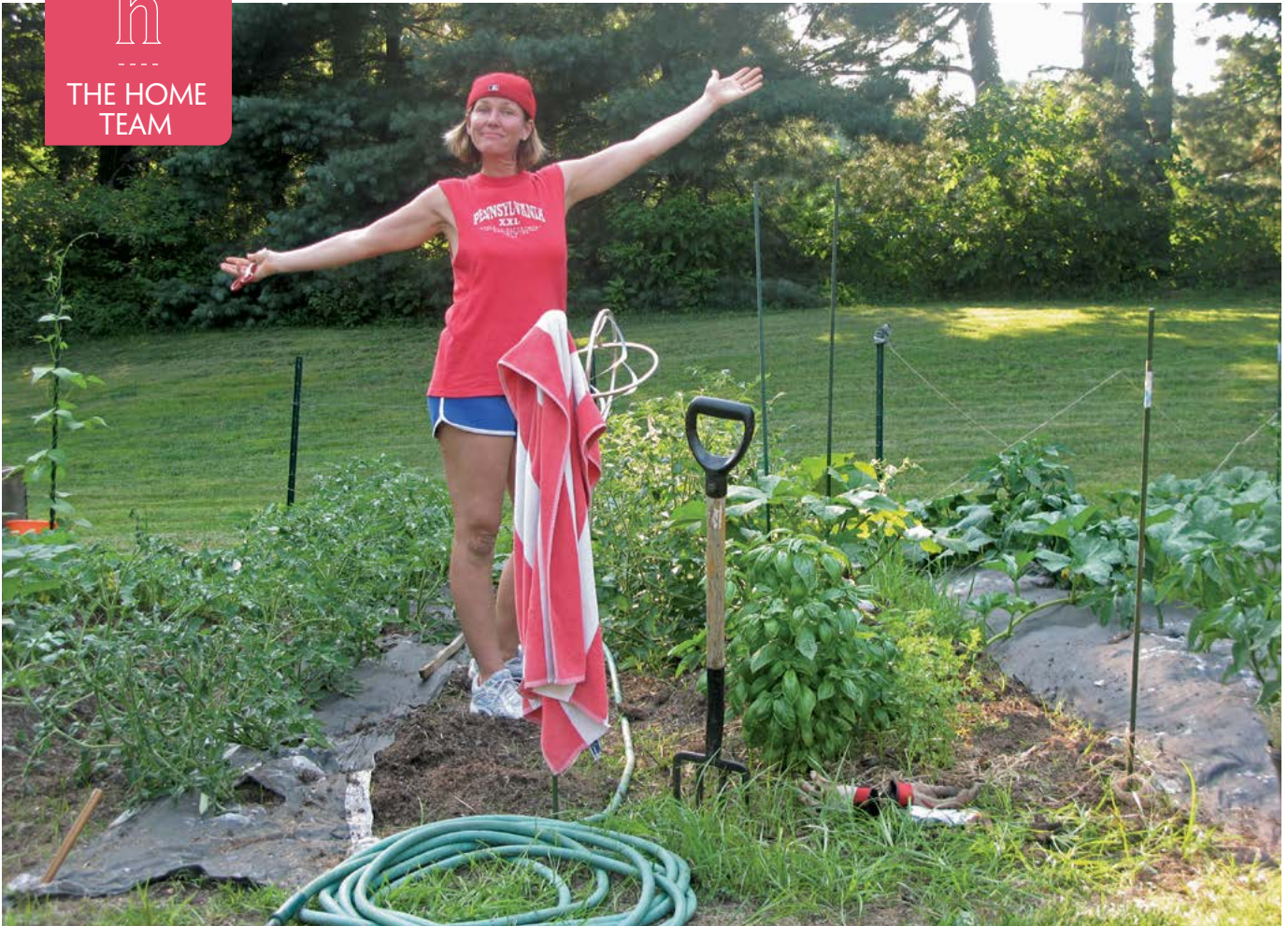
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Things I Did on My *Summer Vacation*

BY MARY NESTOR

THIS SUMMER WAS NO FUN.

