

PERFECT HOME

MAGAZINE



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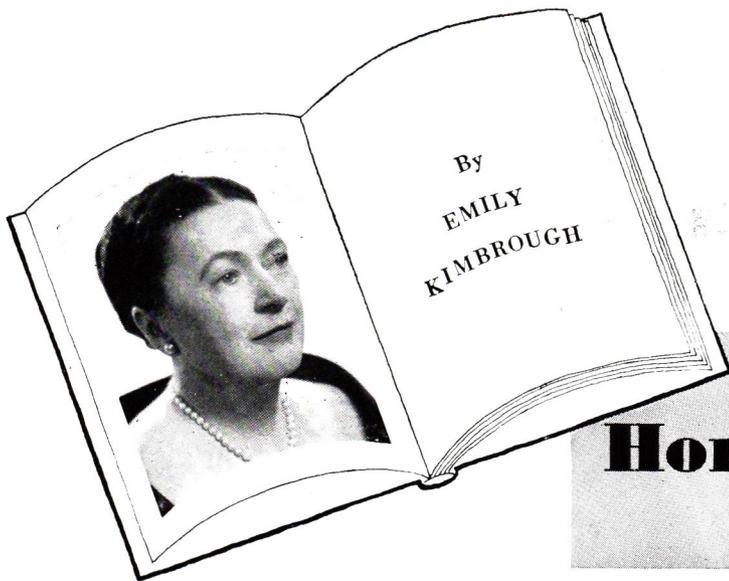
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Home is My Base

WHEN I was a child I had the habit of saying in the midst of play at another child's house, "I think I'll go home now," and my departure would follow immediately on my words.

I was a very gregarious young woman from the time I started kindergarten, and that was at the age of four. I was not one to play quietly by myself; I demanded and sought out the companionship of other children. But invariably there came a moment when I knew I had had enough outside diversion: I wanted to be under my own roof, and I would make tracks for it without delay.

My house was not a haven; I never felt the need of a protective shelter, though I was by nature a belligerent individual. Home was simply my base, and I liked to touch it every so often. Furthermore, home was the place in which remarkable things were likely to occur. Too long absence gave me an uneasy feeling I was missing something. Grandmother might drop in with a plate of hot cookies her wonderful cook, Erna, had just made; Grandfather might stop by in his Haynes automobile and squeeze the rubber bulb of the horn, a signal that if anyone would care to go for a little ride, he would be happy to oblige. My mother might feel inclined to play the piano, or read aloud, or take me downtown shopping with her. One morning I was awakened with the news that I had a baby brother.

After this event, I came back to base even more frequently than before. If that kind of thing could go on, I reasoned, you scarcely dared close your eyes, let alone go out of your own yard. I reconciled myself to sleep however on the nightly hope that I might be awakened with the news, "You have a Shetland pony."

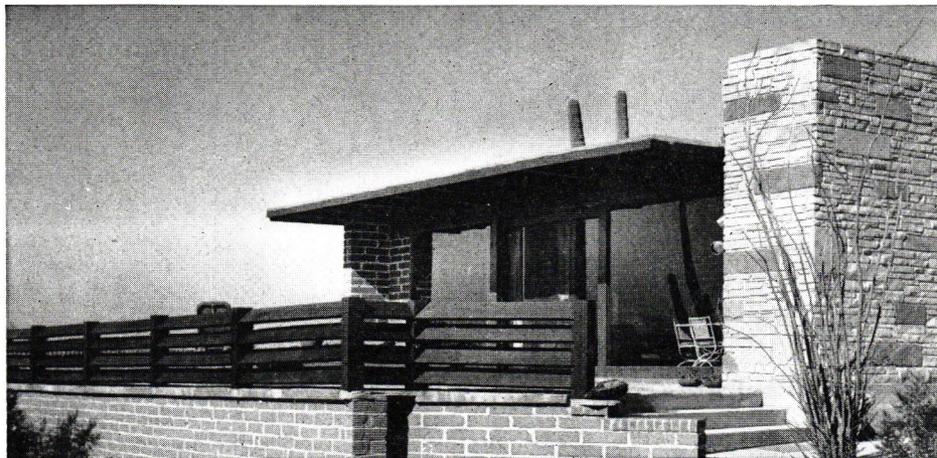
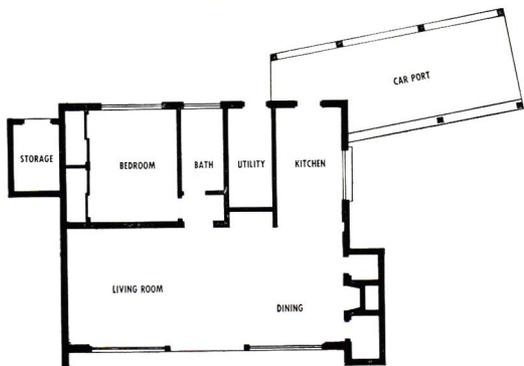
The years have not in the least changed my feeling about my home base. I love to travel, I like people very much, I enjoy being with them. But there comes a moment that is just as it was when I went to play on the swing in Lydia Rich's back yard. "I must go home now," I say. And I do.

Emily Kimbrough, author and lecturer so dear to our hearts because her humor lets us laugh at her and ourselves. Who hasn't chuckled at and loved "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay"?

Formal or family style, we offer you two kinds of dining. The breakfast corner, opposite page, was photographed by Robert C. Cleveland while the formal setting on our front cover was recorded by the color camera of Peter Gowland

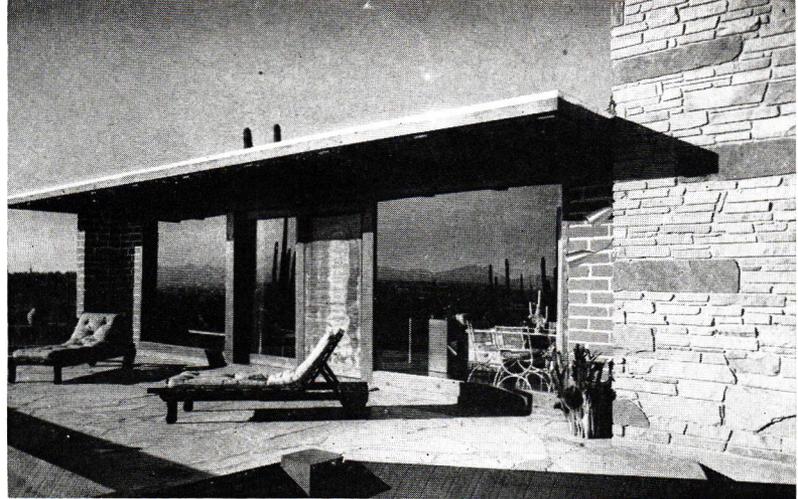


Living room is dramatized by a superb view through window-walls . . . contrast of redwood planks with adobe walls. Carport (below) adds width to this compact house on its scenic knoll





A feeling of spaciousness in tune with the surrounding desert is effected by modern built-ins, simple furnishings, and open planning



Flagstone terrace is a lure for sun-worshippers and star-gazers. Overhang permits coolness in summer and warmth in winter

