

PERFECT HOME

SEPTEMBER 1951

MAGAZINE



Tolland County's Quality Magazine, published monthly in the interest of better living by

ATTILIO R. FRASSINELLI
STAFFORD INSURANCE AGENCY
Real Estate

4 East Main St.

Stafford Springs, Conn.

Telephones: 300 J-1 — 300 J-2

In cooperation with these outstanding Tolland County firms (see back cover)

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THE SOUNDS OF MUSIC AND LAUGHTER

Now as I write these words I am in the living room of my home in Westport, Connecticut. It is six o'clock on a crisp fall evening, and a fire is crackling on the hearth. From downstairs come the sounds of music and laughter; the two oldest children are in the game-room looking at television. From upstairs I can hear splashing and more laughter; my wife is bathing the two youngest children, preparing them for bed.

I listen to the sounds coming from above and below, and then I shut them out of my mind, for I have work to do. A writer learns to close himself off from the sights and sounds around him — to concentrate with the whole mind on the task at hand. It is not an easy trick, but there is no choice except to learn it. Without this mental isolation, no writing can get done.

So this night, as usual, I wrap myself in the habitual cocoon and fall to work. Then after a while it occurs to me that I am making a mistake. The topic of tonight's writing is this question: what does home mean to me? To answer this question I must not shut out my surroundings and delve into the recesses of my mind. The answer is not there, but all around me if I will only listen.

What does home mean to me? It means the laughter of children. There it is — the epitome and essence of home. In the confident innocence of children's laughter all the values are to be seen — home as the root of strength; home as the source of happiness; home as balm; home as joy.

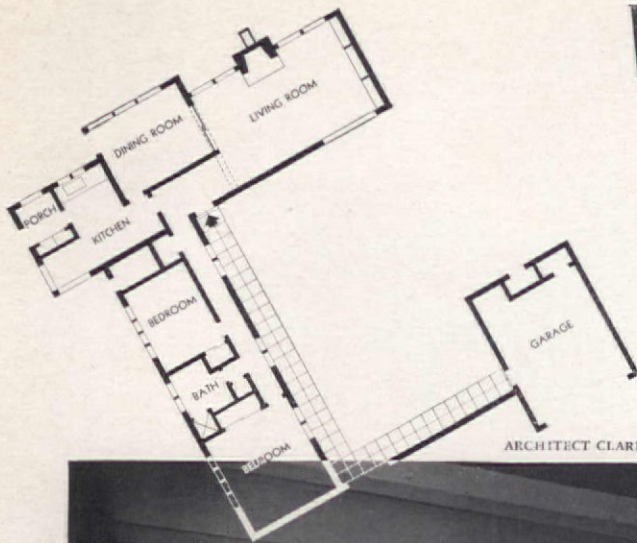
A home where children laugh freely and often has always been the goal, but in today's raging world it assumes even a greater importance. This is not to say that home should be an ivory tower, a retreat from the cruel reality around us. It should be, rather, a fortress where we replenish ourselves, where we build in ourselves and in our children the deep, enduring inner security that we need to join — and win — the battle.

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Max Shulman

The stories of author Max Shulman lend a light-hearted aura to a somber-faced world. Even the titles of his writings make pleasant reading — Barefoot Boy with Check, The Zebra Derby, The Feather Merchants. Young Mr. Shulman has also charmed readers of the Saturday Evening Post, Colliers, and Good Housekeeping with his stories

WITH ALL THE QUALITIES



A contemporary house — warmly livable . . . a house with more privacy than many set in acres of ground . . . a house large enough for family privacy, small enough for family unity

ARCHITECT CLARENCE MAYHEW



▲ The redwood of the fences and natural red brick blends most pleasingly with the painted wood siding. Brick and gravel walks completely encircle the house and form the terraces

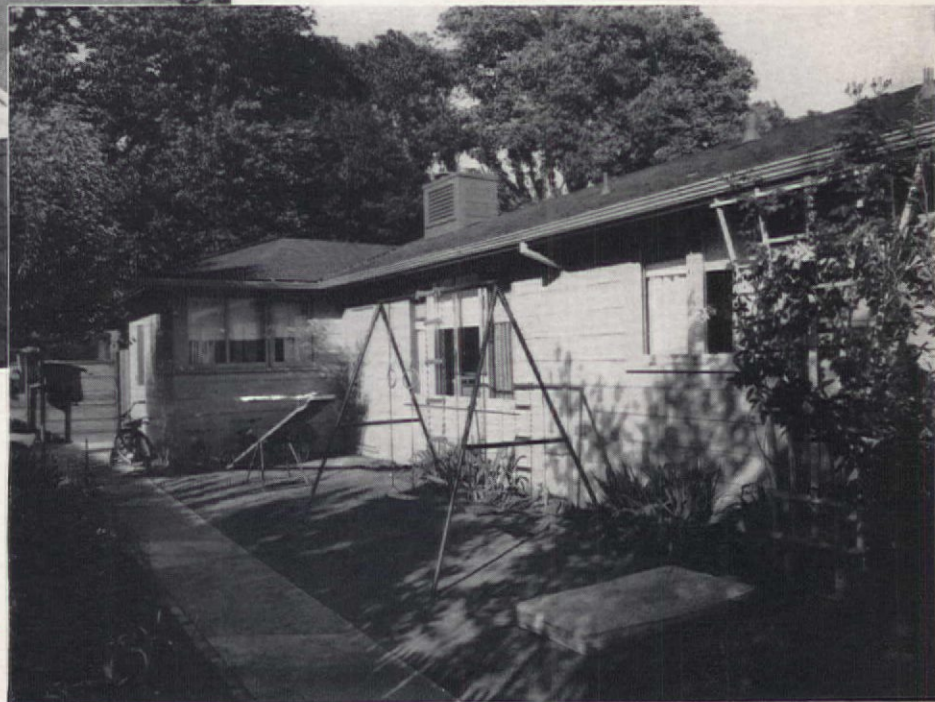
➤ The gravel-surfaced play yard is far from the quiet living areas but close to between-meal snacks and ever observing eyes from the compact but convenient kitchen and service porch

Good home design is seldom sensational. When you look at a modern house the thing you notice first is surface detail. The real merits are usually less obvious. Within these walls are rooms overflowing with comfort and the air of good living. They possess a timeless flavor compounded of pleasing lines and proportions in a plan that complements contemporary family living.

The plan tells the story. There is no conflict of activities. As you can see, the sleeping wing is isolated from the main rectangle of the house by a long hallway and service closets that hold an accumulation of bicycles, tricycles and garden equipment. Alongside the bedrooms is a fenced-in play area for the children. Here with their see-saw and swings they are always in full view from kitchen or bedroom windows.

The "L" of the house has been enlarged to a "U" by tying the garage into the plan with a fence. This leaves a quiet, grassy inner court in addition to a much used terrace that reaches across the dining-living elevation.

Entertaining is a delight in this house with a choice of in-the-garden or inside service. If the party grows beyond a comfortable dining room size, sliding panels between living and dining areas may be moved to join the rooms.



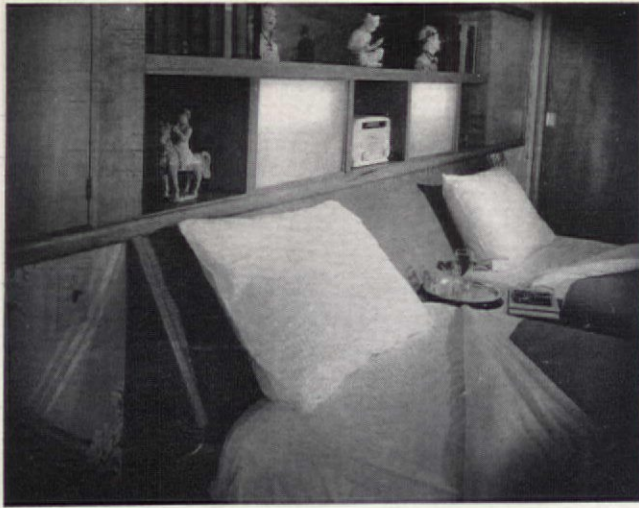
OF COMFORT



Plain walls, draperies and upholstery in living room above leave interest centered on the lovely oriental rug. A lacy trellis protects the terrace corner most favored for leisurely lounging and easy-going daylong summer meals



BY
RUTH CORELL



BY EDITH CHAPMAN

A sloping pillow rest, softly diffused lights and a radio, just about fill the bill for a late evening session with the latest best sellers. The head rests support the pillows at the right angle. Lights are covered by sheets of opal glass. A bedside switch controls all lights in the room. What . . . no bedside snack cache?