Let me back up. Summers, like most of life, are rated on a scale that generally compares one to the next. A Camaro might be a fast car, but a Corvette is faster. A raccoon might not be a good pet, but it's better than a rattlesnake. You get the idea. So let's just say this summer wasn't as much fun as last summer.

That's because last summer, after five years of tense negotiations, my husband the Lawn Ranger gave me the green light to till up a garden plot and try my hand at growing food. Of course, he wasn't about to help me. He watched with amusement as I spent one chilly spring weekend trying in vain to uncover the thick lush lawn for what I imagined would be rich, loamy soil. It wasn't. Instead, it was dense and red and heavy and I think that's called "clay." Eventually, I hired a handyman with a tiller and made some progress. That same handyman offered to haul a load of compost from WKU's farm, and by the following weekend, my vegetable garden began to take shape.





I posted stakes at all four corners. I hauled in a dilapidated wooden box that would serve as a cold frame for the tiny little seedlings that were already emerging from my makeshift egg carton growing kits. I was nothing if not resourceful. I labeled my starts with a Sharpie marker and plastic knives. Vegetable gardening would be a breeze.

OK, I know what you're thinking. Especially if you're a farmer and you are reading about a shade tree gardener who thinks she's all that. But you're wrong. Gardening was a breeze. I lined my plot with biodegradable weed cloth, poked holes at intervals and planted my crops. I had already been to Lowe's, where I realized that I had stumbled into a fraternity of fellow gardeners who could be relied upon to offer their insights and make suggestions. The plants benefited from one particular recommendation of a Miracle Grow product that was specially formulated for transplanted seedlings. It worked. They shot up like hooligans and ran across the garden space.

One evening, I spotted a cadre of bunnies eyeing my efforts from the neighbor's yard. (She is not married to the Lawn Ranger and her yard suffers from an overgrowth of clover, which the bunnies love.) I was no sucker. And I was not planting all this food for them. So I purchased a fabulous product

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made from granulated fox urine to keep rabbits and other beasts at bay. A friend of mine who is generally a pretty smart girl came over to check on me. When I showed her the cylinder full of rabbit repellent she didn't believe the label. This can't be granulated fox urine, she said. Because how would anybody even potty train a fox, much less transform its urine into pellets. I told her I didn't care how they did it, I only cared that it worked. After inhaling a whiff from the container, my friend was more than convinced that it would keep rabbits away. And it did.

All last summer, I relished in the bounty. I had yellow squash, and winter squash. I had zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins, watermelons, cantaloupe, and basil. Every weekend, I would "put up food." I purchased a giant black enamel canner and dozens of Mason jars. I made jellies, pickles, and salsas. I baked squash casseroles, and zucchini bread. I blended batch after batch of pesto for pasta. I made gumbo and I don't even like gumbo. The point is; my organic garden was a huge success. Even my husband came around. Every morning before work, he took a bucket out to the backyard and filled it with produce. And then, for my birthday, he bought me my own tiller.

This might have been where the problem started. I don't know. But I decided if a small garden was good, a big one would be better. So this summer, I expanded my operation. I hauled in more compost. I threw in extra fertilizer. I went back to the garden store and purchased an even better product

that claimed to keep the rabbits and the deer and any other potential predator from cashing in on my hard work.

But Mother Nature had other plans. She foiled my efforts. This summer, she alternated between blazing sun and drenching rain. The combination mildewed and melted my crops. It drew a whitish dust across the garden. And I think the extra fertilizer caused the plants to grow to giant beasts without actually bearing much fruit. Nobody at the garden store seemed to care. Where were my friends?

Each time I applied it, the rain swept away the deer repellent and in turn they visited like every night was payday at Ryan's Buffet.

And it wasn't just the weather. It was almost as if I had become a little too smart for my own good. My Internet research was all in vain. Someone calling himself "The Potato King" had posted about a simple way of turning straw and seed potatoes into an Irish feast, but failed to mention that the wet straw would double as a mosquito breeding ground.

