

PERFECT HOME

MAGAZINE



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JULY 1951



HOME...

A State of Mind

BY BILL STERN

HOME, in my opinion, is a state of mind. It's a place that is an anchorage for you. The fellow in the modern, duplex apartment can treasure his home as dearly as does the man in a comfortable gabled house that is warmed by a century of sentimental memories.

Today, I have a lovely home in the country that my wife and children make as cozy and cheery as any man could desire. Yet there was a time I felt at home under entirely different conditions.

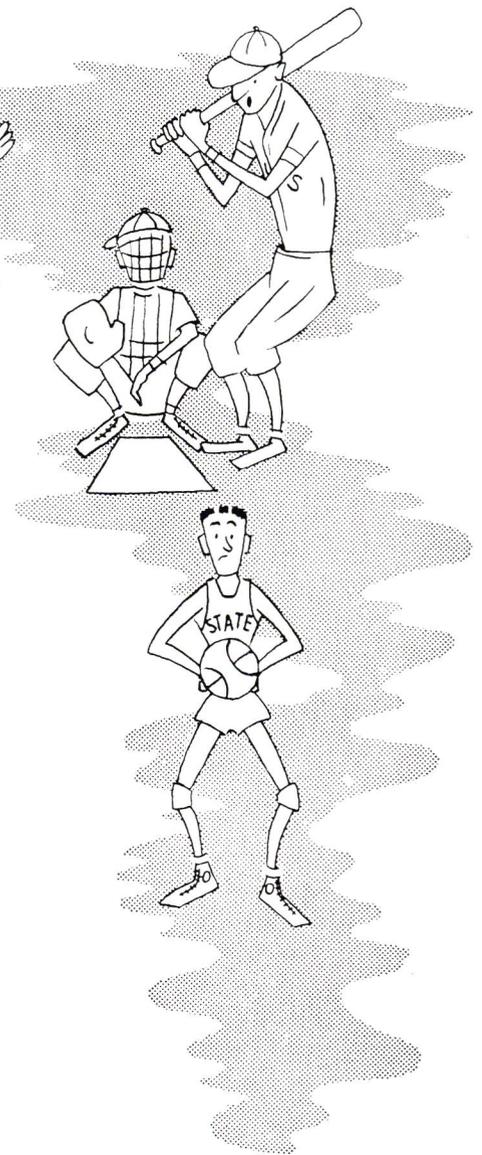
As a youngster I attended a military academy in Pennsylvania and my lifeless little room there truly became my home. I remember that after a hard day of drill and classroom study I used to relax on my bed. My room was a place where I could not be disturbed unless I chose to be. In every sense, it was my home.

You may have heard the joking expression during wartime, "He found a home in the Army." When you stop and think about some isolated cases, the words don't seem quite so funny. Take a fellow who came from an unhappy home, give him his own bunk and a niche in an army barracks. This spot is his, where no one nags or harps at him during his free hours. To such a man his peaceful bunk is more a home than he has ever known.

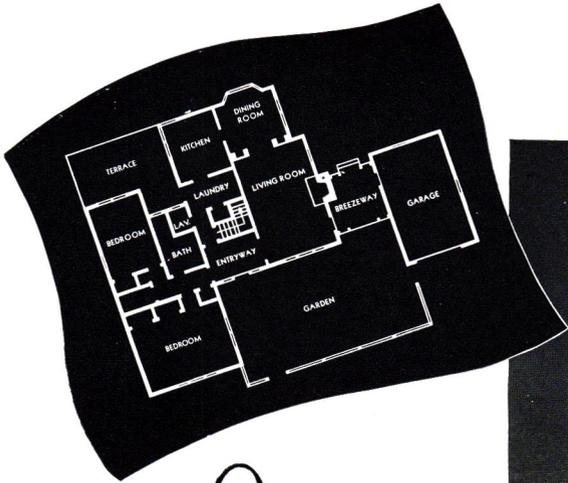
I know the hold the simplest sort of place can get on a man. I can remember when I was struggling to be an actor. I landed in Hollywood where I dug ditches to eke out a living. At night, dog-tired, I would drop into bed at my cheap rooming house. How I loved the chance to rest and dream! Here, I was home.

Hotel rooms used to give me the same feeling, and I've been in plenty. I still travel all over the country but today it is different. A hotel room no longer *feels* like home. My typewriter, my dreams of success, my radio and television scripts now fail to give me a sense of completeness regardless of environment.

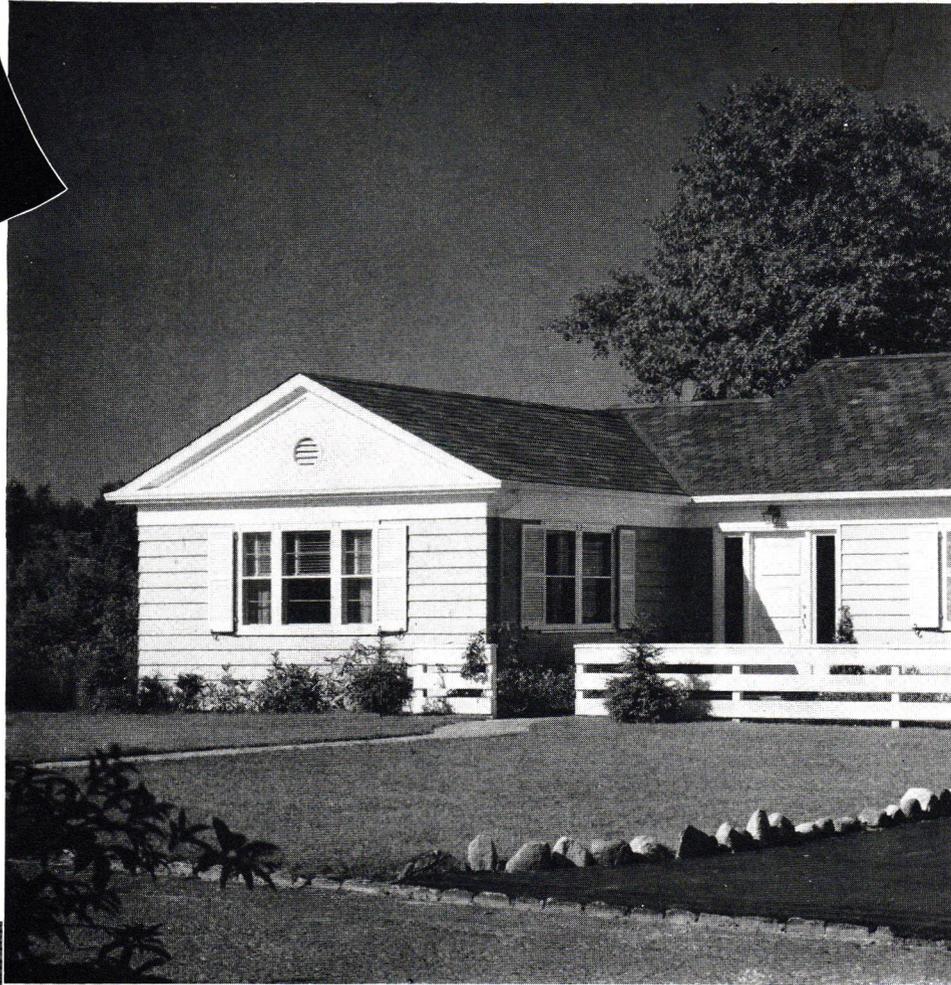
You see, after my family came into my life I became harder to satisfy. Now I know that, for me, home must include my most treasured possession, my family. A place just doesn't feel like home unless I have the companionship of my wife and children.



Though Bill Stern spends most of his time on the scene for his colorful sports reports via N. B. C., home to him means his house in the country, and his family



*One House...
Two Moods*



IF YOU'VE ever questioned the wisdom of combining periods in architecture or design, this house should quiet your doubts. Pause with us at the neat white fence while we tell you something about it.