Ideas Make the Difference

Analyze your home and you may find many opportunities to make it more comfortable, more attractive. These four ideas are only suggestions. You may not want to copy any of them detail by detail. They are presented to start you thinking of ways you can improve the looks of a dull corner, or lighten a household chore



A rather austere-looking porch was given a new personality with a gay rose and blue color scheme. This room now fills a need for summertime eating and sleeping. Walls are soft light blue. The floor is enameled the same color. A rose decked chintz covers bed, table and ice cream chairs. It was also used as a ruffle around windows and roses from fabric were pasted on the wall



Only twelve inches wide but this dressing table, chest, shoe cabinet is just about as complete as you could wish. The two lowest shelves of the open section are slanted for shoes. The top level holds handbags and scarves. The wallpaper extends under the glass top to make the shelf appear less conspicuous



Light and privacy for a room with only one outside wall . . . that was the urgent need for the guest room above. To solve the problem a large window-like opening was cut between it and the living room beyond. An accordion type screen covers the opening whenever the room is to be used as a guest room



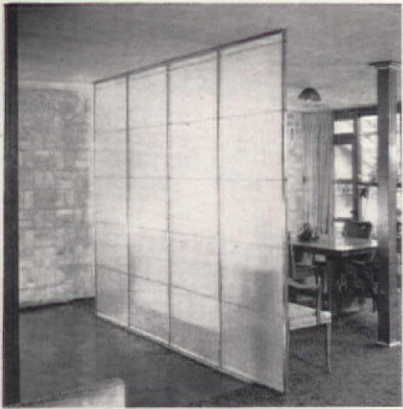
Sky Shades



Know how cool it can be beneath a shady tree? Glare and heat are the enemies of sunny-day comfort and a tree is the finest sun-stopper known. The open baffle of leaves filters out the rays and dissipates reflected heat before it reaches the earth. Trellises, too, function in the same manner as branches, to keep your outdoor living area comfortable.

Heat collects under a closed porch roof but these open grids allow it to filter upward in a constant movement of air. One of these shown has a solid roof but slants to the front and has openings at the back between fence and framework so there is a constant sweep of coolness driving out the heated air that might otherwise idle under the corrugated plastic roof. If you long for shade trees, consider the value of these easily constructed sun-stoppers instead.

Slat roof (top of page) draws open to the sky. Horizontal bracing of louvered awning (next view) forms shelves for plants. Lath throws shadow pattern repeating texture of adjoining stake fence. Open grid-work (third view) will be covered with sun-filtering vines. The garden (bottom) harnesses the sun with an egg-crate trellis. The perforated fence tempers the wind. Large canopy of plastic (above) is cooled by the angle of the roof

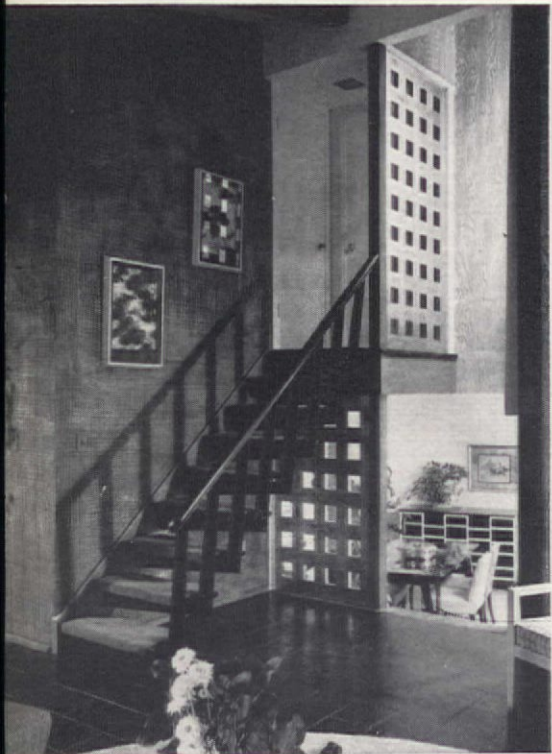


Eye stopping structural glass for floor-to-ceiling partitions, above and right

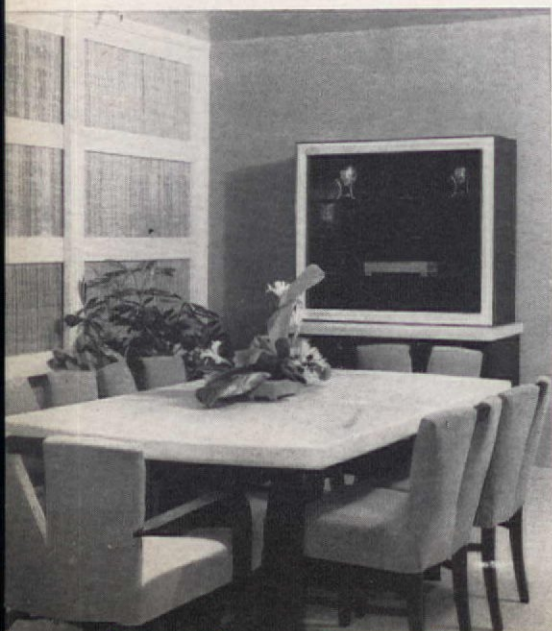
Room

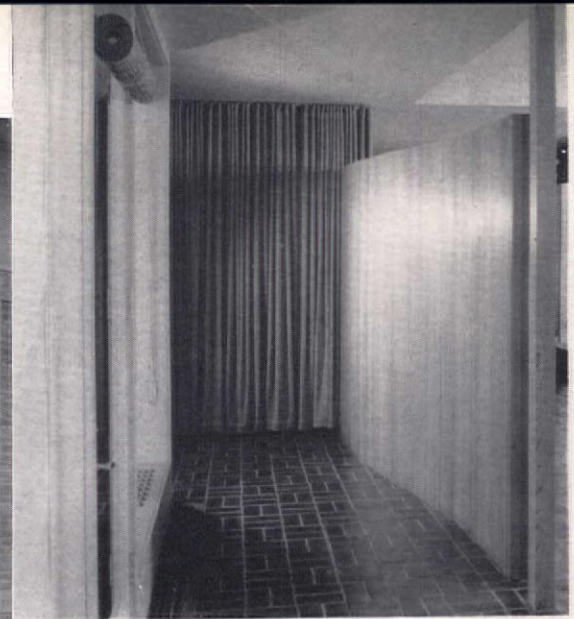
Open planning demands fewer complete walls. These airy partitions provide privacy and light

Dividers



Sliding jute paneled doors below allow flexible grouping in both rooms. Wood grid above sets off free standing stair





A flexible wood slat screen follows a graceful curve to separate hall from living room



Through-view board partitions also serve as storage shelves in examples above and below

Old-fashioned jalousies hold just as much charm today as they did in our grandmother's day and they are just as practical. They may be adjusted for any degree of ventilation, light or privacy. Entire wall folds aside

TIME was when there was only one way to build an interior wall. It had to be a complete division broken only by a door or two. Today's wall is not always needed to enclose a space. Sometimes it is intended only to stop the eye in the name of privacy, to create an illusion of separate rooms yet retain the airy spaciousness possible only in the larger area.

Such a divider may be used to hide off a less than ideal view, to set off space for an entrance, to protect a work area from traffic lanes, to serve as a guard rail around a stair well or change in floor levels. Whatever its purpose, it provides us with an opportunity to make use of some of the less-frequently employed building or decorating materials. The room dividers pictured on these pages make use of wood, glass, louvered shutters and woven jute. Two of them are mobile partitions. Half are complete floor-to-ceiling dividers. All give free passage of light and air as well as texture interest.



Hide & Seek Kitchen



IF YOUR house lacks a dining room but has an ample kitchen you can make that room serve a double purpose. Just build a partition that will block off the food preparation section from the eating area.

Owners of the kitchen shown above used upright boards for screening purposes. You could substitute any practical material but you might benefit by making the doorway large and by using a type of door that would take up minimum space when standing open.

