



# PERFECT HOME

MAGAZINE

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MAY 1952





## MY HEART QUICKENS

**H**OME is the haven to which I return from my wandering; when I put my key in the lock I am always sensible of a feeling of quiet peace and contentment — impossible of achievement anywhere else. I have returned after two wars and my pulse has quickened at sight of the door through which I could enter into love after cruelty and hate. I have blinked away tears of delight because old things and old loves were mine again.

Many years ago in a central California town I used to motor past a tiny bungalow. People passing it always cried out: "Oh, what a tiny house!" The owners finally put a sign out on their lawn: *Yes, we know it's tiny but it's ours.* What pride — not of ownership, I thought — but of accomplishment. They had struggled and saved and brought forth the home they could afford and they loved it and could not have been happier in one far more imposing. They had known the joy of a heart-hunger satiated, of independence, of having a place to return to from their wanderings.

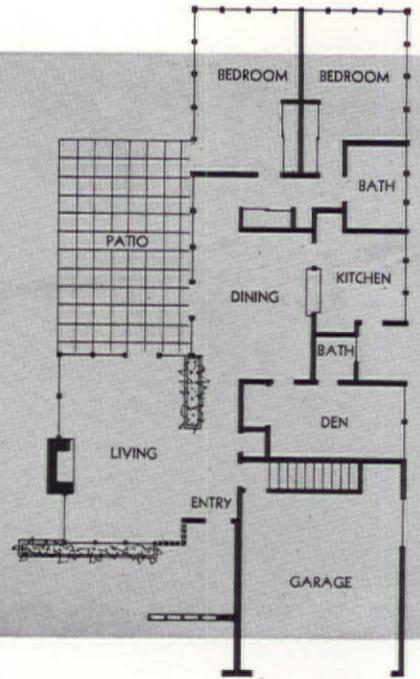
Once, for a brief period, I was homeless and lived at my club. During the day that club is a jolly place but after most of the members have gone home to dinner the only ones left are the loveless, lonely, homeless men. Suddenly one night as I sat at the Table Round with them eating fine food I knew I couldn't sit there again — and the next day I had a furnished apartment, into which I could retire and leave the world outside. I knew again that most priceless boon — privacy.

I have lived to learn that a man without a home is as sad as a man without a country. My mind turns now to a simple home in the country, for in the country I had my beginnings. I do not want an expensive house or a pretentious one. I want to keep a dog and have a double garage in one half of which I can make useless things just to see if I can make them. I want the country sounds because they will take me back along the road of life to all the homes I have had and which mark it like mile-posts. I often think that in each of those homes I left a little piece of my heart.

The novels of Peter B. Kyne have won a place in the hearts of all readers who want their adventure stories tempered with humor and believable characterizations. Cappy Ricks, The Valley of the Giants, Pride of Palomar and The Go-Getter are four of his best read books

This pleasant dining-kitchen and the small white cottage Rudolph Edward Leppert Jr. photographed for our cover, will charm the homemaker who favors gracious traditions

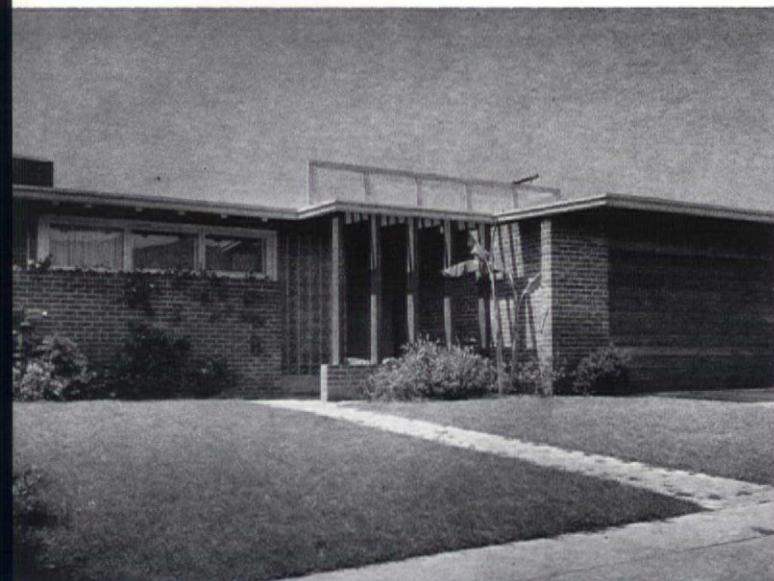
# Elbow room



BY BILL TURNER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT C. CLEVELAND





FROM den to sun deck, from cozy kitchen to soporific sofa-chairs, this home combines style and comfort with a nicety that fairly screams to be called *functional* — a word we would sometimes like to give back to the architects in favor of *livable*.

