

PERFECT HOME

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MAGAZINE



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"The delights of life are both indestructible and inexhaustible"

BY LOUIS BROMFIELD



A HOME IS MUCH MORE than merely a place in which to sleep and eat. It should be the place which anyone prefers to all else in the world. It is more important to the upbringing, the education and the general culture of any child than the school and it is unfortunate that more and more parents in our society have come to expect the school to bring up their children.

Memories of my own home are warm ones as a place where the food was good, where the talk touched upon almost every subject in the world and there was a lively interest in politics and world affairs. It was a place which contained a constantly growing library sometimes purchased with the money pinched from other things. There was always good music. It was a natural center for all the kids in the neighborhood. My mother always said that she preferred her children to learn how to play cards at home rather than in a neighbor's stableroom or haymow.

When my parents died they were unable to leave me stocks or bonds, property or cash, but they did leave me something that was worth infinitely more than any of these things. They left me a great interest and curiosity about everything concerned with living. They left me knowledge and a taste for the inexhaustible pleasures to be found in painting, in music, in literature. They left me the habit of reading . . . not merely squibs of this or that, but whole books. Picnics and excursions into the country were a regular part of our life, with the best of food packed up in big baskets for the day's trip, and those excursions left me with a taste for the out-of-doors and a knowledge of wild life, of fishing, of wild-flowers and the laws of nature which are one of the greatest assets it is possible to have. In short they taught me in my own home that the delights of life are both indestructible and inexhaustible.

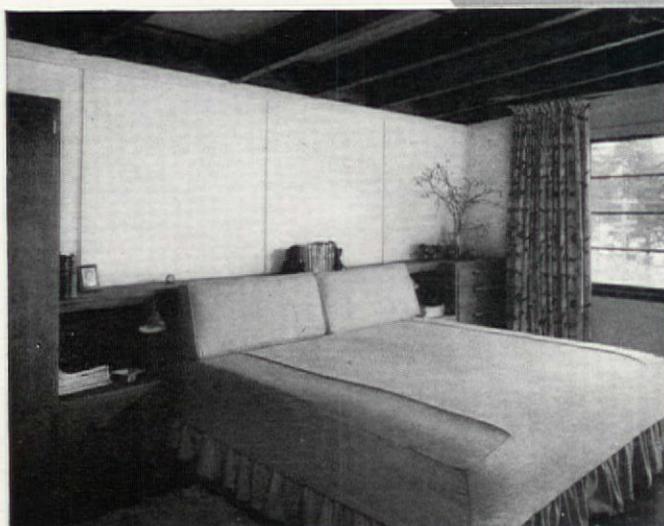
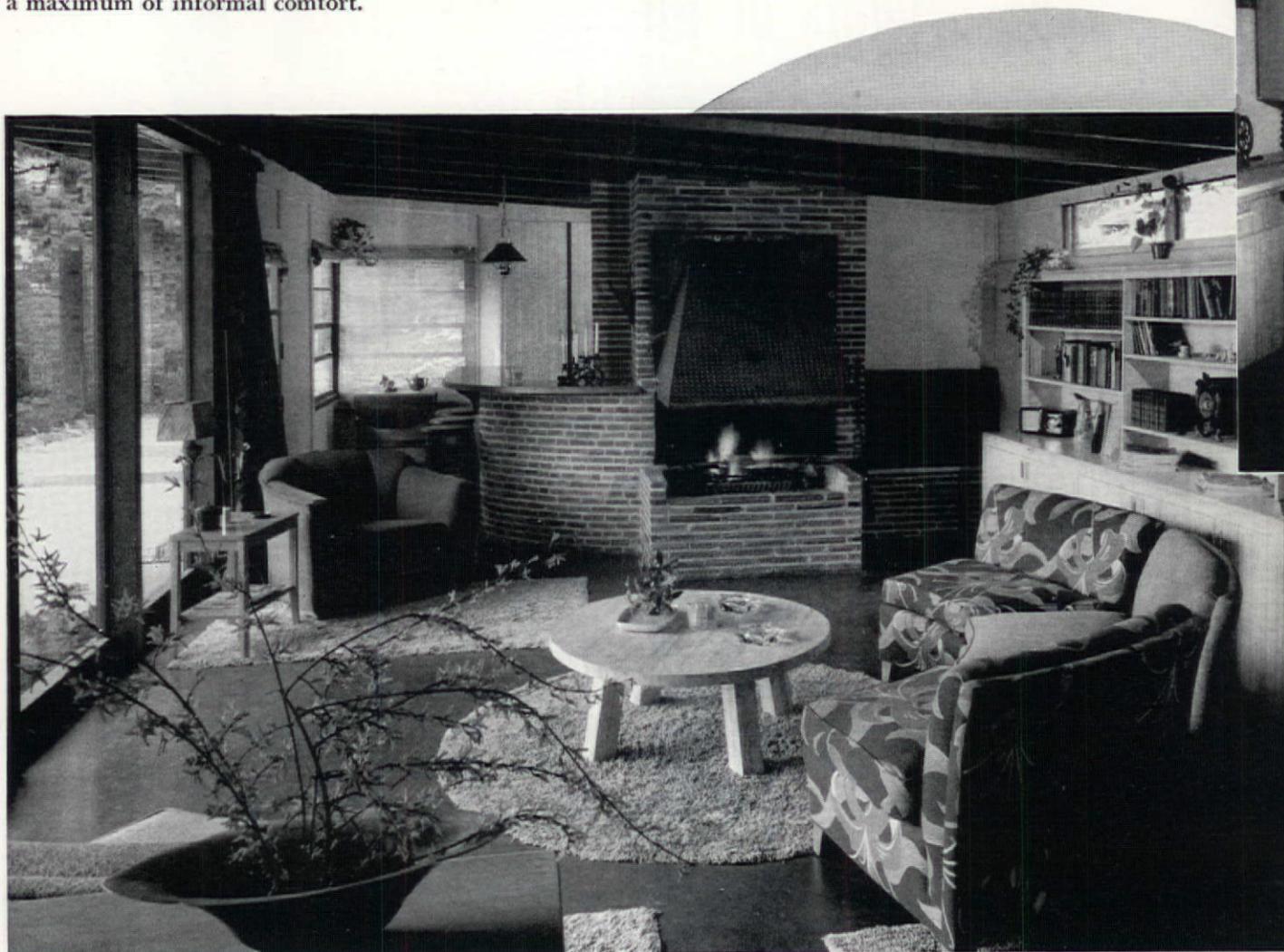
Money is pleasant to possess, but one does not live by it and it can disappear over night. What I learned in my family home is indestructible. It is the true basis of a satisfactory and enjoyable life, not only for myself but for any of those who came in contact with that home.

Louis Bromfield

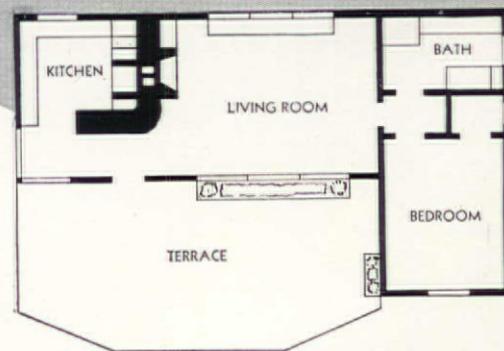
Home to Louis Bromfield means Malabar Farm, a large and prospering farm being run according to Mr. Bromfield's theories of better use of the land. You probably know him best for such novels as "Mrs. Parkington," "When the Rains Came" and "Mr. Smith"

By planning indoor and outdoor areas as a unit,
the designers of this snug home achieved an air of spaciousness.

House and setting blend perfectly to offer
a maximum of informal comfort.



Astute planning of storage space adds size to the bedroom



JACK MELQUIST — DESIGNER

Compact — With a Spacious Air



THE FIRST THING to say about this refreshing home is that it's little — three rooms and bath. The next thing to say is that it blends with its setting so well that you feel it wasn't *built* but just grew out of the hillside along with the trees.

It's this blending, more than anything else, that eliminates any feeling of confinement. If this house were in cramped surroundings, it would perhaps seem tiny. But here, fitted into its hillside oasis of privacy, it gives you a sensation of wall-less freedom, of unlimited living area.

This at-oneness-with-surroundings is more than a mere architectural trick done by styling the house just so and tucking it into a woodsy background. The problem wasn't only to make the house part of the setting, but also to make the setting part of the house. The liaison is completely successful because the designers planned house and setting together — as one big, livable unit.