The solution would permit the hiding of meal-making litter from those at the dinner table, yet keep the entire area in character as a kitchen.

However you divide space you might find it advantageous to utilize several features of the kitchen shown here. Notice that the big window over the sink not only admits light generously, it also provides an outdoor view for people in the dining section whenever the partition door is open.

Translucent structural glass in the wall behind the counter admits natural light. Fluorescent tubes, screened by the cornice of a high cabinet, throw artificial daylight against a white ceiling that diffuses, softens and reflects it.

FOR EASIER

Plastic Skylight

Remember those wide vision bubbles that were used on bombers? Well the same idea has been used to give the homemaker a dome skylight for the home. It is framed with burnished copper and only needs a square opening in the roof. Installation is simple, and it will supply much needed light for attics or other dark under the eaves areas.

Translucent Vertical Blinds

There seems to be unusual harmony between the appearance of the new vertical blinds and the architectural features of a room. Perhaps its just that they resemble the folds of nice full curtains but what ever the reason they do add materially to the good looks of any room lucky enough to have them. The latest are made of acetate rayon or plastic and are opened and closed by a control rod.

TV Tables

It seems that television is going to make quite a change in our eating habits. Bemoan the matter as we will, viewers are still going to combine this new entertainment with eating. We hope that this will not mean the end of spirited dinnertable conversations but several companies are getting in on the ground floor with TV furniture. One is offering a snap-leg tray-table. Load the tray, carry it to a good position and you are ready for the next half-hours program of watching and eating. Trust some lamp designer to come out soon with a tray lamp for TV munchers.

Glass Wall Tile

The color is applied on the back of a new line of glass wall tile. This makes it possible to have brilliantly clear colors. The tiles are acid and alkali resistant. They may be cut with glass cutters. It sounds like a good surface treatment for cocktail tables and can't you picture them used to border either bath or kitchen mirror.

Food Conditioning Cabinet

Kitchen towels have long been dried by the heat given off by the motor of

HOMEMAKING

Find our Guest Room

the electric refrigerator. A new kitchen cabinet carries this conservation measure even further. An air duct at the back of the cabinet allows the warmed air to circulate up and through the cabinet to be released through the grills at the top of the cupboard doors. Crackers and uncooked cereals are kept crisp and dry.

Rubber Backed Counter Tops

If you would like to apply your own laminated plastic counter and table tops you can now do so with ordinary hand tools. This flexible covering is used much as you would linoleum. A mastic is spread evenly over the back side and it is pressed into place with a heavy hand roller. There are over two dozen interesting patterns and colors.

Bed Reading Light

If yours is a bed, sans headboard, you know just how hard it is to find a good pin-up lamp for reading. We have just inspected a new lamp that holds two 75 watt bulbs that diffuse their light through a glareless fiber-glass shade. The fixture is a full two feet long and the wood base comes in a choice of several dark or light finishes.

Porcelain Enameled Windowsills

Originally developed for schools and hospitals these porcelain window sills are now being made in sizes for home installation. They are particularly fine for bathrooms and kitchens as they are impervious to water, humidity, household cleaners and they may be cleaned with a damp cloth. They are available in a variety of sizes and colors.

Unbreakable Mirror

We can think of several uses for this new non-break mirror. One of its advantages is its ability to laugh at steam or frost and it may be cut into almost any shape, may be beveled and is light weight. Its makers claim that it is shock-proof and highly resistant to abrasion. It is being manufactured in silver, gold, pastel shades and many other colors.



WHEREVER sleeping space is at a premium, the in-the-wall bed can come to the rescue. It closes up tight as the proverbial clam during the sunlight hours but can be pulled out of its wall recess when night time arrives.

Ringed round with shelves and lighted with cove, strip and fluorescent lights, it provides storage as well as sleeping space and as an extra bonus there is a wide drop-leaf desk as well as an abundance of drawer and cupboard space.

The lighting is a particularly interesting feature in this convertible room. The ground glass backing behind the shelf area serves as a large light reflecting panel. There is even a concealed light in the drop-front desk. It turns on automatically when the desk is opened for use. The over-bed fixture diffuses light upward as well as beaming it to the right place and at the right intensity for reading in bed. Another light is recessed into an open cornice above the window.

Bed and desk both close away behind handsomely grained fronts that match the long line of storage chests. These shelves could easily be widened a bit to hold a full-size bed. Similar shelves could frame a drop-down desk or table.

GIVE YOUR ROOM A FOCAL POINT

DECORATORS call them focal points. Every room needs one. A fireplace is a focal point; so is a picture window. Yours might be a bookcase or a highboy. It is some detail that takes the eye above the usual low line of chair or sofa backs and table tops. Since most furniture is necessarily low, we are left with several feet of upper wall space that cries for some structural or decorative interest. The eye must have relief from horizontal lines if the room is to look its best. Not all rooms are blessed with focal points but we are going to show you how you can inexpensively produce one without buying new furniture or making structural changes.

Here are three centers of interest composed with pictures. Pictures are usually the finishing touch in a room, the frosting, the trim, but these artfully planned arrangements serve a very practical purpose.

If your room lacks interest you might try a similar grouping. It is not necessary to have all your prints framed alike, nor is it necessary to limit your arrangement to prints. Other accessories may be used if they are harmonious in scale and in style.



Prints from the brush of an early bird-lover create a pleasingly scaled unit over the ruffle-skirted sofa above. Old tea boxes are used as tables, a copper scoop for plants

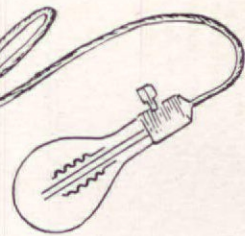
A dozen identically framed antique maps encircle the beautiful bleached cedar hunt table, left. French Provincial ladderback chairs are a part of the grouping. They are upholstered in print that repeats the greyed-green of walls and coral of ceiling

Unframed prints in simple white mats, right, carry the eye upwards to white ceiling moulding. The candelabra also adds to effect of height

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROGERS, DAPPRICH



CURRENT COMMENTS



DOES your home have adequate channels for your electric current? You may get enough light for comfort, enough power to operate appliances, and still have a system that is very far from efficient.



The house built five years ago may have electrical circuits enough to serve immediate needs. The house built ten years ago probably feels the shortage of power at peak periods, while the house built before 1935 is probably carrying far more than a safe load unless new circuits have been added.

Evidence may appear when fuses blow or short-circuits form. It may show in slowed down motors and duller-than-normal lights. Or it may reveal itself only when the monthly bill comes in.

If the bill seems too high, don't blame the utility company until you have critically examined extension cords and supply wires. They may form a lair for a sly current robber.



Useful as extension cords are, they are composed of many flexible copper threads that offer more resistance to electricity than do heavier strands which carry current from power lines to sockets.

This resistance is especially noticeable in a cheap cord or in one not specifically designed for the job it is asked to do.

Length of cord is also a factor. For instance, a cord about 15 feet long, and not designed to feed an electric iron the 1,000 watts it needs, may gobble up a couple of hundred watts. Resistance turns electricity into wasted heat between socket and iron.

This does more than increase cost. The heat tends to bake insulation and prepare the way for future short-circuits.

Improper or too long extension cords do not deserve full blame, however. Overloaded circuits may blow fuses, waste current and generate dangerous heat before electricity even reaches extension cords.

Your dealer can tell you that a circuit should carry no more than 1,500 watts and should be equipped with plenty of convenient sockets.





Symbol

OF HOME

DOWN through the centuries men have thought of chimneys as something more than brick and mortar. For, whether it rises from mansion or cottage, breathes oil fumes or hickory smoke, a chimney symbolizes home.

So strong is the chimney's claim on sentiment that many a man uses one as the focus in his home's architectural theme. He pours imagination into design and even lavishes materials beyond requirements. Only in matters of chimney size and location need he feel confined by practical considerations.

After all, a chimney is functional in purpose. However decorative it may be, a chimney will prove unsatisfactory unless it provides proper draft for all the fires it serves. Long ago, chimney builders had to rely on common sense and guesswork with varying results. Now, a good chimney is usually the product of mathematical calculation.

