

# PERFECT HOME

JUNE 1951

MAGAZINE



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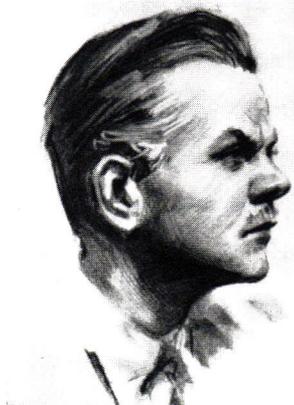




This mural will be a main decoration in the new Tibbett home

# HOME IS LIKE A FRIEND

Lawrence Tibbett has a long list of "Firsts" to his credit. He was the first opera star to have a commercially sponsored radio program, the first to have his own television program, the first opera star to appear in musical pictures and the first to present televised opera on a large scale



**M**OVING from a home in which we have spent many happy years and settling in new surroundings, is like leaving an old friend and making a new one.

Jane — my wife — and I are doing that right now.

We are discovering that the heartaches and sorrow that attend us as we give up our present home are gradually being supplanted by an excitement and happy anticipation over enjoying the new.

We have loved Honey Hill, our present home. It is a beautiful, rambling farm house in the hills of Connecticut near Danbury. It has served us well. We made additions to it from time to time, so that it would always do its share in serving the needs of our growing family. But after our sons grew up and married, Honey Hill was too large for our way of life. True, we are gregarious, and we like friends around us. But the very existence of so much room led us into more entertaining than we really wanted.

Yet so strong was our affection for this home of ours that we couldn't bear to give it up entirely. For a time we tried taking a few of our most valued possessions and moving into the gardener's cottage. This seemed ideal, at first. Life there again became a wonderful relaxation. But it presented one serious difficulty. Honey Hill was no longer ours. We were merely squatters beside it. Better to be far away — away from the daily reminder of rich associations and memories — away to another home that might serve us better and in time be loved with the same ardor as Honey Hill.

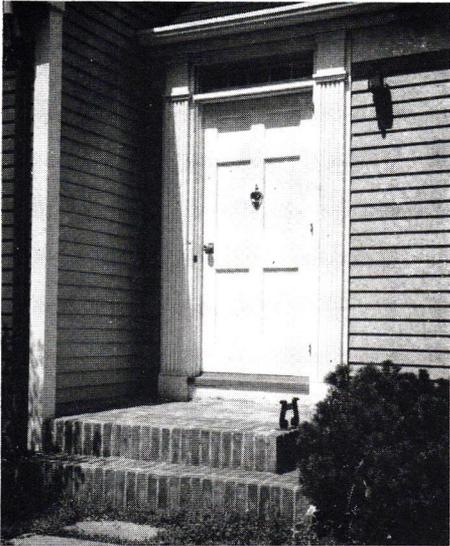
So we made the decision. We are soon to move into our new home. It is a delightful but small place in Naples, Florida. Instead of the rolling hills we loved so much, we will have the ocean at our door; where apples grew in our former orchard, we now will have avocados. What a peaceful spot it is, with an uninterrupted view of the Gulf of Mexico through the picture window in the large living room! Jane and I always liked being out in the sun, swimming, fishing and boating. Now we will have these pleasures just a step away. We will have only three bedrooms, so that we will be able but not obliged to have guests.

Yes, we are going to love the beach, just as we did the Connecticut hills. And as a main decoration in our new home we will have a constant reminder of Honey Hill — a mural that is very dear to us, painted for our studio there by William Yarrow. It depicts a fanciful impression of the history of American music. Because our strongest memories of life are bound closely with music, it is entirely fitting that our two houses should be bound together by this expression of our art.

*By Lawrence Tibbett*

Summer charm is captured in Max Tatch's photo, opposite page, and in Rudolph Edward Leppert's colored cover photograph of our featured house

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RUDOLPH EDWARD LEPPERT, JR.

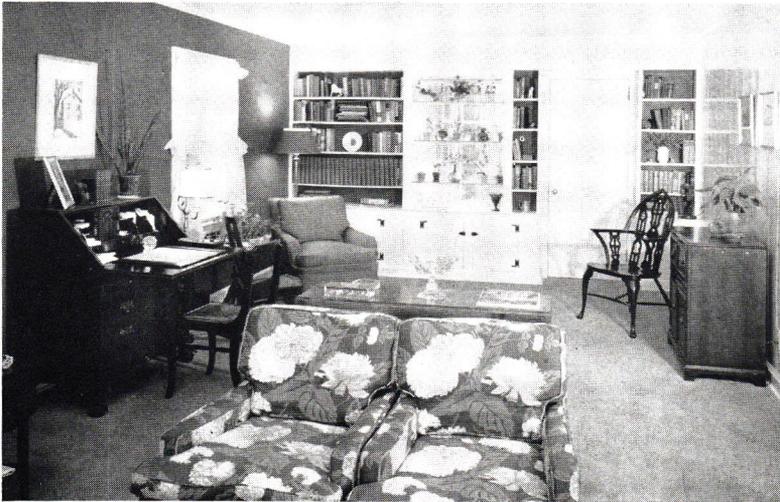


Paneled traditional door gives neat contrast

# THAT *Livable*

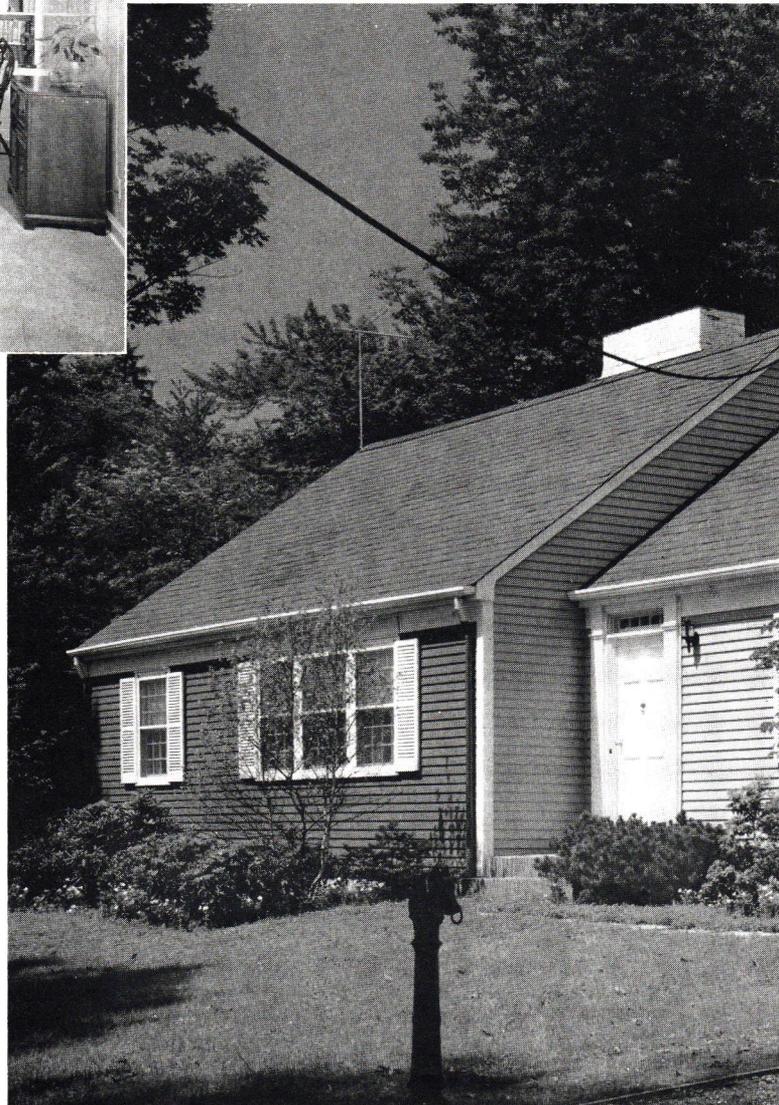
Here's a home that inherits its clean, simple lines from Early America, yet has a staunch enduring look so appropriate for today's family life, a warm friendly way of saying: "You'd like to live here."