ADOBE GOES MODERN

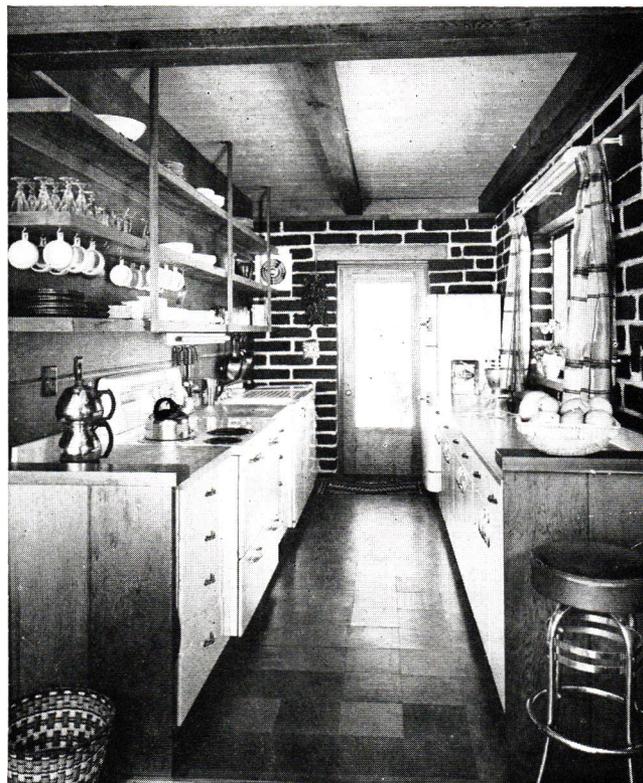
EVEN before you meet the occupants of this desert home, you sense an air of enchantment — a feeling that those who live here enjoy a freedom of soul that no man-made walls could chain.

The house stretches in lazy luxury across the hilltop that's far enough from town to be part of the sphinxlike mountains, the sky, the sagebrush and sand. Wide, clear window-walls and a spacious flagstone terrace provide box-seats for Nature's lavish review of moon-washed nights and sun-dazzled days, staged against the ever-changing background of the distant town.

Other walls of the house are the West's native adobe; but with a dramatic difference that would make it unrecognizable to the original users — both interior and exterior walls are traced with white plaster to simulate gigantic bricks.

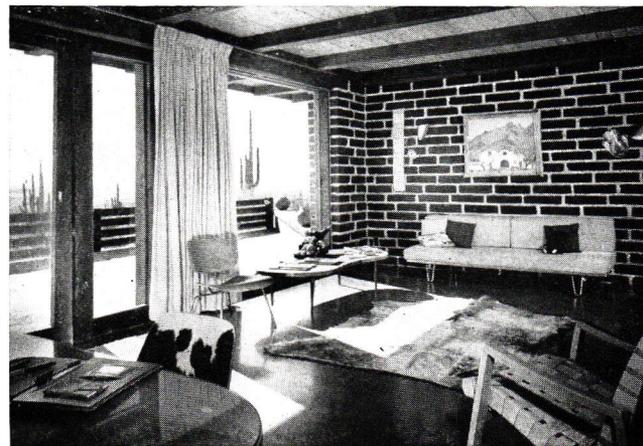
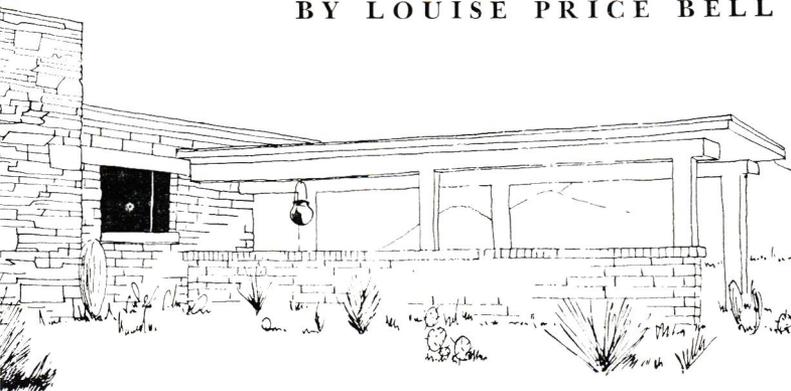
Inside, the excitement of contrast is everywhere. Redwood paneling and beamed ceilings of an older day are a foil for contemporary style built-ins. Touches that are frankly daring include seat cushions of leopard-cloth and the streamlined desk chair upholstered in calfskin.

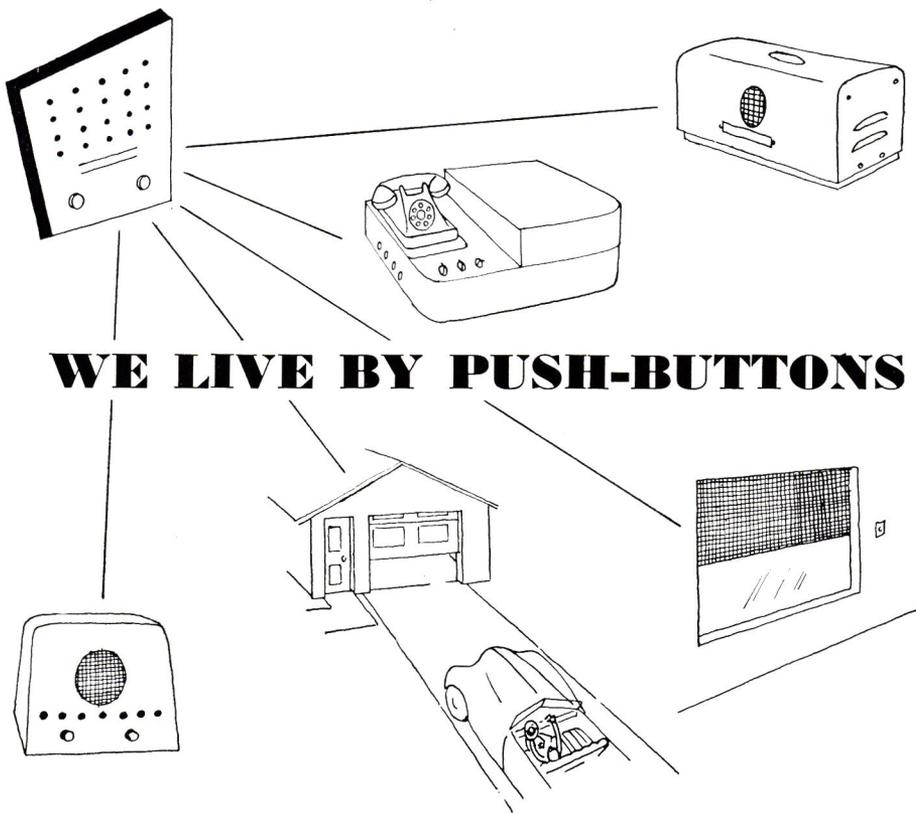
Galley-like kitchen is a masterpiece of efficiency with open china shelves, cabinet bases, and appliance outlets at strategic points



Unique brick-design of adobe wall is marked off with white plaster. Easy-to-clean cement floor is every homemaker's dream

BY LOUISE PRICE BELL





WE LIVE BY PUSH-BUTTONS

WE'RE going to live by push-buttons one of these days. Electronics, you know. And motors galore. Flip a switch when you wake up in the morning and your window shade will rise. Push another and the window will close. Push another and your morning coffee will be brought to you piping hot. We'll live the easy way once the stuff now in blueprints is put into gadgets."