This should not discourage the man who wants a hand in designing a chimney for his home-to-be. He can express his individuality as freely as did designers of chimneys shown above and to the left. Within easy reach are architects and heating engineers who can assume responsibility for figuring flue capacity, while the home owner creates the ornamental shell of brick, plaster or good native stone.

The great chimney, top left, adds a note of stability and mass to a Monterey house. Louvers flank the example next below. Tapering flues in next photograph reveal dining and living room fireplaces. Brick lines match shadow pattern of roof next to bottom which shows a rough textured mission type chimney and decorative niche. Both chimneys directly above are of white-washed brick

Textures of Fabrics Now Reproduced in Plastic

PLASTIC fabrics have passed their adolescent stage. If you don't believe it's so, just take a peek at the true fabric textures that are being reproduced in this versatile material.

To a top designer goes credit for the luxurious appearance and texture. One of the country's foremost color authorities selected the decorator colors and plastic itself can take a bow for the almost mar-proof surface in which beauty and durability go hand-in-hand.

The true fabric texture is duplicated in patterns and shades that may be applied to either contemporary or traditional furniture. Brocatelles, damasks and matelasses in three dimensional relief patterns will soon be appearing in chairs, headboards and even such items as window cornices and wall panels. The designs are so outstanding that they were awarded a coveted gold medal for its practicality.

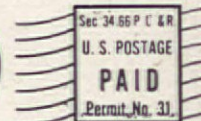


The Canadian maple leaf has been dramatized in the plastic fabric above in dramatic contrast between lustrous and dull surfaces. Rich damask and brocatelle are reproduced in pattern left, and left below. An Orient inspired pattern appears just below



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LOOK WELL TO THE HEARTHSTONE

"Look well to the hearthstone", someone has said, "therein all hope for America lies". When you look well to your hearthstone, it is value and enduring satisfaction that you seek. Whether building your new home or remodeling the one you now live in, you want the best materials available used, and you want them installed by the most skilled craftsmen. Skimping and cutting corners when building or remodeling is a false economy; they do not contribute to the happiness that should come from home ownership.

Throughout the years, happiness — the happiness of home ownership — has been our business, our stock in trade. While working with people building or remodeling homes, we have noted the firms in our community that give quality service at reasonable prices. The firms we have listed below will look well to your hearthstone . . . they will give their undivided attention to whatever problems you encounter when building or remodeling your home.

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Home

WAS ALL THE GOOD THINGS

HOME was all the good things. It was the garden, a brown dog named Bird, and ripe apples falling. It was the perfume of roses and the smell of fresh bread, baking. There was a wonderful playhouse in the back yard. To look at it, you would have said it was nothing but an empty piano box, grey and weathered from the slanting spring rains of California and the hot sun. But there never was a palace, anywhere in the world, that ever held so much happiness or heard such laughter. Home was my Mother and Father, talking in the evening. It was my two brothers and the baby sister and the friends who came for games and cookies and later, much later, for dances in the basement. Like a montage of swift-running pictures, melting into each other, Home was all these things and more.

You never could have put it into words, then, but it meant security and warmth and great happiness. Even then, as the endless and smiling days passed, you dimly realized that this was not something that could be taken for granted.

I have said nothing of the house. Actually, there were two houses, not one, widely separated in time and place. Yet in memory, they seem to have been only one. They were knit together, magically, by the pattern of a family life that did not change when we moved from Santa Rosa to Berkeley. We had another garden there, but it soon became the same garden. And this house, in no time at all, became "our house" just as the other had been. Everything moved with us. The shapes and colors and smells are so completely blended now that all I can remember is that this was Home.

By that time, I was a little older. In the natural distribution of duties, I was made responsible for dusting and the general appearance of our house. This was far more exciting than decorating the playhouse. I could bring roses from the garden, and other flowers and shrubs. Perhaps those were my first lessons in the combining of colors. My mother would watch, and sometimes she would suggest changes, for she knows more of this than I will ever know. In any case, each bouquet was a gift of love and our house repaid me, ten-fold, for each. No other house in our block was so pretty, I thought. Some were more elegant; you couldn't deny that. But ours, surely, was the most beautiful, otherwise why was it always so full of our friends?

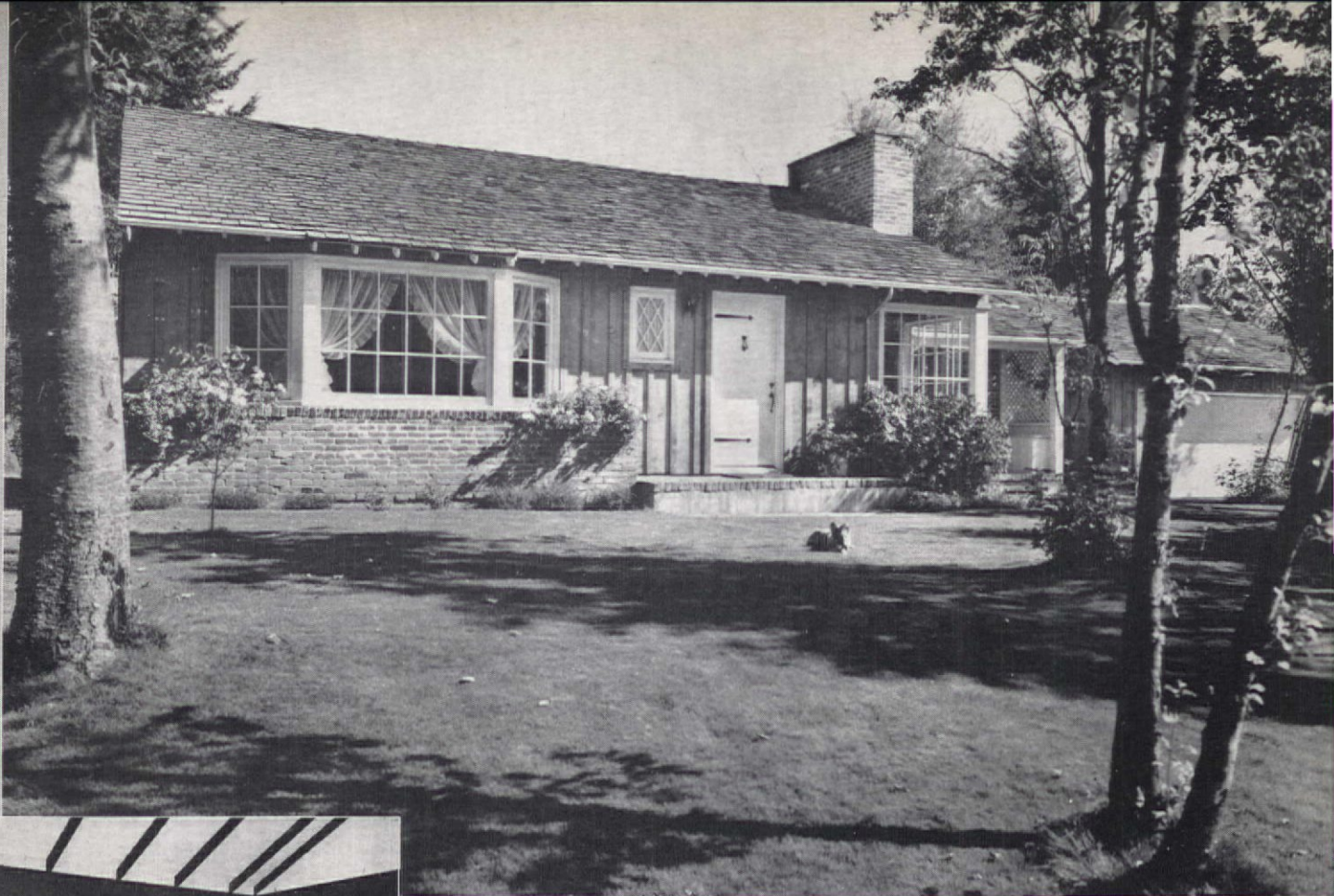
Even when we were in college, and had joined fraternities and sororities, we still lived at home. It was better there. The house was even more crowded during those years. The long sleeping porches, overlooking the garden and with the Golden Gate beyond, were jammed with beds and cots, like a dormitory. They had to be to handle the traffic, especially on Saturday nights when we had the dances. It was always late when they ended and my mother would say, "There's enough room for a regiment and all of you are welcome - and if you value your lives, don't waken Mr. Wright."