It's a house with plenty of windows, form-fitting furniture, and room enough so you can find a corner where you can be alone with a grouchy mood — if you can sustain one in such pleasant surroundings. Actually, the rooms are only of moderate size, but they are given an effect of spaciousness by window placement and an absence of partitions. Kitchen, dining room, and living room blend into one another with divisions only suggested by their staggered relationship and by dual-purpose dividers such as planters and furniture. Big windows between living room and patio help along the illusion of roominess.

The kitchen is compact, with a step-saving counter between it and the dining room (a roll-up curtain can be lowered to shut out the smoke when you char the chops). The dining room, like the living room, is blessed with floor-to-ceiling windows and a view of the patio. Carpeting and wall treatment, of course, contribute to the elbow-room feeling by being the same as in the living room.

Furniture, too, has been chosen to contribute to the air of spaciousness. The trick here is the strategic placing of a few to-the-purpose pieces, solid, handsome and simple. Obviously, the whole effect would be spoiled if these rooms were guilty of even a suggestion of clutter.

A hall leads from dining room to sleeping quarters, sensibly off to themselves. Here, a partition is used, but one that doubles as a linen closet in a skillfully planned arrangement that's — well, *functional*. You can't get away from the word describing this house!



Comfort and convenience stylized — that's the keynote of this house that was cleverly planned to capture a lot of living in a limited amount of space



PHOTOGRAPHS BY F. M. DEMAREST

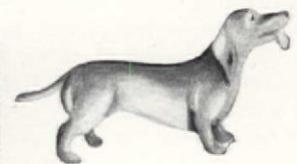
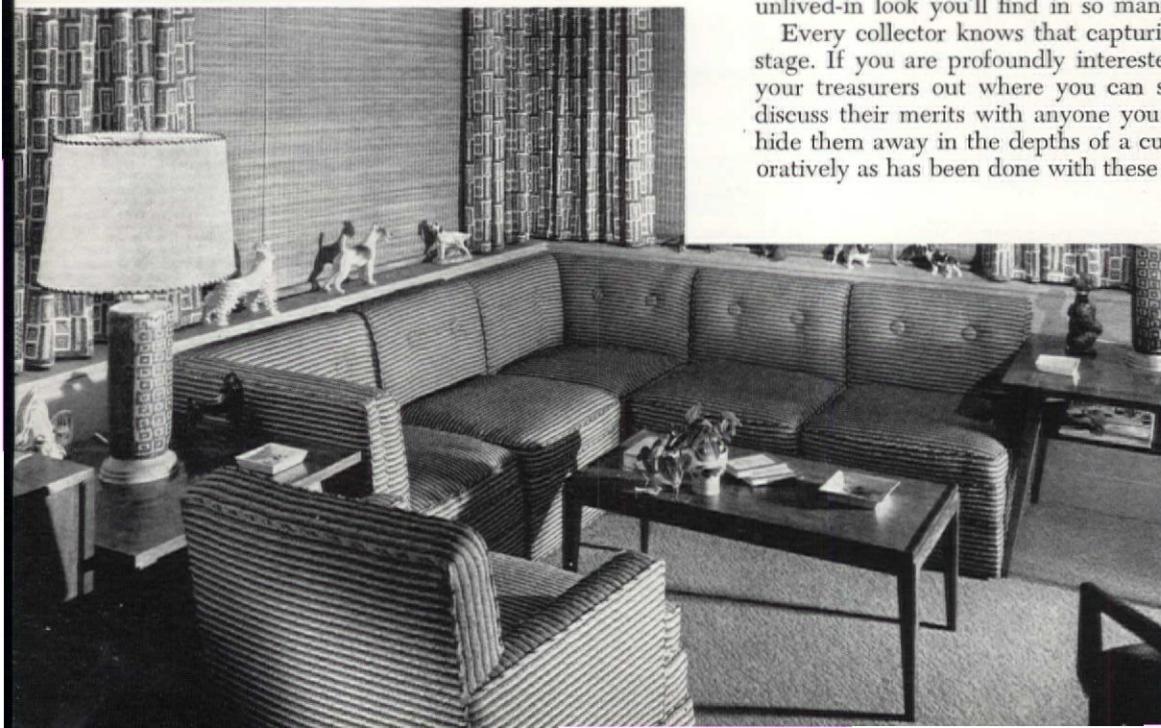