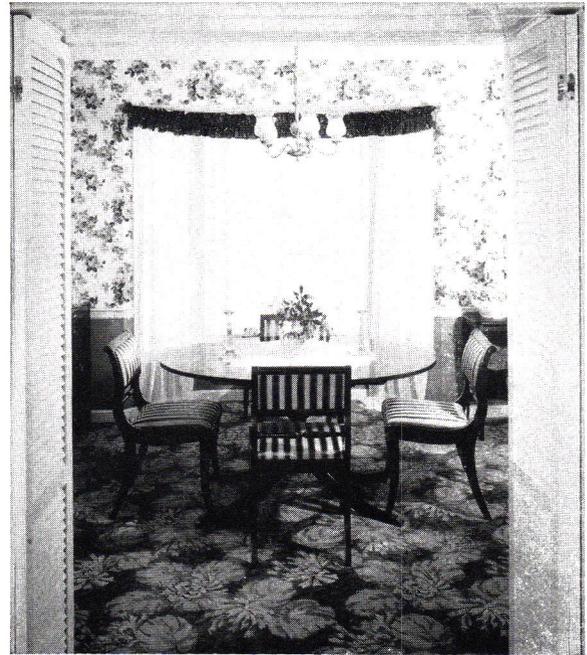
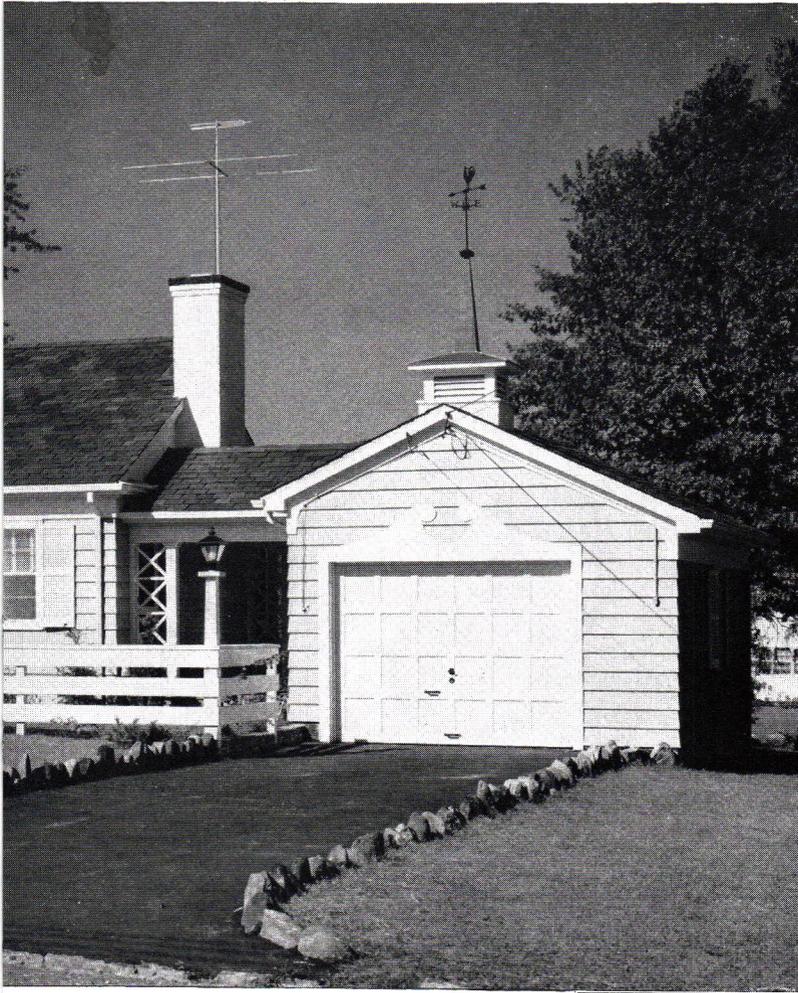
The owners, like many home planners today, wanted a house with spirit, yet with solid enduring virtues; a house with the manners of modern, yet the comforts of well-loved traditional styling — in short, all the essentials of good design and good living in one pleasing package. They believe this house indicates a way of life, quietly paced and uncomplicated.

Detail after detail of yesterday is balanced by an equally fine one of today.

Though a weathered coachman's lantern lights the entrance and its companion guards the rock-rimmed drive, the square paneled door and the color scheme of coral quickened with white, are ideas of today.

The television aerial on the sturdy white chimney, towers above the traditional black iron weather vane on the cupola of the

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RUDOLPH EDWARD LEPPERT, JR.



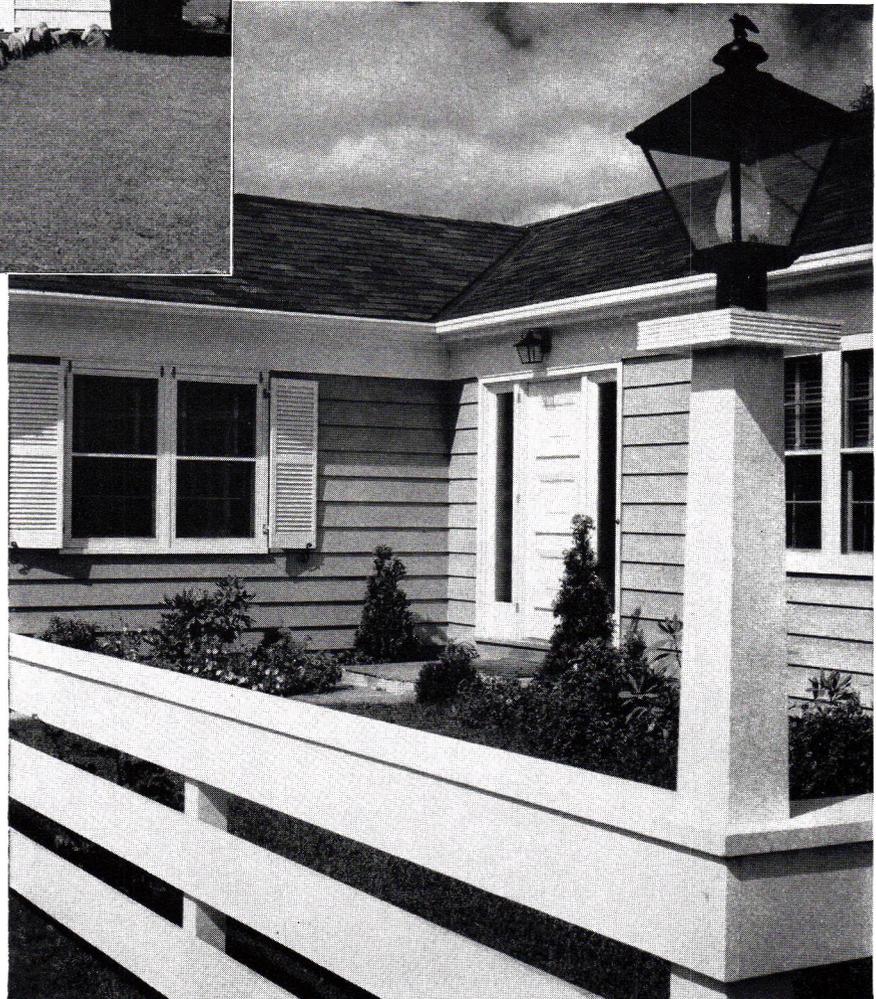
In plain white, this house would be just as comfortable but not nearly as exciting. Its lively color scheme of coral-pink and white makes it stand out impressively against the cool green lawn and blue sky. The neat white fence adds just the right frame. See the color view on our cover

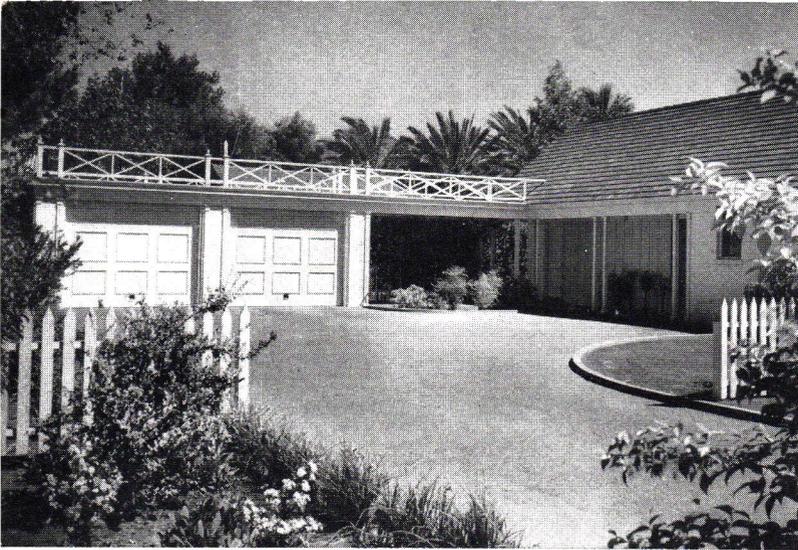
garage. Louvered shutters at the windows do not hide the fact that the plan conforms to all demands of contemporary living.