BY ROBERTA ROYCE



Book niches are painted the same deep red used on the exterior

Foundation planting emphasizes sense of permanence and stability



SERENITY is a word seldom applied to things of our day. It is a premium quality that connotes things of a past time to many of us. In a house such as this, serenity can find a new meaning, a meaning of today.

It stands grey, red and white on its squared-off plot of green (See front cover). A cast iron horse atop an old hitching post guards the graveled driveway. Even before the shrubbery had its roots well anchored, the house had a settled and secure air.

The living room is a delightful place, large and bright yet intimate and friendly. The wine red of the exterior appears in the lampshades, and the print of the twin lounge chairs. A deep shade of the exterior grey blue is repeated on one wall and the carpeting. The remaining two walls are fresh white.

The kitchen is a "just between" kitchen, neither spacious nor too compact. Any serious cook would love its counter space, light, color and easy-to-reach storage room. There's a lavatory so that the homemaker may check her appearance before answering the front door.

The three bedrooms are small. The master-bedroom has three generous closets and its own bath. The two smaller bedrooms might have been widened just a bit to provide windows for much needed cross ventilation.

look



Variety in colors gives same interest as change in materials at lower cost



# Have You Heard?

## HOP INTO A WARM TUB

When the heating industry speaks of a warm tub they mean just that. Homes that use radiant or hot water heat can install bathtubs that are always warm to the touch. Heat from the regular heating system circulates behind the apron of the tub keeping it warm. The entire tub becomes a radiant heating panel.

## TUB-TIME TRICK

If your young sprout shows little fondness for water you might try psychology to lure him into the tub. Use china paints to trace fanciful designs just above the water line. Add his name in bold letters, and bath-time will become a game rather than a to-be-avoided chore. The new low-heat china and glass color will last surprisingly long and scratch off easily with a razor blade if you tire of the effect.

## STORE MORE FUEL

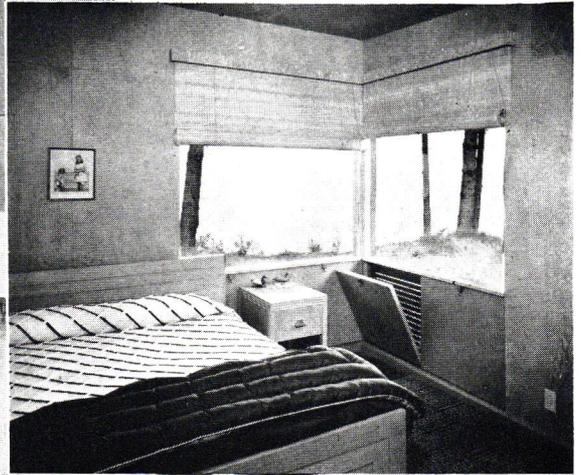
Fuel experts advise us to increase our rate of fuel storage. With a substantial backlog on hand you will have a buffer against temporary shortages and price rises. Extensive home storage would also ease transportation headaches. Many home owners are replacing smaller oil tanks with 1,000 to 1,300 gallon tanks. This will take care of the major portion of the year's supply. Large tanks or coal-bins need not take up precious cellar space. They may be located under the driveway with top opening for filling. The coal-bin should be connected to the cellar by a sloping ramp or tunnel that would allow the coal to slide down for use.

## LIQUID SANDPAPER

Sanding, whether by machine or hand may be a thing of the past if the new liquid solvents live up to all predictions. They react in just a few minutes — softening wax, shellac and old varnish. They may then be wiped off. The same solvent may be used to remove old wax and plastic finishes from linoleum. Use it on rusty chrome, aluminum or copper. So it looks as if you can say "So long" to that time and temper wearing job of sanding.

## SO YOU WANT PICKLED PINE

Pickled pine means different things to different people. The term refers to the soft mellow color of the wood that lines pickling and vinegar vats. It may range from the deep warm grey green of olive vats to the golden greys of distilled vinegar containers. So if you want one particular shade be prepared to give your decorator a sample of the shade or hand him a color chart for one of the ready-made pickling colors. The Western Pine Association suggests bleaching the wood with a commercial bleach then cover it with an antiquing paste of white mixed with raw umber and black. Wipe the surface to leave only a dust-like coating. Shellac and finish with liquid wax.



## A place to hide



PARENTS, to paraphrase Dagwood, are a sorry lot.

In spite of the fact that pride in their offspring ordinarily flames high, there usually comes a time when Mother and Dad like a brief recess from that record that grinds endlessly through repeated playings, the interminable telephone conversations, the giggling that seems to be an inevitable part of growing up. Woe to them then if they have no place to hide.

A couple of far-sighted parents we know solved the situation by adding to their home a master suite, consisting of bedroom, den and bath, removed from the main area, which they refer to as their "sanity insurance."

The new walls were simple to construct because they were made of solid plywood panels, well broken with long ribbons of windows, and closets large enough to handle storage problems.

The den is comfortably outfitted with easy chairs drawn close to the cheery fireplace, bookshelves and a desk, and good reading lamps. It's a quiet spot where Dad can listen to his favorite radio program and Mother can read her book in peace, and it spares them the ignominy of simply going to bed when the youngsters are having a party. Storage cabinets ranged along the entire inner wall help to muffle the sounds of the latest dance tunes. And when Mother and Dad, in their own good time, decide to retire, the bedroom and tiny bath are only a convenient step away.

Such an arrangement, we think, offers an excellent answer to the age-old problem of how to live with your children and still love them. And when the grandparents come for their annual visit, it assures them of privacy for a pleasant and most restful stay.