Trellis, wide eaves, generous windows — all contribute their bits toward unity. A window-wall minimizes the division between living room and terrace. The sheltered flower bed outside the living-room windows plays its subtle part. So do the rock-garden entrance, the furniture on the terrace, the well-kept lawn. In fact, it's hard to find a single element, large or small, inside or out, that is not in sympathy with the indoor-outdoor scheme.

Space-saving, of course, was a prime consideration in planning the interior. Storage facilities were built into walls and into every available nook and cranny. Non-essential furniture was eliminated. The chimney was cleverly placed to house a fireplace on its living-room side and a charcoal grill on its kitchen side. Copper hoods combine with hanging pots and pans to give this hillside home a touch of peasantlike simplicity.

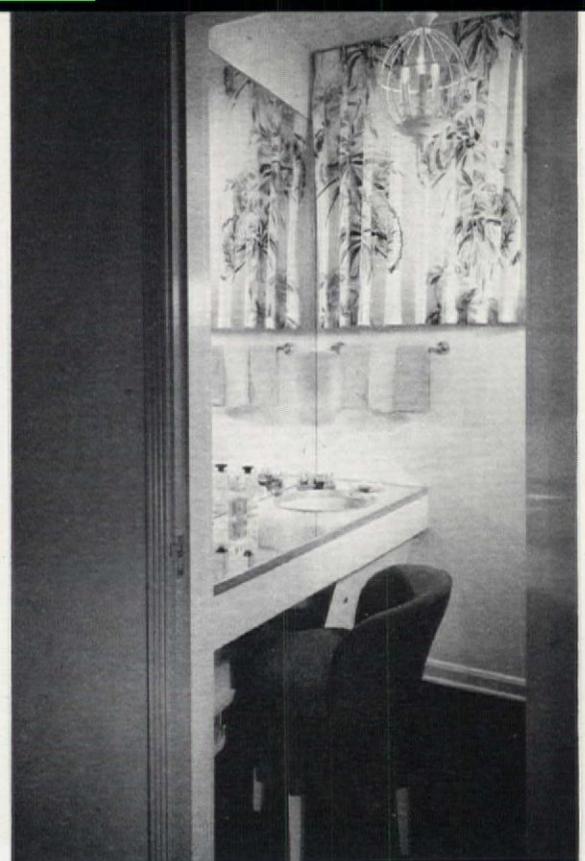
House, terrace, lawn and rock garden blend to offer an invitation to secluded hillside living



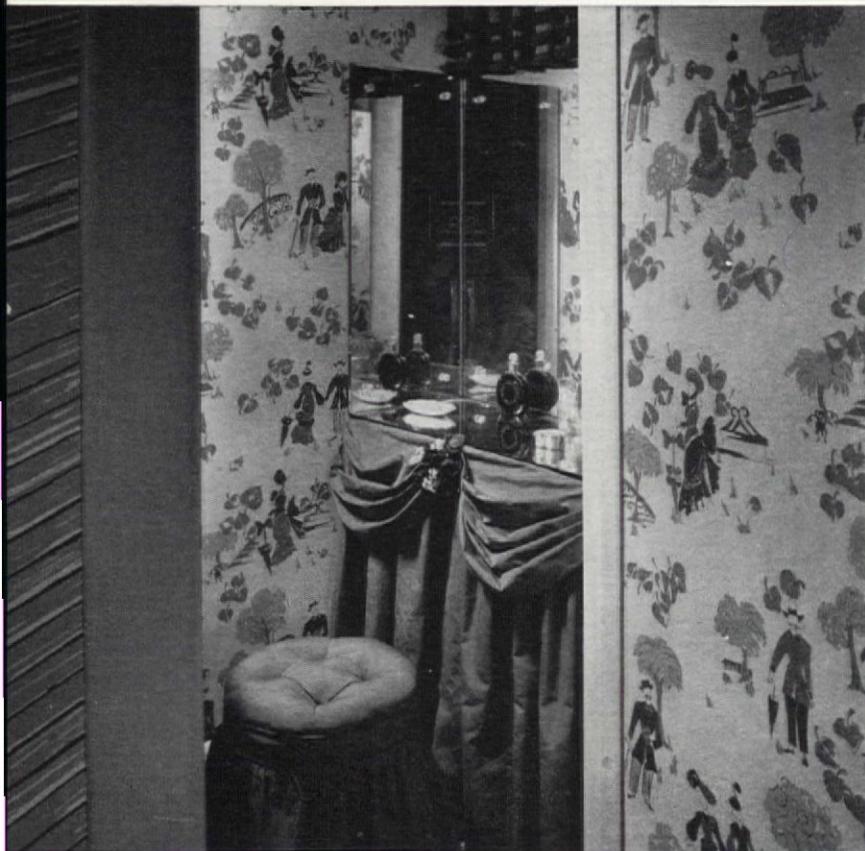
PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHARLES R. PEARSON



It certainly looks nothing like an old back porch but that's just what it was. A knotty pine wainscoting and door, mirrors, make-up counter, ruffled twin seats and a washable quilted-chintz-patterned paper made a quaint and charming second and very welcome bathroom



This minimum size powder room was actually built into a guest closet. A large mirror almost doubles the visual size of the area. The colorful wall and ceiling panels have their beauty protected by an easy-to-clean plastic finish



PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOWELL WARD AND ASSOCIATES

Built at the end of a second floor hallway, this powder room has an outside window. Local building codes should be checked for ruling on ventilation. The flounced Victorian dressing table has mirrors on three walls. The padded and skirted seat is an old round piano stool

THE FAMILY with a one-bath house will occasionally find itself inconvenienced. Add a couple of children to the picture and you are certain to have a healthy traffic problem every morning and evening. Try as you will, it is impossible to prevent frequent line ups, frayed tempers and tardiness.

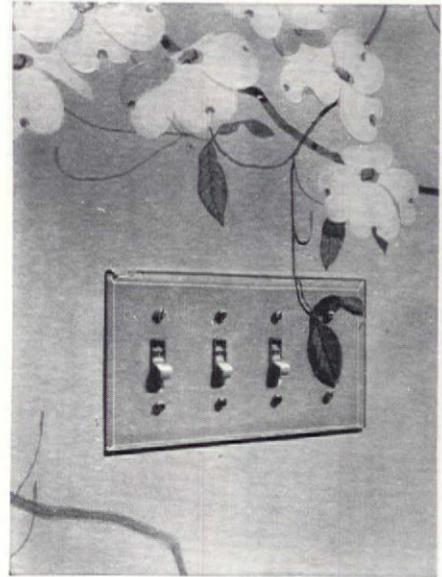
The powder room used to be a frill — a bedecked and bedizened little cubicle with fancy dressing table and ruffle-shrouded lamps. The term is actually descended from the closet in which colonial gentlemen whitened their dress wigs. Today's powder room is a busy spot that takes the load from the family bathroom. It is usually located on the ground floor, close enough to the kitchen so that the lady of the house can check her appearance before hurrying to answer the door, and near an entrance so that the children may run in from play without tracking through the entire house.

It can be just as pretty as those earlier versions but much more active. Little linen finger towels may transform it for guests but there is a good light and a generous mirror for Dad's emergency shaving. There is usually a dressing table for leisurely primping and very often there is a small wardrobe so that it may be used as a dressing room. The only element it lacks is shower or tub. The extra convenience afforded by a powder room is well worth the space it may have to borrow from some less used area.

If you have a stairway there may be just enough space for a tiny room in the angle behind it. You may have a large closet that could be converted, but if like most of us you haven't an inch to spare, you could add a vestibule to the front entrance with a closet and powder room balancing each other on either side of the door. Perhaps a similar addition along the service or back door would be even better.



This pretty bathroom illustrates an idea that's especially effective where wall and ceiling join at other than a right angle. The tips of the flowery figure in the wall-paper have been cut out and extend bowerlike above the line of the paper itself



At best, switch plates are negative elements and this big one with an extra toggle-space at the end was definitely an eyesore — until the decorator dropped a branch out of the wall pattern and fig-leaved the scar. This treatment gives a touch of style to a prosaic fixture too; it would be a good idea even with a plate that had nothing to hide



Somehow, we feel that an orderly male was responsible for this bauble drawer. Married to a woman with a passion for costume jewelry, he got tired of the search through a rhinestone jungle for that other earring — or maybe it was his lot to un-puzzle the badly tangled necklaces. Anyhow, he came up with a drawer with space for — well, ALMOST every piece

Random Wrinkles

There's stimulation in new ideas

—even those that don't happen to be related

to your particular homemaking problem-

of-the-moment. Here are three novel

wrinkles that we thought you'd

want to know about.