The plan completely isolates the three working areas of the house. From the front entrance it is possible to go directly into the sleeping, the service or the living areas. To effect such complete isolation, a larger than usual amount of space had to be given over to hallway, but the owner felt that the complete separation of elements justified this arrangement. And count those closets. There are two in each bedroom, two big ones in the adjoining hall, another in the laundry in addition to an abundance of cupboard space in the kitchen.

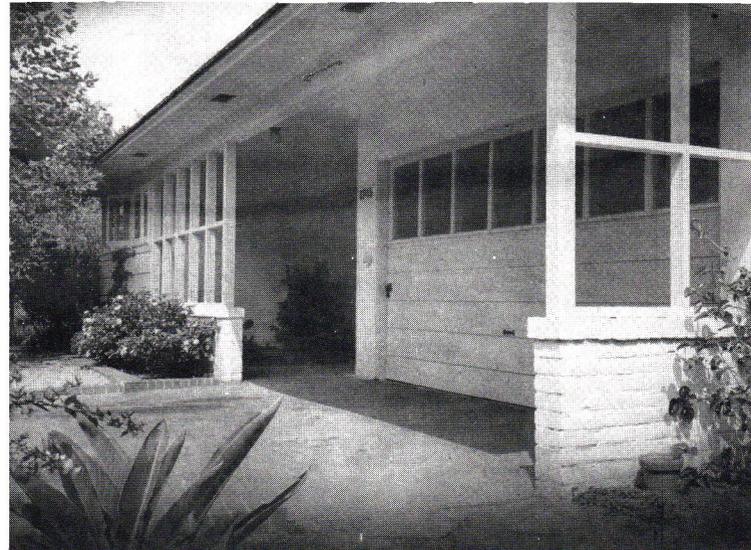
A small breeze-swept terrace brackets the angle between the kitchen and bedrooms. It is the setting for many a pleasant summer meal.

Though separated from the house by several feet, the garage has the weather protection of a small covered walk. This is a home that should be fun to live in and to own.





This garage makes no attempt to hide its function. Clean lines of square-paneled doors and a trim balustrade extending along the roof line add excellent detail and proportion to the house



Recessing the extra wide doors of this double garage partially hides detail while the horizontal line of the windows blends this plane into the shadowed planes of the wide roof overhang

Try These Garage on Your

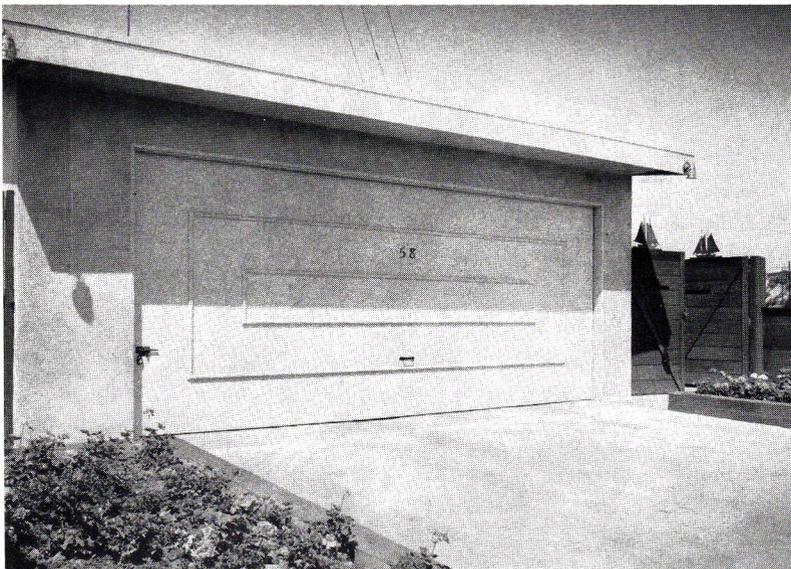
TWENTY years ago the garage knew its place, put on no airs, and kept quietly in the background. Today it makes a bid for its rightful place in the sun. This change has been brought about, first, because it is more convenient to have the family car close to the house if not actually under the same roof; second, because back-of-the-lot corners are often the quietest, most private and inviting spots in a yard — the most suitable for outdoor living. So now the garage moves up alongside the house, but brings with it the problem of how to treat its over-scale door.

Here are five door treatments that change unattractive openings into charming partners for their respective homes.

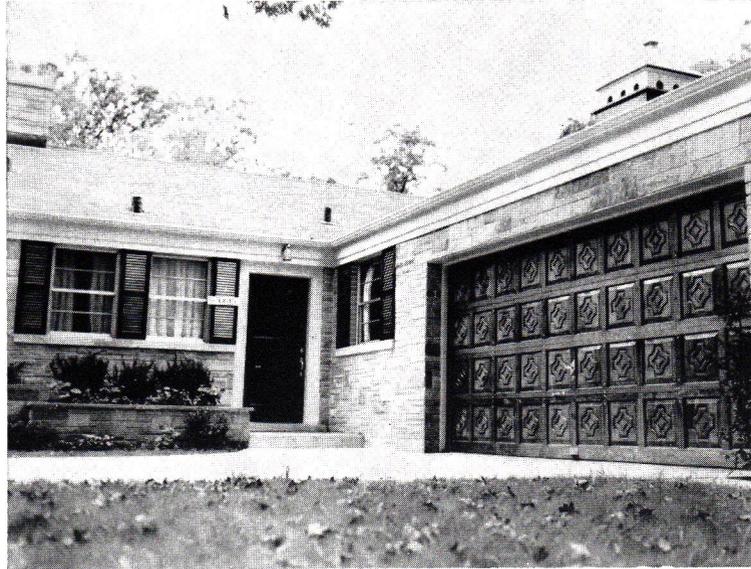
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PARKER, SHULMAN, CLEVELAND



The sharp shadow line of protective spreading eaves helps hide this door. The dark mass of shrubbery, continuing along the foundation line, lures the eye away from the expanse of wood



A bold double rectangle of heavy half-round moulding on this white modern door breaks the width pleasingly and draws the great expanse into harmonious scale with the rest of the house



Design your own garage door by arranging any one of several very good-looking raised panels. Use them in an over-all pattern or combine plain and patterned panels in the door of your choice

News of New Products

Cool Lawn Furniture

Most metal lawn furniture seems to store up an unbelievable amount of heat. Plastic promises to take the discomfort out of sun furniture. The plastic is applied over tubular metal which is then bent to form the chair or lounge. The plastic has a very low rate of heat conduction, thus the metal never becomes uncomfortable to the touch. The plastic also makes the metal chip-proof and non-corrodible.

Blonde Plastic Paint

If you would like to change your old walnut or mahogany furniture from brunette to blonde, you might like to know about a new special plastic paint made just for this purpose. It will give a Swedish or blonde maple finish to any dark wood. It can also be used on floors or metal.

