Simple life —
Basic materials redefine luxury

All is calm: A garden in winter, cozy libraries & sentimental music.
All is bright: Outdoor lights, New Year’s brunch, St. Nick-knacks.

30 accents for the home Judaica collection

DECEMBER / JANUARY 2004-05
IN BRIEF Mizrahi goes home

THE POPULARITY OF affordable Isaac Mizrahi apparel at Target has spawned a Mizrahi home collection for the discount retailer. "I am thrilled to offer Target guests even more smart-and-affordable-ideas for enhancing their homes," Mizrahi says. His complete line of home products will include lighting, furniture, tabletop, bath, bedding, stationery and pet accessories.

The products will complement the designer's Target fashion collection, which was launched in 2003. If the home items are anything like Mizrahi's signature apparel, they're likely to sport clean, sleek, neutral and bold-toned looks in rich fabrics and textures. Other Target home designer labels include Michael Graves, Cynthia Rowley & Ilene Rosenzweig (Swell) and Rachel Ashwell (Simply Shabby Chic). For more information, visit www.target.com.

— Andrea Zarczynski

SEASON CALENDAR


Ford Homes Historic District Holiday Home Tour: Dec. 5, Ford Homes Historic District, Dearborn; 313-563-2457.

Heritage Holidays and Home Tour: Dec. 5, throughout Ypsilanti; 734-483-4444.

Mount Clemens Christmas Walk: Dec. 9, Crocker House Museum, 15 Union St., Mt. Clemens; 586-465-2488.

Edsel and Eleanor Ford Holiday Open House: Dec. 16, 1100 Lake Shore Dr., 313-884-4222.


13th Annual Novi Home Improvement Show: Jan. 28-30, Novi Expo Center, 43700 Expo Center Dr., Novi; 248-737-4477.


Please send information at least eight weeks in advance to akarpinski@hourdetroit.com, or by fax 248-691-4531.

FACTOIDS

70 MILLION NEW CHRISTMAS TREES WERE PLANTED ON FARMS THROUGHOUT NORTH AMERICA LAST YEAR □ ONE ACRE OF TREES PRODUCES THE DAILY OXYGEN REQUIREMENT FOR 18 PEOPLE □ THREE OUT OF EVERY FOUR ARTIFICIAL TREES SOLD LAST YEAR WERE MADE IN CHINA □ THE AVERAGE LIFE SPAN OF AN ARTIFICIAL TREE IS SIX YEARS □ 15 PERCENT OF HOMEOWNERS WITHOUT CHRISTMAS TREES SAID THEY JUST DIDN'T FEEL LIKE HAVING ONE □ 23 PERCENT SAID THEY WERE TOO BUSY □ IGNITED CHRISTMAS TREES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT OF ALL HOME FIRES

Source: National Christmas Tree Association, the "Washington Post"

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

We're all for individual freedom and personal style, but there's just no excuse for bad taste.

So-called icicle lights look good on some house styles, but even on those, only at night. During daylight hours, they dangle from the eaves like tangled hair. Watch it!

Flashing lights make houses look like Joe's bar or worse, a casino. Watch it!

Giant inflatables may please the kids, but most neighbors don't want guests guided to their elegant parties by the glow of a towering latex snowman. Watch it!

Bland mall-style Christmas trees are really the antithesis of what a sentimental spruce is all about. Watch it!