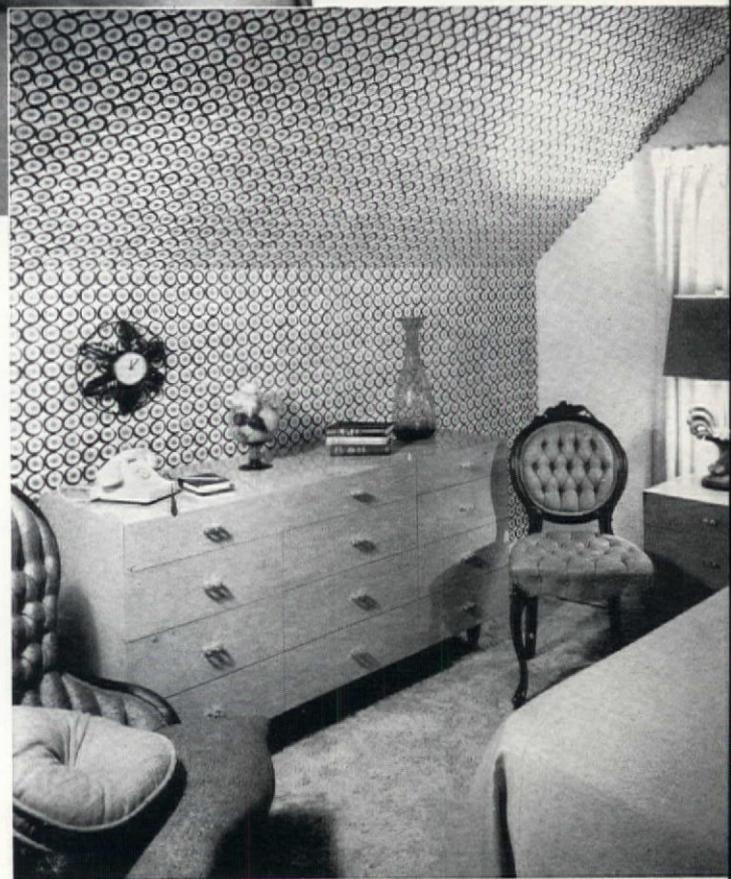
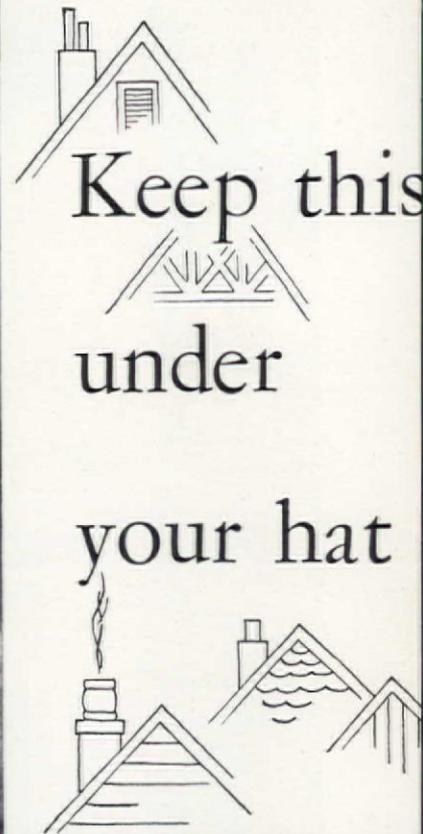
The fatty padded headboard was cut from plywood and upholstered in antique satin. Cocky ceramic rooster lamps top squatty blond wood chests. Draperies and match-stick blinds cover window

TODAY'S ATTIC is quite a different place from the sweltering or frigid catch-all of 50 years ago. Perhaps some of us will sigh just once over the nostalgic memories of that haunted spot with its cobwebs, drafts and an occasional pigeon. There was excitement in the bulging horse hair trunks and the whisper of corn braids swaying from the rafters. But try as they might no one could tempt us to trade an attic room like this one we picture for the dusty glamour of yesterday's garret. We'll willingly give up keepsakes for comfort, the patter of rain on the roof for convenience.

Insulation and the smart fresh appearance of prefinished wall panels made this remodeling job a simple project. The large panels hang on furring strips directly over the roof framing. No attempt is made to camouflage the angles of the ceiling and every inch under the low eaves is filled with cupboards or storage caches.

Walls of the bedroom are covered with a contemporary print. The Victorian chairs find a new sophistication in metallic flashed fabric.

Bathroom walls are covered with one of the versatile plastic finished wall panels which are easy to cut and fit and a dream to keep fresh and sparkling clean. A new skylight and mirror make the room seem twice its actual size.



Bandy-legged Victorian chairs lose none of their charm but gain elegance in gold touched cotton upholstery. The blend of modern and period pieces is particularly happy. Closet doors have over-scale round knob

Roof Styles

AN AFTERNOON'S ride through the outskirts of any large old American city will reveal almost every type of roof structure devised by man. Even the conical shelter of the American Indian and the sod or hide semispheres of the Congo find their silhouettes repeated in spires and domes.

Any roof deserves serious design consideration. Few details add as much character and individuality to the house as will this one great area. Its pitch, color, shape, material and pleasing sweep of line can determine the entire architectural spirit of a house. Analyze the homes you admire. You'll find that their roofs are far more than "coverings that afford protection to the interiors."

The most simple of all roof forms is the flat roof, a style adopted from hot or tropical climates. However, contemporary architectural designs have given new importance to this simplest of roof styles. The sharp horizontal lines tie the house into its setting. The wide eaves so necessary in solar orientation are economical with this style and many of these level roofs are engineered for summer comfort since they can be flooded with a shallow sheet of water to deflect the sun's heat.

Sketched here are the six most popular roof styles. Any one or its variation may be used on your home. The right roof will not only conform with the architectural scheme of the house but will add materially to its charm and individuality.

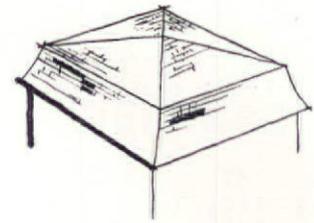
The growing desire for economy has also spotlighted the shed roof. It has only a single slope and one set of rafters leading from a high to a low wall. It is now being used on single story houses in the contemporary style.

The most widely used roof form is the gable. It is a ridged roof terminating at one or at both ends in a gable. You will see it on the Cape Cod, the ranch house, the farmhouse . . . in fact you will find versions of it worked into almost every architectural style used in this country. It offers the advantage of generous attic or storage space.

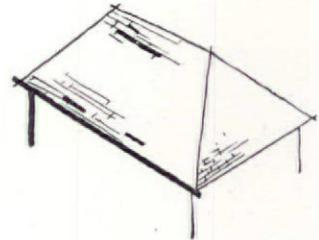
In earlier Georgian styles the hip roof prevailed. Here the gable ends were sliced off at the same angle.

The gambrel and Mansard roofs resulted from the natural desire to get more room without adding any additional stories to the houses. The gambrel roof has two pitches on opposite sides of the roof. The lower pitch is much steeper than the upper. It follows the Dutch tradition and is used extensively on Pennsylvania Dutch houses and barns. Light is introduced through dormers.

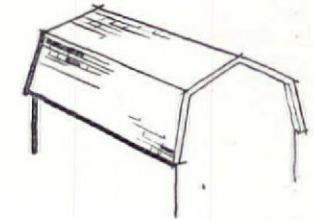
The French architect Francois Mansart used the same idea, but rather than end the ridge in a gable he used double pitches on all four sides and then he added a cornice.