# You'll Want to Know About . . . . .

## *Liquid Steel*

**S**TAINLESS steel in liquid form is here. It may be sprayed or brushed on metal or wood to give a durable rustproof and waterproof surface. Apply it to window frames, water tanks, metal areaway walls, etc. . . . any material subject to corrosion. A quick-drying vinyl solution holds particles of the stainless steel in suspension in the paint can. In the five-minute drying time an almost continuous metal surface forms as the flakes overlap.

## *Multi-color Paint*

A new multi-color finish paint is available for use in a spray-gun. Particles of variously colored pigments are suspended in the enamel solvent, do not mix or run when sprayed on a surface. Colors are adjusted by the proportion of pigment in the compound, the pattern by the diameter of the spray nozzle. Scratch resistant and washable,

the pattern will conceal seams and imperfect surfaces. It may be applied to wallboard, paper, plaster, wood, cement, metal, and comes in either flat or gloss finish in a range of 24 colors to be combined however desired.

## *Separate Gas Cooking Units*

Those who prefer gas-cookery will welcome two new "decentralized" gas ranges featuring separate surface and oven units. One has a three-burner, chrome-plated surface unit and an oven which may be built into the wall or set into a base unit. The oven comes in stainless steel, or stainless steel with a porcelain enameled door, or completely porcelain enameled. It operates either on piped or bottled gas.

The second stove the surface unit has four burners and the oven has a porcelain enamel lining with a porthole in the door.

## *Waterproofing Compound*

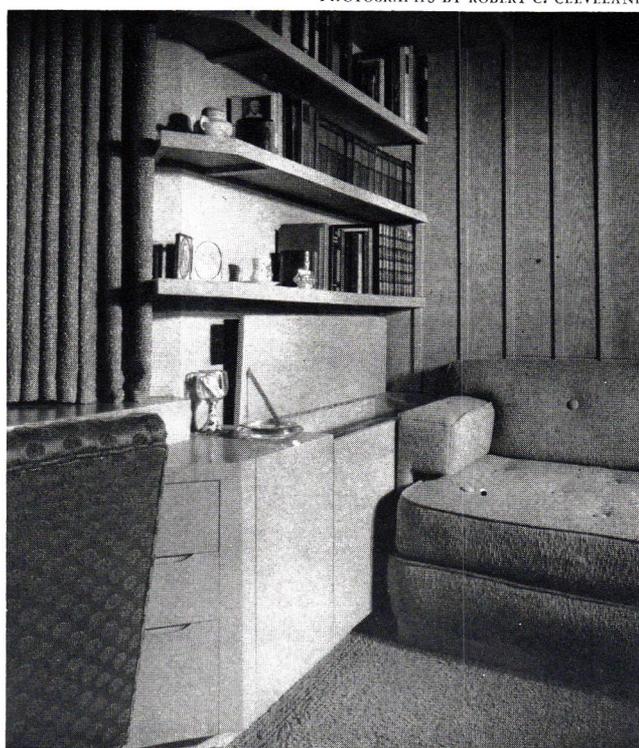
A waterproofing compound for structural materials is now available in a clear liquid form. It is sprayed or brushed on and penetrates such materials as canvas, sailcloth, natural woods, masonry, shingle roofs, etc. Transparent, it does not stain or affect colors applied later, nor affect the texture of the material. It is claimed that the compound increases resistance to termites, condensation and dry rot.

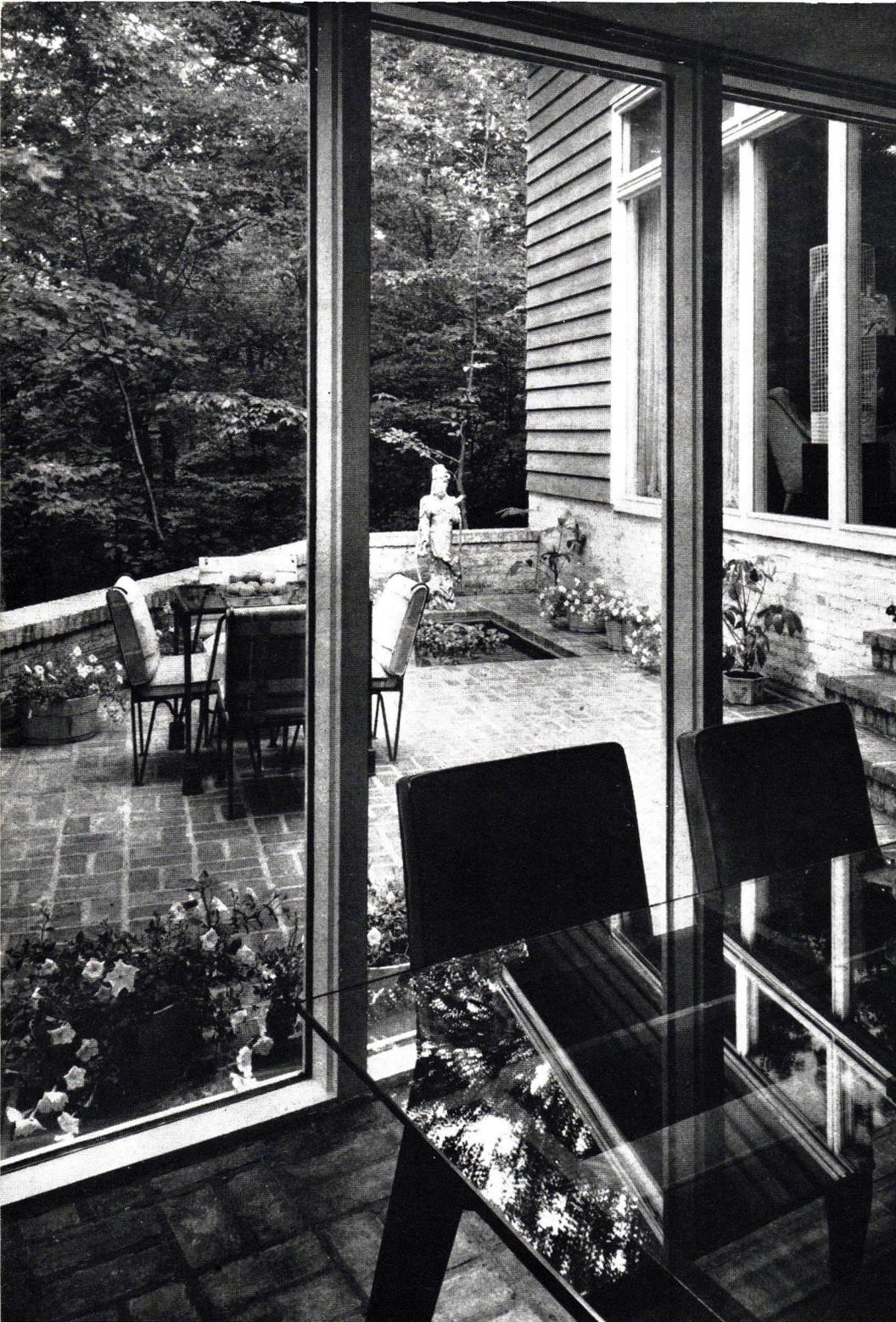
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## **Make Built-ins Serve the Purpose**

**I**F EITHER guest accommodations or extra desk space have been a problem, don't let them stump you, just take a look at these two pictures. Perhaps they are your remedy. First for the desk. See that drop-leaf that lifts up to convenient writing height? Behind it hides the typewriter and there's plenty of additional room for games or sports equipment. Now for the guest room. The comfortable living-room sofa becomes a bed in very short order when linens and blankets are taken out of their concealed hiding place under the book shelves. When closed down, this chest top becomes a convenient shelf.

