

(continued from page 12)

erator is both practical and novel," says Audrey Reed-Granger, an Amana representative.

"Consumers use their fridge for lots of things, not the least of which is leaving notes for each other and posting kids' artwork. We took this application and made it fit." The fridge, which was produced in collaboration with Crayola, is priced at \$549 and comes with markers and an eraser. Reed-Granger says that though the fridge is a top-mount model with lots of room, some buyers are putting it in the kids' playroom, as long as they've got the space. "We're having a hard time fulfilling the demand right now," says Reed-Granger. "We get orders constantly because it's resonated so well with the consumer base. I'm thrilled – you don't always get to launch a product that cap-

tures imagination like this one does."

Ch-Ch-Changes

If the chalkboard trend passes, you won't be stuck with a dark green or black expanse of chalk dust. According to Neuhauser, writing surfaces are as simple to erase as yesterday's to-do list. "When you're ready for a new look, it's easy to paint over chalkboard paint. Simply paint over with a primer, and then paint on your topcoat. Any time you dramatically change colors, a lighter color might require several coats of paint to cover a darker surface."

Changing your mind about the look and feel of the home is, in fact, one of the beauties of DIY style. When the redecorating itch grabs you, just make sure you've got chalk nearby when brainstorming.

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Clean Slate

BY MELANIE WANZEK

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Worried that chalkboard paint might mess up the aesthetic of your home?

"Chalkboard paint ... doesn't clean up as pristine as the manmade surface – there will be some residual matter no matter how many times you wash it because porosity of wall," says interior designer Lisa Ewing, Ewing Design Group, Chicago, Ill. "Whereas if you have a chalkboard panel, the porosity doesn't exist ... I now know to let clients know that there is a difference between a manmade chalkboard and chalkboard paint. It is a matter of personal preference whether they can live with some smearing and imperfect conditions or not." Though Ewing used chalkboard paint in her own home (see pictures), she says chalkboard panels offer the same fun for those seeking a spotless cleanup.

"In more formal houses, you're going to see chalkboards framed in a frame," she says. "You can also use refrigerator panels or even kitchen cabinet doors and still have the formality ... It's like lyrical graffiti."

Ewing says she has put a chalkboard in almost every kitchen she has designed in the past 10 years because she is inspired by the fun and youthful feelings the boards bring. "It encourages people to leave a message and kids to color on the wall," she says. "It's healthy – it reminds you of childhood, serves a lot of purposes and brings back good memories."



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Dark Side of the Moon

Superhero-inspired or not, the Half Moon is leading the pack for a new generation of chairs

BY CHRISTINA OWENS

CTW Features

No, Louis Saul's latest design wasn't inspired by Batman, and it doesn't come complete with a "Robin" side table. The German designer's Half Moon Chair, featured as the center of the Dodolivin booth at the International Furnishing Show in Cologne, Germany, was inspired by some a little more powerful. "It was a wonderful moon in the western part of Turkey, sickle shaped of course," Saul says. "The idea of the design came late summer of 2007, and the form was in my head immediately and on paper only a few hours later."

Saul's orange and black reading chair features a body made from a composite of wood and orange sponge. "Not too many people are using it in modern design," he says. Part of the new generation of wing chairs, the Half Moon Chair is meant for comfortable reading but was designed not to lead to sleep. "The form of the upholstery was probably inspired by a security piece that I wear in summertime a lot," he says. "It is a protector for my back because I like to ride motorbikes."

For Saul, the best feature is "of course the book shelves. It's always good to have a good book right next to you."

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