I waged a valiant effort. I crushed squash bugs and destroyed their eggs. I sprayed the garden with watery milk believing that my soil lacked calcium. I got Q-tips and tried to pollinate my squash by hand until I realized that I couldn't tell a boy squash from a girl squash. One night, as I was packing things back into the garage and hoping that the deer would leave me alone, I looked over at my lovely pineapple sage plant which has no nutritive value whatsoever unless you're a butterfly, and noticed it was covered with thousands of tiny grasshoppers. I lost my head. I grabbed the first thing I saw which was the mosquito repellent and doused the plant. Unfazed, the grasshoppers zipped away, but the next day, my beautiful ornamental sage was covered in third degree burns. I can only hope the butterflies will forgive me.

It's been a long summer and I won't miss it but the moral of the story is this: I am eternally grateful that South Central Kentucky is home to so many hard-working, smart, dedicated farmers who don't give up in the face of adversity. Basically I've learned that gardening is not for sissies. And right now, I'm hungry. So maybe the Lawn Ranger wants to take me to dinner. ✱



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Farmer's Market



Bake it in a Pie

Sisters Tenito Smith and Peggy Gray are each bringing something to the table. Gray has been harvesting asparagus from her Boyce Community farm for eight years, while Smith founded **Tenito's Country Kitchen** where she turns her husband's farm fresh produce into treats of all kinds. She spends the weekdays baking everything from sourdough bread, to sweet and savory fried pies and on Saturday, offers them for sale to hungry market patrons. In the fall she will cook breakfast and lunch on site at the market. For information on her seasonal offerings, or question about catering, call 270-991-1952.



Walking the Talk

Nathan Howell is renowned for his amazing varieties of heirloom tomatoes. He and his wife Michelle Howell are vocal advocates for all things homegrown. From their refuge at **Need More Acres Farms**, the couple, has helped lead the charge to establish a network of like-minded farmers, and community leaders who provide healthy school lunches, fresh local food for seniors on a budget, and mobile farms that bring healthy foods to under served neighborhoods. Visit them at www.needmoreacres.com.



Slow Down and Smell the Duck Fat

Inspired by the Slow Foods movement and her travels abroad, Debbie Apple of **River Cottage Farm** is an advocate of sustainability. Her vision of farming is based on a community of growers, vintners, cheese makers, butchers, and ultimately consumers who close the circle by appreciating each and every bite of their free-range, grass-fed meat, local dairy, fresh eggs and organic produce. When she cannot grow her own, or source her favorites from the Bluegrass Region, she isn't afraid to go global in the search for her favorite foodstuffs. Fortunately, she is eager to share. Her store, the River Cottage Farm Shop in Rockfield sells everything from gourmet meats, rendered duck fat, maple syrup, homemade soaps and farm honey to three types of Celtic sea salt and small batch EVOO. For more information call 270-796-2662.



Twin Markets, Twin Brothers

Tracy Coleman of **Coleman Brothers Farms** is up to his elbows in a bumper crop of sweet corn, but by fall, he'll be pedaling pumpkins and planning for spring. Coleman is pictured at the Community Farmer's Market on Campbell Lane and Nashville Road. Meanwhile, across town, twin brother Travis Coleman is busy hawking produce at the SKY Farmer's Market, which is located behind the Medical Center at Fifth Avenue and High Street. The SKY Market will be open thru October, while the Community Market will relocate to warmer confines inside the old mall during the winter months.

Farmer's Daughter

Chelsea Williams with **Crooked Creek Farms** reflects on the action. Crooked Creek offers seasonal produce, pastured meats and free-range eggs. Her website www.crookedcreekfarms.com offers information on share packages of CSA foodstuffs featuring everything from summer vegetables to Thanksgiving turkeys.

No Whining

Diane Ried offers award-winning estate wines that she and her husband Rex Reid make, taste, and sell from their Alvaton farm, **Reid's Livery Winery**. In addition, their stables are home to a team of Halflinger mares, called to service for seasonal Wine and Ride farm tours. See where the fruit is grown and the grapes are crushed, and then taste the fruits of their labor. A carriage ride through the Kentucky hills is the best way to be on the wagon. Call for more information. 270-843-6330 or 270-792-7451.

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Jorden Rolett of **Bespoke** offers small-batch granola alongside her handcrafted, hand-sewn creations. She is part of a growing number of vendors who focus on boutique foodstuffs. Homemade tamales, potpies, ice cream, and even doggy treats are the perfect way to support local growers and get a daily dose of veggies in the very same bite. Many vendors rely on Facebook to put the word out about their efforts, so look for your favorites there.