MANSARD



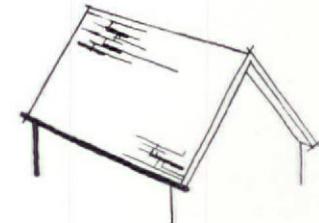
HIP



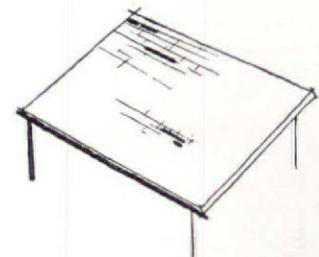
GAMBREL



FLAT



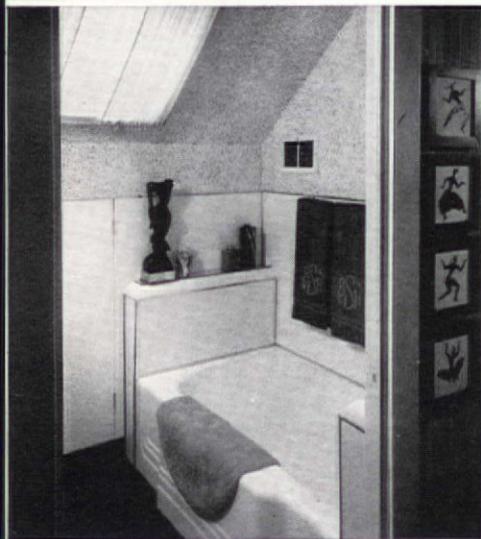
GABLE



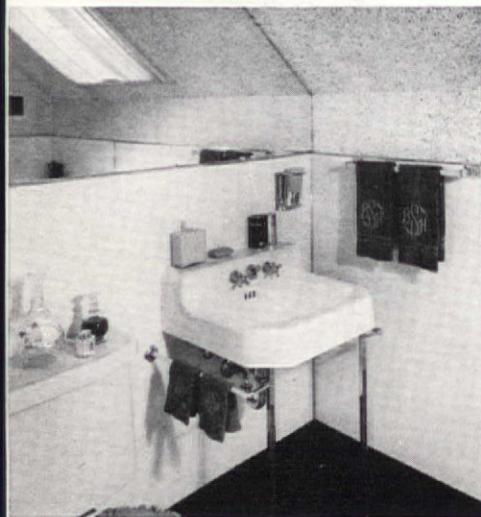
SHED



The angles under the eaves provide more than enough storage space for all family tuck-aways. Cupboards above wardrobe hold extra blankets



Walls of the bathroom are of prefinished, easy-to-apply and easy-to-keep-sparkling plastic panels hung to cover badly cracked plaster walls

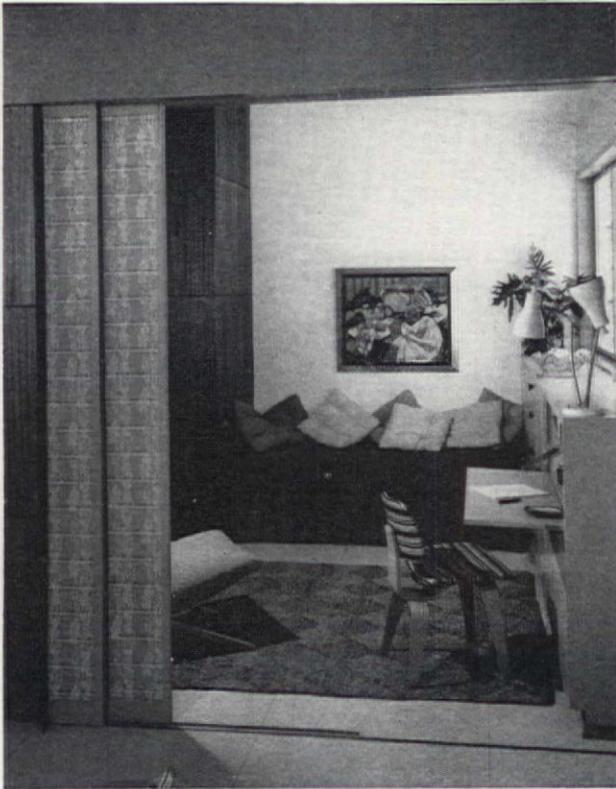


A new skylight and a mirrored wall double both the light and the visual size of this small area. The floor reverses stipple of wall

Make-believe Walls



Bookcase has been placed to accent the step-down division between "rooms"



Sliding panel is the key to chameleon nature of this handy room

PARTITIONS that vanish with a push, dual-purpose dividers, sliding panels — these sound like props in an old-fashioned melodrama or a Karloff curdler. But they're part of a trend in home planning — a happy trend that fosters bigger living area by doing away with hard-and-fast walls.

A shove — a whisk — and one room joins another. Take the alcove pictured above, for instance. By means of a sliding panel which, if it were less cheerfully decorated, might have come out of a Rhinehart chiller, we see how to convert a space-adding area into den, study, television room — or it can even be Jekyll-and-Hyded into a bedroom for that unexpected guest.

In the Case of the Bookcase Wall, top right, the step-down division between areas is accented without diminishing the effect of two-room sweep.

In the Affair of the Secluded Nursery, right, the deep-laid plot unfolds (literally, that is) a child's room that can be easily supervised by watchful parents or shut off to assure quiet dreams for early-to-bedders.

The folding doors permit this nursery to be open or secluded, as you wish



PHOTOGRAPHS BY RADA AND GATNG

of all things. . . .

BIGGEST news in our neighborhood is the new *nylon carpeting* that is going into the new home down the street. The price of it would blow your hat off, but the new owner added up the cost of carpet replacements of the last 20 years and is convinced his cost-per-year will be low. Nylon, of course, washes with a whisk of a cloth, and is moth-proof. But nylon isn't the only thing that has been added to carpeting lately. Rayon, by itself or with wool, is being pushed so strong this year that carpet manufacturers say the trend is the biggest news since the invention of the carpet power loom 100 years ago. Carpet rayon is tougher than dress rayon, and will take clearer colors than wool. It will wear as well as wool, and stay clean as long. Two and one-half times more rayon was used last year in carpeting than the year before . . . due largely to the steep price advances on wool. . . . Now they have *electronic baby-sitters*, appliances you plug in by the baby's crib before you play canasta or watch television at your neighbors. This gadget will transmit your child's voice on a predetermined wave length that can be heard on any radio set up to 300 feet away. Tune in, and when baby cries, dash for home! . . . A few years ago critics were saying that something should be done to the design of bathrooms so steam from the shower would not fog up the shaving mirror. Now you can buy an *electric heating element* for the mirror that dispels the moisture like a windshield defroster — press a button and the glass clears up.

Years ago when door chimes first came out, many builders installed them as "selling pointers," little extras that would catch the fancy of Mrs. Housewife and make her realize that the house was strictly modern. The nearest things to selling pointers these days are automatic dishwashers and garbage disposal units. We made a survey of 2,000 big builders recently and found that almost half of them are installing these much-yearned-for work-savers in houses built for sale. . . . Some new kitchens are being equipped with *table model television* sets, built in behind cabinet doors. Housewives frequently like to copy down recipes, it says here, but at our house TV would also help get the teen-agers into the kitchen along about dish-cleaning time.

House designers and builders are concerned — as they should be — over the lack of adequate space in many homes built these days. To help add more space without sacrificing quality of construction, they are considering such things as: *elimination of the back or service door*, making one entrance do the trick; including the kitchen in the living room, separated only by a counter or cabinet walls; less gingerbread on the trim; fewer partitions; recognition of the fact that a few feet extra in width or length does not add proportionately to cost.

I suppose progress comes only from exploring every possible new idea, but one that seems to be getting more play than it deserves is the house on stilts. Several designers in the South have built homes eight or ten feet in the air supported only by slender steel pipes. Another has built a "second story house" with the first floor almost entirely enclosed in glass. The objective back of the idea has merit. *Second floor living*, as its proponents point out, gives a better view, more privacy for glass-walled living, provides an inexpensive first floor space for car storage, terraces and recreation areas and better circulation of summer breezes.



