

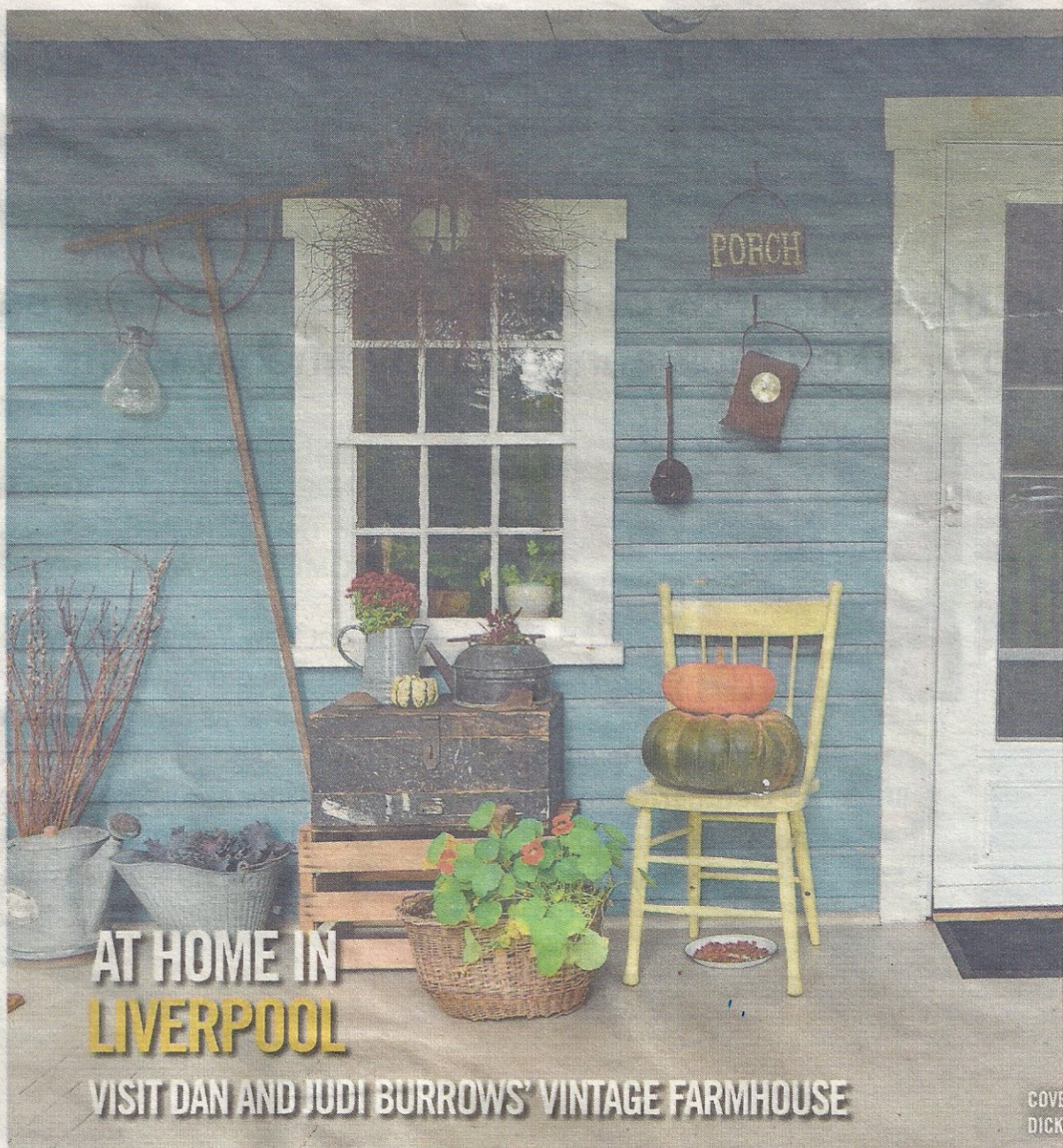
upstate HOME

LIVING REAL EASY

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CNY SHOPS'
WARM & TOASTY
ACCENTS

PEEK OF
THE SEASON
HOLIDAY STYLE
2011

SPECIAL
FEATURE
JUNIOR
LEAGUE
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Elegant Reflections

As the holiday season approaches, don't just decorate—create a sentimental adornment.

BY MARY GELLING-MERRITT

Home-decorating expert and decorative artist Heather Bruno-Sears suggests custom-etching a mirror to be placed over a fireplace mantel, on the wall in the family room or in a room your family gathers for holiday celebrations. Creating a family-made holiday adornment could become one of your family's traditions each year.

The design you choose could be a reflection of your family's life that year or a vision for the future," Bruno-Sears says. "You could think of the custom-etched mirror you create as a reflection of your life together."

The project is quick, simple and (depending on the type of mirror you choose) not too costly. The results are breathtaking. The mirror she chose cost about \$40 at a home improvement store.

The motif of the design she selected depicts a large tree with children playing. "The scene reminds me of memories from my childhood," says Bruno-Sears. "The tree represents family to me. The design just expresses joy, old-fashioned family values and a celebration of life and family."



MATERIALS:

- MIRROR WITH A FRAME
- DECORATIVE PATTERN WITH AN ADHESIVE BACKING (OR YOU CAN APPLY ADHESIVE SPRAY TO YOUR ORIGINAL DESIGN)
- PAINTER'S MASKING TAPE
- RUBBER GLOVES
- ETCHING CREAM
- PLASTIC SQUEEGEE
- PIN TOOL

- 1 **THE FIRST STEP** is to make sure the mirror is clean and dry. Then use painter's tape to protect the mirror's molding. If you're using painter's tape to lay down the design, be sure the pattern is uniform and straight. For a pre-cut design piece with adhesive, Bruno-Sears says to measure the mirror's surface and then cut the pattern to fit.
- 2 **ONCE YOU'RE SURE** the pattern fits the space, gently peel off the backing, starting in one corner revealing the adhesive side. Next, carefully place the pattern with the adhesive to the mirror and smooth over the surface with your hand to make sure the pattern is adhered to the mirror's surface. To remove any remaining air bubbles under the design, gently go over the surface with a plastic squeegee. Once you're sure your design is securely, gently pull back the front paper to reveal the pattern. Bruno-Sears says to use a slow and steady motion while making sure all the elements of the pre-cut design remain on the mirror's surface.





For more information on Heather Bruno-Sears and her decorative painting techniques, visit her website at www.heatherbrunosears.com.

- 4 WITH ADEQUATE VENTILATION**, pour the etching cream onto the surface of the mirror, moving it quickly and evenly, making sure all the exposed areas of the mirror are covered. Using a soft bristle brush in a stippling motion, move the cream into all the nooks and crannies of your design. Leave the etching cream on the mirror for 15 minutes. When the time is up, use the squeegee to pool the cream (you can put it back in the bottle for another use).
- 5 THE LAST STEP** is to peel away the pattern. Use the pin tool to pick up the edges of the adhesive areas to perform an even, steady peel. Once the adhesive tape is cleared, you're done.
- 6 TO CLEAN THE SURFACE**, Bruno-Sears suggests using a non-harsh, multi-surface cleaner without ammonia with a soft cloth.
- 7 THE RESULTS-** a 3D effect created by the mirror reflecting the etched design.

Bruno-Sears' life motto is 'you must give to get.' So the artist created this particular piece in honor of Todd's Fund, a nonprofit organization which provides support services and financial assistance to children in the Central New York area, to honor the memory of Christopher Todd Pitman, of Skaneateles, who perished in the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center.