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Shabby Chic-o-holics

Locals who love the look

Mary Ann Kleschick Interior Design

Mary Ann Kleschick, an ASID interior designer, has done just about every style interior since she opened her own design business in 1995, but she says that the Shabby Chic look works for a variety of clients. "It's a style that has many advantages. With Shabby Chic you can be more serendipitous. It is not an exact look so you don't get pigeonholed into having certain pieces. It's also nice for apartment dwellers and people on a budget because slipcovers are less expensive than reupholstering. You can also use things that people have given you or flea market finds or second-hand stuff," she explains. One of its other virtues is that it is so forgiving. "Furniture can be chipped and it adds to the piece. I really love the idea of rustic chipped paint furniture with a crystal chandelier, pretty Venetian mirrors and chairs and sofas with slipcovers," Kleschick says. To contact interior designer Mary Ann Kleschick, call 215-640-8820.

Scallywag Home

In addition to her own store, Rachel Ashwell handpicked a smattering of retailers around the country to carry the Shabby Chic line; Scallywag was one of them. Owners Michele Butterworth and her husband have been in the home business for 32 years. Their store has a room devoted to Shabby Chic with coordinating furniture and one-yard samples of the fabric so her customers can better see what it might look like on a larger scale. While some customers may not know who Rachel Ashwell is, they know her look. "The term Shabby Chic has become generic. We'll have someone come in the store and say, 'I want something Shabby Chic-looking.' We have to explain that there is a line called just that," Butterworth says. While it is a high-end product (pillowcases are \$25-95 and a queen duvet is \$340), people who buy it have no price resistance. "We sell lots of Shabby Chic for customers to use in their shore homes. Many like it and return to do the whole house," she says. Scallywag Home is located at 308 W. Lancaster Ave. in Wayne. For more information, call 610-688-8212. - *Kathleen Nicholson Webber*