Exterior Venetian Blinds

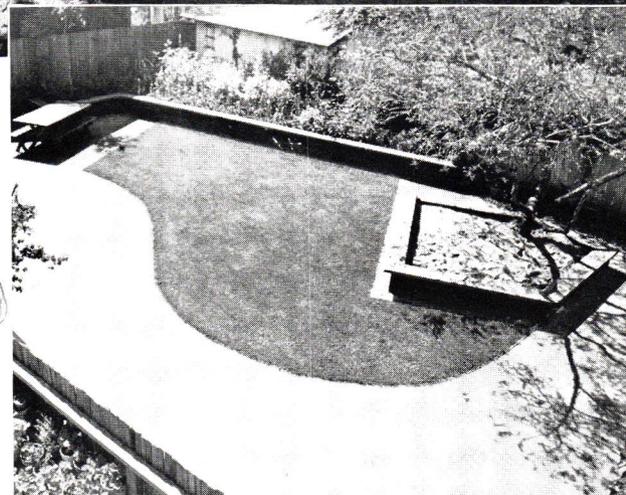
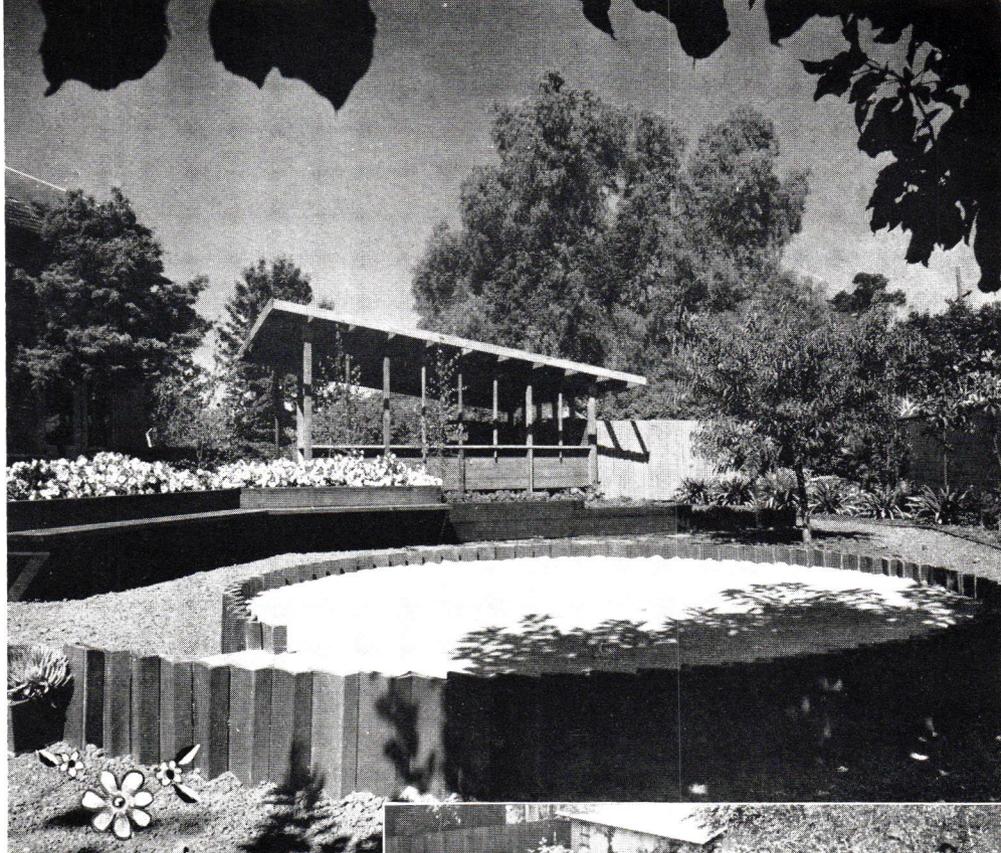
Inside venetian blinds are hardly news but we have never before seen this fine idea applied to exterior installations. They are particularly noteworthy for rooms that receive too much sun because they reflect the heat even before it has a chance to transfer itself to the glass of the window. Many of them are adjustable from inside. They form a most pleasing pattern in contrast with the walls of the house.

Suction Clothes Hooks

But you have use for temporary clothes hooks around the house or in your car from time to time. We've found a plastic hook with suction-cup fasteners that will attach to any smooth surface and support up to six pounds of weight. Ideal in children's closets where the passing years would adjust the height of the hooks without leaving behind ugly screw and nail holes. In colors: red, pink, yellow, green, blue and mahogany. Packaged in units of six, your choice of colors.

Window Stretcher

Narrow windows are seldom an asset and draping them is always a problem. Decorators suggest hanging draperies or curtains out on the wall to get the full benefit of the glazed area. New is a drapery unit which makes the job quite simple. It is a six-way fixture with a non-rusting off-white finish. It can be adjusted so that two feet can be added to the width and three and one-fourth inches to the depth so that draperies will cover the edges of venetian blinds or radiators.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY PHIL FEIN

Their Place in the Sand

YOU'RE far from human if you haven't longed for the first warm days when you can dress the youngest members of your family in sunsuits and send them out to play in their own backyard.

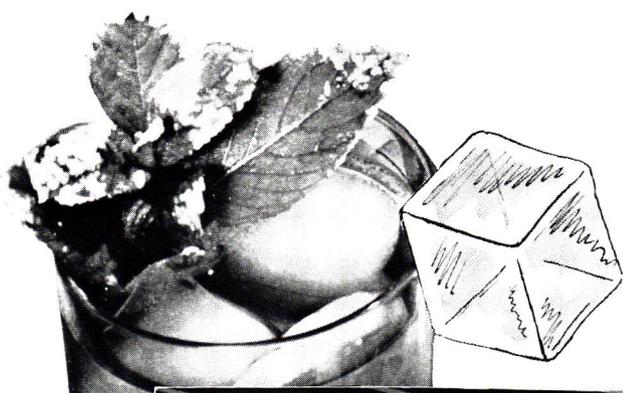
The excitement of sunshine and grass beneath bare feet, however, will not hold their attention long. The secret of tiny-tot contentment lies in their being kept interested in their play, and for this few lands are more wonderful or full of excitement than their own sandpile.

Tiles in a shallow concrete footing were used to make the handsome permanent circle, shown in the top photograph. Later it can become a planting bed.

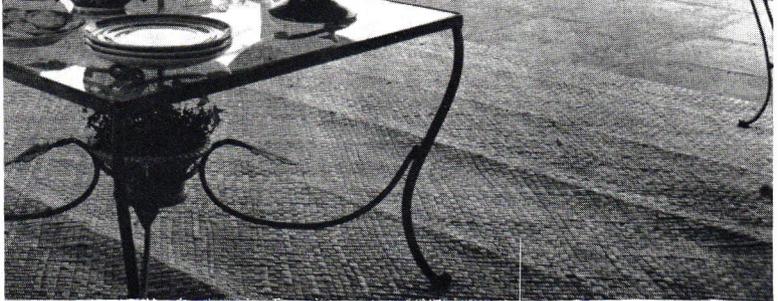
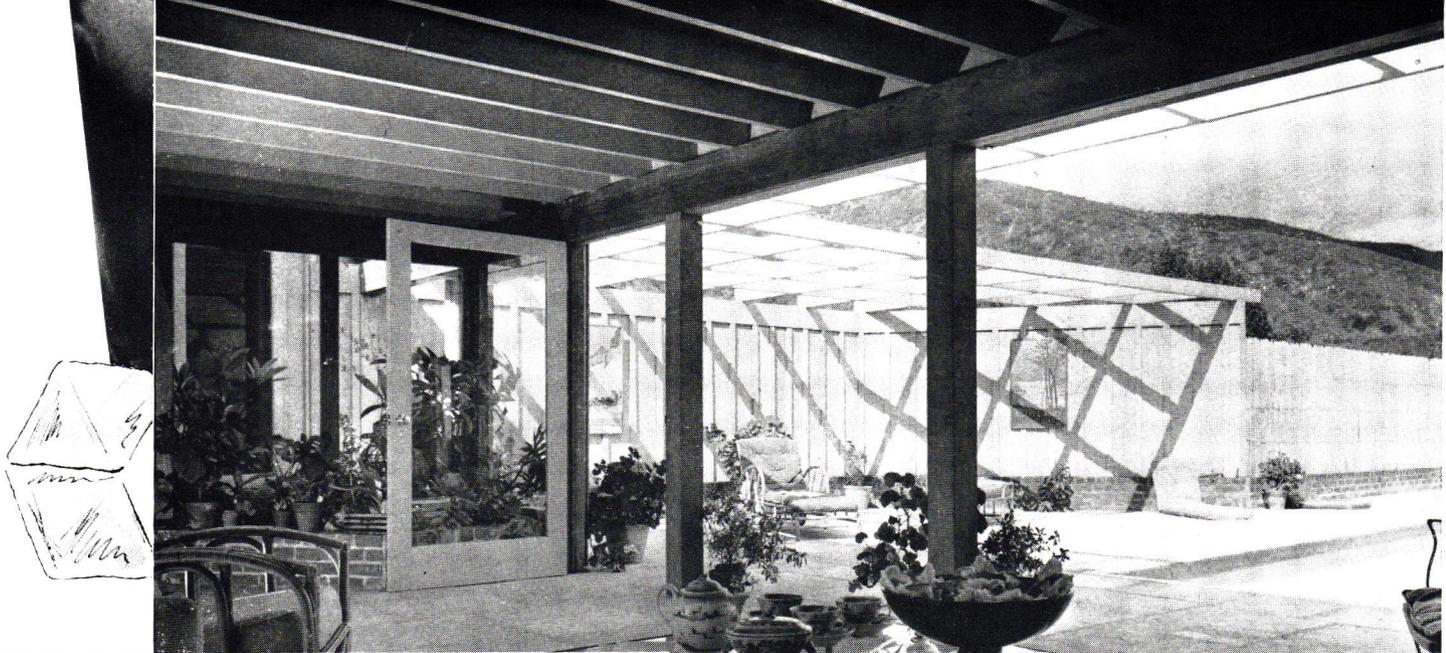
It is so very good looking that we suggest building it just at the edge of the porch or against the kitchen window where it will become a part of the house.