## Place and Show



Few collectors will complain if their hobby is just a natural show-off. The joy of collecting lies not only in finding but in living with your prizes. Of course if you go in for yachts or palominos we'll admit that home isn't the place for them. But most hobbies do have decorative value. Glassware, piggy banks, playing cards or model animals, any of them may be the means of avoiding that un-lived-in look you'll find in so many rooms.

Every collector knows that capturing the prize is just the initial stage. If you are profoundly interested in your hobby, you'll want your treasures out where you can see them and where you can discuss their merits with anyone you can lure into listening. Don't hide them away in the depths of a cupboard but display them decoratively as has been done with these wood birds and ceramic dogs.



# Is Your Living Room a Passageway?

How do you get from where you are in your home, to where you want to be?

If you are like too many families these days, your answer will be, "Through the living room." The main traffic lanes in any house are from front entrance to kitchen, from kitchen to bedroom, and from all parts of the house to the bathroom. Unfortunately in our desire to conserve space by eliminating hallways, many of us have gone to the other extreme and asked our living room to serve as a traffic artery as well.

Living rooms are for privacy. They perform best as cul-de-sacs, with only one door. Here Mother can entertain her bridge circle, or Father can read his evening paper, without interruption.

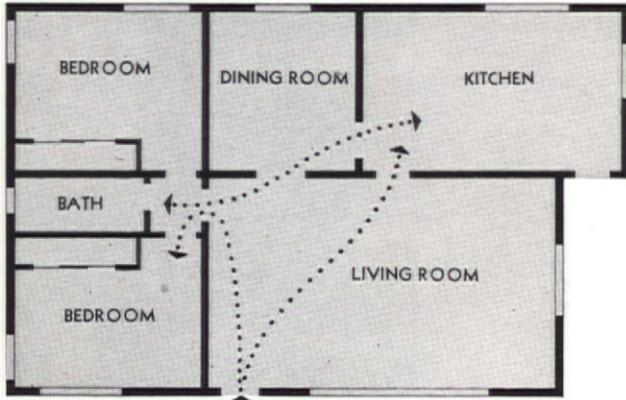
On that blueprint of your new house, study the arrangement of rooms from the standpoint of traffic flow. Have you provided two doors, or even three, leading out of your living room? That may look innocent enough, but watch your step — or your steps! Does that arrangement create a natural cross-flow of traffic? Will the children, trooping in from school, barge in on the living room sanctuary?

Don't consider ALL hallways as waste space. Often a short hall in the right place can connect most important rooms and thus avoid "wasting" even greater space under the name of "living area." An example is shown on this page. In this small house you can enter kitchen, bedrooms or bath, without disturbing the occupants of the living room.

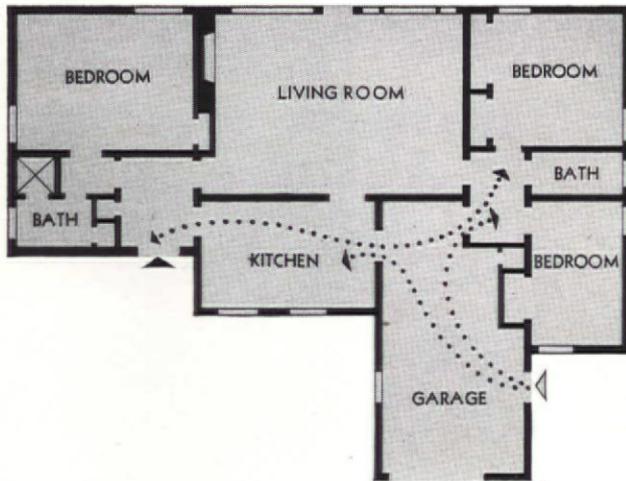
Once a house is built without proper "circulation" — as the architects call it — there is not much that can be done to remedy the situation. However, if the super-highway in your house goes through one end of your living area, perhaps you can fence it off. Pull your sofa into the room, and let the stream of pedestrians surge along behind it. Or use a table as a divider. Or a screen.

