

**a letter from
Rita S. Wilkins, President:**

I would like to introduce you all to the newest way in which we are here to serve you, our clients and friends. "At Your Service," is a newsletter brought to you by our staff here at Design Services, Ltd., that will offer lifestyle and design tips, suggestions for improving the way we live and work, and the spaces in which we do so. Think of it as bringing a little piece of our world to you.



Our mission is to simply keep you updated with the various activities, ideas, and things that keep us inspired. We want to offer ideas for simple redesigns to freshen a space, tips and suggestions for activities and events you might enjoy, and of course some hints and trends in design and lifestyles to keep you well ahead of your friends and neighbors.

I invite you all to let us know what you think, what's going on in your lives, and anything you want to see more of or learn about in future issues. I hope to hear from you soon.

Enjoy,

Rita



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DSLtd goes HGTV!

Rita has recorded two segments of "Your Morning" on CN8 in the last few months. She commented on color trends and the design process—highlighting Chocolate brown, and showing a few "before and after" pictures from our portfolio. Watch in the next newsletter or visit us at dsltdonline.com for a quick update on airtimes.

*Come see our newly
renovated offices.*

spring
2005

for your calendar



when: Saturday, May 14th @ 6 pm

where: Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts

who: Faithful Friends, Inc., an animal rescue shelter in Wilmington

why: Area architects, builders, and designers team up to create and build actual useable doghouses of all different shapes and sizes that will be auctioned off to raise money for the

Faithful Friends, Inc. animal shelter. It's for a good cause and to help more animals find loving homes and families.

vitals: Tickets are \$40 in advance.

For more information visit the websites:
www.barkitecturede.org
www.faithfulfriends.us
 or call: 302-427-8514

Before and after photos of Seabiscuit model home for Magness Construction's Sugar Loaf Farms.



check out these sites

www.fineliving.com: lots of information on places to visit and eat, things to do, and ways to improve the quality of your life.

www.joshrubin.com: he calls himself a "cool hunter," and his site is packed with the latest and coolest in design, clothing, travel, accessories, and plenty of other things that will blow your mind.

www.about.com: if you want to know something, this is the new encyclopedia for you. If you have a question about anything, there is an article here with plenty of information.

BYOBs are better than ever, and too fun to miss!

by Sean Wilkins

I started going to BYOBs (Bring Your Own Bottle) a few years ago while still waiting tables, and found them to be some of the most consistently enjoyable places for a relaxing dinner with friends. BYOBs offer the best of both worlds—you get consistently good food for reasonable prices, and you can afford to drink better wine.

There are several great local BYOBs in the area, but I have a few recommendations that have proven most enjoyable over the past few years and several repeat visits.

The Orchard

This tiny (maybe 15 tables) jewel sits quietly just off Route 1 between Longwood and Kennett. The chef, James Howard, is a LeBec Fin alum, and offers a great menu of New American food with a slight touch of classic European technique.

If they still run it, depending on the time of year, you have to try the burger sampler. He takes mini brioche and makes small burgers, like "sliders" out of some very interesting ingredients ranging from duck confit or seared

tuna to a lux beef burger of ground prime filet mignon. And all of this comes with a heaping pile of cottage fries in the middle.

Everything about The Orchard speaks to a real attention to detail throughout. The decor is simple and elegant, allowing the food and service to take command. The service is professional, unobtrusive, and well paced, and the little details like a weather forecast on the check presenters are great touches that show a real passion for the business.

Location of The Orchard

503 Orchard Avenue, Kennett Square
 610-388-1100

Wine Recommendations

Bring a white and red to taste the different ways they enhance the flavors of the food. Bring a Champagne or a dry white, like Sauvignon Blanc. For the reds, I like something that isn't too powerful, but will stand up to meats and sauces, so a Spanish Rioja or hearty Cote Du Rhone will go nicely with most anything.

tips for decorating on a budget

Some of the least expensive ways to decorate are also the easiest to implement! Here's a few examples of what to do, and how to do it . . .

Move Your Existing Furniture

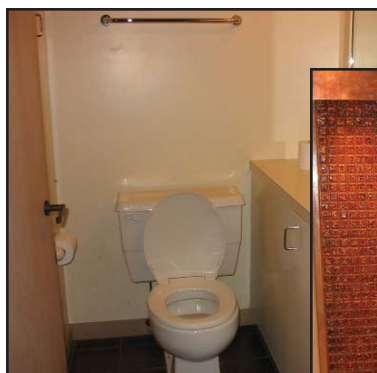
- Take furniture from one room, and give it a whole new look in another room.
- A bedroom armoire can be used as a television armoire/entertainment center.
- Move furniture around within the same room, angling sofas and chairs, or rearranging the conversation areas.
- Multi-task, giving you more storage and usage from a few select pieces, like storage/cocktail ottomans or desk/sofa tables.

Paint

- Be daring, and try a new color—it's just paint. If you've always admired a friend's daring use of bold color in their home, why not give it a try in yours? Start with a guest room or study.
- Use color on an accent wall.

Lighting

- The correct lighting is a must to make the room come together after you've done all the work of moving furniture and painting.
- Accent your artwork, or the accent wall with light.



Guest Bathroom before and after

Add a spa touch to your home with a waterfall like this one.

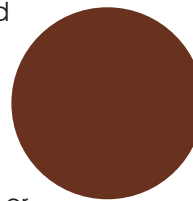


hot colors for your home or office



red: The brighter the better, but use it intelligently as an accent for trim or on a focal wall. A little touch of red in some pillows can liven up a living room or family room. Be bold, and get a great sofa in red—Rita did. It adds vitality and warmth to any room, and is a symbol of power and courage, according to Feng Shui.

chocolate: It's delicious on its own, and even more so on your walls and furniture, just don't let the kids know that. There are so many shades to choose from right now, and you're allowed to be bold with it. Try pairing it with a light blue silk, or even shades of pink in some pillows or other fabrics. Brown offers a great backdrop for daring stripes too.



Red makes any room cozy.



facts

2004 National Average return on home renovations:

- 90.1%** average return on **bath renovations**
- 92.9%** average return on **kitchen renovations**
- 92.8%** average return on **siding replacement**

A rule of thumb for remodeling—**20%**, if you are planning resale within **3-5 years**, set a budget equal to or less than 20% of your home's value, to ensure maximum return in your investment.

Facts courtesy of www.remodeling.net, and the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard.

design and service

be the first to read about:

hot new colors with power and pizzazz

budget decorating ideas

doghouses!

what we've been up to, and lots more!

refer your friends!

Do you know of any family, friends, or neighbors that might be interested in Design Services, Ltd.? If you refer someone and they become a client, we will give you *both* a complimentary hour of design time!

Be sure to send us this form to the address above,
call our office: 302-475-5663,
or send us an email:
dsitd@dsitdonline.com,
so we can make sure you get credit for your referral.

your name: _____

your phone: _____

your email: _____

• • • • •

their name: _____

their phone: _____

their email: _____

their address: _____

• • • • •

would they be interested in

residential design commercial design

• • • • •

what type of projects may they be interested in?

renovation custom furniture

second home new construction

kitchen remodel space planning

custom cabinetry

other design services, please describe:

• • • • •

May we use your name when contacting them?

Yes No



Before

Commercial Lobby renovation



After

*Visit us at
www.dsitdonline.com
to see more photos
in our portfolio!*