

PS PERSONAL SPACE CATCH OF THE DAY

Oregonian, The (Portland, OR) - Wednesday, April 13, 2005

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Summary: Coral inspires design from the oceans' depths

Coral is more than just the latest fashion color. Coral reefs are living organisms and important for ocean biodiversity and shoreline protection. Trade in real coral is closely regulated.

That said, the many shades and shapes of faux coral are fabulously stylish while being ecologically responsible.

From salmon pink to deep red, coral made its imprint on home decor years ago. As a design motif, it's "as classic as a Chippendale chair," says interior designer Shirley Roggen.

Roggen, who was shopping in Italy last month, says the design and gift markets are teeming with sea creatures, including coral. It's the catch of the day.

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* Look for faux carved pieces of coral to use as mantelpiece ornaments.

* Reproduction prints of coral and other sea creatures add a touch of 18th- and 19th-century classicism.

Silk pillow with beaded coral motif \$120

At Cielo Home

Linen pillow encrusted with coral, crystal and gold beads \$58

At Anthropologie

Faux coral drawer pull and coat hook Pull \$6, hook \$14

At Anthropologie

Linen towel with coral and shell motif \$30

At Cielo Home

Salad servers with coral-colored glass handles \$20

At Pier 1

Coral carved candle \$40

At Cielo Home

Caption: Color photos by TIM LaBARGE - *The Oregonian*

Edition: SUNRISE

Section: PERSONAL STYLE

Page: 14

Record Number: 0504070306

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