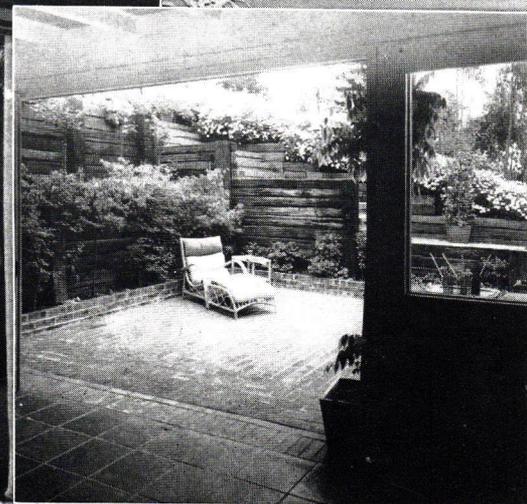
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT C. CLEVELAND



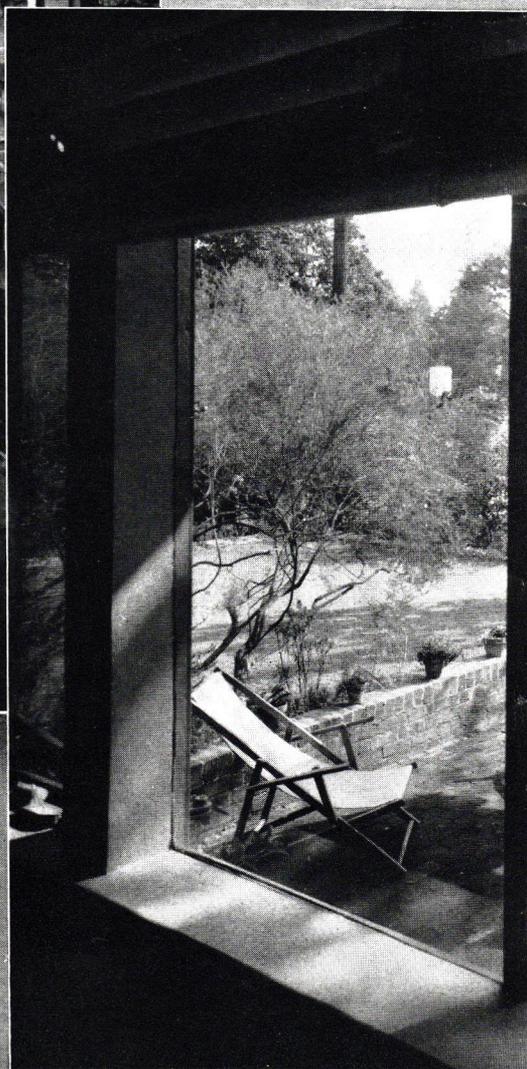


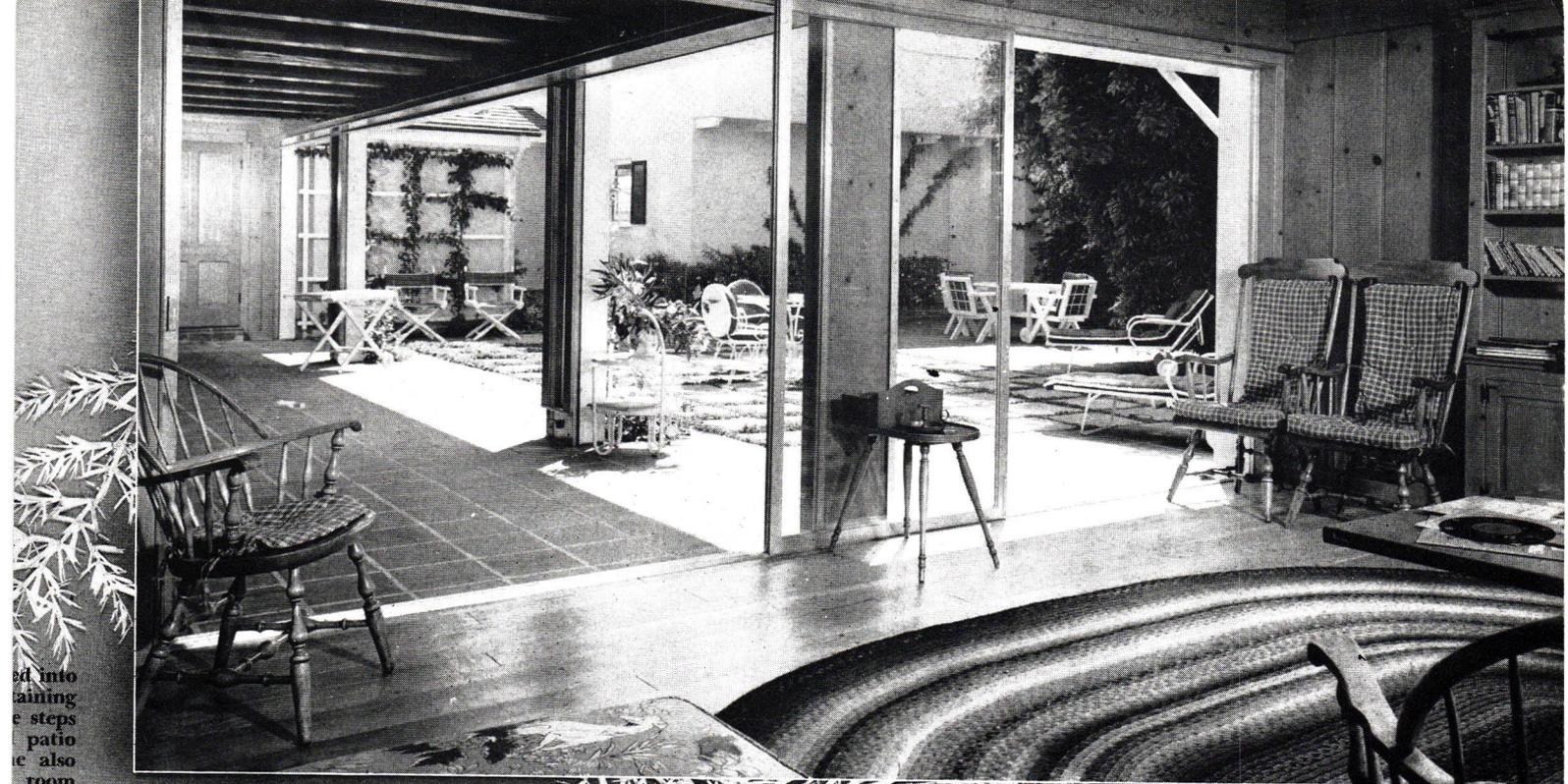
Viewed through the tall windows of the living and dining rooms, this utterly simple terrace overlooks a wooded slope. Paved in parqu岸-patterned brick with a low brick wall and sunken pool, the sole ornamentation is sculpture and squatty wooden tubs filled with bright petunias