The other sandpile surrounds a tree and lies within a redwood frame.

A few cast-offs from your kitchen or workshop; a couple of wooden spoons, a few dented tin cups and pans and a basketful of wood scraps can provide a whole summer of fun. Slightly damp sand reaches towering heights, or tunnels into mysterious depths to lure stubby arms. When painted by the magic of young imagination, scraps of two-by-fours become racing railroad trains, speedy new automobiles, gallant ships, or even palaces for queens and kings.



Home for the



The great porch, top of page, connects living and sleeping wings of a sun-conscious western home. Airy though the glass-walled living room above might be, its owners had a yearning to be even closer to their pleasant yard so added this long porch with its wide eaves

WHEN the weatherman promises "warmer" and the day starts sullen with heat, most of us naturally seek the cool shade and breezes of the out-of-doors.

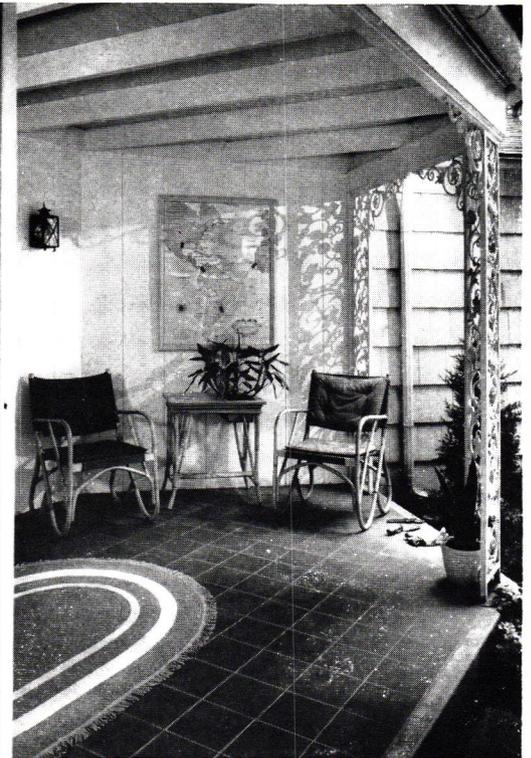
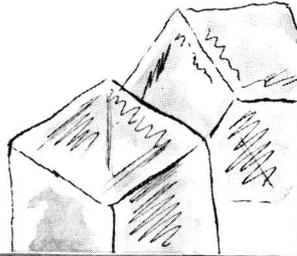
One of Dickens' characters expressed a common dream when he said, "I shall be a gen'l'm'n myself one of these days, perhaps with a pipe in my mouth and a summer garden in the back garden." Most of us would willingly settle for a porch, a wide breeze-inviting one or a handkerchief-size place worth its weight in coolness.

A porch provides a vantage point from which to survey the garden. In the morning you can look out on a bright ballet of flowers. In the cool of evening you are closer to the timid stars, to the comforting small sounds of night, to the earthy freshness of cut grass and newly dampened flower beds.

Each of the five porches pictured here has a roof to temper the sun's ardor, to keep it at bay during those golden hours.

Three of them are open, one is completely enclosed by screening, while the fifth has large glass and screen doors that may be opened or removed when the weather permits. Two are tile floored, one used brick, one concrete slabs and one combines wood and cement. With any of them, summer living will take on a leisurely pace without fuss or flurry, with plenty of comfort.

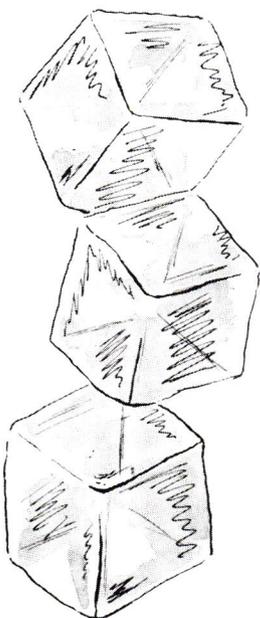
Summer



Take the crisp white of wrought iron, the soft red of floor tiles, add sharp contrast of aqua covered chairs and rug and you have the main ingredients for a bright and pleasant summer

There's no rule that says your dining room has to have four solid walls. The dining porch, left, tops its walls as well as its roof with an open gridwork of sunny plastic screening

Protection from the weather is the contribution of this roofed area rising above the walled yard. It is paved in great concrete and wood squares and surrounded by corrugated metal



Ask Us Another

QUESTION: When we applied pine paneling to our living room we did not know that the knots should be sealed before they were painted. Now they have started to bleed through the paint. Is there any way that this can be prevented?

ANSWER: Since the knots were not originally sealed with shellac, aluminum paint or knot sealer before painting, the only way to put an end to your trouble is to seal them over at once. Thin white shellac with alcohol and cover the entire wall giving extra attention to the knots. A single coat of paint over the shellac should cover the stains permanently.

QUESTION: What is the advantage of diagonally applied sheathing?

ANSWER: The Forest Products Laboratory of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association made tests to determine the exact advantages of diagonal sheathing. It showed that diagonal sheathing is four to seven times as stiff and seven to eight times as strong as when applied horizontally. The use of four instead of two eight penny nails increases the stiffness 30 to 100 per cent.

QUESTION: When refinishing some old carved Victorian furniture we took away the pleasing dark tones in the depths of the carving. As now refinished, the fine carving seems to lack much of its old charm. We understand that it is possible to restore part of this shading. How should this be done?

ANSWER: To produce the appearance of age apply an antiquing preparation on carvings and mouldings just before putting on the varnish or finishing coat. Mix raw umber and glazing liquid. Test out the mixture on the under side of the piece. When you obtain a satisfactory color, brush a coat on the surface you wish to darken and wipe off immediately. Blend from high points or center outward. The final varnish coat will protect the antiquing.

QUESTION: We are redecorating our old home and plan to enamel our woodwork oyster white to match the background color of our wallpaper. Can we leave the doors in their present dark finish? We have small children and dark doors should reduce the cleaning job.

ANSWER: We do not believe you would be satisfied with a combination of light woodwork and dark doors. In the first place the contrast would be so pronounced that your doors might become the most important element in the room. They would break up the walls and take away from the importance of your furniture and accessories. We think you'll get enough pleasure out of light doors to justify painting them. When the paint has dried well, go over surfaces with a couple of very light coats of wax. When you dust use a wax cloth which will remove spots and leave a protective coating.

QUESTION: Recently, I suffered a painful fall when the rug in front of my kitchen sink slipped from under my feet. Is there any way I can anchor this rug?

ANSWER: Yes, there are several ways this rug can be made less troublesome. You might spray its underside with a rubber coating or apply rug anchors. But why not do away with the rug entirely? You could substitute a foot-pleasing rubber pad. The same type of comfortable rubber pad that is made for use under the finest carpeting can be cut to rug size for bathrooms and kitchens. The pads are safe, comfortable and attractive. You'll also find them in ovals textured to look like old fashioned braided rugs.