Mother, with her quick and flashing wit, the gayest of us all . . . and Father, the stern one, who taught us the names of trees and plants and flowers, the one who could soften to the sound of music . . . almost any music.

That was our home then. I have made my own home since. It may be different in detail, but in quality, I think, it is the same, the symbol of all that is good and lovely in this world.

Dorothy Liebes

The name of Dorothy Liebes is synonymous with fine weaving and exciting new textiles. Using metallics, cellophane, bamboo, or grasses, she blends them with more conventional materials to produce the loveliest fabrics for home decoration.



Exterior board and batten siding is painted grey. Trim is bright white. Tall brick plant pockets extend across the front of the bedroom bay window. Both porches and the garage are located at the front of the house for easy access. A storage box for rainy day accessories is built into a most convenient settle seat on the service porch. The front door is bright sunlight yellow



BY RUTH CORELL

MOUNTAINS, seashore, evergreens and green grass twelve months of the year frame this charming home. The very attractiveness of the setting determined the location of the house facing a far-flung view of the lovely countryside. At the back, with an equally pleasant background, is a wide patio with a sandbox and play area for the pre-school boy and girl.

There's something about the bright and sunny spirit of the interior that makes you feel very much at home, makes you want to linger. You can picture the family toasting shins before the fire when the wind blows cool, sprawled on the window seat with a book in the first spring sunshine, or lending a hand with the rich scented rites of the kitchen.

The floor plan is excellent for the young crew. They may whoop and holler through every room without endangering fine finishes or furnishings. Windows of the dining room overlook a paved patio with birdbath and garden just beyond. The master bedroom has an entire wall of built-ins while the children's room has its own view of the play yard. The plan is flexible and another bedroom could quite easily be added.

In spite of the latest electrical appliances the kitchen retains that prized homey atmosphere through the use of chimney brick behind the stove, and a natural wood chopping block atop the pan cupboards. A Dutch door opens to the convenient back porch. Quaint wallpaper covers the ceiling and carries on into the cozy breakfast room.

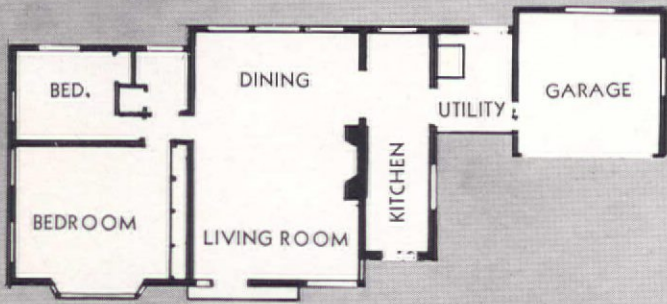
Hit-and-miss rugs in soft tones of blue, red and beige with touches of yellow and brown are perfect with maple furniture. Slipcovered chairs in yellow, brown and cinnamon print, and lampshades of plaid repeat the scheme set by the wallpaper. Sunny yellow is found again in crisp apron-length draperies. The sofa's moss-green covering finds an echo in the cushions of the sun flooded corner window-seat.

*Board & batten
beauty*

The early American theme is carried into the kitchen with plaid wallpaper of drop ceiling, the old brick chimney and the tile patterned linoleum. Birch cupboards add a warm home-like glow

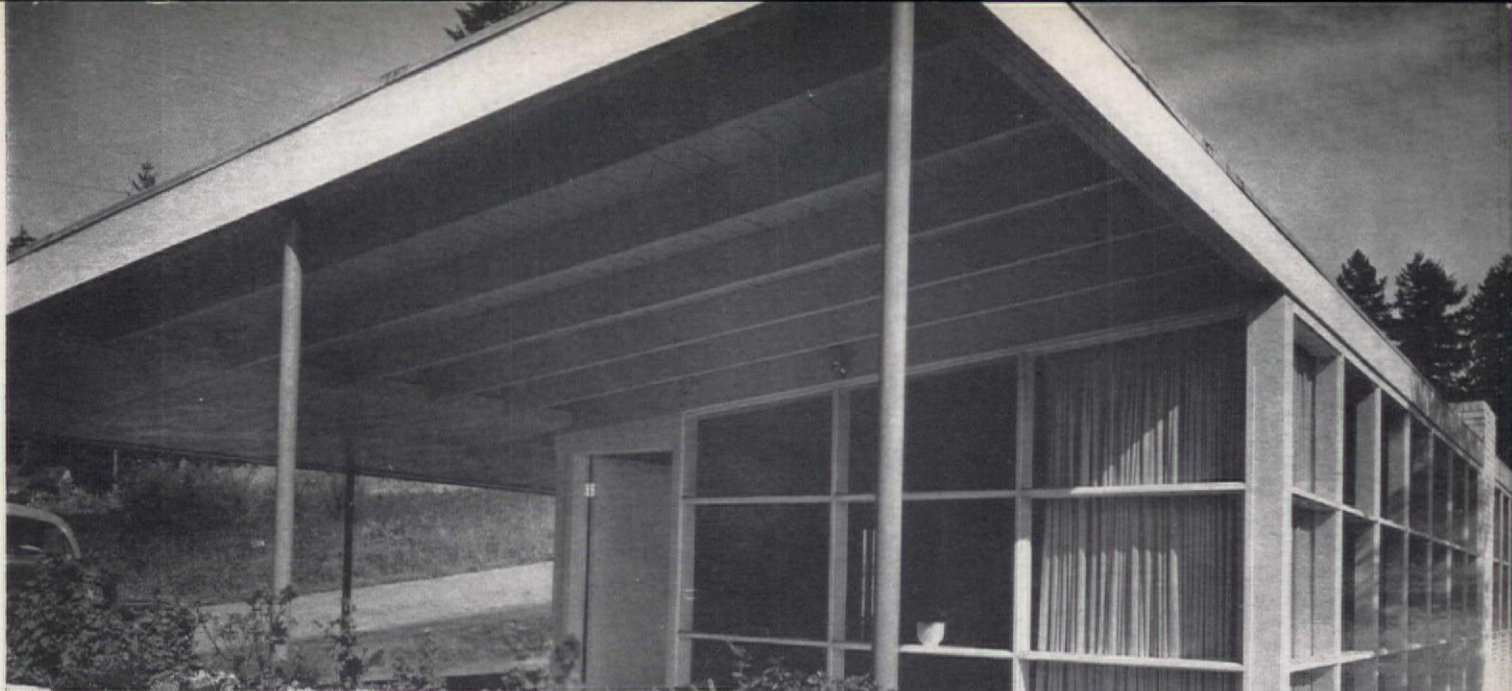
Dining room windows overlook the paved patio with its stone bird bath. Only dividing line between dining and living areas is a heavy overhead beam. Walls are yellow, a good background color for the maple furniture and the perky checked gingham valance

Window seat in the sunny door-side corner is cushioned with moss green that matches the covering of the sofa marking the boundary line between living and dining areas. A hit-and-miss rug "just like grandma's" has same yellows and browns as appear in wallpaper



PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEONARD DELANO STUDIOS





PHOTOGRAPHS BY DELANO, DEARBORN-MASSAR, WARD

Bright flowers set into a plant pocket in the white brick wall add a festive touch to this spacious, airy and very inviting part-time porch

From Carport to Porch

Now this porch is being used to shelter the family car, but when the new garage is completed, landscaping and a terrace will transform the spot



This porch was planned with duo-use in mind. The open side looks out on the childrens' play yard. An enclosed utility area forms the back wall

EVEN the parking space for the family car has undergone stimulating changes that give it new character, new purpose, and make it the logical background for summer-time activities. Many a lowly carport has blossomed into a breezeway, an outdoor living or play room, a spot delightful on either a torrid summer afternoon or a starlit night.

Here are two carports that double as porches and one that looks forward to a future with a car. There is no reason why this choice bit of space should not serve more than a single purpose. So during the summer months the family car makes way for out-of-door furniture and takes on a far more festive outlook. Comfortable chairs and a table or two, a colorful porch rug and some bright flowers will give a look of leisure to space that for the other eight months of the year must live a far less glamorous life.

If your garage is still in the planning stage, consider giving it a fine view from at least one side. If you are going all-out for this double use idea you could arrange a portable screen frame or even a roll-down screen for the doorway. If yours is a fully enclosed garage, a couple of windows would make it much more pleasant.