Also brick paved and walled on three sides, but with a planting inset, this open terrace is a few steps above a pleasant stretch of lawn. Notice how simply the potted plants along the wall add just the right note of charm. The table is metal, and the canvas-covered chairs of wood framing



An intimately enclosed patio built on the side of a hill. The railroad-tie wall lends an unusual rustic touch. The terrace is paved with brick. At right, the patio opens through sliding doors to a tile-floored porch or the large





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# Patio patterns

Gail Boyce

**H**ERE WE GO, diving head-first into summer, and isn't it grand? Everyone moves outdoors, especially if they have their own outdoor living room — a place with all the comforts and privacy of indoor living out where every breeze that wafts can relax your tired body. Out where the warm sun can toast you to a golden brown . . . that enviable state in which you look healthy, and can acquire that glow and coloring so handsome with summer clothing.

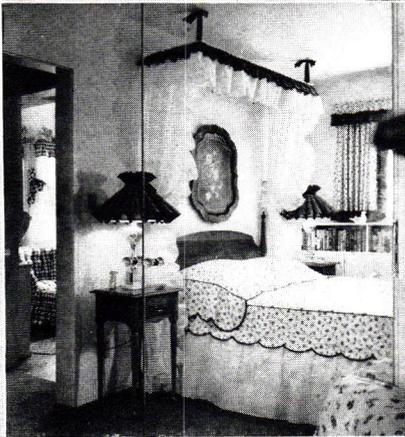
No matter how small the lot, everyone can have his private patio or terrace. Screen it in natural growth, in trees and shrubs. Or build a good-looking fence of bamboo, wood slats or canvas-hung framework. Let your little sun-pocket hug the house close to the snack provisions in the kitchen, to the living room for the view and natural sequence of living.

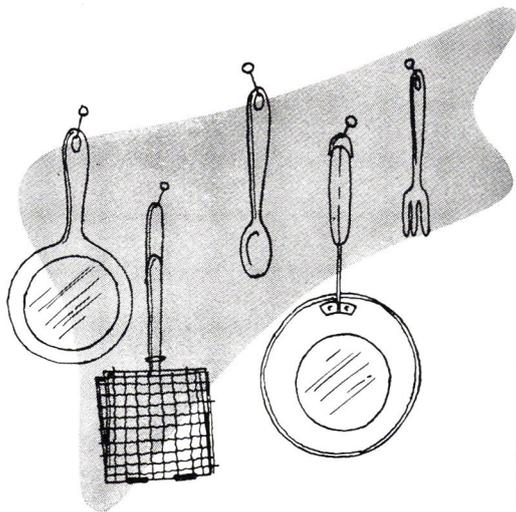
Pave it in cedar or redwood slabs, brick, quarry tile, concrete, native stone, finely-crushed rock. Add a fireplace or barbecue, portable or permanent. Partially cover with a trellis dripping with heaven-scented flowing vines or a collapsible canvas awning. Furnish it with really comfortable, weather-proof furniture; chairs and tables. Set plants around, add a piece of statuary for artistic effect, float lilies in a pool, and fence off just a corner or your entire back yard and enjoy it.

\*  
**WITH  
FLOUNCES  
AND  
FURBELOWS**  
\*

MENTION canopied beds and you'll probably find yourself in the midst of an argument. People are for them or against them and there's no middle ground. We believe these three brief versions of the all-enshrouding old-fashioned canopies may convert a few of the anti-canopy clan. They're lovely as hoop-skirted belles and in fine fashion for the American traditional bedroom. The canopy just below was made from airy curtain panels, a pair of frothy tie-backs and a flowered ruffle all on regular curtain rods. The other two hang from simple carpenter-made cornices,

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PARKER, DAPPRICH





PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT C. CLEVELAND



## YOUR KITCHEN IN ACTION

**A**MERICAN industrialists have proved that the assembly line method is the quickest, easiest and most economical way to produce a quality product in quantity. This may have a mechanical tone abhorrent to the woman who prides herself on unique cookery.

Actually, nothing can be farther from the truth. By beforehand planning of the kitchen the most ardent cook can rid herself of all meaningless delays and mechanical processes that take so much time . . . time that could be devoted to meal preparation.

Suppose we study each activity in the kitchen by sequence.

### A. Food Preparation

1. Is there enough space to do everything necessary in preparing food?
2. Is there enough storage space for every food, every tool used in preparation?
3. Is every item available where it is needed first?
4. Is it stored in a manner convenient enough for use without strain?

If the work areas of the kitchen could be divided into sections, there would be roughly four. First the mixing center. It starts with the refrigerator storing perishables. Logically, you would do your mixing for baking, desserts, salads, sandwiches at this point. Your beater swings out on a shelved door, or maybe it lifts on a spring carriage like a typewriter from a desk.

You have a vertical sliding rack on which you hang rolling pin, meat grinder, sieve, mixing spoons, etc. Sliding cabinet shelves hold bowls, pans; vertical slots handle cookie sheets, cake, pie, muffin tins. You have a drawer fitted with bins for flour, sugar, shortening. Your spices occupy a shallow door on a cabinet, or stand on a rack suspended beneath the cabinet.

Just beyond the cutting counter is the second section, the sink area. Perhaps yours is an electric sink with garbage disposal unit and dishwasher. If not, a garbage can rests on a racked door of the sink cabinet, or rolls out on a sliding shelf, or waits beneath a hatchway at the back of a counter, the weighted cover swinging on an axle.

Plenty of space here for cleaning supplies, or utensils first used at the sink such as coffeepot, double boiler, brushes. Nearby are the sliding ventilated vegetable bins. Other foods first washed, soaked or mixed with water wait within reach.

The range, or cooking section is third, and over the

stove is a built-in drawer system for extra stocks of flour, seasoning, sugar, raw cereals, coffee; storage for lids, kettles, other foods used first in boiling water, such as canned vegetables, macaroni. There are stirring spoons, ladles, potato mashers, turners, skillets, serving dishes.

The fourth area, the serving center, is now becoming more and more a "must" in well-planned kitchens. It serves the range, the dining area and, occasionally, the refrigerator. If dividing the stove from the dining room, it can be the ideal spot for linens (with table cloths kept flat on rollers), silver (in grooved drawers lined with non-tarnishing flannel), and dinnerware (cups and stemware suspended, plates and platters standing vertically in slots).

