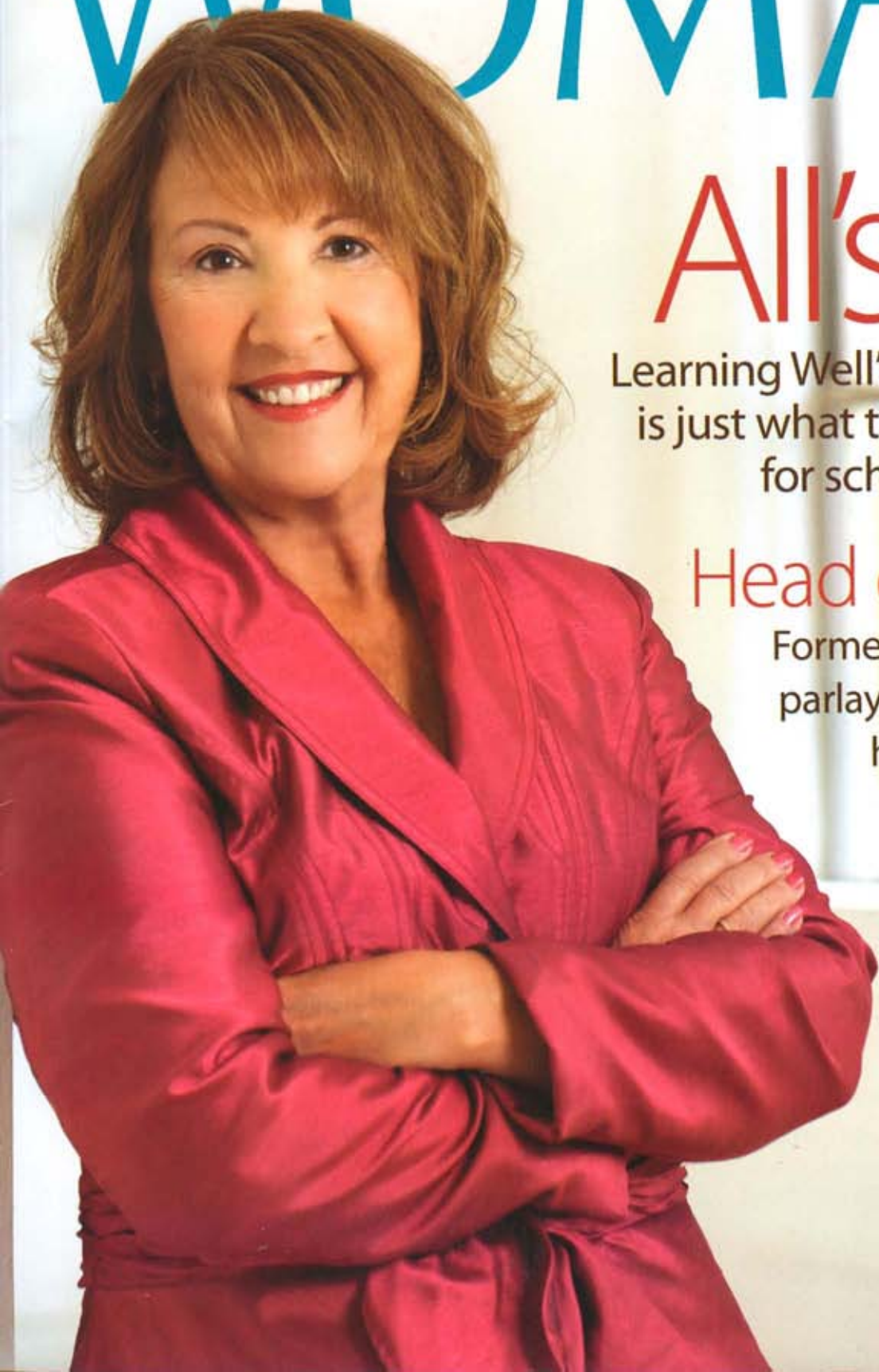


Indianapolis

WOMAN

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All's Well

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High Style

9 top furnishings trends help make the most of the homes we've got

People are styling at home this year just like they staycated this summer. They're renovating, rehabbing, redecorating and redoing instead of moving.

It's good to take a reflective look at how we live, and one of the results is more affordable furniture that's not so over the top in scale and not quite so ostentatious. Smaller scale is one direction gleaned at furniture markets from High Point to Milan, Chicago and Las Vegas.