A tuckaway for your party glasses

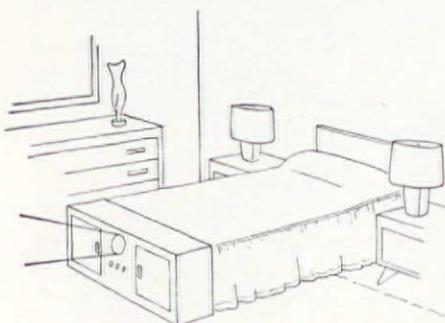
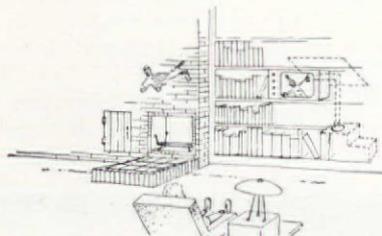
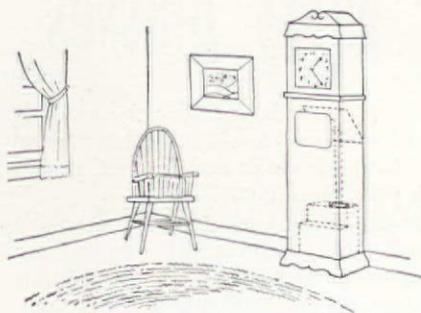
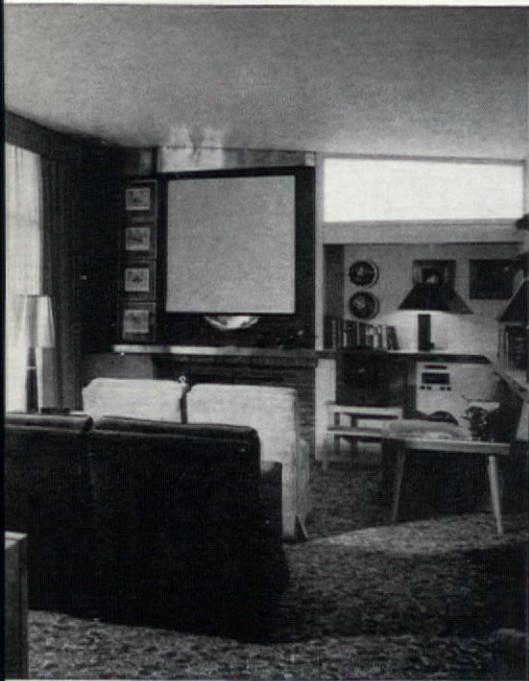
IN A TINY SPACE, hidden under the working surface of your built-in kitchen cabinet, *from five to six dozen* iced-tea and sherbet glasses make their permanent home!

Store the glasses you use most often on the easy-to-reach top shelf, with its handy pull-out tray. The protective plywood frame, with its individual glass-sized perforations, will hold them steady, prevent their sliding and nicking each other, on the trip out. Pieces less frequently used can be stored on the stationery lower shelves.

Here's an efficient, compact use of space, combined with real respect for your sparkle-ware!



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT C. CLEVELAND



Most of the television sets now being made are very well styled, but you may wish to fit yours even more inconspicuously into your decorating scheme. These built-ins, the bed, the grandfather's clock and the bookcase installation, are just a few of many possibilities

WHAT ROOM FOR TELEVISION?

ONE of our favorite cartoons of the past year shows a man in his home viewing a football game on television. Firemen with spurting fire hoses and extinguishers are rushing to and fro beside him. Without looking from the screen, the man asks, "What part of the house is the fire in now?"

The modern television addict — it is estimated there are now more than 15 million sets and other millions being added each month — is a strange character, unlike his prototype, the home movie zealot or the radio enthusiast. Perforce he must have utter sanctuary. Usually the draperies are pulled shut, to fend off glare. All lamps in the room, save one, are out. Except for an occasional cough, no one can make a sound — rustle a newspaper or rattle an ash tray — except at his own peril.

Architects and interior decorators are asking what they are to do with this new pastime. You can't carry on the usual functions of living in the same room with television, they argue, so the logical thing is to give it a room of its own. They are urging that basement recreation rooms be re-activated, with emphasis on comfortable chairs and sofas. Or house it in a den, or extra bedroom. Plan your house for television, they say, or you run the chance of having it architecturally obsolete in a few years.

Other designers and decorators believe that the living room can provide all this, and living, too. The newer sets are more adequate in daylight, they point out, and besides, television rooms should not be dark. And as more and more families acquire sets, there will be fewer and fewer neighbors to invite into your home theater-fashion. Make the screen the center of interest in such a room, instead of the fireplace or breakfront. Provide furniture on wheels or collapsible chairs for easy viewing. Choose cabinet models that have doors to cover the yawning screen, or build in a set with such doors, so it will be a thing of beauty when not in use.

One school of thought favors the increased use of indirect or projected pictures. These "big pictures" can be as large as 4 by 3 feet, on a section of wall or rollup movie screen, yet the set itself can be inconspicuously built into a shelf cabinet, bed footboard, or even a grandfather's clock.

The right answer for you depends in part on how much of a habit televiewing is likely to become in your household. Certainly home architecture and design should accommodate itself to the dominant and ever changing ways of life.

COME INTO THE KITCHEN

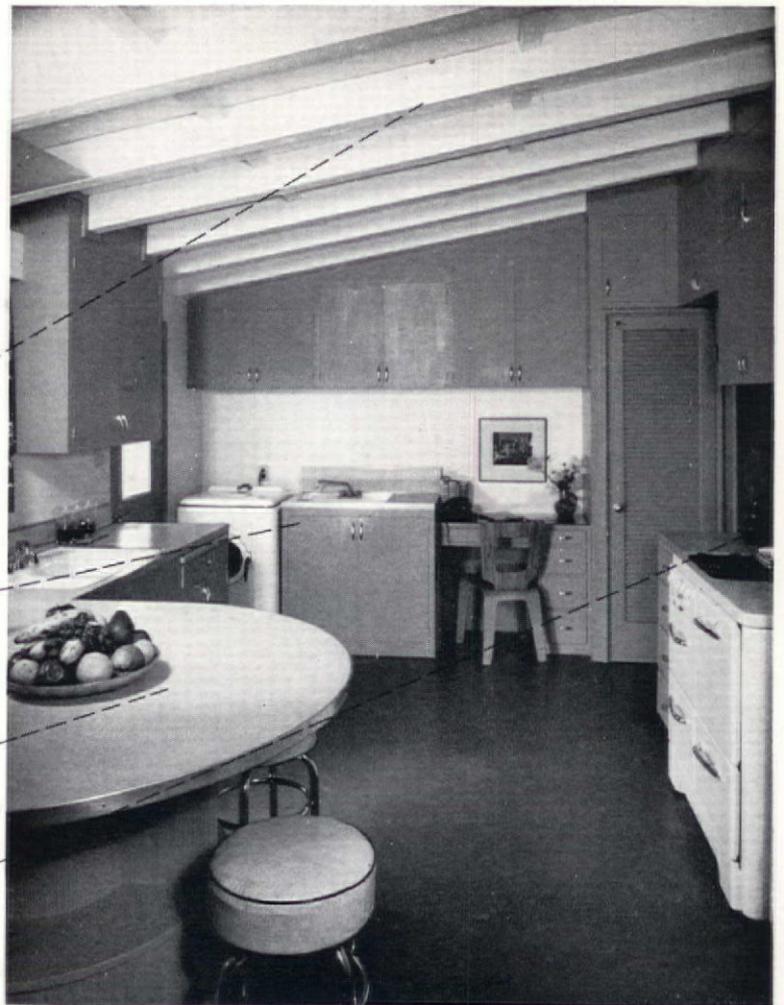
Exposed beams of the ceiling resulted in lots of high cupboard space. Such odd little compartments would be impractical for daily use but answer a need for storage room for seldom used seasonal items. The bright coral pink of the woodwork provides a cheery background for meal planning and service

The compact laundry is placed just a step away from the drying yard. Shelves beneath the laundry sink are staggered to hold high and low flower containers and laundry soaps and bleaches. An ironing board fits flat on the back of the louvered door at the right

One of the largest food bars we have seen, it will seat ten people. One of the nicest things about it is the amount of knee-space . . . comfortable as can be even for six footers, and those cushioned stools have foam rubber tops

Each work center has its own adjoining counter space. The drawers next to the stove have a practical marble slab top excellent for cooling, kneading or chopping foods

A kitchen for bright and easy meal planning and preparation



IF EVERY home planner would write a memo to her architect outlining her regular kitchen routine, many more kitchens would operate just as smoothly as this one.

There would be more stove-high counters, more specially planned storage space for things like soft drink cases, crated fruits and large canning kettles. There would be dual-use items like the desk that doubles as a sorting table and the laundry tubs that serve as a flower-arranging center. There would be drawers and cupboards beside each work center to house all necessary equipment right on the spot.

We picture an excellent example of one room that combines laundry, food preparation center, home office and a food bar without the slightest sense of crowding.

The huge food bar sits at right angles to the double corner window. Munchers are always certain of a pleasant view. The bar is topped with a cream-colored plastic that is impervious to spills and heat. The matching plastic leatherette-covered bar stools tuck completely under the wide counter. No cramped knees here since there is room to spare and ten people can line up at the large counter.

It can take teen-age exuberance in its stride yet is good looking enough to lure the bridge club or after-the-show crowd.

Right next to this busy center is a double sink flanked by plenty of cupboards and drawers. The back entrance, too, is ideally located beside the sink.

Along the next wall are the washing machine, the wash-day sink and a desk. Beneath the sink are shelves for

laundry supplies and an assortment of vases and flower containers.