Now that almost every other room in the house must lead a double life how about giving your garage a summer outlook? We guarantee that the change will result in a decidedly more interesting life than it has ever lived before.



Matching chests are formally balanced with identically framed prints, chairs and plates



The multi-flora plate, the cradle planter and the server form the center of a line beside which are grouped matching coach prints and twin chairs

ALL A MATTER OF *Balance*

BALANCE is one decorating principle about which there is no mystery. The theory of balance you learned on a see-saw is exactly the same idea you apply to give your house a sense of dignity and stability. Formal or symmetrical balance results when you arrange equal visual or real weights on either side of a center. It is the easiest for most of us to create. It is attained by using single objects centered on a line, paired items placed equidistant from that center or a combination of the two. Pairs should match or at least be of the same visual size.

Each of the rooms illustrated demonstrates formal balance. The unusual grace of most traditional decorating owes its beauty to this type of balance. The most valid arguments against it is that it is often static and uninteresting. These rooms prove that it certainly need not be. Try even one formally balanced grouping. You will like the sense of restfulness, the dignity it immediately gives to a busy room.



This hostess commode, used as desk, serving table or buffet, has dimensional bird prints and twin chairs to produce balance

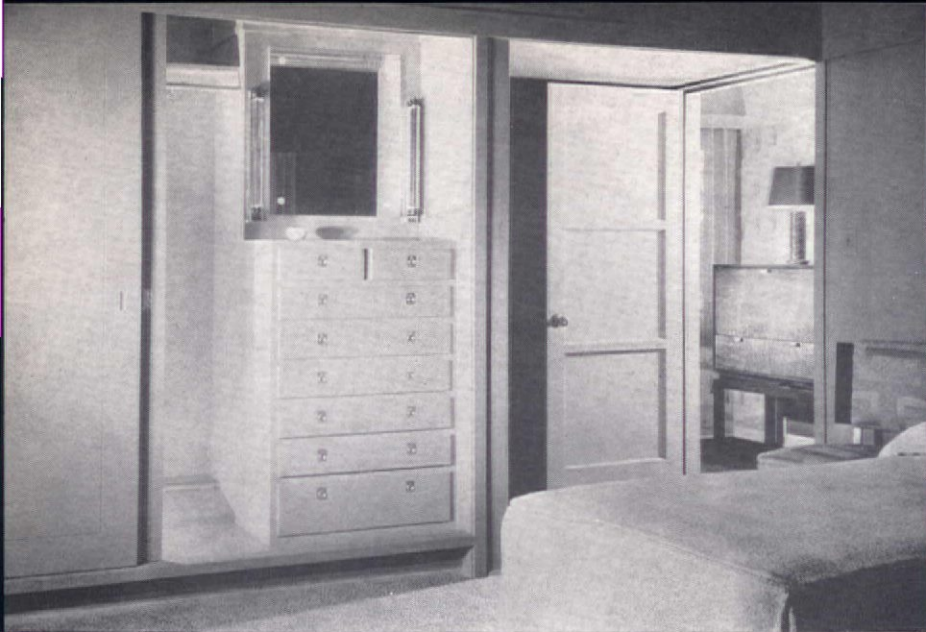


4 ideas for *Space saving*

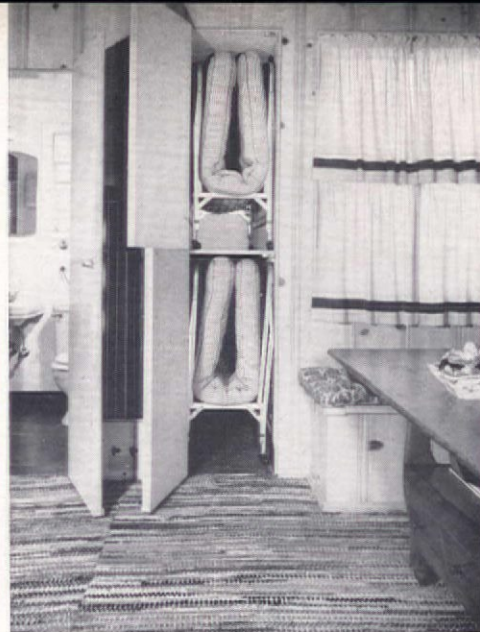
If yours is a less than spacious kitchen you will be doubly appreciative of a table that folds away in the wall. In the recess behind it are six deep shelves for daily use service ware. Quartet of chrome chairs fits beneath the cupboards



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT C. CLEVELAND



This concealed chest and make-up mirror does away with much of that bedroom look. Note that the closet is most generous in size and particularly well lighted



Guests hold no threat in the home that has a well stocked cupboard like this one with its twin beds

EVERY house has them . . . hard-to-reach corners, odd angles between doors and windows, lost inches under cupboards and shelves. But not every house salvages them as effectively as has been done in these examples. These tag-ends of space work for their keep.

Into only slightly more than five cubic feet of space beneath a built-in oven, right, went four metal-lined drawers for such kitchen staples as flour, sugar and dry vegetables. The electric mixer no longer gathers dust in a counter corner.

And as a super space-saving idea for the very small house, see the guest room in a 2'x5' cupboard, pictured above right. There's a trick to this feat. Roll-away beds double-deck into that scaled-to-fit closet.

Look closely at the cupboard frame into which the fold-down table (opposite page) was recessed. The whole unit takes up only an inch more space than the average cupboard door. The shelves were cut back to take care of the added thickness. Simple braces on the counter end support the table.

Then there's the complete dressing room that fits neatly into a corner of a wardrobe closet, above.

Each of these space-wise ideas used inches that would never have paid such dividends if used in the conventional manner. Your builder or dealer can suggest equally valuable space-savers for your unemployed corners.

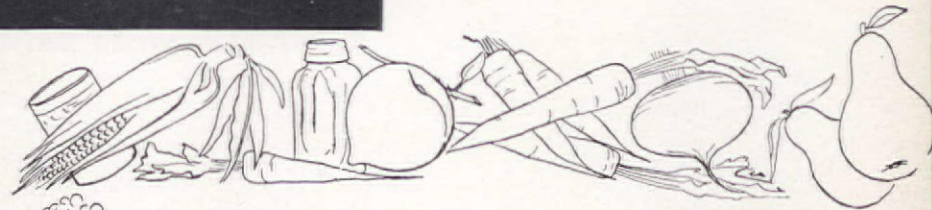
That's one of the new ovens you see above those metal-lined drawers. These new fixtures may be installed wherever you have unemployed space. The companion surface cooking units may be placed independently in a counter top or table top. The cannister type drawers hold a large supply of staples



BY ARTHUR BURNS



It's Always Coffee Time At This House

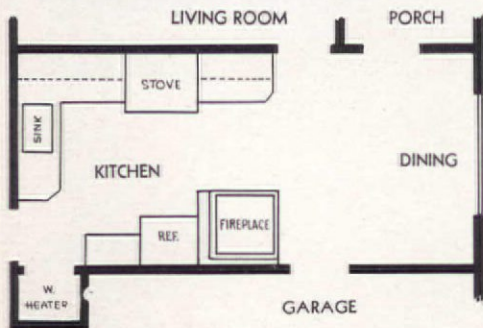


THE HEART of this home is a gingham apron kind of kitchen, a stew and biscuits kitchen, a kitchen you know will be redolent with a blend of smells. There will always be crusty bread cooling on the counter, pies just ready to leave the oven or tempting foods browning noisily in an old iron spider.

It's a kitchen with a Swedish theme. The steins on the mantel, the polished copper moulds and the time-scarred cooking pots and pans were toted here from Sweden.

The fireplace, while strange to our eyes, is to be found in a corner of almost every old Swedish kitchen. It augments the range for long, slow cooking and offers its own special brand of warmth and coziness to the room. A wood cupboard beneath it keeps fuel handy. In winter, logs almost always blaze brightly on the raised hearth. During warm months it is filled with spicy, cool cedar boughs. Quite in the Swedish tradition it is covered with warm white plaster.

Cupboards repeat the medallion curves of the wallpaper with a scalloped wood base. The only slightly darkened pine of the cupboards is a perfect mate for the natural red quarry tiles covering the counters. This kitchen has a lot of happy living in it and it's a foregone conclusion that family and friends will drop in often for coffee or to place their stamp of approval on treats deliciously warm from the busy oven.