> **Smaller coffee tables.** Seen at the High Point Furniture Market were lots and lots of pairs of small coffee tables and new versions of nesting tables. The popularity of oversized coffee ottomans may be giving way to more flexible, smaller tables that take up less space and multitask beautifully.

> **Coastal living.** Americans like casual style, and the new casual is coastal living. The Stanley Furniture Coastal Living collection is done with the magazine by that name and epitomizes sun, sand, sky and water with light painted finishes and lapped-wood motifs. Food Network TV personality Paula Deen introduced a similar collection with Universal Furniture that was as Southern as

her drawl. The designs are inspired by plantation-style antiques and Savannah, Ga.'s, distinctive character.

> **Contemporary and modern.** Uptown contemporary and mid-century modern continue to pace furniture style. You'll find plenty of sophisticated choices. Look for dark woods, neutral upholstery and an absence of flourishes and fillips. Amethyst and gray continue as fashion colors but expect plenty of taupe, walnut, black and oatmeal with an occasional shot of apple green.

> **Comfort.** Comfort is huge and not just in theater seating. Style leader B&B Italia combines fine design and comfort, which is not always true in European furniture. The

new Jean sofa designed by Antonio Citterio is sophisticated and comfortable. The sofa sits up on thin gray metal legs. The effect is sculptural, svelte 1930s. This is investment furniture in a year when fluff is out.

> **Traditional values.** Style this year is decidedly more conservative. Look for upholstery fabrics that reflect traditional value: menswear glen plaids, paisleys, herringbone and houndstooth prints, often used in combination. Also look for more serious furniture with an emphasis on craftsmanship.

> **Blue is back,** especially blue velvet. Blue conveys a soothing tone, says Jackie Hirschhaut, vice president of the American Home Furnishings Alliance. "Classic blue



Photo courtesy Stanley Furniture

has always been the public's favorite color."

Soft lighter blues are considered beneficial to mind and body, while navy and denim are comfortable and familiar — safe choices in a rocky world. Darker blues signify depth, expertise and stability. The traditional navy suit is a basic in business; similarly, a blue sofa or chair is a basic at home.



Photo courtesy SIF Technology

Give your home a new look with the Summerhouse Bed (left) from Stanley Furniture's Coastal Living collection or the Modern Office Chair (above) from SIF Technology.

"Blue is the new 'green,'" says Holly Blalock, marketing director for C.R. Laine. "From fresh water to clean air, the color blue is the constant that connects our lives and reminds us to make earth a better home."

> **Still going green.** Green continues to be a major force in home style. Look for more furnishings marketed as eco-friendly featuring bamboo, wool, shells, skins and woods.

Here's an example: Glitzy pearl and sparkling wallpapers were all the rage a couple of seasons ago; now slices of wood are made into earth-friendly wallpaper, and tabletops are limestone or capiz shell.

> **Global influence.** Ikat prints are back. These hand-dyed prints resist dyed prints similar to tie-dye and are traditionally blue, red or brown. They are still made in India, Indonesia, Japan, Bali and Guatemala.

> **Printed leather.** Look for new printed

leather that looks like antique lace or sensuous snake. New leather seen at the NeoCon show at The Merchandise Mart in Chicago is printed with full-color photography from SIF Technology. "Any graphic or any color can now be printed on leather," says CEO Ron Simkins. "It is the newest technology out there. This is the first time it's available."


Home style this year is not about spending the most money. It's all about making it your own, customization and personalization. W

A resident of Meridian-Kessler, Falk Nancrede has written about furniture markets from Chicago to Dallas and High Point to Milan and has received numerous local and national awards. Contact her at hoosierhabitat@yahoo.com.



Log on to www.indianapolis-woman.com/Links.asp for more information on home trends.

Does your breakfast area look better at dusk? Does your entry hall scream, "Go Away!?" Or does moldy tile in your bathroom make you feel less clean, even after a long shower? Show us the problem places in your home. We'll have an interior designer draw up a solution. Send a photo of your problem area to Rebecca R. Bibbs, *Indianapolis Woman*, 6610 N. Shadeland Ave., Suite 100, Indianapolis, Ind., 46220 or by e-mail to rbibbs@weisscomm.com.

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