Next in line is the "think corner" where meals are planned, market lists made out and the inevitable bills mulled over. Here, too, is a convenient telephone extension. The desk is glass-topped but might just as practically have been covered with the bar-top plastic. Five drawers mean plenty of room for both the housewife and husband to file all of their bills. One drawer holds all appliance operating instructions and a household equipment check list.

The louvered door opens to reveal a cleaning closet the depth of the desk. In it are centered all supplies used on the ground floor — vacuum cleaner, polishes, brooms, mops, etc. Space above it is used to house rarely used items like the ice cream freezer, picnic baskets and thermos jugs.

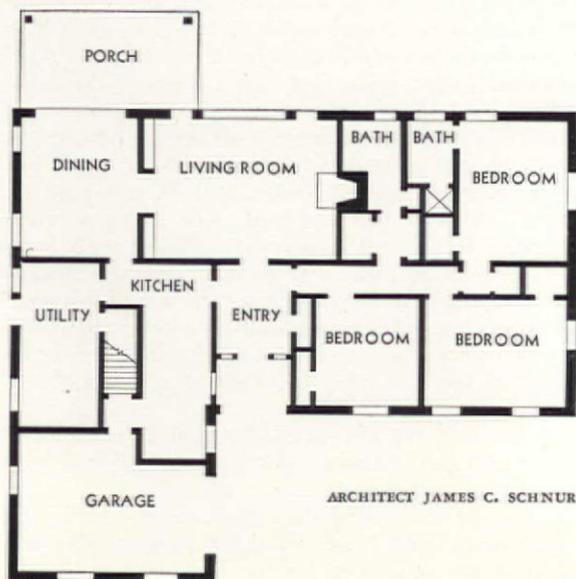
At right angles to this louvered door its twin opens to the central hall. Next is a roomy cabinet with large drawers. The range, the refrigerator, another storage closet and the dining room door fill out the rest of this wall.

If you can visualize a more compact kitchen than this with so much storage space, and so much convenience, we would like to see it! There are drawers and cupboards almost everywhere you look.

Ceiling beams were left exposed and light is supplied by simple rectangles of frosted glass covering electric light bulbs.

Plenty of color was one of the orders and this scheme is as gay as a fiesta, with bright coral for all woodwork and a blend of cream and green for the walls and the floors.

*Built to
a tradition*



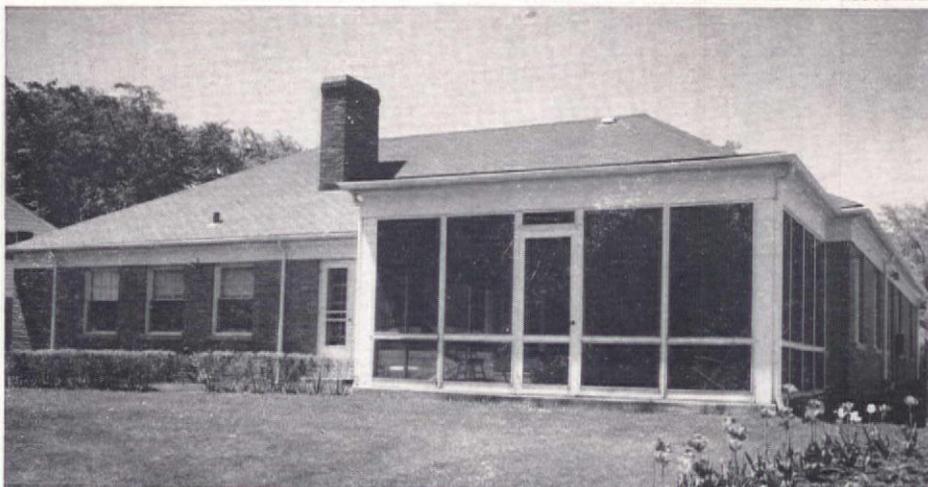
PASSERS-BY frequently pause to admire the simple colonial flavor that distinguishes this house. The red brick exterior is a perfect background for flashes of crocus-white that give a fresh, spring-morning look to details like louvered shutters, wide cornices, and door and window trim.

Little touches reach out a friendly welcome to those approaching the beautiful entrance with its paneled door, its side-lights and brass knocker — all true to the early American tradition. But a glance around holds a few surprises. The door light is a swinging Victorian lamp complete with fluted glass chimney. And the bench suggests a past that can only include a moonlit Louisiana garden.

The garage flows pleasantly into the lines of the house and is situated to give sheltered car-to-house accessibility. Designed with an alcove, it provides out-of-sight storage for bikes, tools, screens, and other impedimenta.

Extra living space was gained inside with money saved by eliminating a basement. A radiant-heated concrete slab protects against the elements in a way that would have flabbergasted the ancestors from whom so much excellent design has been borrowed.

Modern planning gives an airy spaciousness, too, that ends appropriately in a screened porch that keeps the back yard and garden close at hand. And three open sides entice every breeze!



Comfort and informality are carried from architecture to landscaping in this attractive back yard. The lawn and flower gardens are close to outdoor living quarters where a potpourri of fragrance and coloring can be enjoyed by all who take their ease on the screened porch



The colonial entrance, left, is the focal point of this appealing house. Inside, a foyer with six-foot coat closet leads to the kitchen whose utilitarian qualities are hidden beneath a gentle air. Quaint sprigged wallpaper adds a memory-stirring aura to Hitchcock chairs, trestle table, banjo clock, and cherished milk-glass

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But the house is important too. Exactly the right house for you and your family can make life smoother, more comfortable, more efficient. Such a house can add immeasurably to the harmonious living that is *home*.

If the time has come when you feel that your present house is no longer exactly right for your needs, the firms listed on this page can be of valuable assistance to you. Whether you're thinking of buying, building, or remodeling, you'll find their advice sound and impartial. Their high standing in the community is your assurance of skill, experience, and fair dealing.

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PERFECT HOME

MAGAZINE



JANUARY 1952

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

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Real Estate

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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."

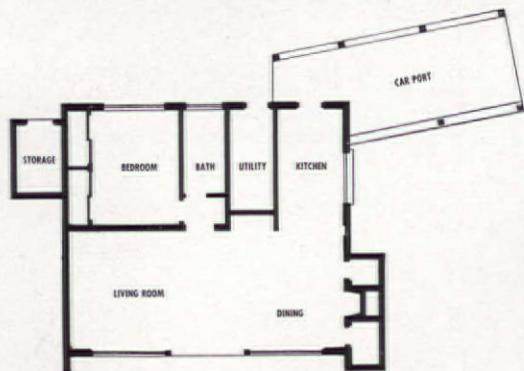
The years have not in the least changed my feeling about my home base. I love to travel, I like people very much, I enjoy being with them. But there comes a moment that is just as it was when I went to play on the swing in Lydia Rich's back yard. "I must go home now," I say. And I do.

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

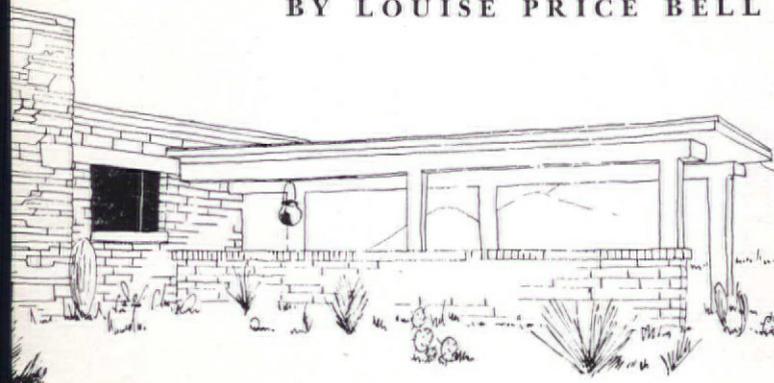
EVEN before you meet the occupants of this desert home, you sense an air of enchantment — a feeling that those who live here enjoy a freedom of soul that no man-made walls could chain.

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.