That's what many people were saying only six and seven years ago. And there were many skeptics. But let's take a look and see.

Just for fun, we'll take an imaginary tour through a hypothetical house that contains most of the leading "finger-tip controls" now in actual use. We have come farther than you may think.

We'll start by driving into the garage. We open the garage door by pressing a button on our dashboard as we turn into the driveway. The door will close and lock when we leave the garage. An automatic light watchman turns on driveway, garage, porch or house floodlights electronically, and this can be set to turn off at dawn, or sooner, if desired.

Inside the house we touch the master selector switch, and all lights in the house go on, or we can light up each room in advance as we come to it.

The temperature in the house is utterly comfortable, of course, even during our absence, thanks to the electric clock thermostat that controls

both winter heating and summer cooling. An outdoor control registers weather changes and signals the thermostat to adjust temperature accordingly. The air is pollen-free and dust-free, too, because it is cleaned electrostatically, so there is little if any dust on our floors, furniture or draperies.

We look at the telephone-answering device to see who might have phoned while we were gone, and what messages were left. (Before we went away we dictated the news of our going, and asked callers to leave word. When the phone rang, the device lifted the receiver off the hook, played our voice into the transmitter, and recorded their messages.)

We notify the maid via the intercommunicating system when to have dinner. (This system also connects our bedroom with the nursery, and helps us hear baby's cries.)

We ensconce ourselves in the living room, and bask under the ceiling that glows with a soft light, thanks to an entirely new type of light source. We also have cove or direct lighting at our finger tips. Television or radio or movie screens are behind built-ins. We can raise or lower the picture window overlooking the lighted patio by the flick of a toggle switch, just like the windows that raise and lower electrically in today's higher priced cars. A screen, attached to the pane, unrolls to enclose the opening.

If we are tired, we can lounge in a chair or on a couch, with a massaging pillow — that works electrically.

In the kitchen are work-savers on every hand: the usual blenders and cake mixers; a flour sifter, an ice cream freezer, and an ice cube crusher; an automatic coffee maker that can be turned on from our bedroom or timed for our rising hour; an egg boiler that turns off when the four-minute eggs are ready; a pop-up toaster; a new robot "kitchen-maid" that polishes shoes, cleans grates, scours and cleans saucepans, and sharpens knives; a dishwasher, of course, and a garbage disposal unit; and lastly a range that cooks varying dishes so accurately that it can be unattended during the cooking process. A home freezer just a step away keeps everything fresh, from porterhouse steaks to angel food cake and last summer's strawberries. In our kitchen, too, is a remote control switch so the woman of the house can light up the front entrance to signal she has heard the doorbell ring.

Our laundry is upstairs — up where the clothes are soiled — for easier handling. We have, of course, the automatic laundry and drier, and an automatic ironer.

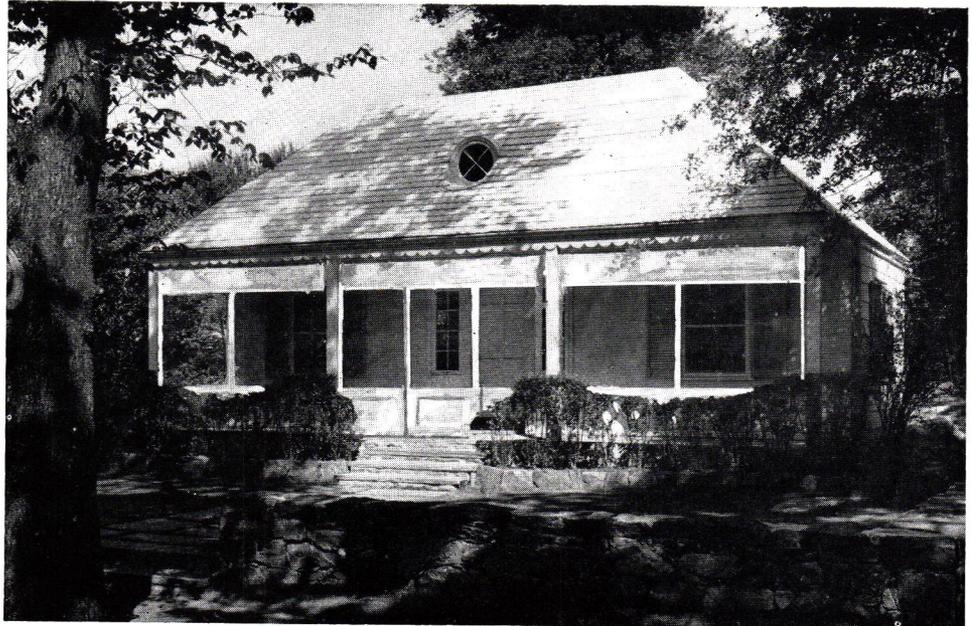
In our bathroom are radiant glass panels for complete warmth, even a portable screen that is radiant-heated to put near a sickbed, and a shelf for warming trays. Our bathtub is pre-warmed, the shower-head is adjustable. We have an electric rotary toothbrush, and a machine that massages aching feet. We can wash nylons and keep them out of sight, thanks to a convenient cabinet that houses a drier and racks. The medicine chest lights up inside. The faucets in the lavatory can be turned to supply any specified degree of hot water. The light overhead kills germs, deodorizes, and gives us a sun-tan. Press a button and scales drop out from the wall.

In our bedroom another master selector switch controls all lights in the house. From our bed we can turn on the kitchen coffee, or floodlight the driveway, or light the way to the nursery. The light fixture in the children's room also heats and circulates the air.

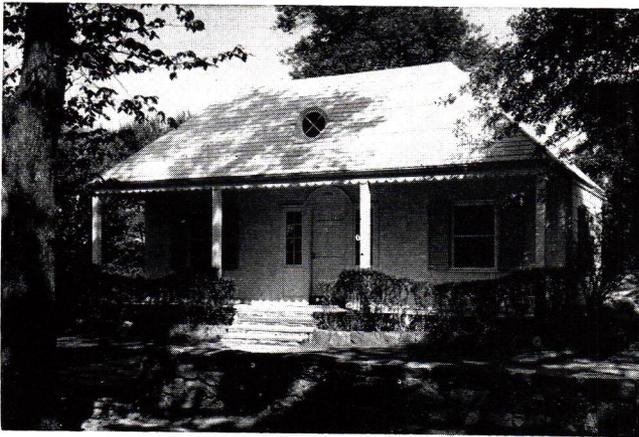
Our garage boasts a power lawnmower that also chews leaves into fine bits of mulch. Our lawn is automatically watered at night by a sprinkler that shuts off by itself if it rains.

And because we live in a cold climate, a radiant panel keeps the motor of our car warm in freezing weather. Radiant heating under the driveway melts snow if it falls. We're now back at the car again. Press the dashboard button and let's go . . . or should we? Where could we find any place so comfortable, convenient, or exciting as our own modern Push-button House?