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Garden beans for 4

Homage to Saffron

1 cup crushed tomatoes from a can
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 2 teaspoons ground cumin
 1 teaspoon ground coriander
 ½ teaspoon fennel seed
 ¼ teaspoon allspice
 ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 ¼ teaspoon cayenne
 ¼ cup olive oil
 1 pound garden beans, stem ends trimmed, blanched
 Up to ½ cup water
 Salt and pepper to taste (I used 1 teaspoon salt and no pepper)
 Juice of ½ lemon (optional)

First, you need to have all of your prep ready for cooking: the can of tomatoes opened and measured, the garlic peeled and minced and the spices mixed together in a small bowl. I ground whole cumin, coriander and fennel in a mortar, but you can use already ground spices.

Heat a large sauté pan or wok over medium-high heat. Once the pan is hot, add the olive oil. When the oil shimmers in the pan, add the spices and garlic. Sauté for 1-2 minutes until the garlic is softened and the spices smell toasted. Add the beans and toss or stir until coated with the spices and oil.

Add the tomato and let simmer for 5-8 minutes (10-13 minutes for Romano beans). You may need to add up to a ½ cup of water to keep the beans simmering in a light sauce. You can also cover the pan and lower the heat if you want to keep the sauce from reducing too much.

Season with salt and pepper and a bit of lemon if you like (I always appreciate lemon to intensify the flavor). You can serve this warm, room temperature or cold. This would be great with a dollop of some lemony Greek or Middle Eastern yogurt.

Andrea Baumgardner is a cook, talented eater and aspiring gardener. She most recently was the chef of Green Market Kitchen in downtown Fargo but previously worked in San Francisco, Los Angeles and at Fargo's own Hotel Donaldson.



The Season's Beans

BY **ANDREA BAUMGARDNER**
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY **ZAINAH HAIDER**

I AM NOT A GOOD GARDENER.

I aspire to a luscious victory garden, but my meager skills just don't afford me the color of my daydreams. I pore through seed catalogues, dream about the greens, tomatoes and beans and then usually lose them while already having planned what I will be cooking with them. Luckily, I have had the good fortune of knowing talented gardeners and farmers, and I love getting large and ridiculous quantities of summer beans from them.

Summer beans are one of my vegetable passions (if one can have a vegetable passion). I especially love the flat and substantial Romano beans that I find at the local farmers markets but will also cook my fair share of yellow and green “string” beans, some slender French-style haricots verts and those lovely purple beans that sadly lose their violet when cooked. I gorge on beans when in season and then move on to shell beans when the skin starts to get a little leathery and harder to cook, depending upon heat and sunlight that could be by the end of July.

Some raw ingredients are interesting enough in form, flavor or color to ensure that the cook’s job is easy. Beans are in that camp. With beans, I snap the stem end off and blanch them for future use in a salad, stir fry or sauté. To blanch, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. (I would throw in a teaspoon of salt per quart. You want the water to taste mildly salty.) Drop the cleaned, stemmed beans in the boiling water. Let simmer for 30 seconds to a minute and a half, depending upon how crunchy you like the beans and how big they are; thin, French-style beans will cook more quickly than fatter wax beans. I usually pull out a few beans at 30-second intervals to taste. I like when they remain snappy but don’t taste starchy. Scoop them out of the water with that wonderful Asian skimmer tool called a spider and throw them into ice water to stop the cooking quickly. This also helps freeze the color as a bright green or yellow. Once the beans are cold, drain them and reserve them for later use, or snack on them as is.

