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A NOTE FROM CYNTHIA

Would you like to go on an island retreat? You can ... just take a tour of one of my client's homes to see her amazing style and harmonious design. [Read the feature article below.](#) **Be inspired on how you can bring that refreshing oasis feeling into your own home.**

Father's Day is just around the corner. That means summer has begun. Be sure you keep reading to **find out what men really want.** Then, surprise your husband or father with something unique this summer, just for him.

Here at home, we've been busy in our garden, pulling weeds, watching everything grow. Yesterday we saw our first strawberry! And our pea plants are two feet tall, hanging with pea pods! Thomas can't wait to pick them this week.

Enjoy!

Cynthia

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CYNTHIA RECOMMENDS – Hunter Douglas “Sheer Genius” Sale



Hunter Douglas Luminette Sheers

Hunter Douglas begins their Sheer Genius Sale from June 1 – August 15, 2010.

With Hunter Douglas window shadings and sheers, you control sunlight in beautiful new ways. And by taking advantage of these great rebates, you can bask in exceptional savings too.

\$50 rebate for each Silhouette and Pirouette. \$100 rebate for each Luminette. No minimum or maximum purchase required. Call me today to set up an in-home appointment. I will be happy to show you these beautiful products.

CLIENT CORNER – Testimonial from a Raving Fan



“Last winter I decided to finish my home with some much needed window treatments. Well, as usual that lead to painting and recovering some furniture.

I made some calls to find a seamstress and found much more. Cynthia was so willing to spend any amount of time with me to complete my project.

Cynthia made what can be an overwhelming task so much fun. Just being around her brought out the creative side of me.

She made what I had to start with beautiful with her many talents.

I feel so fortunate to know her as a wonderful person and designer.”

Sincerely, *Mindy Johnson*

Read on to the feature article to view Mindy’s beautiful home!

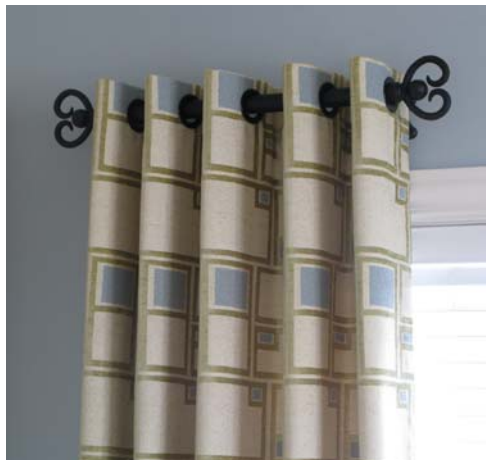
FEATURE ARTICLE - Make Your Home an Island Retreat

When you step into Mindy Johnson’s home, you feel like you’ve entered into an island oasis, a refreshing retreat for the senses. **From the kitchen to the formal dining room, the colors of ocean blues fill you with serenity and harmony.** Every time I go to Mindy’s home, I never want to leave.

Incidentally, blue is still America’s favorite color. **Associated with feeling peaceful and tranquil, blue calms us down both emotionally and physically.** Blue is a fabulous color for designing. (Designer tip: be careful to balance it with neutral colors so you don’t create spaces that feel a bit depressing and cold.)

Together we selected fresh paint colors for the kitchen, dining, and master bedroom. Mindy loves the aqua blues paired with warm taupes and chocolate browns. Here are just a few of the amazing window treatments that finished each room’s individual style:

The kitchen/dining area feel like an ocean front retreat. Beautiful bright marine blues pop with bold black accents.





The formal dining is a feast for the senses. I love the dark table with the soft blues on the upholstered chairs. **The clean lines of inverted pleated panels add beauty and elegance to an inviting space.**



How about relaxing after a busy day in **this wonderful master bedroom!** The warm golden tones of the walls and the newly upholstered bench were only outdone by the gathered luxury of the full-length ball gown sheers.

And **take a look at the truly custom detail of the hand painted iron crowns** at the top of each drapery panel. A work of art!

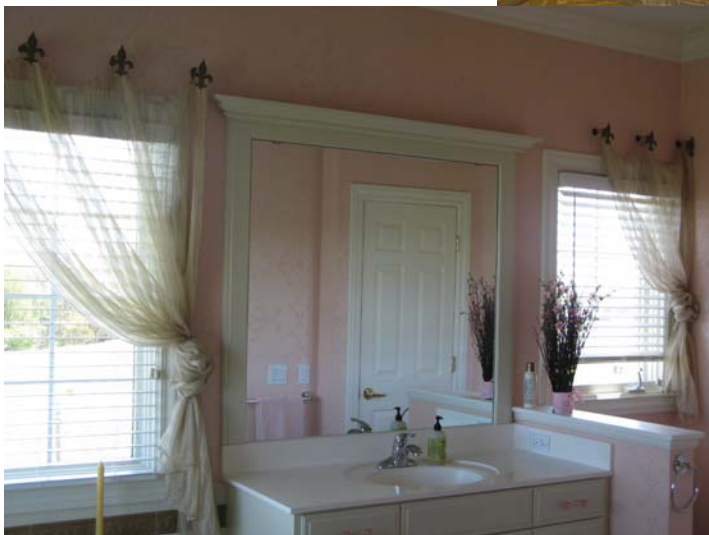
The same golden striped sheer was used in the master bath, but these shorter panels were tied back into casual knots. These sheers were mounted with the same hand painted iron, only on **fleur de lis holdbacks.**



The neutral palette allows Mindy the ability to easily swap out the bedspread and pillows for a change of color, depending on the season or her mood for something different.

This master bedroom reflects timeless elegance that will be enjoyed for years.

You too can make your home an island retreat. It's all about choosing great color with simple design.



FATHER'S DAY – What Do Men Really Want?

So often when designing our interior spaces, the choices in styles, colors, fabrics, and furnishings are geared towards what women want. With Father's Day right around the corner, this is the perfect time to talk about designing spaces that really appeal to men.

Men often feel pampered and comfortable in spaces that are linked in some way to their interests or hobbies. Some people call this using a "theme".

The best way to use an interest or hobby as a springboard for design is to REFLECT the SENSE, the FEELING of the theme. Don't repeat a theme everywhere. Take design cues for color and texture from a major accent piece, then add subtle accents.

For example, one of my clients wanted to decorate his home office with a Michigan State theme. He really liked MSU hockey, so **I created a custom cornice for his window that reflected his interest.** He loved it! He painted the walls an off-white with an MSU green stripe around the room.



Maybe you don't plan on decorating a whole room for your man, but you want him to feel like he has his own space while he's with the rest of the family. Ahh, the comfy chair in the living room! So, this Father's Day, update his favorite chair by reupholstering it with new fabric. Or, if it's beyond repair, consider buying a new one. **The key to great seating in a man's world is comfort over beauty, although you CAN and really SHOULD have both.** Leather is a great choice and works so beautifully in most rooms. (Visit my friend and top salesman, Aurelie Evans, at Lansing's La-z-Boy store on W. Saginaw. She'll guide you to the perfect chair that everyone will love to sit on.)

ABOUT CYNTHIA

For over 15 years, Cynthia has helped her clients create living spaces full of beauty, passion, and peace.

Her interior design business specializes in high-end custom window treatments. With more than 30 years of sewing experience, Cynthia personally creates one-of-a-kind designs, featuring exquisite embellishments that make each custom window covering a work of art.

Give Cynthia a call for your next interior design project. From flooring to walls to furniture, she will show you how to surround yourself with things you love, with colors that energize, and with objects that inspire. **Go ahead, wrap yourself in luxury.**

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