**ENJOY IT
IN
WINTER,
TOO**



SCREENED FOR SUMMER



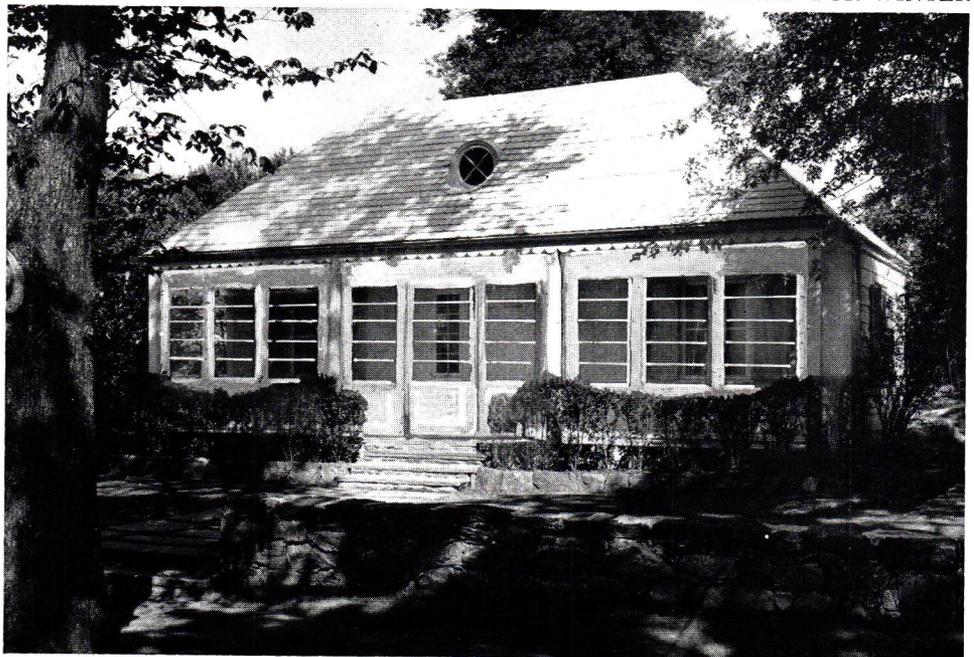
HAROLD HALIDAY COSTAIN

NO SOONER do days start shrinking than life creeps indoors. Outside the garden may be just as lovely when whitened by frost or banked high with snow. Trees are just as graceful spreading stark against the pale sky but comfort draws us all closer to the fire. We would like to stay outside and see the shrubs lacy with ice but, like fat kittens, we prefer to be snug and warm; our wonderful porches stand empty while one cold day after another is torn from the calendar.

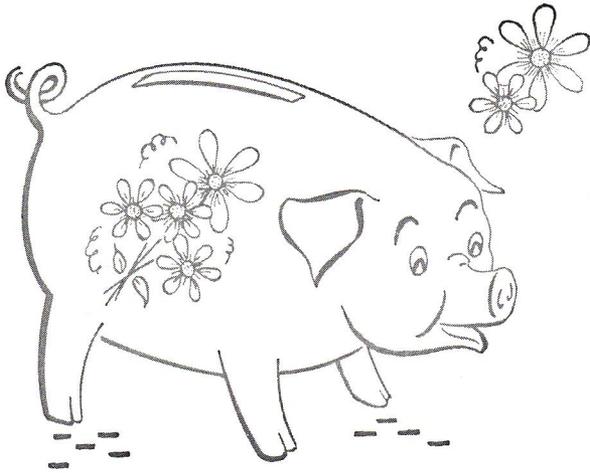
But you can enjoy a porch the year around. Consider the one pictured here. Pleasant it is and pleasant it will stay with screens to keep out uninvited flies and mosquitoes in July and storm doors and windows to come between you and the frigid blasts of February. This porch has insulated walls and uses double glazing to trap the warmth. Glazed and screen panels slip into the frame of the porch.

GLASS ENCLOSED FOR WINTER

These three views picture the house before it was closed in, fully glass-enclosed for winter, and screened ready for summer



BY RUTH CORELL



**This Little Pig
wouldn't have to be
so very fat to . . .**



**Custom Design a
Built-in Television
and Music Center**

Here is an idea that really should go to market — a television installation that blends perfectly into its setting. The line of waist-high book shelves has been extended to hold screen, and loudspeaker has been built in under shelves.



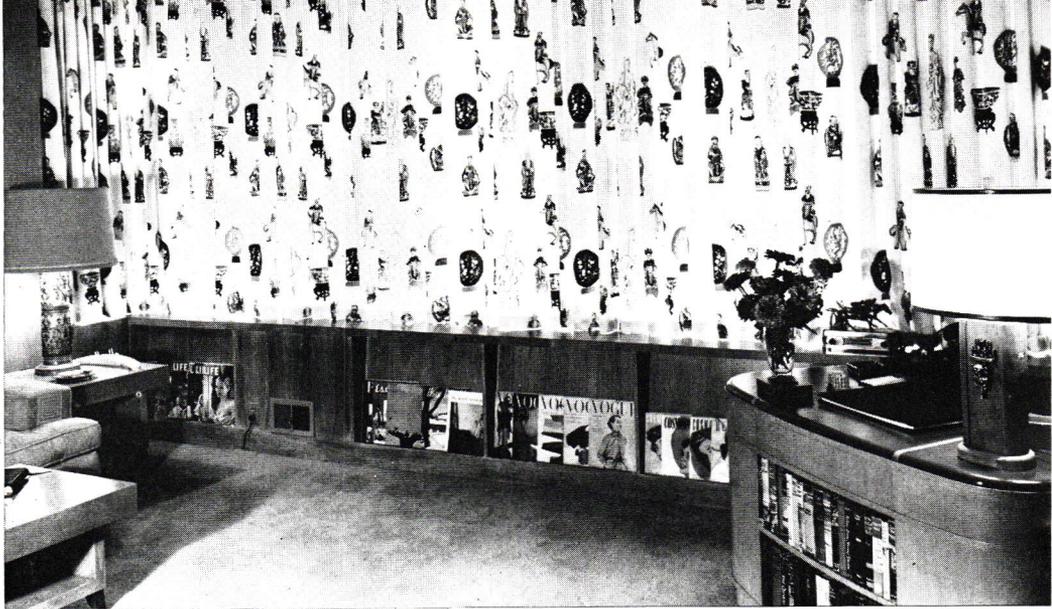
**Match your
Ceiling to
your Windows . . .**

Gay chintz with matching wallpaper could completely change the character of any room if handled as appealingly as in this dining room. Ceiling and two walls were covered with the paper, and leaf motifs from the curtain chintz were applied on solid cushions on the black ladder-back chairs.