This is where you store occasionally-used items like waffle irons, roasters, trays (also vertically), the popcorn popper, the toaster.

### B. Periphery Activities

1. Have you a freezer?
2. Have you a cleaning closet?
3. Is your laundry in or near the kitchen?
4. Do you feed your family in some part of the kitchen?
5. Have you a lounging spot?
6. A planning center?

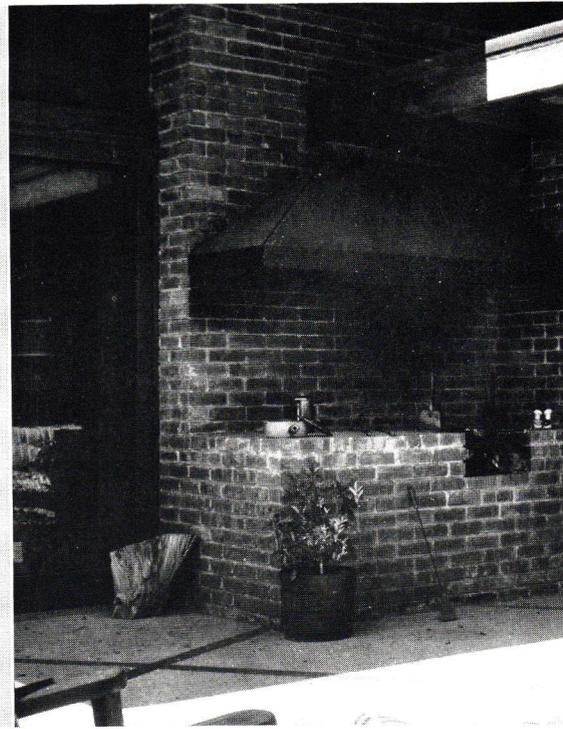
The questions are an indication of the increased activity demanded of the modern kitchen. At the periphery, or edge, of the heavy-duty center, you have a desk at which you plan your menus, your shopping lists, balance your budget. For the rest of the family it is the news and message center.

You have a breakfast bar or nook for snacks and staggered breakfasts taking the place of grandma's kitchen table.

You quick-freeze produce for your home freezer, something new under the sun since your mother set up house-keeping.

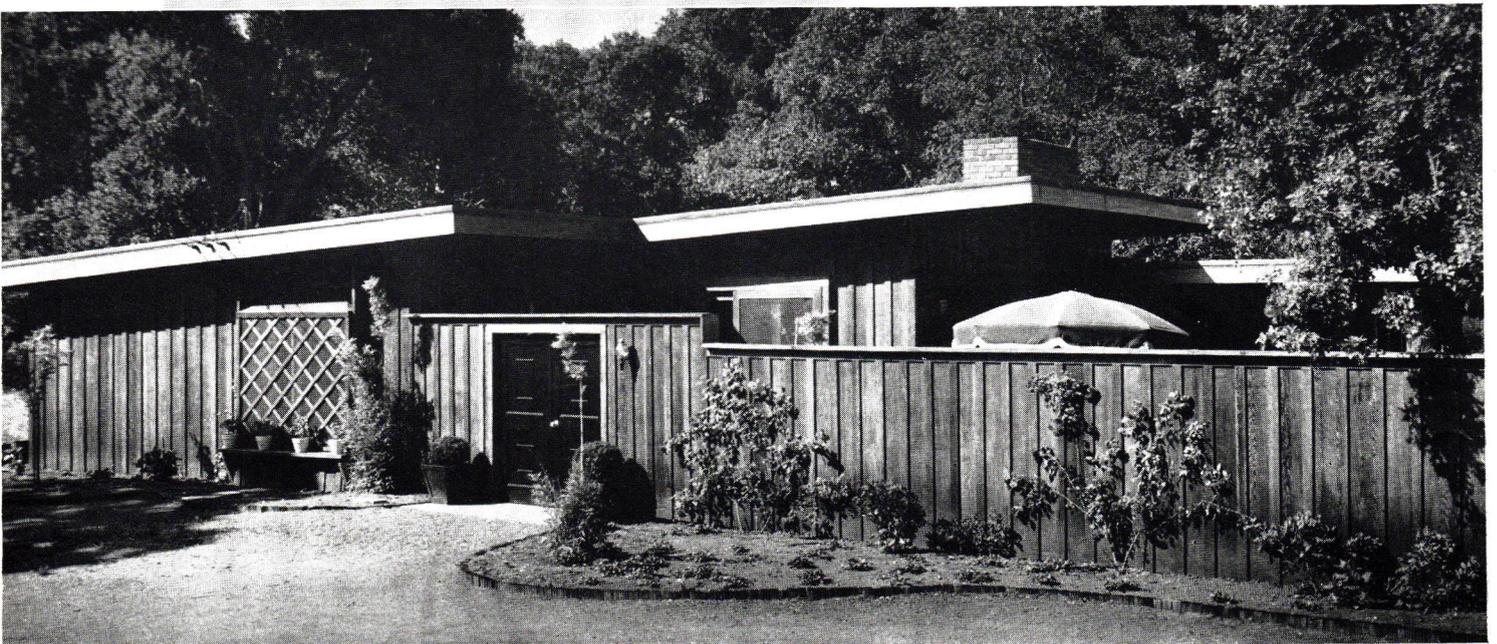
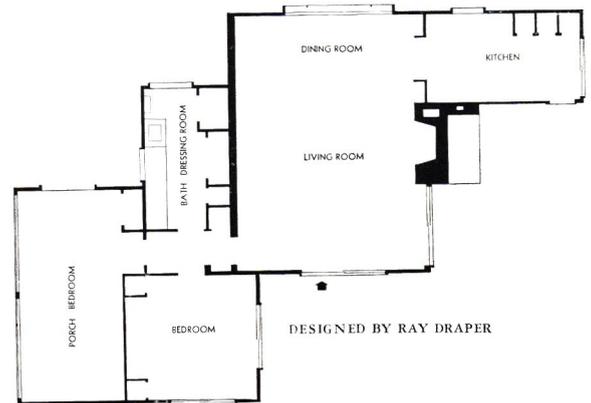
Your laundry, with its new mechanizations, may have moved into the kitchen or beside it.

For your work you have discovered the untold convenience of the reserve supply in its own closet. Also the labor-saving, well-stocked cleaning closet. All this in the kitchen, but on the fringe because it must not interfere with the business of mealtime. For that reason you have added an extra little sink for washing up, for flower arranging, for freezing and canning operations that always seem to need just a bit more than the average amount of space.