Some beans allow for more manipulation. Romano beans can stand a whole bunch of cooking. Last year, at a local restaurant, I had an amazing dish that I tried to re-create for a good month afterwards. On the menu, it was simply “slow-cooked green beans with tomato in the style of my Palestinian grandmother.” I include my attempt at a recipe (shown at left). I used all kinds of farmers market beans, and while all were fairly successful, I think that the Romano beans were the most interesting. If you have ingredients straight from the garden, you can’t go wrong. ✱

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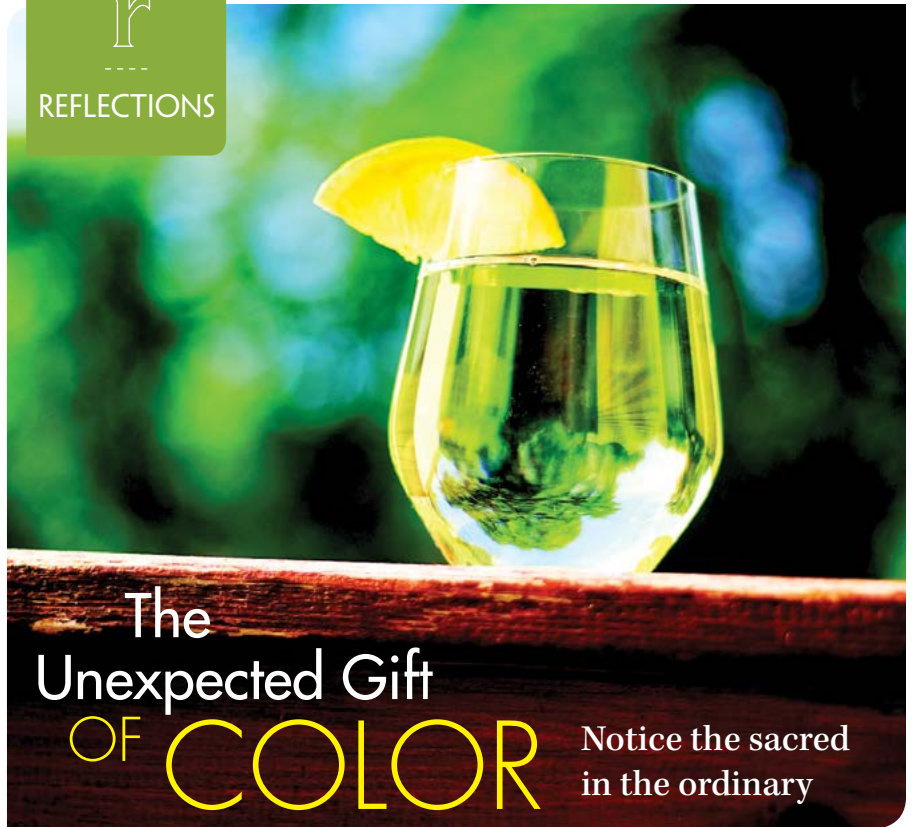
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REFLECTIONS



The Unexpected Gift OF COLOR Notice the sacred in the ordinary

COLOR. It's all around us. We are, in fact, bombarded by color, and it's only getting more intense. I remember my parents' television warming up before grainy grays, whites, and blacks appeared. Today, televisions are in such high definition that it's almost overwhelming. Photos are crisper; even markers and crayons have more pigment in them to intensify the colors they produce. Yes, color swirls around us in an almost dizzying array. But do we even see it?

I have random and unexpected moments of color recognition. On my bike, I might notice a street-long arch of exquisite green trees I am riding under. Perhaps I wake up just early enough to catch the rising sun and its myriad colors spreading across the sky. Sometimes I notice the red breast of a chubby robin sitting in my front yard. I am so used to color that I am often surprised when I notice it.

When he was young, my son had a Winnie the Pooh book about a rainbow. After a hard rain, everyone rushes to find the pot of gold that is surely sitting at

the end of the perfect rainbow above. They scurry along, and as they search for the pot, they gather little objects — a feather, an acorn, half of a robin's egg. When they get to the end of the rainbow, of course, there is no pot of gold. At first disappointed, Piglet points out that they have found some awfully nice treasures, and after all, the rainbow is very pretty to look at. They all stop, sit, and stare — content in the

overwhelming beauty they are in the presence of.

Isn't life like that? We overlook the little and beautiful things because they have become so expected that we fail to notice the sacred in the

ordinary. As you move into the latter part of summer, take the time to recognize and acknowledge the bounty of color that greets you at nearly every turn. Luscious, red garden tomatoes, a glass pitcher of pale-yellow lemonade with vibrant lemons floating on top, the water's intense blue as it moves toward the horizon. Whatever it is, try to take some time to notice all the awfully nice treasures and the beauty that surrounds you. ✿

*I am so used to
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