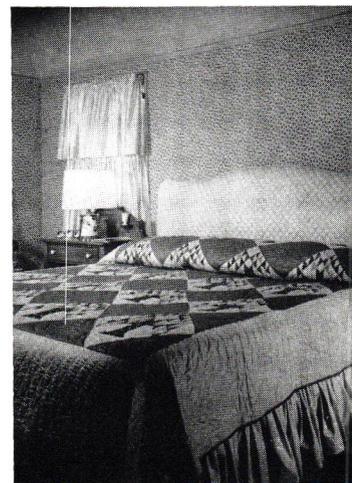
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT C. CLEVELAND

A comfortable place is the sitting room with its Boston rocker, wing-backed and Windsor chairs, and the ample table. Again that homespun air in the carpeting and upholstery

The master bedroom pursues the Colonial treatment in the tree-of-life patchwork quilt, walnut commodes, floral wallpaper, and the earthenware tea and coffee pots

The dining room, using a classic-patterned paper and white wainscoting as a background, makes a feature of the double-sized comb-back Windsor chairs and settees.

The same over-scale treatment of the dining chairs is carried to the two chairs flanking the living room fireplace. Colonial flavor is evident in the strap hinges on the built-in cupboards and the tile-topped table



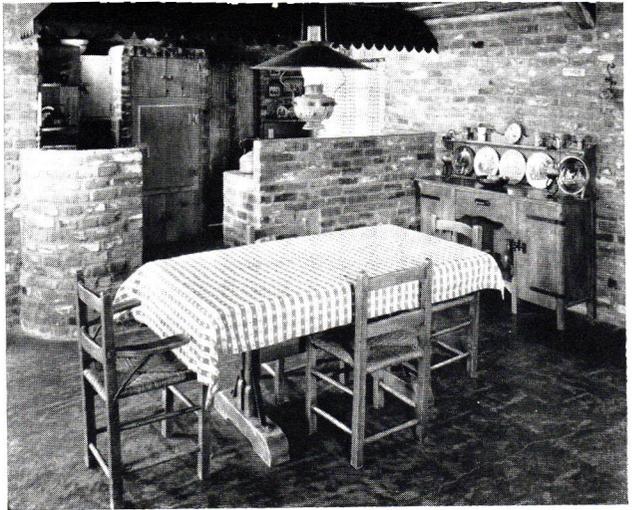
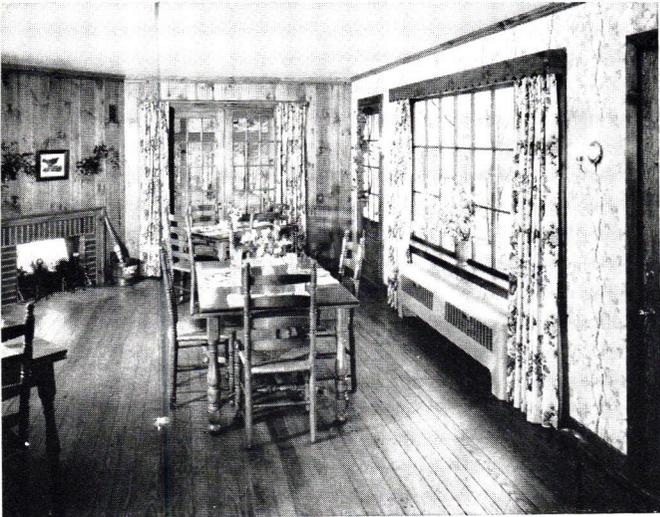
THE Simplicity of Colonial



QUAINT doesn't mean cloying; Colonial doesn't mean cluttered, especially if you are thinking of early American furniture in its truest sense.

Early American, a pleasingly simple adaptation of English furniture, came into existence through necessity. Early colonists could not carry much furniture across hundreds of miles of ocean. Even after they had hewn homes out of the forests and could pay more attention to making them comfortable, they had little time to devote to doodads. So, although colonists clung to beauty they had known in the old world, they simplified original designs. Combining old and new they developed a style distinctly their own, and added to its charm by letting wood finishes mellow naturally through use.

Rooms illustrated on these pages capture that charm. They are furnished with fine modern reproductions which reflect the dignity, simplicity and homespun qualities so typical of our earliest years.



▲
WOOD PANELING

BRICK MASONRY ▶

BEAUTY LINES YOUR HOME

THOSE interior walls in your house are more than just attractive surfaces. The beauty of them is that they have other valuable characteristics, too. Some are fireproof for safety, some help deaden sounds, and some provide insulation against winter's cold and summer's heat.

MASONRY: Often a masonry house repeats its exterior on the inside in frank expression of brick, native stone, cinder and concrete block, or adobe. Some retain this material only in fireplace facings. Others use it in various exterior walls, or sometimes in room partitions. Masonry does not need replacing, has a unique rustic quality, and provides a solid base should any other finish be desired.

STONE VENEERS: In this classification come marble, granite, and various of the harder native stones which may be polished to a high luster. The grainings and colors in these materials are strikingly beautiful and rich in quality and cannot be touched by time.

STRUCTURAL GLASS, CERAMIC TILE, MIRRORS: Tiles and structural glass products are most often found in bathrooms and kitchens, but these materials, because of their gleaming beauty, are appearing more and more frequently as fireplace facings, semi-partitions and wall coverings in a variety of lovely colors. The glazed surface takes no effort to clean and its brightness seems to make a room grow larger.

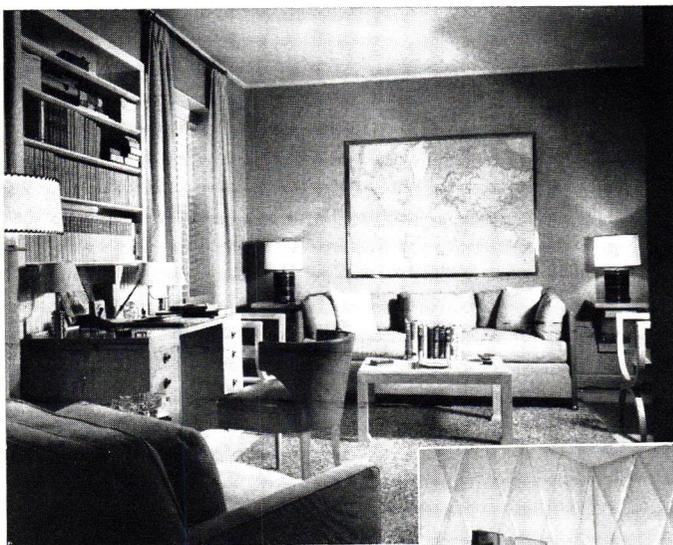
METAL, PLASTICS: Porcelain enameled metal tiles and sheets, and plastic tiles and wallboards, as easily maintained as glass and ceramic products, are used in kitchens and baths. Plastic fabrics, plastic-coated papers and plywoods appear all over the house, take terrific punishment.

WOOD, PLYWOOD: Wood paneling is a favorite of long standing. Its color and richness need little further treatment. Plywoods, thin sheets of wood glued at right angles to one another, are extremely strong and durable. They have a lovely finish and can be attached to curved walls.

WALLBOARDS: Boards of varying sizes are fabricated from wood and other fibers, gypsum plaster, asbestos cement, paper pulp, cane, etc. Some are fireproof, others have acoustical properties, and still others have insulating value. Some come with various finishes, others may be painted or papered. Wallboards form dry-wall construction, are comparatively inexpensive and easily installed.

PLASTER: This is a permanent finish which holds color beautifully when painted. It is somewhat fire-resistant, and may be applied in a variety of rough textures or a smooth finish.

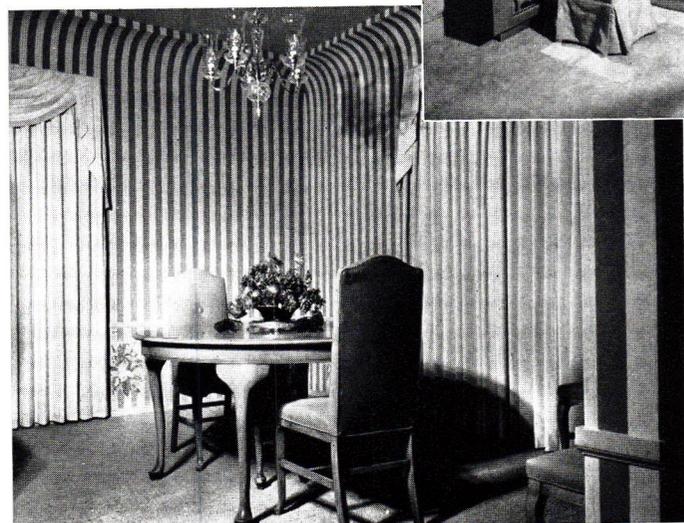
WALLPAPER, PHOTOMURALS, FABRICS, LEATHER, STRAW MATTING: All are applied over wood, plaster, or wallboard.

