

STAIN-PROOF AND FIRE-RESISTANT

Pigskin Newest Fashion In Furniture, Decorating

What could be more appropriate for a farm family that raises hogs than pigskin furniture?

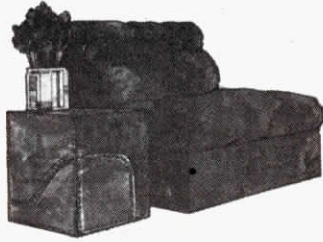
Pigskin suede upholstery is the newest rage in furniture. It's being used for chairs, and for decorating rooms in pigskin draperies, tiles, lamp shades, and pillows.

A leading promoter of pigskin suede is Lucia Leathers, Richardson, Texas, named for owner Lucia Refoy who was a designer for the Hush-Puppy shoe line before launching her own business. Lucia's main product is "Kroupana" suede, which is pigskin that's tanned to be as supple as cloth. It's available in 18 colors.

"Kroupana suede has been called the 'cool leather' because it 'breathes' through the natural hair follicles that grow deep into the skin to create thousands of tiny air holes. You won't stick to it in hot weather," Lucia told FARM SHOW. "Its resistance to stains, both liquid and solid, is almost impossible to believe," she points out. "Wine, coffee or tea all roll off with no penetration. Mustard, catsup and other pasty materials scrape off with a butter knife. The residue can be brushed off when it dries."

During tanning, the suede is saturated with "Scotchgard" which gives it its resistance to stains. The material is also fire-resistant.

The printed version of the pigskin is Luciana, which comes in a variety



Pigskin upholstery comes in 18 different colors.

of patterns and designs. One decorative piece made with Luciana is a wall tile with good acoustical qualities — in addition to its beauty and durability.

Lucia notes that only perfect skins are used for her products, and that only about 3 out of 10 skins are perfect. The high-priced hides (\$4 per sq. ft.) demand that waste be minimized. So, in the tradition of using "everything but the squeal", Lucia Leathers has packaged the pigskin scraps for sale as craft materials.

The craft kit retails for \$11.50, including postage. The assortment of scraps includes ideas for making belts, pictures, lamps, jewel boxes, and Christmas decorations.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lucia Leathers, 32 Dal Rich Village, Richardson, Tx. 75080 (ph 214 231-8214).

GIVE YOURSELF! YOUR TIME!

Here's A Great Gift Idea For Christmas

by Doug Sorenson

Iowa farm wife Mary Runkle, of Broomfield, has some great gift ideas for Christmas. Give yourself! Your time!

Mary and her husband Don have been giving each other, and their children, such personal gifts as "time" for many years. One year, for example, their gift was a promise to their children to spend one hour of time each week giving individual attention to each child, rather than playing with them as a group.

"After all the kids were in bed at 8:30 p.m., Mom and Dad spent one hour with one of the children who stayed up an extra hour," says Mary. "With five kids, this worked out well for evenings Monday through Friday.

For that child's own hour, we did whatever they wanted to do, such as read, talk, listen to records, etc. The idea was a great success."

Another gift of "self" that Mary gave to her husband one year was a promise of losing 10 lbs. of weight in a certain length of time. "Once I had promised it, I did it," she told FARM SHOW.

She has other suggestions for giving of yourself. Why not give an outing once a month to a nursing home patient? Or promise a letter a week for a year to someone who is in military service?

"A family can give a gift of inviting a lonely cousin, aunt or uncle to share a Christmas dinner or other holiday



Todd Melde demonstrates how a quick touch to a leaf of live plant turns the lamp on or off. A squeeze makes it dim or brighten.

QUICK TAP ON THE PLANT TURNS IT ON; A SQUEEZE MAKES IT DIM OR BRIGHTEN

Living Plant Lamp Brightens Room Decor

Many people talk to their plants to encourage them to grow better. But very few people caress their plants in order to turn the lights on.

One man who does is John Melde of Sandy's Sweet Cream Shoppe in Coon Rapids, Minn. Some customers are lured into the store just so they can touch his two "plant operated" lamps.

And touch it they do. Hundreds of people have stopped by to turn the lamps on and off with a quick tap to a leaf. If they give a gentle squeeze, the lamp dims or brightens.

"I feel like a dummy because everybody asks me how it works and I don't know," says Melde. "I tell them it's a magic lantern. Plant experts have assured me its a legitimate phenomenon".

Actually, the plant itself has no control over the Living Light, as it's called. The plant simply becomes a part of the switch when you touch it.

According to Patricia May, who assembles and sells the lamps, the Living Light is controlled electronically by a circuit board near the light bulb. The plant you decide to use must be grown hydroponically. That is, the roots grow in a liquid nutrient solu-

tion with perlite growing medium used to replace soil.

The plant is electronically grounded to the pot. May says that when you touch a leaf, the electrical impulses from your body cause the circuit to short out. This, in turn, signals the circuit board to turn the light to on, off, dim or bright.

"There's no danger of electrical shock — unless you pour water right on the electrical wires of the lamp itself," May says. "Then you'd get a shock just as you would with any regular electric lamp."

May has sold about 100 Living Lamps since February. She assembles them with electronic parts from a Florida manufacturer, although she intends to be able to buy them from a local manufacturer soon. Price is \$119 complete or \$60 without the plant, pot and shade. "It makes a great conversation piece. Any plant can be used although plants with a low light requirement work best," says May.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Patricia May, 3655 NW 172 Lane, Anoka, Minn. 55303 (ph 612 753-1382).

or family event," Mary suggests.

Giving of yourself and your time doesn't only have to be a Christmas gift. "When our children were young, we often gave each one a special birthday gift of an outing. We went alone with that child to the place of his choice. It helped our children learn the social graces of eating in a restaurant, and you can imagine the fun each one had telling the others about his own personal adventure," says Mary.

The idea of giving yourself and your time as a gift has been tremendously satisfying to her, and now she looks for new ideas of this kind from other people. "In a day when store-bought gifts are expensive, consider giving a gift of a visit, an hour of play time, sharing a meal, or writing a letter to a friend or relative. These are the kind of gifts that make the giver feel as good as the person who receives the gift," she suggests.