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Home Opinion Columnists Maureen Feighan

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Maureen Feighan

Welcome Mat

Your guide to the latest news in home furnishings, interior design and home improvement.

MAUREEN FEIGHAN COMMENTS



Gray is the hot new "it" color and Dillman & Upton in Rochester, will offer a clinic at 7 p.m. Thursday to show how to incorporate it in your kitchen and bath decor. (DIY Network)

Novi Home Improvement Show runs Jan. 25-27

The Novi Home Improvement Show kicks off Jan. 25 at the Suburban Collection Showplace and will feature more than 600 exhibitors loaded with ideas for everything from updating your kitchen to your floors. New this year is Shipshewana on the Road, which will feature an array of vendors. Dr. Lori, a celebrity appraiser on Discovery Channel's "Auction Kings," also will be at this year's show to offer free appraisals. The show runs from 2 to 9 p.m. Jan. 25, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Jan. 26 and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 27.

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Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and free for kids 12 and younger. Go to novihomeshow.com to purchase advance tickets or buy tickets for a discount at local Home Depot stores.

Detroit Artists Market 2013 Design Show kicks off tonight

The Detroit Artists Market 2013 Design Show, the DAM Design Aria, will turn the spotlight on dozens of area designers, highlighting everything from chairs, tables and lighting to jewelry and graphic design. Its opening event kicks off at 7 p.m. today with a runway show, On Stage, featuring costumes out of the Michigan Opera Theatre. Tickets are \$55 for members and \$65 for nonmembers. The Design Aria runs through Feb. 13. For information, call (313) 832-8540 or email info@detroitartistsmarket.org.

Learn how to use gray, 2013's hot neutral, in your kitchen

If you checked out our Dec. 28 issue of what's in and out for 2013, boring brown and beige are out as neutrals and gray is the hot new "it" color. But according to Dillman & Upton, 607 Woodward in downtown Rochester, it's what you do with the gray that really makes it fabulous. They're holding a Kitchen & Bath Clinic at 7 p.m. Thursday to offer tips on how to creatively use gray and other colors. "Creative use of color, mixing subdued tones with a touch of the unexpected, is making kitchens fun again," says Rick Bozynski, Dillman & Upton's Kitchen & Bath department manager, in a news release. The clinic is free, but space is limited. Reserve a spot at dillmanupton.com or by calling (248) 651-9411.

Create your own 'Downton Abbey' look

Nearly 8 million viewers tuned in earlier this month to watch the third season premiere of "Downton Abbey," the PBS period drama that follows the aristocratic Crawley family. If you're a fan not just of the show, but also the décor, New York interior decorator Lindsay Hair has tips on how to create your own aristocratic style.

Porcelain: Whether you like the simplicity of the blue and white or prefer the array of colors of the rose famille, porcelain lidded jars, vases and planters are a must in an English interior.

Regal rugs: Add a large area rug with deep jewel tones of red, navy or ochre to create a regal look.

Screening room: A folded screen made of lacquer and painted details can divide a room or provide a stately backdrop.

Family portrait: Keep an eye out for large portraits at an estate sale or tag sale to add to your library or staircase.

Add some gilt: Adding some gilt to painted doors or wall paneling can create an aristocratic effect.

Etched glassware: It's the perfect complement for your own Downton dining table.

Cristions Fine Linen & Down holding annual white sale

Cristions Fine Linen & Down, a luxury linen boutique in downtown Birmingham, is having its annual sale, which runs through Jan. 26. All Yves Delorme discontinued bedding is 40 percent off, and its popular Dash & Albert Rugs and Pine Cone Hill bedding is 20 percent off. Cristions is at 205 N. Old Woodward. Call (248) 723-3337.

MSU Extension herb series starts Feb. 5

I started growing my own herbs — basil, mint, thyme and rosemary — a few years ago, and it is addictive. If you'd like to learn more about growing your own, MSU Extension is offering a series of classes on growing and using herbs, starting Feb. 5. Its first class, "Back to Basics," is offered from

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