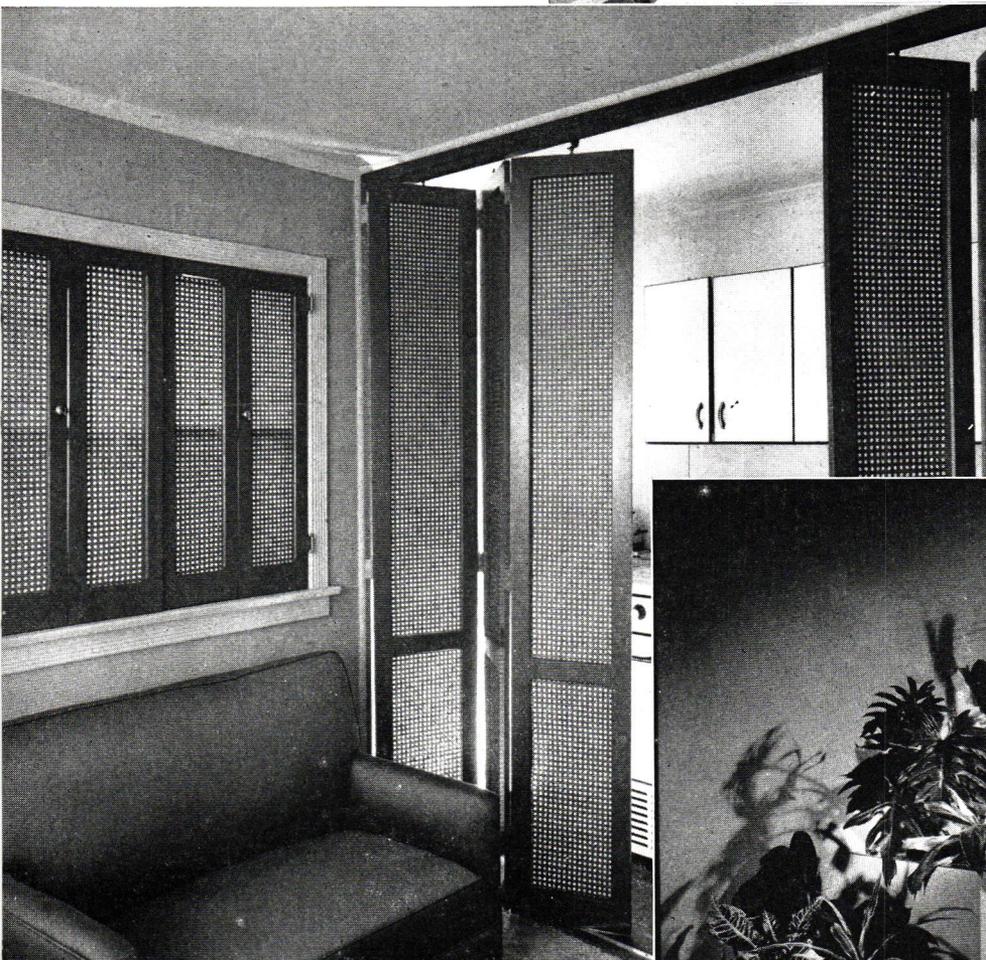
The two remaining walls borrowed their color, a deep rich red, from the dominant tone of the print. The chairs coaxed their stenciled pattern right off the ceiling. Even the china pattern resembles design of ceiling paper.



IT'S THE TRUTH. Imagination is more important than a fat bank account when it comes to a bright decorating job. You won't need a plump pocket-book to manage any one of these five ideas. Turn one or all of them to good account by adapting them to your own requirements. Four of them may be handed to your carpenter or building contractor. The fifth is strictly a paint-and-wallpaper conversion. Such ideas are the yeast for fresh imaginative decorating. They're easy to create. A few stitches, a bit of minor carpentry, paint and a jaunty print will turn a plain room into one with personality.



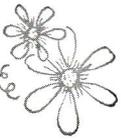
PHOTOGRAPHS BY CLEVELAND, TATCH



Screen off the Kitchen

Like Alice in Wonderland you, too, can pull a neat diminishing trick by hiding unwanted, or only occasionally used space with folding screens. You might want to hide your kitchen between meals. Here is an idea to please the most cautious budget. Two triple screens were given perforated metal panels. They hide only the view, and let both light and air pass freely between the two rooms. The same treatment has been applied to the hard-to-curtain little windows.

Build a Magazine Rack . . .



If you ask any avid reader where he stashes away old magazines, he'll almost always admit they pile up on tables and shelves until an ultimatum is issued to get rid of them *or* . . . and to the junk man goes all that wonderful reading you were hoarding for a dull day. This inclined rack will hold at least a year's supply of half a dozen different magazines. Show it to your carpenter. He can duplicate it in veneer plywood.



Grow Plants on Your Stairway

The old coffee-can-on-the-windowsill school of floriculture cooled the enthusiasm of many of us for pampering houseplants. These metal-lined plant pockets should revive interest. Shallow metal trays fit into a three-tier frame.

We thought you'd want to know...

What's Your Best Counter Height?

HAVE you ever wondered just how high the counter tops in your kitchen should be? One thousand homemakers recently aided in working out the best height and came up with the answer of 35 inches. The next two choices were 34 and 34½ inches; 33 inches was just too low for all but the shortest women, and only a handful were tall enough to want 36-inch counters.

Like to find your best working height? Stand with your arms slightly flexed and the palms of your hands extended as if resting on a table. The distance between hands and floor is your own working height. If you have to take the counters as you find them, use pull-out boards, drop-leaf shelves, or lap boards to ease kitchen jobs.

A Water Tempering Tank Will Save You Money

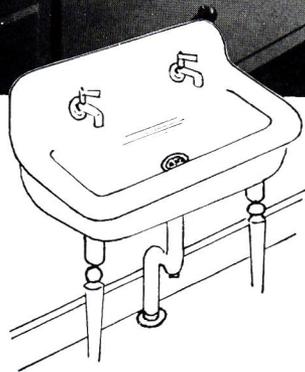
A water-tempering tank installed between your heater and the meter will make a surprising savings in your water heating bill. A tempering tank is an uninsulated tank placed in the warmest spot in your basement, kitchen or utility room. This is usually just under the ceiling line. Water in this tank is warmed to room temperature before it goes into the heater. In this way a quarter to a third of your water heating job is done before your fuel charge begins.

Prevent Paint Stains

If you have been troubled by that old bug-a-boo of copper, iron or other metal work staining your siding, window sills or other painted surfaces, you can put an end to this annoyance by coating the metal with clear varnish or lacquer. The full treatment should include screens, gutters, downspouts, and flashings.

Solar Heating Is Centuries Old

Nothing new under the sun? That's right! Solar heating has been practiced for at least a couple of thousand years. Xenophon wrote about it in the year 400 B.C. The Swiss applied the system to their homes over 300 years ago, and the Chinese used a similar system several centuries before that.