Possibly you can introduce a traffic detour around the living room, without a major change in plans. Perhaps another doorway could go through the dining room, or the utility room, as a by-pass. Frequently an attached garage can be made to serve as an inexpensive but direct corridor for traffic. Architect John W. Davis designed the one shown on this page for a California family that wanted absolute privacy in the living room — and got it.

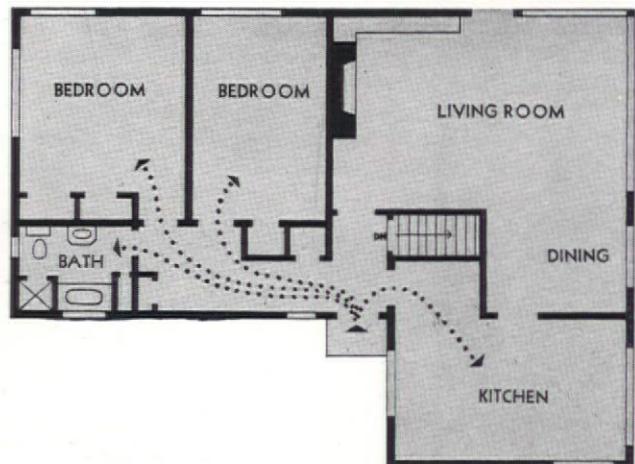
No matter how much or how little going to-and-fro you may think is in your home, plan some place that is a retreat from the ebb and flow of a household. The right step in time, will save nine — through your living room sanctuary!



Traffic goes somewhere; too frequently through the living area



In this plan the garage doubles as a traffic detour — for privacy



Sometimes a small hallway provides access to all rooms, as here

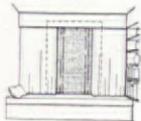
# Window Dressing

Windows are like people: their proportions, even their personalities, can be changed by the way they're dressed

**M**AYBE some day someone will invent a window that can be shifted from wall to wall like a picture, enlarged or made smaller like a gate-leg table, and changed in style like a reversible jacket. Even those of us who were lucky enough to design our own homes and wise enough to give careful (we thought) consideration to size, shape, and placing of windows — well, we wish we could switch them around once in a while, just for the sake of variety.

When we stop wishing, however, and take a practical view, we find that there's usually something that can be done to a window to make it take on a new value, to fit it into a new decorating scheme. Often as not, we find a hitherto unremarkable window has hidden possibilities that can set the mood for a whole room. For windows, like people, can be changed by the way they're dressed: they can be made to look fatter, thinner, taller, shorter than they really are. They can be made to hog the limelight or to fade quietly into the background.

Take, for instance, a tall, slim window all by itself in a big wall. You can give it size and importance by draping it so that just the frame is covered and every inch of the pane shows. Hang the draperies to cover a good chunk of wall on each side. Top with a valance for a formal, dignifying touch.



But consider the ugly-duckling window that's too low and too wide, out of line with its fellows and apparently included as an architect's afterthought.

Treat this unfavored child of circumstance as if it were perfectly normal — hang draperies from a cornice the height of the other windows.



How about the picture window without a picture? The best way to deal with an uninviting view, of course, is to change it by planting trees or shrubs. If you can't do this, cover the window with figured case-ment fabrics that will divert the eye from the uninspiring landscape.

Window planting is another way, and an effective one, to cope with the

no-view problem. An inside window box the length of the window, filled with potted plants big enough to make a lacy silhouette against the glass, is a good substitute for a landscape. Such an arrangement has screening value and at the same time seems to bring the outdoors into the room.