# BIG As All Outdoors

BY DONNA LOUIS NICHOLAS



Wide glass doors and windows in the living room, kitchen and one bedroom join these areas with the airy room beyond the glass

Modern design and traditional building materials balance each other agreeably. Redwood board and batten siding with its clean cut vertical shadow lines gives a mellow character that goes well with the ground-hugging design

The brilliant green doors guarding the entrance to court provide just the right contrast with warm tones of fence and walls of house

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MORLEY BAER — RESEARCH BY LOUISE PRICE BELL

A PHILOSOPHY to fit the times is tucked under this low roof. It might read like this: "Cut down on work and unnecessary details. Create a setting for easy hospitality, for family fun. Telescope exterior and interior areas for more modern, more spacious living."

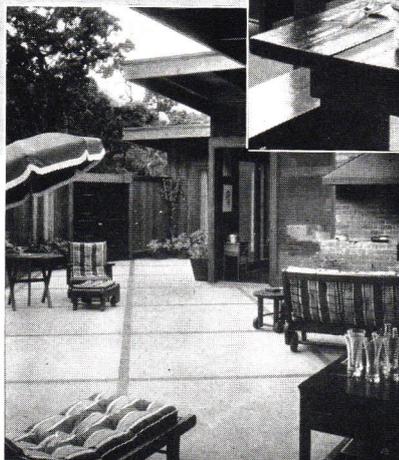
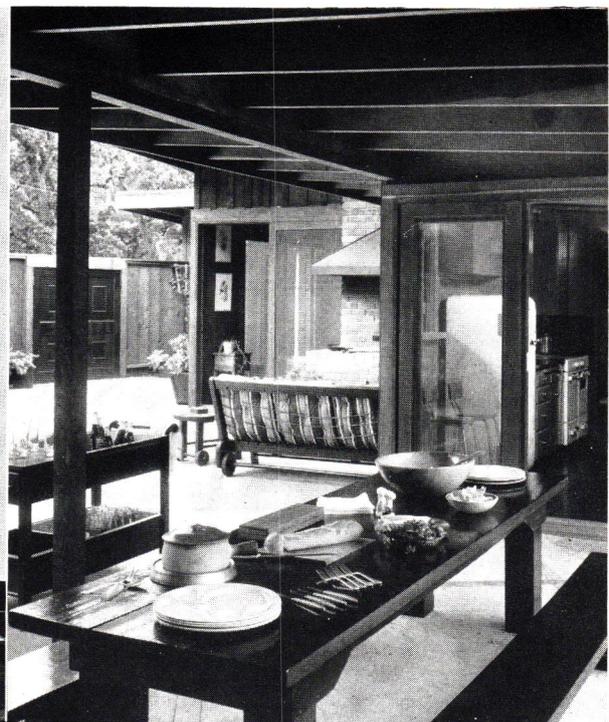
Living space is the total of indoor and outdoor areas. Outdoor space becomes livable only when it has a direct relationship with indoor areas, when it is given privacy, an inviting atmosphere and plenty of features contributing to comfort.

So closely are house and surroundings integrated in this case, that you think of both areas as a single unit.

Instead of putting up a good front for the street side it keeps its best for the secluded inner court. This court has been just as thoughtfully planned as have the interior rooms. A tall redwood fence frames this quiet place. The concrete floor is cross-ribbed with redwood strips and planted on the outer edges in a simple informal manner. This layout has proved to be ideal for the family with children since there are no shrubs or bushes to break up their recreation area. The whole unit is made for living. Here Operation "Small-fry" can be carried out under watchful supervision from kitchen, bedroom or living room windows. The fence with its bright green doors will keep them safe from traffic beyond the bounds of the quiet yard.

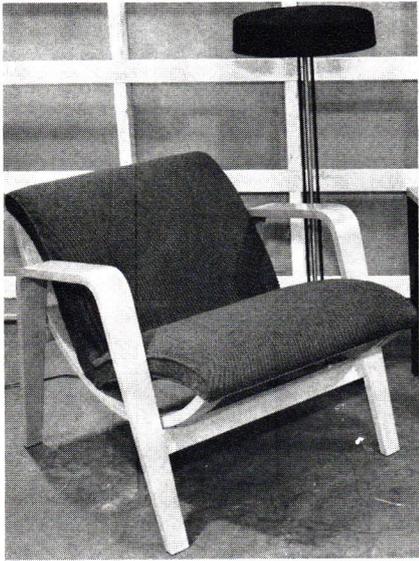
Still another room, a bedroom, is in an advanced planning stage. At present the space is being used as a sleeping porch, but soon it will be completely enclosed for year-round service.

There's plenty of space for outdoor meals. The table is set where the shade is thickest, right beside the kitchen where the roof reaches out to the garage. There is a wonderful barbecue just steps away. It backs up the living room fireplace for economy of construction. A handy pass-through from the kitchen speeds mealtime service.

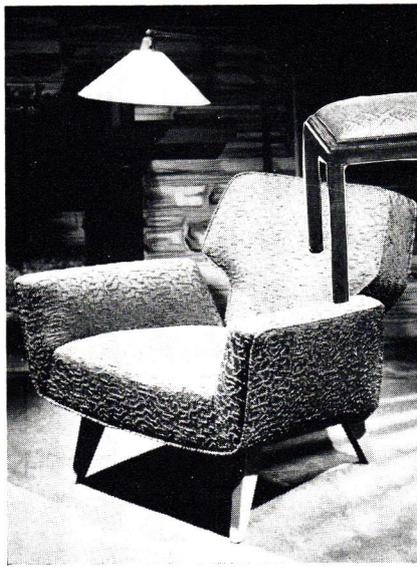


The house was constructed on a concrete slab into which was laid the maze of hot water pipes for the radiant heating system





1



2



5

5. This is television furniture, believe it or not. The two smaller of these Chinese Chippendale nest tables have flip tops. One side has the usual wood surface for extra snack space; the other, an upholstered spring cushion for TV seating. In imported mahogany in several finishes



3

3. Flat-woven fabric covers the foam rubber cushions of the back and seat on this open occasional chair. The angle iron frame is white; the arm rests, natural ash



4

6. News in way of fireside chairs is this one in woven flat cane on a metal base

4. An extremely comfortable chair, this piece of Danish design is actually demountable. The back and seat are of molded walnut, teak or mahogany plywood and fit into slots in the beech frame. The braces are screwed into the legs. The arms, optional, are part of the frame, itself. Also available with reversible leather or fabric slip-on covers, or in upholstery

## MODERN TRENDS in SEATING

ONE heartening fact in furniture design is becoming increasingly evident. The yawning chasm separating traditional and modern design is closing. It's heartening, that is, to those who respond to beauty in line, proportion and material, no matter what its application. It's heartening, too, to those who like to mix periods with a smooth transition.

Some of the extremes in design are being rounded off to the benefit of comfort and eye appeal. Much of the abruptness is leaving modern, and traditional is adding simplified pieces which are long on comfort. Both sides are leaving more room for the enjoyment of the really gorgeous upholster-

ing fabrics that have developed since World War II; nylon velvets with an inner sheen, lustrous metallic-threaded fabrics, rich wools including tweeds, pile and flat weaves. Wood finishes, too, continue to add to the abundance of warm tones, the frank expression of beautiful graining. Materials new to the furniture world are fitting in with unusual grace, and more familiar ones are finding new expression. American furniture design is approaching a new zenith in excellence. And to give you an idea of what is happening, we have selected a group of chairs from our own and other countries as an example of fine design practices and their resultant trend.