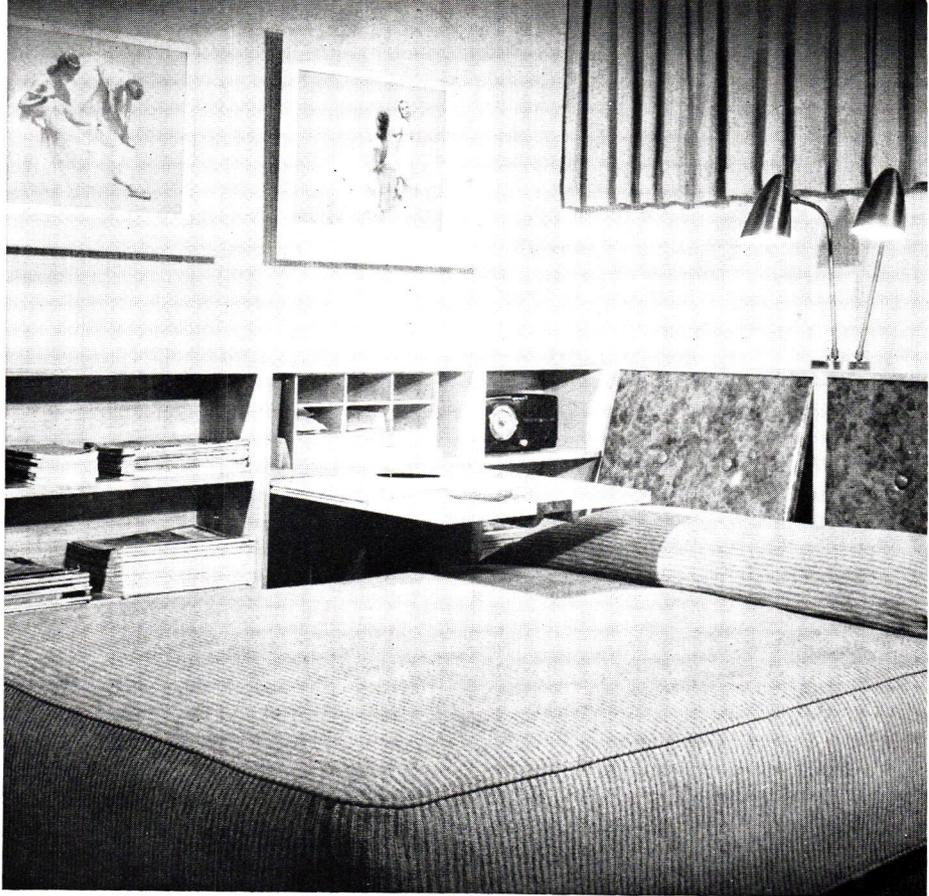
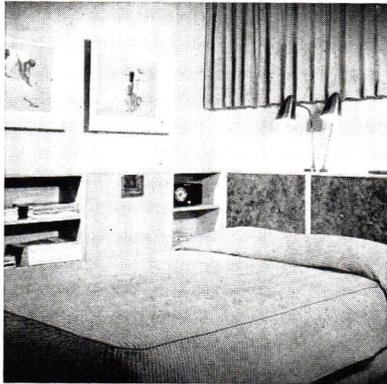


The Old Becomes the New

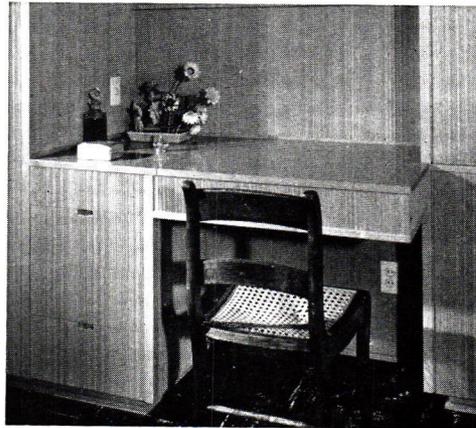
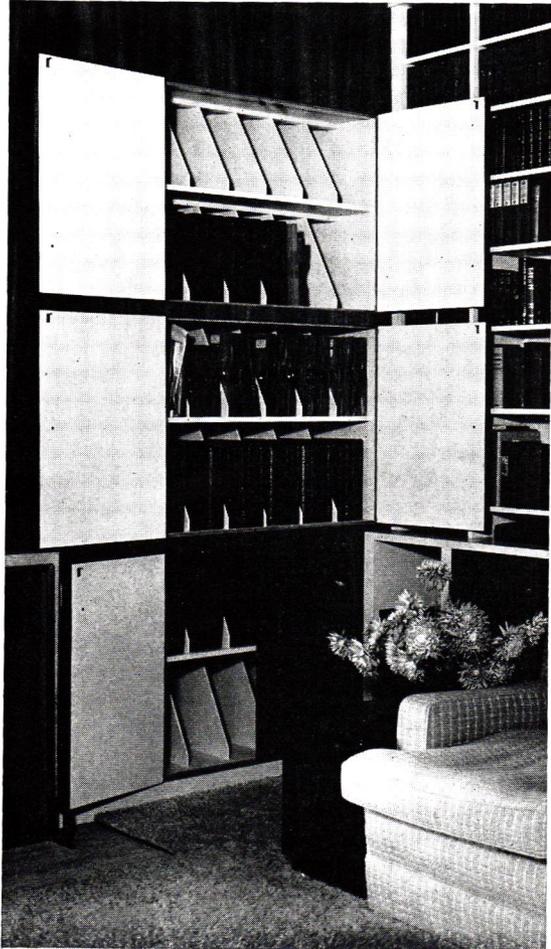
THE modern kitchen corner pictured above is the result of an ingenious but simple treatment of an eyesore. The sink, which would delight the most fastidious housewife, is not new! It has merely been modernized by being enclosed in wall, counter, and cabinets.

The wall was built out a few inches to cover the old-fashioned porcelain high back. This change also resulted in the pleasingly recessed window. A counter was fitted neatly around the basin, the old-fashioned legs were concealed by swinging doors, gleaming new fixtures were installed on the tileboard wall, and the old became the new! The thorough planning involved is indicated by the convenient soap niche recessed into new wall.

STORAGE AT ARM'S REACH



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CLEVELAND, FEIN



EACH YEAR, certain as spring, all of us break out in a rash of reorganization. Before the symptoms get beyond control we're giving you three storage ideas that will insure order without undue effort. All of them centralize the equipment where it is to be used.

Books and a slanting back rest for reading in bed, a bed desk and lights for correspondence and paper work, and a radio for relaxation are pictured at top of page.

A make-up table fits between wardrobe closets, right. The mirrored top lifts so that you may check colors and accessories as you select your ensemble. A sewing machine fits like a typewriter into the file beneath the table top.

The record closet, left, could be scaled to fit individual collections.



We Want...

It sometimes take a heap of living in a house to reveal all of its advantages and disadvantages. What started out as a perfect arrangement may later become imperfect because your way of living changes. Or new ideas outdate the old. Or human nature itself impels you to change things, to add to, discard, or improve.

The six ideas suggested here are solutions to typical reader problems. Simple though each of them may seem, they can add materially to the enjoyment of your home.

STURDY TABLE TOPS



"We could do without table tops that can't take it. We're tired of finishes that turn pale at the first sign of a frosty glass, or that need a complete refinishing job if left with a burning cigarette, or that scratch, scar and mar with a little rough use."

Plastics that fear neither heat, moisture nor hard wear are the answer. Their wood grains are so true you can't tell them from the genuine. Or use glass, marble, slate.

OVERSIZE MEDICINE CABINET



"Our standard medicine cabinet is always bulging with an accumulation of tubes, bottles, shakers, tins and boxes. We clear out the unused stuff from time to time, but still there is not enough room for everything we need. Is there any easy solution, short of setting up a drug store near our bedrooms?"

Yes, there are large, double-compartment cabinets—shelves on each side of the mirror. Usually one side is for cosmetics, the other for drugs.

CLOSETS ON THE SPOT



"I am tired of dragging the vacuum up from the basement stairs, the window cleaner from the cereal cupboard, and the broom from the back porch. I don't want a large closet for such things, but do want them handy."

Closets can hold a surprising lot of things if they are tailor-made for what goes in them. Shelves, hooks, and even shelving hung on the closet door can house tools and supplies in great quantity.

