

## ask THE EDITORS

## Stumped by Stripes

Stripes are very traditional for home furnishings, but I'm not sure how to use them. When and where are stripes appropriate in a period home?

—JEANNINE SHERWIN  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

“Many people are frightened by stripes because they feel they are too bold,” says New York interior designer Sheila Bridges, author of *Furnishing Forward* (Little Brown, 2002). But stripes are ideal for unifying an interior. “Finding a stripe composed of many of the colors already existing in your room can impose order on a seemingly chaotic space.”

Bridges likes to choose stripes for window treatments. Thin or wide, “the verticality of the stripes seems to elongate windows, making them seem bigger and more substantial.”

Upholstering a large sofa in broad stripes can diminish its apparent size, especially if the colors are in the same tonal range, writes Melanie Paine in *The Textile Art in Interior Design* (Simon & Schuster, 1990). Don't be afraid to use stripes in historically appropriate materials, patterns, and colors. Stripes and plaids were especially fashionable between 1860 and 1880, after Queen Victoria had her portrait painted wearing her ancestral Scottish Tartans. Between 1880 and 1900, manufacturers wove shiny silk and mercerized cotton threads into striped patterns, just as wallpapers



**It's a misconception that smaller-scaled stripes belong in small spaces, and wider stripes in larger rooms. Bold stripes in small spaces can make a big impact.**

sported shimmering mica effects. Wide stripes were especially popular in the 1930s and '40s.

## Reusable Appliances

I'd like to use vintage appliances as part of the restoration of a large 1870s Harlem townhouse. We have a 1940s electric stove with two ovens, a ca. 1950s electric fridge, and a pre-electric icebox. These appliances still work, but they need restoration. Can you recommend sources?

—SID WHELAN  
NEW YORK, NY

Antiqueappliances.com (706-782-3132) in Clayton, Georgia, specializes in vintage appliances restoration. The refurbishing process includes upgrading or replacing refrigeration and electrical systems to meet

current codes; a complete overhaul of surface finishes and trims, including custom replating and reporelaining; and repainting in period colors. Each restored appliance is equipped with new high-efficiency insulation and custom door gaskets. The company also offers vintage refrigerator gaskets for \$4.95 to \$6.95 per foot. An option for your pre-electric icebox may be a conversion. Roseland Ice Boxes (877-423-2693, iceboxes.com), in Blacksburg, Virginia, considers conversions on a case-by-case basis, and can arrange for pickup and delivery. Since your appliances are still working, you may want to investigate buying parts; sources include Macy's Classic Stove Works (713) 521-0934, macysclassicstoveworks.com and Antiquestoves.com (517) 278-2214.