BY LOUISE PRICE BELL

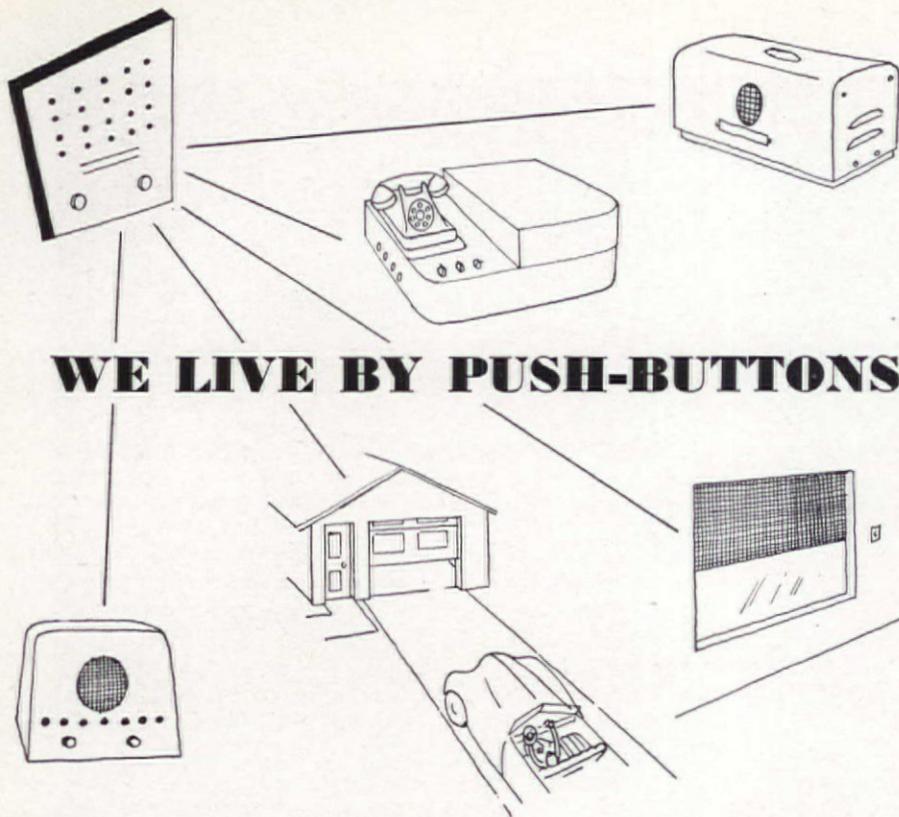


Galley-like kitchen is a masterpiece of efficiency with open china shelves, cabinet bases, and appliance outlets at strategic points



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





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



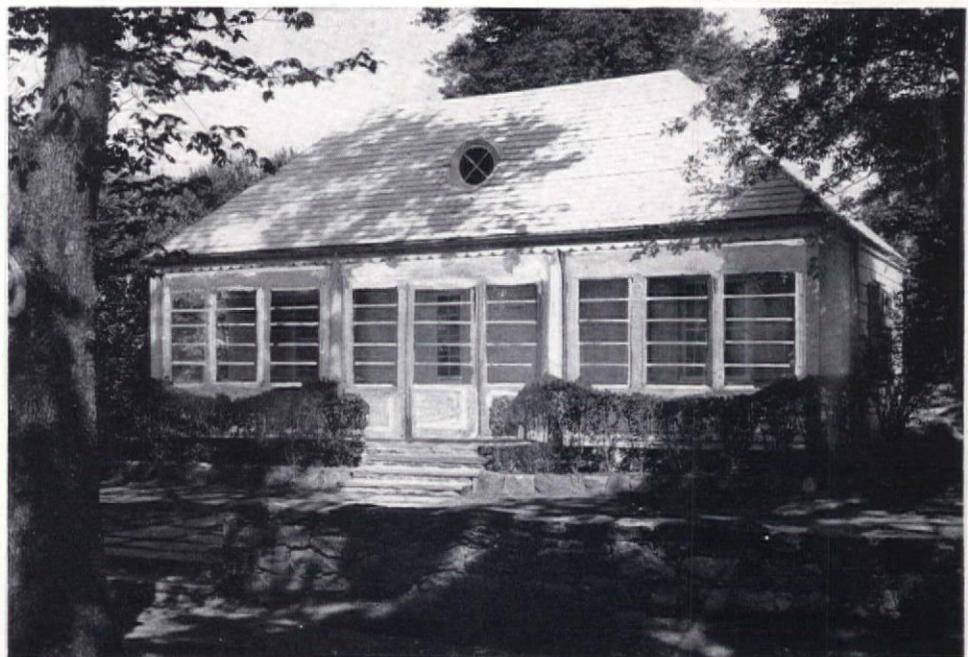
HAROLD HALIDAY COSTAIN

NO SOONER do days start shrinking than life creeps in-doors. 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.

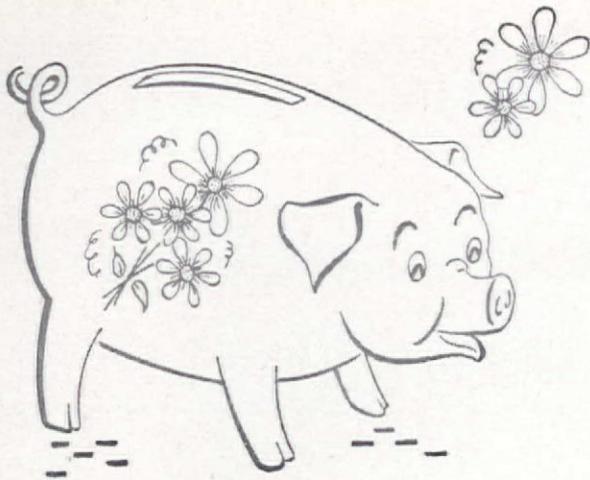
But you can enjoy a porch the year around. Consider the one pictured here. Pleasant it is and pleasant it will stay with screens to keep out uninvited flies and mosquitoes in July and storm doors and windows to come between you and the frigid blasts of February. This porch has insulated walls and uses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

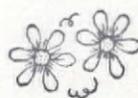
Here is an idea that really should go to market – a television installation that blends perfectly into its setting. The line of waist-high book shelves has been extended to hold screen, and loudspeaker has been built in under shelves.



**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.

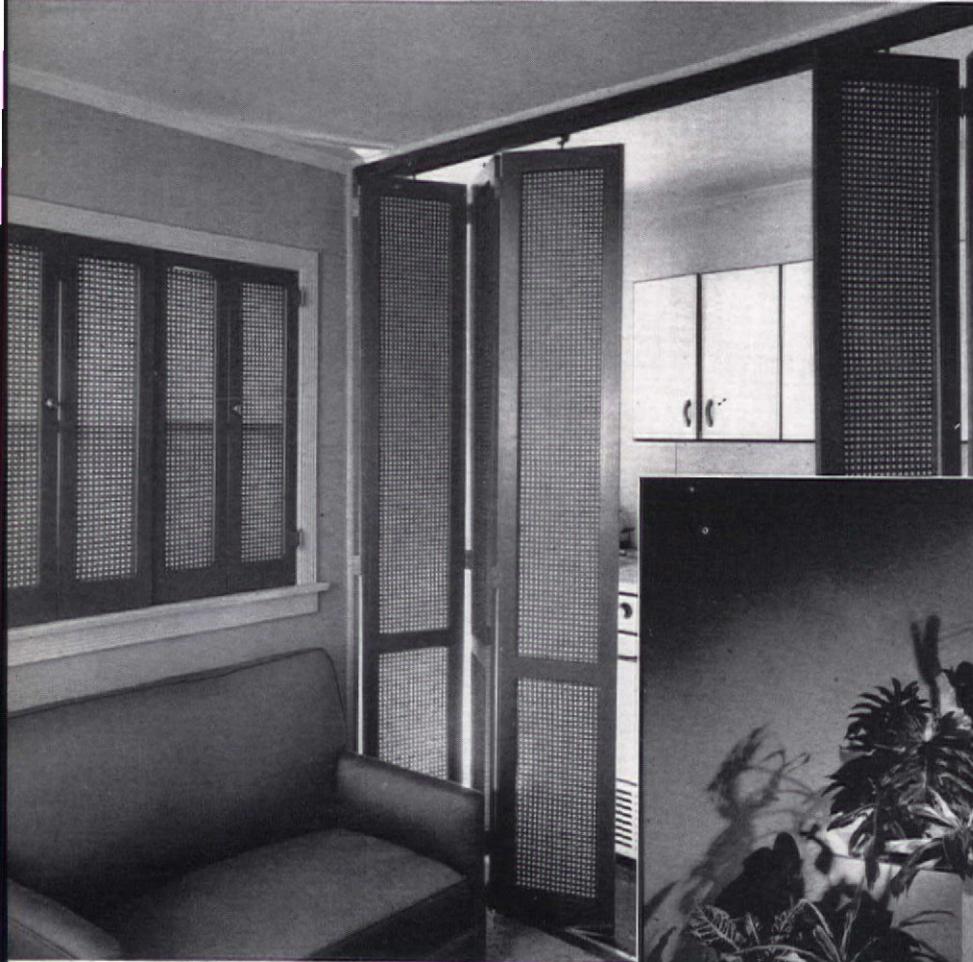
The two remaining walls borrowed their color, a deep rich red, from the dominant tone of the print. The chairs coaxed their stenciled pattern right off the ceiling. Even the china pattern resembles design of ceiling paper.