BY DONNA LOUIS NICHOLAS

Let there be Light

IF YOU WOULD like the benefits of man-made sunshine without awareness of its source you might try fluorescent lighting in valance or perimeter form.

This recent approach to home illumination utilizes advantages of fluorescent light while hiding tubes behind attractive valances. Placed high on the four walls of a room, the shallow, trough-like shields aid in the even distribution of indirect and shadow-free light. A valance light over a picture window not only gives illumination enough for general purposes but also creates an illusion that the opening admits light even though the night outside is dark.

Enthusiastic as decorators and engineers are, they do not believe that valance or perimeter lighting will eliminate incandescent lamps. Floor, table and ceiling lamps may always be useful in providing concentrated light but the new application of fluorescent lighting will smooth out patchy effects and harsh glare of incandescent bulbs.



There's year 'round springtime for a house as colorful as this one. See it complete with flowers and a rail fence in our colored cover photo

The roof sweeps low over the dining end of the combination room. As with the cupboards, the ceiling and beams have been left a natural finish

As you can see from the plan, opposite page, work is simplified by direct access to living room, garage, porch, the parking and service yards

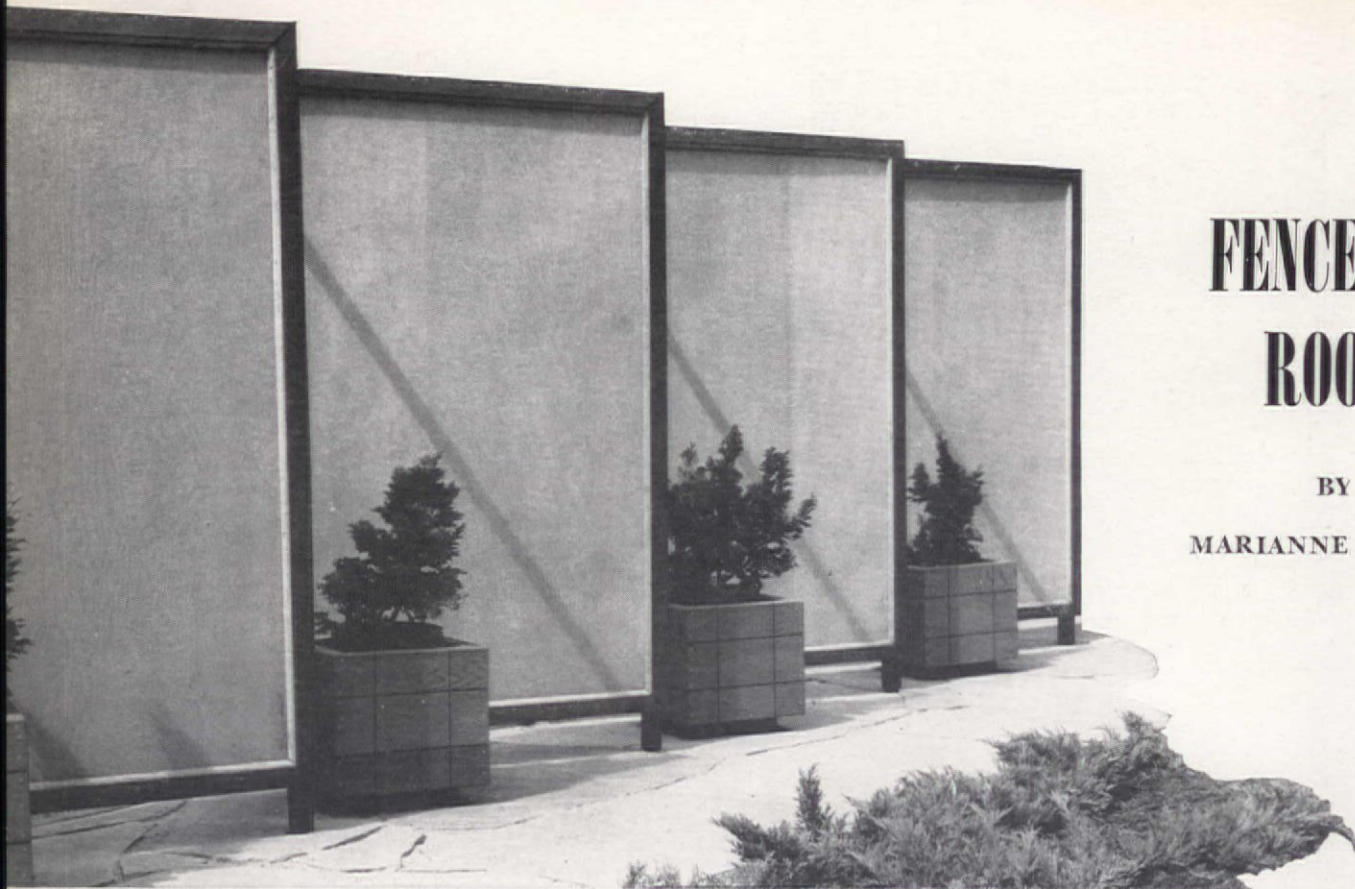
Colors throughout the kitchen combine the deep reds of counter tiles and the floors with gray, blue and natural patina of well-waxed pine



FENCED-IN ROOM

BY

MARIANNE ABBOTT



Portable weather-resistant plywood panels resemble paper screens of formal Japanese gardens



A combination of boards, plywood and patterned glass brings comfort and beauty to this corner

FFRAME your back yard with a wind-break fence. Let grass be a carpet, sky a roof, and you will have a new room for your house.

In most climates a fence-walled room may not be comfortable the year around, but it stretches the outdoor living season. By slowing down chilling winds, fencing will make many an early spring or late autumn day feel warmer. Deprived of strength, wind will be less able to blow away the warmth of the sun.

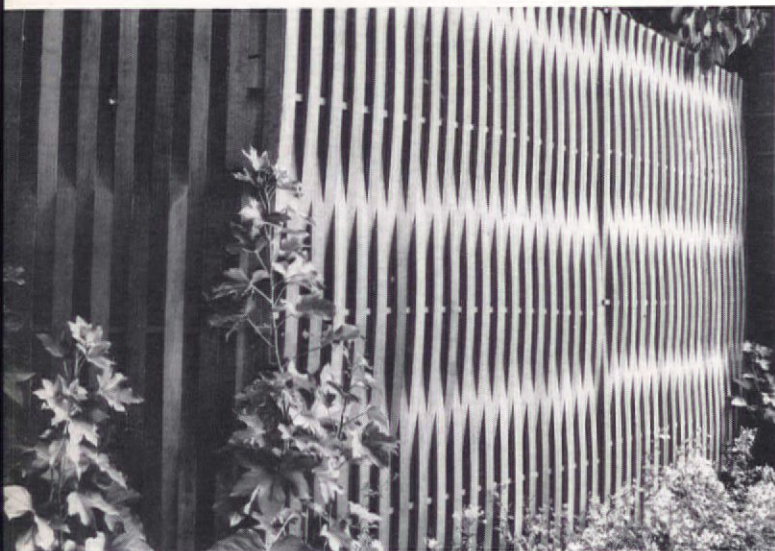
A practical fence is high enough to offer privacy. Yet, it is no solid shield for wind to butt against or tumble over in annoying drafts and eddies. Instead, it imitates tree twigs and leaves which form innumerable little barricades that sap wind's strength gradually.

Screen-mesh, louver, lattice or grape-stake fences all let lazy summer currents wander refreshingly across your lawn while breaking lusty blasts into gentle siftings. Solid or perforated plywood, asbestos panels, corrugated plastic, or even vines are other wind-break ideas.