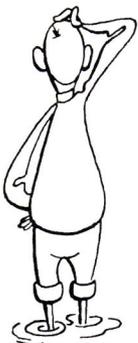
WASHABLE WALL FINISHES



"We think it is archaic to have wall finishes that can't be washed. Why must we get washable wallpaper? Can the others be cleaned?"

Most good wallpapers can be cleaned with a dough-type cleaner. Also, you might test a sample of your paper to see how well it stands up to wet washing. Use one of the new rinseless detergents. Start at the bottom and work up. If your walls are not washable, spray them with a clear wall lacquer.

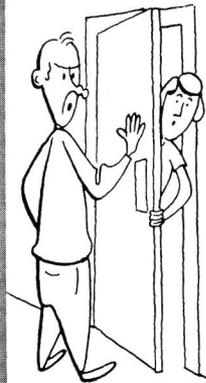
A DRY BASEMENT



"We thought we had eliminated any chance for a damp basement, but we haven't used our recreation room in months, and things are getting all moldy."

For this there are numerous cures. You may wish to install a de-humidifier. And recently a new copper-base paint has come on the market that — it is said — will make any basement completely waterproof. You can put it on even while the walls are wet.

TRAFFIC CONTROL



"The swinging door between our kitchen and dining room is a great convenience, but it is a great traffic hazard. We like the flush or solid type that we have, and yet we don't like using it 'blind.'"

You can have a "peephole" window put into that flush door, that won't destroy the sleek appearance and yet will let you see traffic approaching from the other direction. Or, you can have a large panel made of thick glass.

Bonus Space



Old fashioned jalousies completely cover the windows of this large bay or alcove. Here the game table is always ready for a foursome and, as may be expected, this is often the setting for a breakfast for two. Heavy faille curtains pull completely across the window



The alcove above is framed by heavy timbers. The fireplace, a deep window seat, and gracefully arched shelves fill the space. The walls are paneled in white. Tiles about the fireplace pick up the mauve of the lounge chairs and ottoman in a pleasant motif

A room-size bay resulted from an unusual roof extension above basement garage. As you can see there is plenty of space for dining room

The sofa bed in this long bay can be pressed into service when an extra bed is needed. A portable screen completely isolates this bonus "guest room"

IF YOU HAVE an alcove you may also have the equivalent of an extra room. If it's difficult to picture a few extra feet doing the work of a study, a guest or dining room, just take a look at these photographs. Two of them use their bonus space to create a more intimate setting for conversation. One holds a convertible sofa that may be used for occasional overnight guests. Another is a game room, one a dressing room, while the largest serves as a full-time dining room.

If your alcove is large enough to hold a studio or sofa bed, a drop-down blind or heavy draperies on a traverse rod will transform it into a convenient guest room.

If it has a garden view and a sunny window, it's the ideal spot for leisurely breakfasts.

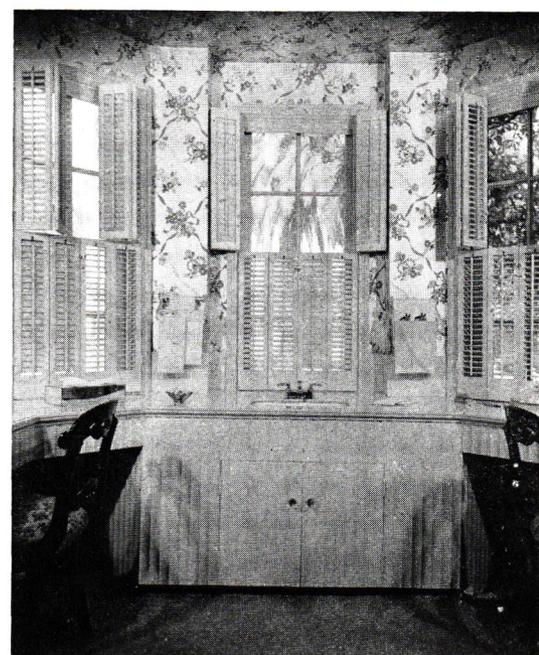
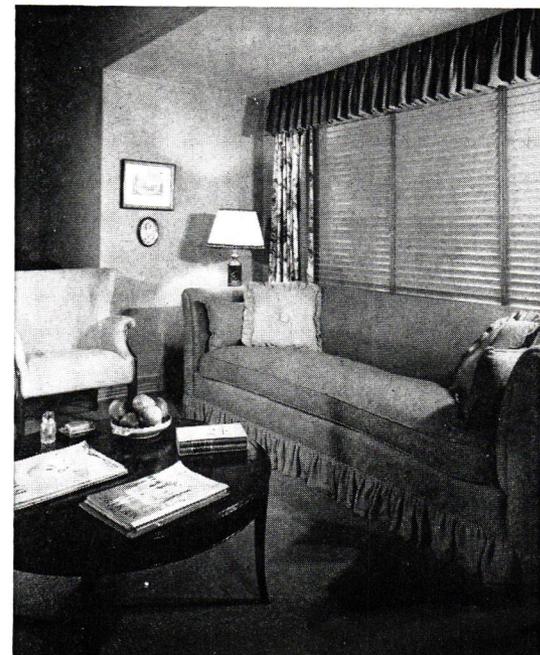
Another sunny alcove might hold a dressing table, a game table, or books for leisurely reading.

An alcove, like a dormer, is not a detail to be included if the budget is limited but is often well worth the added cost for its interest, additional space, and better light and ventilation it can give.

Each of these five alcoves has been made an important part of the decorative plan. Each of them as you can see capably performs the job of an entire room.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CLEVELAND, DE GENNARO

Dressing tables for two and a tiny lavatory recessed into the marble counter top transform this alcove into a pleasant, light dressing room





1



2



3



Nero Caesar



EVERY CHILD NEEDS A STUDY



THE thoughts of youth may be "long, long thoughts" but they require just the right setting to flower. Every child deserves a light, comfortable, cheery place to study. Each of the five rooms pictured here make the pursuit of knowledge less arduous, more to be endured. They are quiet retreats apart from the bustle of family activities.

"Homework: a to-be-avoided or endured form of torture meted out by an unsympathetic teacher." If you think this a biased definition, you have traveled farther from your school years than you may wish to admit. Looking back, wouldn't a corner as pleasant as any one of these have made a world of difference in your approach to your daily study session or end-of-the-semester cramming?

The ideal place for such a study corner is the bedroom, but the dining or guest room could perform almost as efficiently. The pleasant spot on the opposite page just fits comfortably into a large upstairs hallway. Bookshelves tuck under turn of the eaves.

We're not suggesting that there will be any marked change in report cards if you do give your pint-size Aristotles such an inducement but it can't be denied that burning the midnight oil can be a much more pleasant assignment in such a thoughtful setting.



