

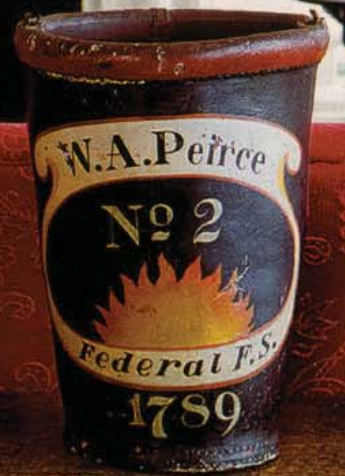
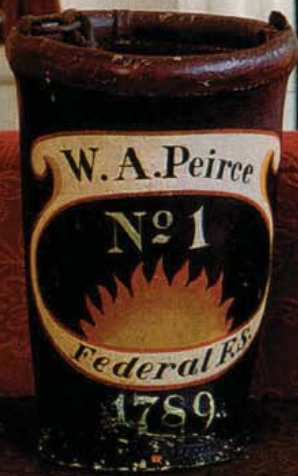
HOME DESIGN

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WHAT THE PROS KNOW

DESIGN RESOURCES AND IDEAS FOR THE HOME: NEWS YOU CAN USE

You never can have too many trade secrets and cutting-edge design ideas from professionals when you're ready to decorate or remodel. This spring, many of the country's leading architects, designers, home furnishings forecasters and writers share one design treatment, one home furnishings item, one accessory or artwork, or one architectural element that they've recently used or seen and are excited about. Here are the pros' edited responses; some couldn't resist providing more than one innovative idea.

POP-UP TV

Debbie Cassidy, designer, Toms-Price Furnishings, Wheaton. Entertainment centers from Sligh look like beautiful traditional bookcases with their shelves and crown molding, but by hitting a remote control button, owners have the extra pleasure of a flat-screen TV, as large as 50 inches (see www.Sligh.com).

OPENING UP A FOYER

William Atkinson, designer, William Atkinson, Chicago, and owner of the 0609 store in Lakeside, Mich. In a chopped-up vestibule with many doorways, which we wanted to look larger, we covered walls in a rough grass cloth, painted them—and the ceiling and all the trim—a bronze metallic, then glazed over all in another light bronze, so everything appears to be seamless and looks less chopped up. The vestibule is in an enormous house, and even though it's small and the owners only walk through it, it has become their favorite space—a “jewel box,” they say.

In a bathroom in another home, we retained the original fixtures and tile, but visually enlarged the space with a new wall mirror, mirror-mounted glass ledge, soft lighting, gray paint and glittering gray/silver shower curtain. The changes made the room's jarring angles and old fixtures seem to disappear.

SEMI-PRECIOUS CHANDELIERS

Barbara Pearlman, president, Design Atelier, Merchandise Mart. Two showrooms: Modern at Design Atelier and Traditional at Design Atelier, Chicago. I carry chandeliers, sconces and table lamps that drip with semi-precious stones. The fixtures themselves are made of steel or bronze, and the stones come in moonstone, quartz, citrine, smoky topaz, lavender topaz. They're a bit pricey, but very chi-chi and work in traditional and contemporary settings.

GLASS STAIRSTEPS

Joe Serrins, architect, Joe Serrins Studio, New York. Stairs needn't be all wood and boring. In a Miami apartment, I designed one with structural glass treads attached to a laser-cut steel stringer. The glass treads are hand-painted in various shades of transparent blue, fading from navy blue at the top landing to a light blue, almost clear, at the bottom, which mimicks the way water fades in color as it comes closer to the shoreline. Another idea: Concrete planters as chairs for outdoor rooms. When installed as a group, they have a playful look that defies the expectation of the concrete medium.

THE BIG STENCIL

Suzanne Coleman Bancroft, designer, Suzanne Coleman Bancroft, Bedford, N.Y. Stenciling is a great way to enliven a room, but instead of using old-fashioned American-style small stencils, I prefer big geometrics and use them not just on walls but also on the ceiling and sometimes the floor. You want enough stencil designs to cover the surfaces, yet not overtake the space. I like a banana leaf motif or wheat leaves, and if I use a floral pattern it's contemporary looking. I take the colors from the furnishings in the rooms.

GLASS FOR A BACKSPLASH

Jack Kreitinger, designer, Kreitinger Design, Chicago. In a kitchen, I used glass mosaics on the backsplash. The copper was incorporated into the



Barbara Pearlman and chandeliers of semi-precious stones.



Joe Serrins and his blue glass-tread stairs.

