

April 2009

Home  
&  
Garden

# HOMIE

**When Shrinkage's A+**  
*Less Lawn, More Leisure*

**Moon Gate**  
*Hidden Away In Full View*

**Landmark Silvermine Home**  
*The Charm Of The Unexpected*

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**Home of the Month**  
*Exceptional Value*  
*Ridgefield*

**HERSAM ACORN**  
NEWSPAPERS

A Hersam Acorn Special Section

Greenwich Post  
New Canaan Advertiser  
The Wilton Bulletin  
The Redding Pilot

The Darien Times  
The Ridgefield Press  
The Weston Forum  
The Lewisboro Ledger

Bryan Haeflde photo



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# Say it with silk

## SCHRIVER FLORALS OPEN HOUSE

by Priscilla Whitley

Nothing quite complements a space like a beautiful arrangement of flowers. A lush grouping can turn an uninviting space into a feast for the eyes. It's a lovely way to add a finishing touch to any room.

Bea Schriver has been a floral designer in the Fairfield County area for 20 years. Having worked for so long with fresh flowers, it was time for a change, and she's now focused her extensive experience on creating luscious bouquets of high-quality silk flowers.

Walking into her studio in Wilton is like entering a Garden of Eden, where every type of flower seems to be available, waiting for her creative touch to turn them into a magnificent display. After you've spent some time with this lovely, energetic woman, her passion for what she does becomes infectious. You want to turn her loose in your own home to fashion something for every room.

On April 2, 3 and 4, Bea Schriver will be hosting a Spring Open House from 10 to 5, or by appointment, at her studio at 10 Fox Run in Wilton. It's a wonderful opportunity to come in, meet Bea, see her designs, and buy something beautiful to enhance your home, for your own pleasure and that of your guests.

"I think it's a great way to bring color, texture and beauty into your home without the upkeep," Bea said, perched on a stool by one of the large worktables in her spacious studio. "You don't have to water them or change the container. You don't have to pick up after they drop on the table. It's a beautiful thing. They look so lifelike, you really can't tell the difference.

"One day it dawned on me that I love flowers," she said. "I'd worked in the corporate world but it wasn't satisfying. And then I realized, this is what I should be doing, working with something I love ... something I enjoy. I was always creative, even when I was little. I loved decorating my room and I love color ... using color in different ways. So I took a job at a flower shop in Wilton, which led me to begin designing for weddings. I started out small, but over the years I wanted to do more. It was then I began to do high-end weddings, with big flowers and expansive centerpieces."

After being highly sought-after for 20 years, Bea turned her sights to silk flowers. "Silk flowers are very cost-effective," she explained, "for you're getting the beauty of flowers in your home at a very reasonable price. If you were to pay for a large arrangement each week, or even a small one for that matter, it would cost thousands of dollars a year. These silk beauties will last five to 10 years.

"I'm very fussy about the quality I use," she said. "I go directly to the distributors in New York City where I can hand pick each flower. Because I worked for so long with the real thing, I know exactly what they look like. I know the subtle differences. That's a really big advantage. I'm also picky about the containers I use. It's all about meshing these two together in order to get the desired result."

There are a number of ways Bea works. You can visit her studio by appointment and receive a free consultation, or, for a fee, she will come to your home, look at the space and consult with the owner or an interior designer. The consultation fee for a home call is applied to any purchase made. Then it's on to the fun part.

"I start out with the color ... it's all about the color," she said. "Then I go into the different textures and shapes to make up an arrangement. That's my job ... color and texture."

Through the years, Bea has done weddings and holiday celebrations as well. She will also decorate a home by the season, such as flowers with fresh pastel colors for spring and ones with deeper tones for fall. With the coming of each season, a home can change its look without great expense.

"There are so many overlooked places where an arrangement can offer that extra special touch," she said. "I love putting a grouping on top of an armoire, within a cabinet, on the dining room table, and, of course, the foyer, such an important place as you enter the home."

Incorporating not only flowers but life-like fruit, trees and topiaries, each design is customized for its particular spot. Wreathes for all seasons



Silk flowers bring color, texture and beauty into a home without the upkeep.



An arrangement begins with color, followed by textures and shapes.

may accent a door or a wall, and will last for years.

Silk flowers make great sense for a business as well. With so many companies purchasing fresh flowers for their lobby or waiting room, now is the time for a silk arrangement. This allows a business to still appear welcoming to clients, but at a reduced cost.

Bea Schriver Florals also offers rentals, which are becoming quite popular for weddings, parties and businesses. The cost of fresh flowers may keep people from going all out for that sensational look, if only for one day. Rental arrangements provide a great alternative.

Whether it's at the Spring Open House or by appointment, meeting with Bea will open up a new dimension in decorating. "I love people coming into my studio," she said. "They get to see how I work, see the flowers, and it offers so many ideas for both of us. I love what I do. It's so much fun. I get to go into beautiful homes and work with wonderful people. How lucky am I?"

For more information, call Bea Schriver Florals at 203-834-9515; e-mail [bea@beaschriverflorals.com](mailto:bea@beaschriverflorals.com); Web site, [beaschriverflorals.com](http://beaschriverflorals.com). ■