# Give Your House the Air

A FEW LITTLE ventilating tricks can work wonders in making your home comfortable.

The basic secret is — keep air moving, but sedately. A gentle flow is better than a gusty draft. Hot or cold fresh air is preferable to the stale sort that loiters in corners. Dry or dripping, air serves best while on its way.

For warm air the easiest way is up. Take advantage of that law of physics. Lure the warm air into your attic — and right on out. Opened windows under the eaves will do the job, but screened louvers set high in gable ends or near the ridgepole will be more practical. A ventilator, fan equipped, is even better. It will give sluggish currents a boost when necessary.



Whatever the method, you will get best results by providing airways from basement to roof. Although open stairwells encourage upward currents, wall channels have advantages. If their inlets in major rooms are at ceiling height the concealed ducts can siphon off used air as fast as it accumulates.

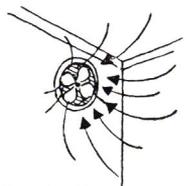


Perpetual updraft not only helps your house breathe freely, it defeats that friend of mold and enemy of man — humidity. Warm air, rising, carries moisture with it.

It may be well to remember that not all mugginess slips in from outdoors. Plant and human respiration, bathroom and laundry steam, perspiration, cooking vapors or anything else which offers air a drink, helps humidity thrive.

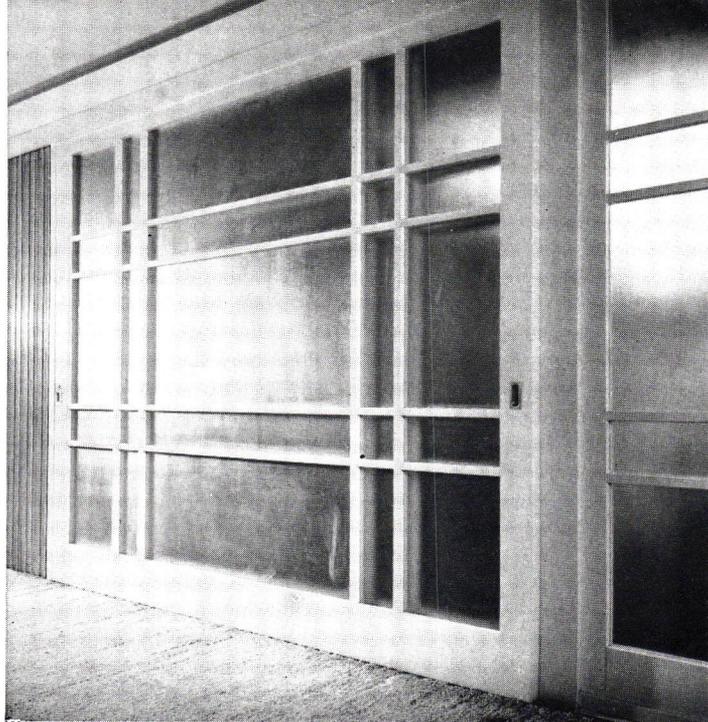


You can help ward off clamminess thus created by opening windows in laundry and bath, but you should use more permanent measures in your kitchen. Here, a louvered vent at the ceiling line of an outside wall will carry off a lot of heat and odor-laden vapor. Nonetheless, it will be wise to add a shuttered fan. Perhaps you'll use it rarely but it can be a welcome ally when hot oven and August sun conspire against you.



When summer evening comes make full use of air's tendency to cool at lower levels first. Open basement and attic windows and all doors in between. If the night hangs heavy and still, it may be wise to leave upper story windows closed until a late hour. Hot air at that level will only dilute that which comes from below.

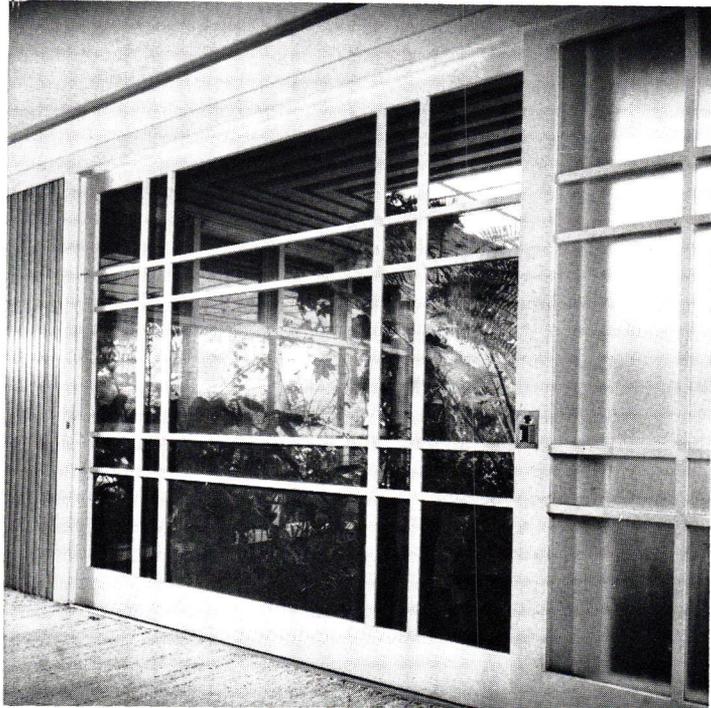
Better yet, sink a shaft into the earth, wide as a barrel and five or six feet deep. Cooler-than-surface air which settles to the bottom can flow into your cellar through a gently rising duct or be pulled by suction fan. Provide a shutter for use by day or to block draft in case of fire — then relax. Let August nights sizzle. You'll sleep in a house that is cool and a lesson in comfort conditioning.



## This Wall Slides Open

HERE'S AS NEAT a way of opening up a wall as we have seen this year. Pictures tell the whole story. The screen framing and that of the sliding glass section are alike in design. The glass portion moves to one side to give a view of the enclosed patio. For an even less obstructed view, the screen door, too, may be moved aside on its tracks so the huge doorway is completely open to the out of doors and the tropical plants growing there.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT C. CLEVELAND



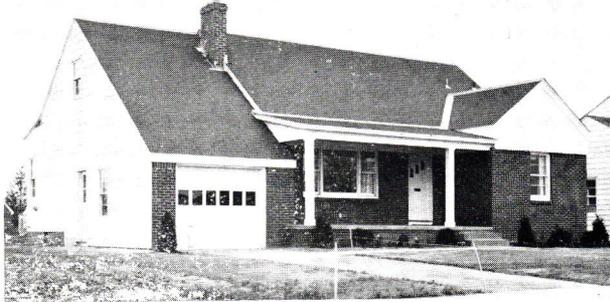


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