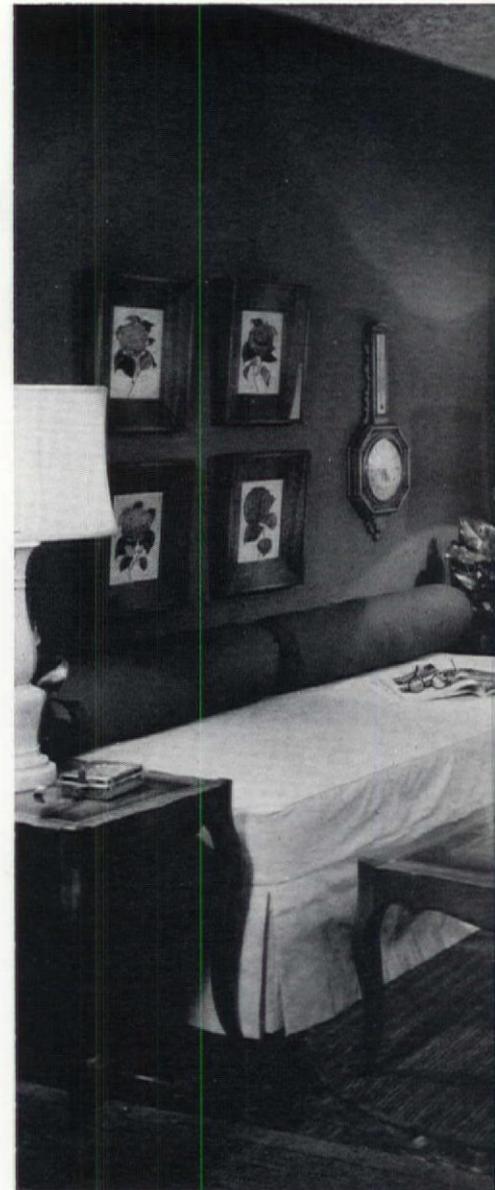
If your picture window offers a good view in the daytime but becomes a depressing black gap at night, the answer, as you no doubt have discovered, is draw draperies. However, have you considered the effect of traverse draperies that will cover the whole wall?

Enhancing as they are, draperies aren't always necessary, even in a living room. Especially in hot weather, you can get a light and airy effect by hanging full, straight, sheer curtains. This treatment is especially effective in a room with lots of window area. To make sheer curtains hang straight, insert a strip of crinoline in the top to strengthen the heading. Style the curtains with deep tucks that reach from the sill to the floor. This is a particularly good idea if the wall color is dark, because it makes the curtains more difficult to see through.

A simple way to enlarge a room is to curtain the windows in material that matches the wall color and comes as close as possible to matching wall texture, too. The monochromatic effect is one of greater sweep.

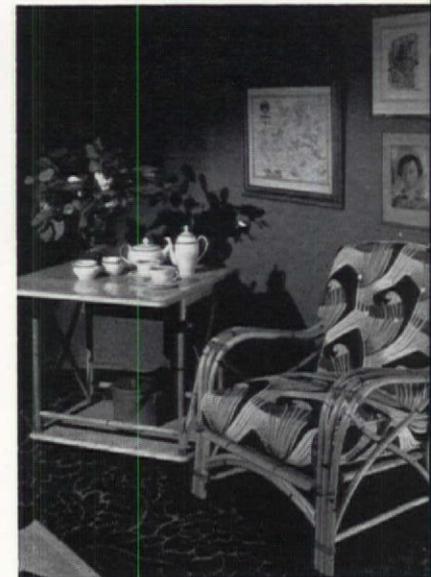
There are many recent developments in blinds, too, that are worth looking into, especially if you favor a modern theme. These are often highly decorative and prove a relief from too much curtaining.

To get back to picture windows and draperies — if you have a view, by all means frame it. Make it a part of the room's arrangement. Carefully chosen draperies and a valance will do the trick nicely. What material you use will depend upon your color scheme, of course, the size of the window, and also the view. A green field or a park can be effectively outlined with gay print. Other views call for unobtrusive solid-color framing.



You may select mats in light or deep decorating

An abstract, a portrait and map are com



BY DONNA LOUIS NICHOLAS

# One for the books

**B**OOKS are so beautifully and so painstakingly illustrated it's a shame to keep such fine work hidden between bindings. Choose the kind of art you like best. You'll find it in a book. Water colors, lithographs, line drawings, photographs or oils; today's print-makers are reproducing them in crisp black and white or in the richest multi-color processes. If it is exceptional art, you may be almost certain it will be reproduced.