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



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.



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.

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

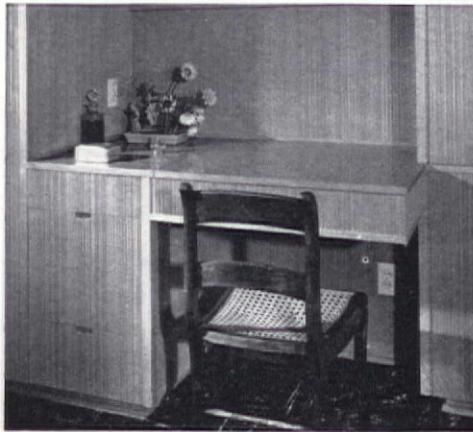
THE modern kitchen corner pictured above is the result of an ingenious but simple treatment of an eyesore. The sink, which would delight the most fastidious housewife, is not new! It has merely been modernized by being enclosed in wall, counter, and cabinets.

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.

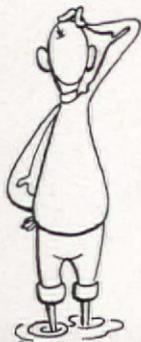
WASHABLE WALL FINISHES



"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.

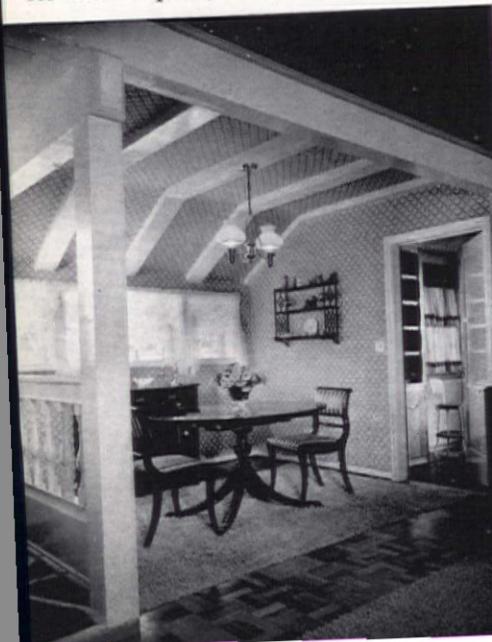
Another sunny alcove might hold a dressing table, a game table, or books for leisurely reading.

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.

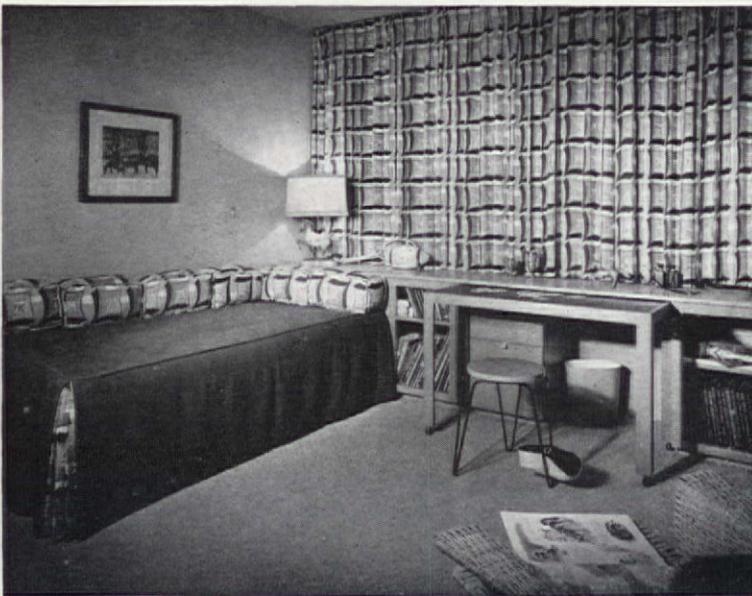
PHOTOGRAPHS BY CLEVELAND, DE GENNARO

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

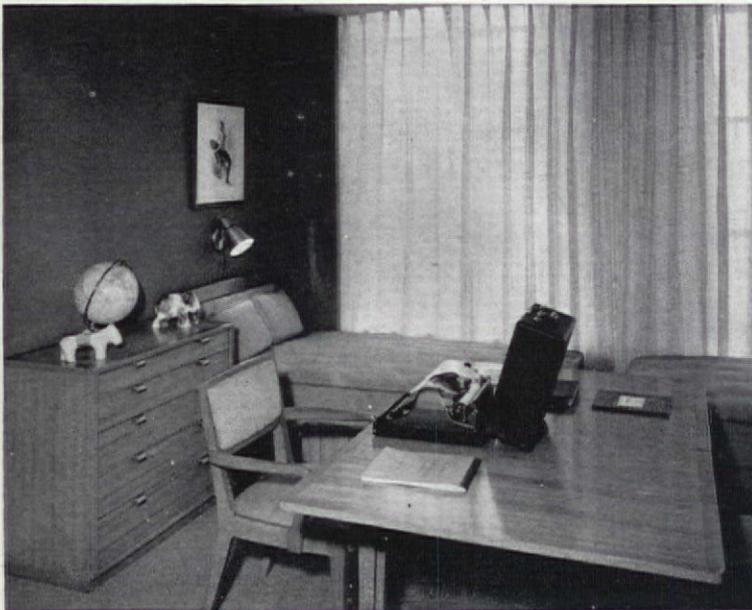




1



2



3



Nero Cassan



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

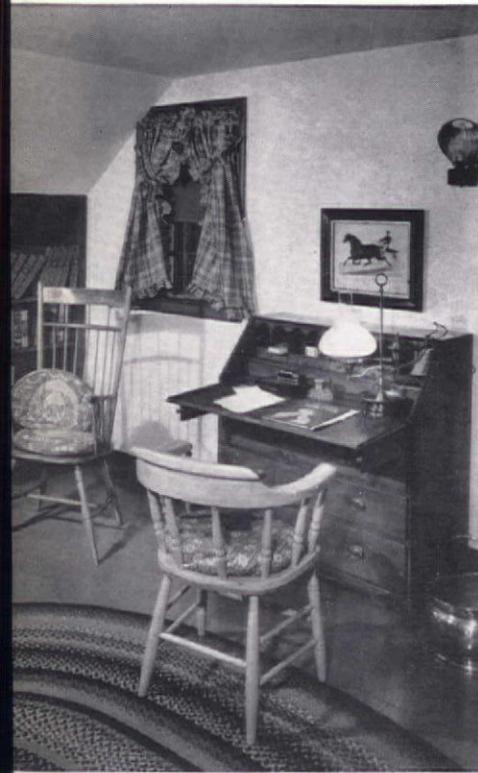
For double-barrel coverage of the study problem what could be better than an extendable table? This one in the room of two teen-age girls is a dining table pressed into service in the name of learning. It can also be used for sewing or dear-to-the-heart midnight brunches

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.

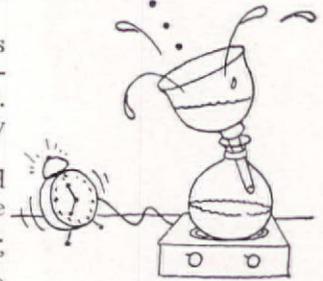
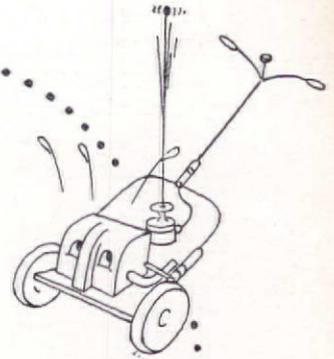
What's Your Forte?: Mrs. Fisher — down the street — is an expert seamstress, and her teen-agers make some of their own clothes. Mrs. Gorman — across the way — has a five-foot shelf of books on cookery, and even her 11-year-old son can whip up a cake that ought to be entered at the state fair. At our 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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"It may be that we take our home too much for granted, but there are times when we are reminded of what it means to us. This is particularly true when we have returned from a trip or a visit on which we have enjoyed unaccustomed luxuries. We are human enough to be sorry that the good time is over, but when we step inside and feel the warm greetings of the objects that have come to be our friends, then we know that the interval between our outside pleasures is going to be mighty comfortable." — JOHN TASKER HOWARD

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