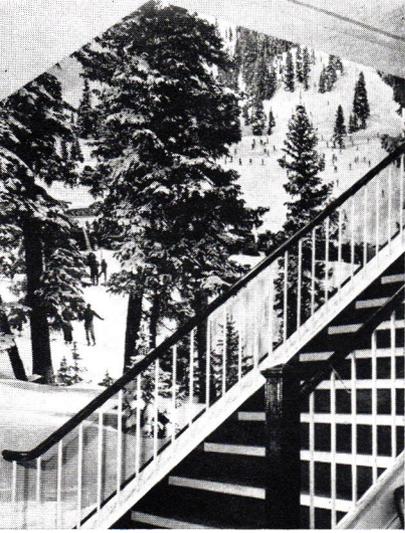


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CANVAS

LEATHER ▶

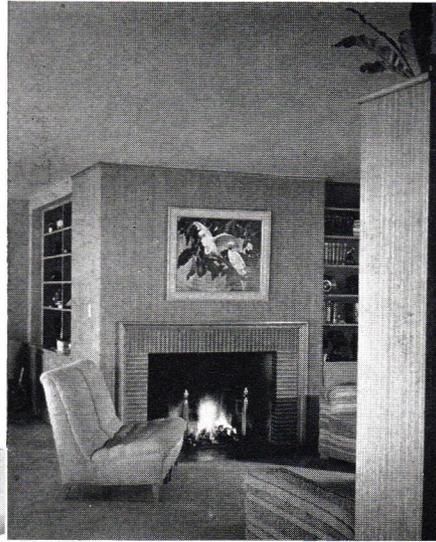
WALLPAPER



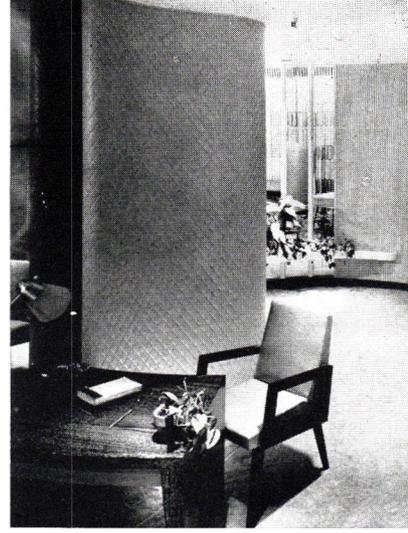


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PHOTOMURAL
STRIATED PLYWOOD ▶

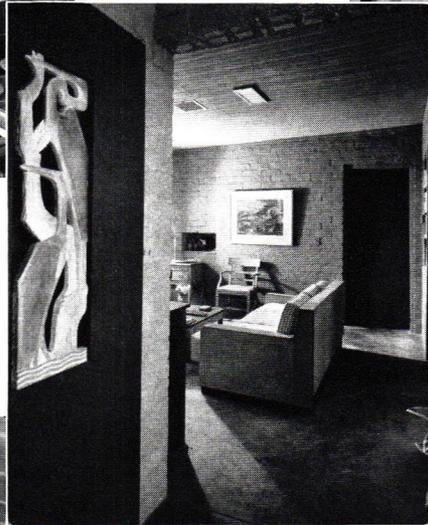
PHOTOGRAPHS BY PARKER, TATCH,
KAUFMAN-FABRY, LAWRENCE,
DAPPRICK, FEIN, CLEVELAND



▲
PLASTIC
PLASTER
▼



▲
CERAMIC TILE, BRICK
OOLITE ROCK
▼



◀ **CINDER BLOCK**
ADOBE
▼

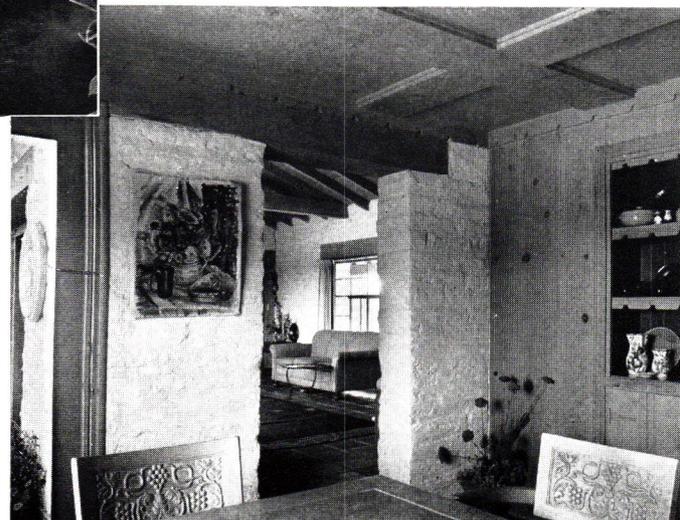
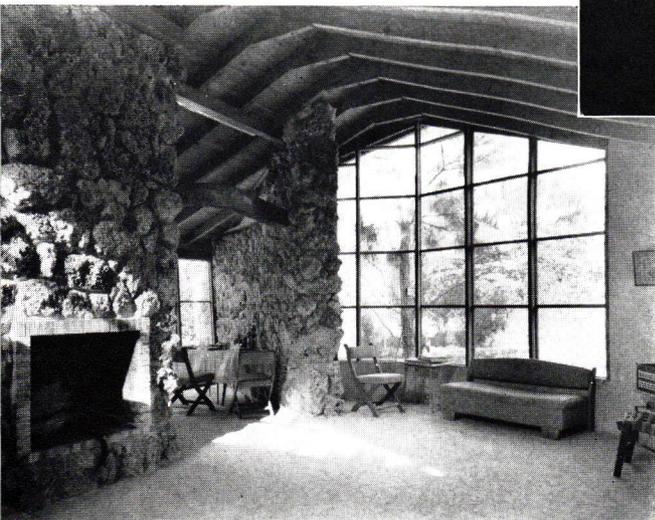
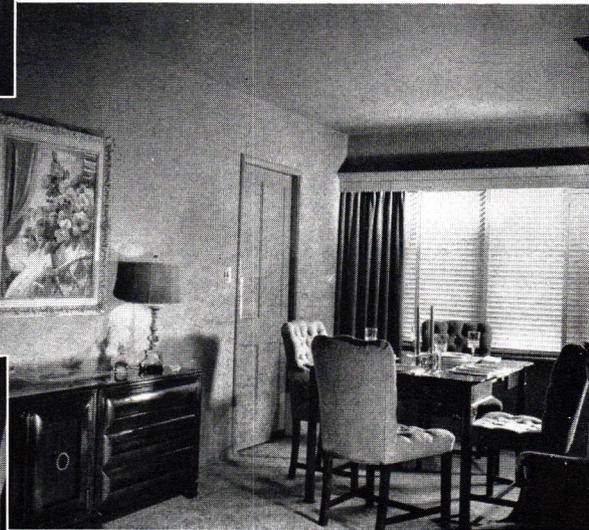




Table TALK

GIVE the right table half a chance and it will change a room's personality. A table with character can steady the flightiest room or a flippant little trick can lighten one that's too stuffily respectable.

If your lounging room seems aloof it may only need the companionship of a friendly table, comfortably littered with magazines.

More often than not, a living room which gives the impression of tipping to the left needs only a substantial table to counterweight it on the right. If pictures and furniture behave like prima donnas, all demanding attention at once, let a quiet table dominate the scene.

Just as a table can form a focus so can it provide interesting distraction. A sleek blonde table against a dark wall or a demure brunette one crowned by a slender white vase will catch many an admiring glance.