1

Bookcase, desk and bed all run in one continuous ribbon around the corner of this boy's room. Though light is adequate for reading we suggest a slightly taller lamp for the desk

2

A pull-out kitchen table in our 1945 Perfect Home inspired this tuck-away study table. The convenient file drawer beneath holds a typewriter and there is plenty of room for books on the sill-high shelves along one wall

3

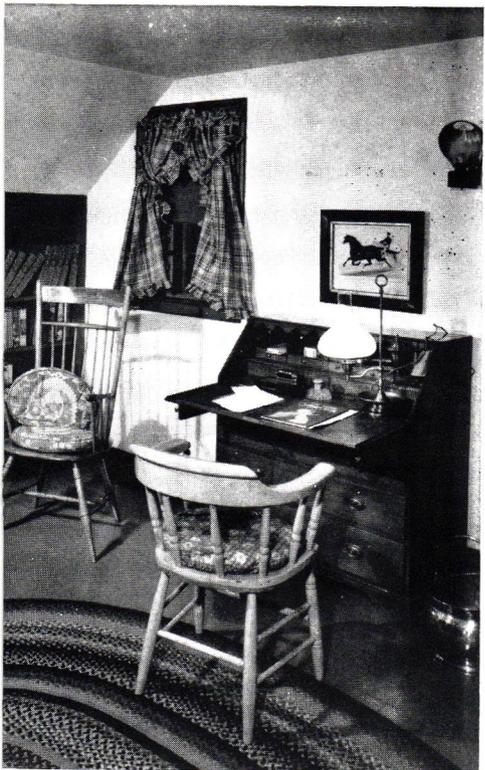
For double-barrel coverage of the study problem what could be better than an extendable table? This one in the room of two teen-age girls is a dining table pressed into service in the name of learning. It can also be used for sewing or dear-to-the-heart midnight brunches

4

Misery loves company, particularly when it comes to long hours over a hot assignment. Twin vanities are used back-to-back in a double desk arrangement. There are 14 drawers that will take care of any storage needs

5

A drop-front desk, a captain's chair, and an oval braided rug are the ingredients for the study below. Add a good student lamp and reference books for the more serious scholar



5

OF ALL THINGS

Thoughts While Lounging: My neighbor down the street tells me his new radiant panel heated driveway melted the snow last winter for only \$14. He just plugs in the circuit when the snow begins to fall. Our bill: two hours snow shoveling self-labor, no charge, four diathermy treatments, six massages \$30; hired help, \$16 . . . Well, there are also electric snow plows — a new one came on the market recently to sell for \$139 . . . Wonder why someone doesn't make a power unit that can be used for leaf-sweeping and snow-plowing as well as lawn mowing? . . . We know an inventor who is working on a lawnmower gadget that will mow the entire lawn by remote control. It will do everything but stop, mop its brow, and chat with the neighbor next door.

Best-Liked Gadgets: What appliances in your home do the most for your daily comfort and convenience? A family poll at our house was a surprise. First place went to a modest little gadget — the automatic coffee maker with a clock timer that has hot coffee ready when we wake up. Second place — the automatic laundry and drier. My vote went for automatic heat, but it was topped by the home freezer enthusiasts and the telephone adherents among our women folk and young fry.

Dent-Remover: When a heavy piece of furniture makes a dent in your rug, cover the spot with a damp cloth and press it with a hot iron. The moist heat will spring the nap back. Finish with stiff brush.

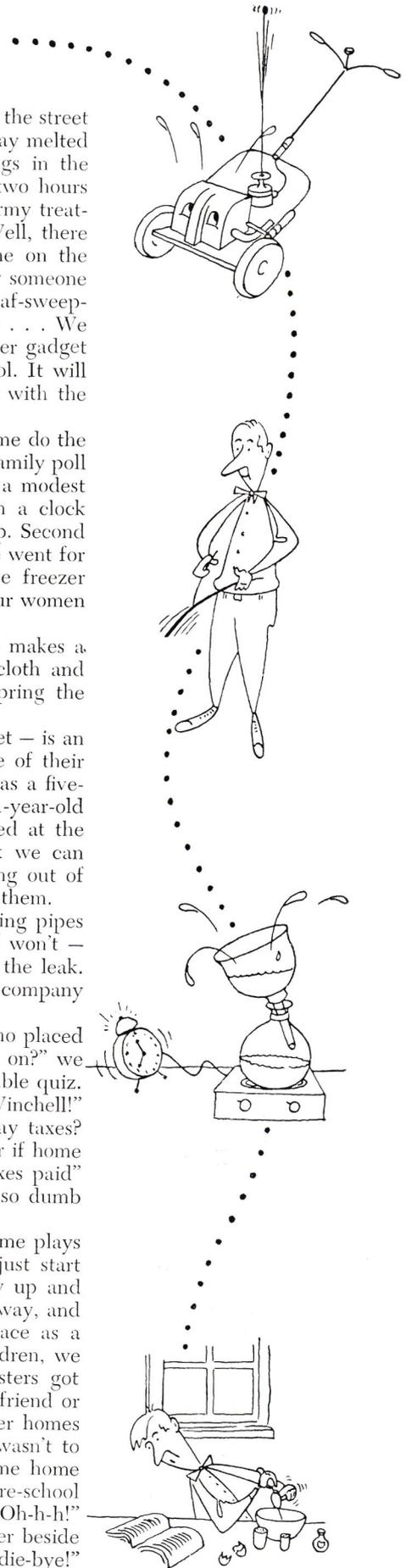
What's Your Forte?: Mrs. Fisher — down the street — is an expert seamstress, and her teen-agers make some of their own clothes. Mrs. Gorman — across the way — has a five-foot shelf of books on cookery, and even her 11-year-old son can whip up a cake that ought to be entered at the state fair. At our house sometimes all we think we can brag about is the ability our girls have for getting out of hearing distance when the telephone rings — for them.

Comforting Thoughts: If one of the radiant heating pipes in your cement floor bursts — which it probably won't — you don't need to tear up the entire slab to find the leak. A modern "divining rod" operated by your water company can locate it exactly.

Family Fare: "What was the name of the man who placed his coat over a mud puddle for a queen to walk on?" we asked our school-agers at an impromptu dinner table quiz. "I know!" cried our sixth-grader, "Sir Walter Winchell!"

Overheard on the Bus: "Me, buy a house and pay taxes? Not with taxes going higher every year." I wonder if home owners ought not to get landlords to itemize "taxes paid" in their rent notices, so tenants won't always be so dumb about who pays the taxes.

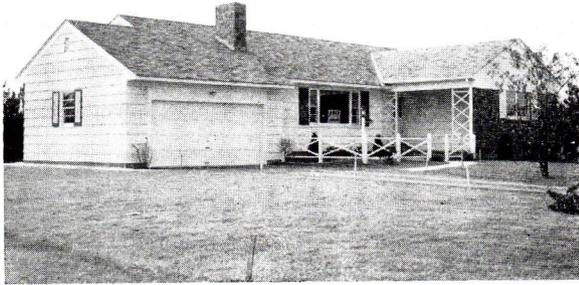
Security: If you ever doubt the role that your home plays in the minds and hearts of your young chicks, just start talking about selling your house when they grow up and get married. After the clamor at our house died away, and we were convinced that we should keep our place as a homestead for grandchildren and great grandchildren, we fell to recalling the number of times our youngsters got emotional about this house we live in . . . no girl friend or boy friends ever had such a *lovable* house — other homes could be newer or bigger or swankier, but that wasn't to be envied. It's like the time one of the girls came home from a long siege in the hospital when she was pre-school age. We gently laid her down in her own bed. "Oh-h-h!" she said, as she lovingly patted the down comforter beside her, "There's nothing like my own, nice, little beddie-bye!"





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