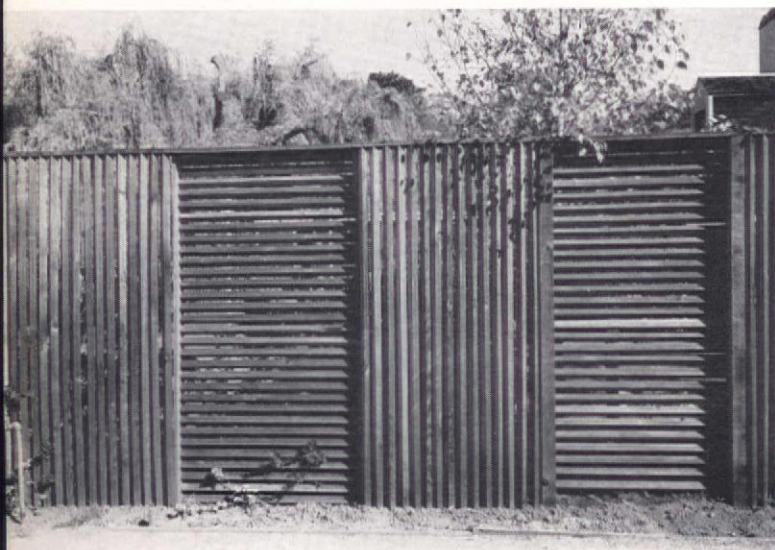
Pivoted panels offer attractive possibilities. They can be so placed as to resemble over-size shutters set on end. Opened wide they will welcome the most timid breeze. Closed, they form a wall between you and the world.



Weathered color and irregular lines of grapestakes meet needs of casual garden

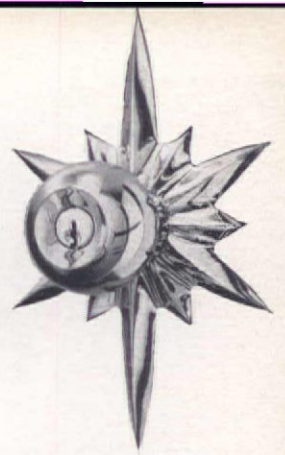


Slender ribbons of wood are interlaced with wooden rods for an open lacy effect



Redwood boards in vertical and horizontal panels make an interesting pattern

**HARDWARE
GETS
HARD WEAR**



ANY ONE piece of home hardware may be comparatively inexpensive but its performance is of consequence. You want the best, and probably wish sometimes that you had X-ray eyes to probe for values hidden beneath hardware's surface.

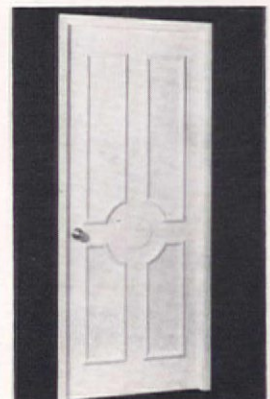
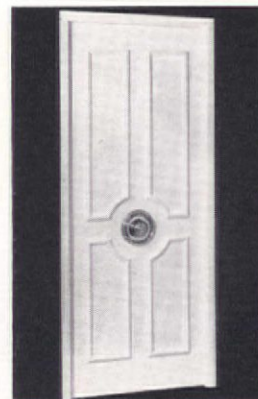
Undoubtedly you realize that appearances can be deceptive, that similarities may be only skin deep. Just by looking, it is difficult to tell whether one hinge is made of hardened copper or an apparently identical one is made of soft material, copper coated. The surface of a lock may not reveal whether the mechanism underneath is durable or merely makeshift. One wrought iron knocker may look as satisfactory as its twin, although the first soon may rust when exposed to weather and the second may be chemically fortified against the elements.

None of this means that you are helpless. Select a reliable dealer and let him shoulder the responsibility for seeing to it that you get the best values. Give him a clear picture of your needs. Sometimes he may be able to show you that a relatively inexpensive item will serve better than a higher priced one. Or, he may show you it is false economy to get anything but the most expensive.

The precaution of letting your dealer advise you is especially valuable today. Temporary shortages invite the appearance of shoddy merchandise as well as satisfactory substitutes for reliable products.

Many home hardware items, made before restrictions were imposed, can still be found. You may even still get front door locks similar to those shown on this page. They represent the latest in lock ideas.

The one with the escutcheon can give a lively touch to the front door of almost any modern home. The illustration showing a handle centered in a front door calls attention to a truly revolutionary development. A metal extension arm, concealed within the door, permits the lock to be placed in its conventional spot near the edge even though the door handle is some distance away. This means that the handle can be placed on the door wherever it will help design.



FRIENDLY books should not be forced to stand in stiff, long rows like soldiers on review. When not giving readers pleasure they should be permitted to express their personalities as units of color or design.

The majority may seem most at home in library or living room. They may look best when arranged as a single unit. Even so, the arrangement need not be confined to straight-line shelves. Recessed shelves or those which project into a room may be staggered to form irregular levels, may be wide and low, high and narrow. Stock or custom-made bookcases may be set, back to back, or used to form a partial division between rooms.

Corners in any room where people spend much time will lose their barren look if brightened by suspended nests of books. Even wasted space under stairways, over doors or under windows can be efficiently salvaged if used as niches for books that wait to lure passers-by.



Shelves and cabinets form a single unit that dominates entire wall of room pictured above. Uneven lines, broken masses soften formal pattern

Balanced arrangement, simple design, help open shelves add quaintness to room at left. The storage cupboards hold record albums and scrapebooks

The little nest of books shown below gives just the right decorative touch to a corner of alcove wall and keeps reading material within easy reach



Odd Nooks For Books





DON'T BE COLOR SHY



Color can create any wanted mood. It can be quiet or gay, unconventional or restrained, pert or pretty. Here it works its magic on a very simple room with a very simple color theme. A single color, gray-green, patterns the scenic wallpaper, covers the painted walls and tones the carpeting. The dark red tile floor affords just the right contrast

COLOR is the most useful of all decorating tools. Not only all of those wonderful ones to be found in papers, fabrics and accessories, but the limitless number that can be mixed from today's paints. There is more magic per brushful than you can ever find in exotic accessories or luxurious fabrics.

What if every room in your house were suddenly stripped of color? Think how pallid and uninviting a place it would be. Charming details or a wealth of decorating tricks, even comfort would be insipid without the freshness and cheer of color.

It can balance lopsided temperaments, warm cold ones, settle the over exuberant, calm the tense and alert the apathetic. This is not just theory. Extensive research in the psychology of color indicates that it may have curative powers far beyond anything yet suspected.

Thermostats in two adjoining offices registered exactly the same, yet workers in one office complained of feeling cold. It was a mystery until someone noticed that the walls of one room were painted green while those in the other were rose. When the cool room was also given rose walls the workers

could not believe there had been no change in temperature.

Color speaks softly this season. All colors are good but like fashions, they have their own peaks and valleys of acceptance. We are moving out of a cycle of bright, vibrant combinations into one that indicates a preference for repetition of a single quiet color, a monochromatic scheme. Colors are cooler than they have been for many years. Even the browns being promoted this season are not the russets of the past but greyed misty shades almost neutral in mood.

There are as many theories about color selection as there are decorators. "Key your scheme to a picture . . . use your drapery fabric or your carpet as the basis . . . Let your personality or your complexion be your determining factor." These are all sound practices because each of them is based on the idea of repetition. If you use any of these keys as a starter you will have a set color you can use in shades, tints or in combination with other colors. It is this matter of repetition, in many instances rather than the color itself that makes exciting decorating. Don't be afraid of using this rich treasure. Nature combines colors that at first consideration might seem all wrong, but she has an uncanny faculty of choosing just the right tones, the right intensities. *Don't worry about being correct. Surround yourself with colors you like.*

Gather all of your paint samples,

fabric swatches and colored pictures. Eliminate the ones you do not like. You will find so many more that will please you. Now arrange and rearrange your samples and you will almost certainly arrive at a choice that will express your personality. Don't worry too much about trends or fashions. Your individuality is one of your most precious assets. Play it up in your decorating just as you do in the clothing you wear. Few of us need be cautioned about overdoing color. Most of us tend toward conservatism when we decorate. Just remember that when you use a fabric or wallpaper as your color key use each color in ratio to its use in your sample.

Color is better than a steak and potato diet for adding size. The too small room can be made to appear much larger by painting all walls, woodwork and ceiling the light blue of distant skies. Light greyed-greens or pale beiges and greys will also add stature to the small room. Few of us have to worry about making the too-large room seem more cozy but if you have ever been in a high-ceilinged, wood paneled library you have probably noticed how warm mellow tones or the satiny wood and rich colorful bindings of the books seemed to make the room comfortable and inviting in spite of its dimensions.

Sparkle up those color hungry rooms. Let your color scheme be fresh, simple and pretty as summer and your rooms will always be inviting.

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