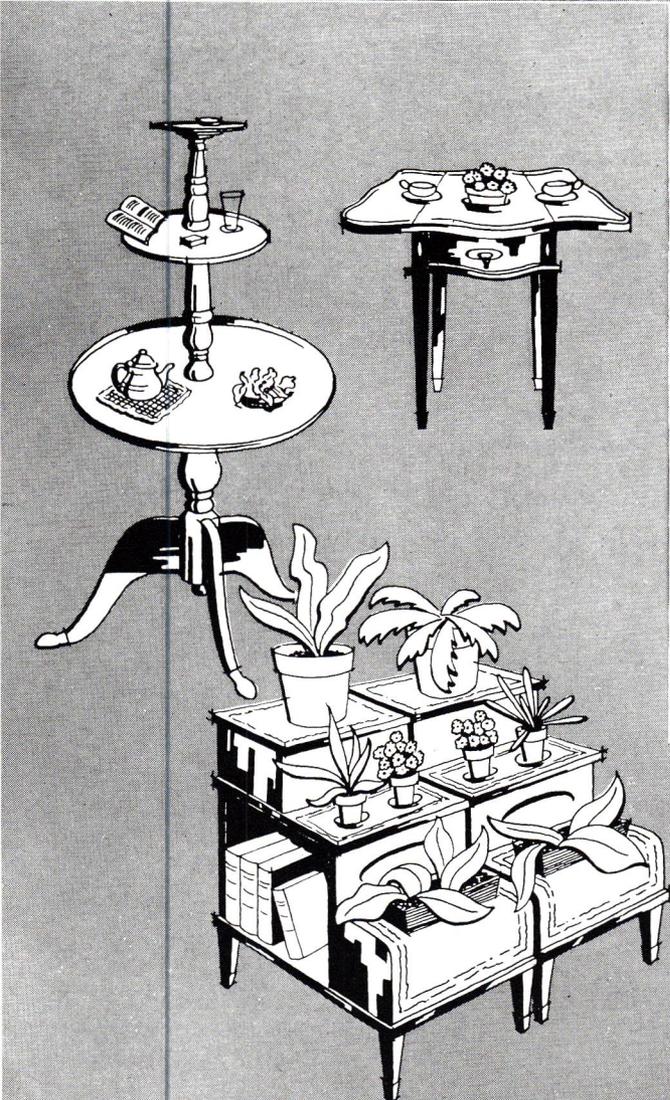
Don't select a table for a specific purpose by size or design alone. Weigh its personality's effect on surroundings. You may find that a shockingly irresponsible piece snaps a staid corner into life.

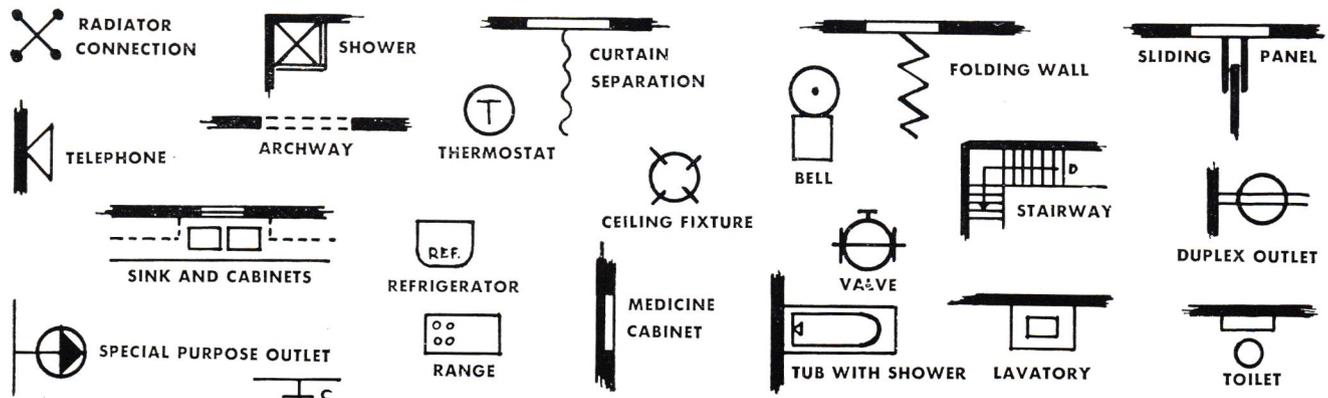
Have you ever thought of putting a pair of step tables against a short stretch of wall or low window? They will be conversation starters if you place a row of colorful potted plants across their width, or if you use the tables as a base for an asymmetrical arrangement of antique glass.

There's no reason why a coffee table must stand in front of a sofa. Ever try it against a wall as illustrated above?

Remember that tier tables were designed originally as serving tables. It might be fun to put them to that purpose the next time you serve a snack, buffet-style. And don't overlook possibilities in the "coke" table pictured here. It will add a smart touch whether it is holding refreshments or is showing off your prize gloxinia.

As day wanes and you feel your pace slow, make rich use of your tea table. Whether it be on wheels, or whether it be tilt-top, pie-crust, drum or Pembroke with drop leaves matters not at all. It is what quiet tea time represents that is important.





SIGN LANGUAGE

IF you want to keep tab on your house as it grows from an idea into a reality, learn to read blueprints. You can skip technicalities. About all you need for practical purposes is reasonable understanding of your architect's sign language.

He uses carefully scaled drawings and virtually standardized symbols. Drawings, usually scaled so that a quarter of an inch represents one foot, fall into three main groups. Contour drawings show topographical characteristics of the homesite. Floor plans reveal how your house would appear if you were to look straight down at its various levels. Elevation drawings describe your house in terms of height.

Symbols fall into two general classifications. Those in one class are drawn to scale to indicate the exact size of such features as bathtubs, stairs, windows and doors. The other type of symbol is a sort of architectural shorthand that tells which way a door swings, the number of electrical outlets on a single fixture or whether cabinets are above or below a kitchen sink.

You need not bother to interpret all marks on your set of blueprints. Obviously, some lines and numerals pertain to structure and are directed to your contractor. Do give attention to all lines and numerals that indicate wall openings, room dimensions, distribution of space and location of pipes, wires and ducts.

Study all symbols on a blueprint. Information they give should help you evaluate features of your house in advance. For instance, you see broken lines on your blueprint and know that they indicate openings in adjacent walls. The openings may be close together. Only the symbols which repre-

sent doors at these points will tell you whether the doors will collide when opened simultaneously. Or a symbol might reveal that an opening is to be square-topped or arched, or is to be filled by one of several types of windows.

Learn to identify the commonly used symbols that are sketched on this page, then take an orderly trip across your blueprint lawn and through your blueprint house. Be leisurely and thorough.

What about the house site? Have you faced your house in the right direction? Have you made allowance for proper drainage of surface water? Have you planned major details of landscaping?

Take a mental look at your front door. Is the entrance inviting? Walk through it as though you were an observant guest, but inspect each room as though you were a hard-to-please critic. Weigh each detail for merit. Don't accept one if it is merely passable. Refuse to be satisfied until it promises to give the most satisfaction possible.

Mentally check off distances, reach for light switches, study traffic lanes, walk up stairs to test headroom, walk down stairs in search of hidden hazards.

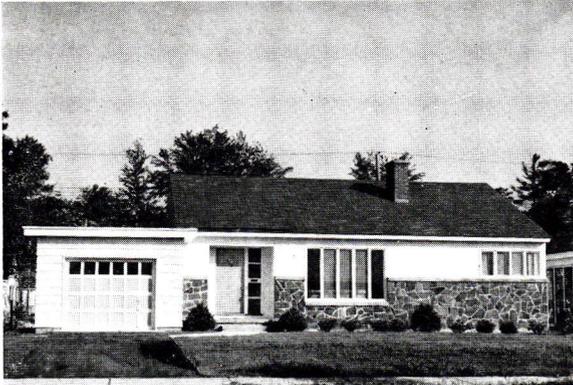
What about wall space? Are expanses wide enough to permit good arrangement of furniture? Have you planned for enough closet space, given enough thought to kitchen working areas?

Your house plans hold the answers. Learn the language of your blueprints and they'll help you head off mistakes before construction starts, or will convince you, more than ever, that your home-to-be will satisfy all your hopes.



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