When you start decorating with a book of prints just think of what you get. The price is less. You have a whole series of matched prints that may be identically framed. Prints are more impressive if hung in groups. They help furnish a room that is short on furniture. A block of prints above a sofa or table will have the same decorative impact you expect from a breakfront or bookcase.

Take the book to your paint and glass dealer or a frame shop. Select a frame to accent the picture and blend with the other furnishings of your room.

Today's books are the best art buy you can find. Keep decorating needs in mind on your next browsing expedition and you'll see what we mean

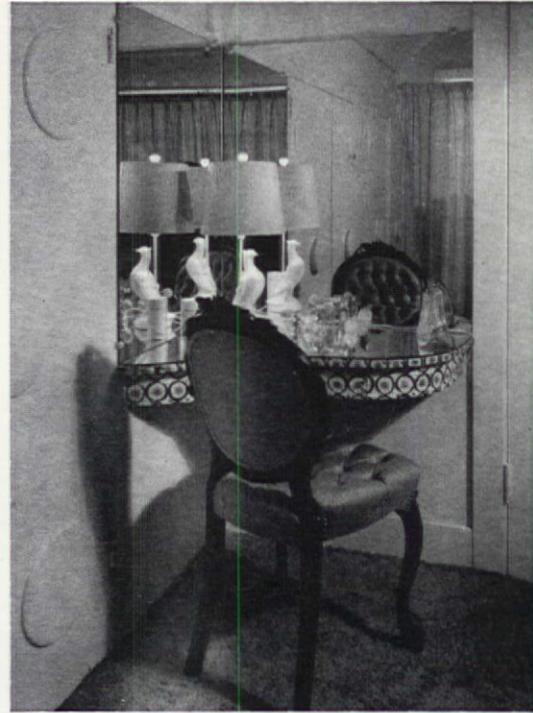
Unrelated prints in matching slender wood frames



... here, in antique mirror

Geographic or story telling maps frame well





Mirror, plywood and paper are the simple ingredients for this luxury corner. Filling the angle between closet and entrance door, it makes the most charming of dressing tables. Mirror top reflects the full sparkle of the crystal and gold perfume bottles

This slender table, bridging space between wall and stove, is covered with a length of wallpaper. A plastic spray-on finish protects it from soil and wear

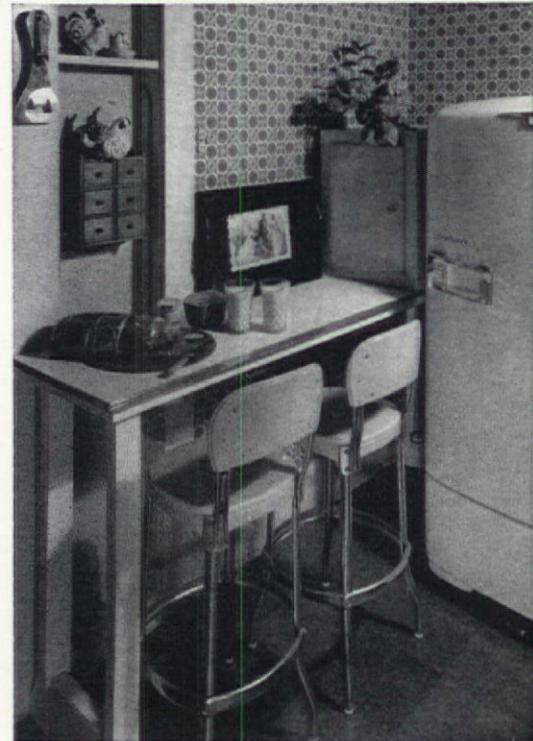
This table fills an important need for a dual-purpose table. It functions as a by-the-dining-room-door service center when it is not serving as a quick lunch bar

# table topics

**T**ODAY, when conservation of space counts for more than it did in the past, the utility of the small built-in table is more readily appreciated. Its aptitude for any task, the graceful way it fits into an unwanted corner, and the flair with which it may be decorated make it the answer to many space needs.

Do you have all the tables you need? If the answer is no and you can't find just the one you want, measure your space and plan one that is tailored to size. Perhaps it will be nothing more than a plywood top supported on L braces or it might be slightly more ambitious with a drop-leaf or drawer. For a truly deluxe model you may want to plan one with cupboards for the space beneath.

For proof of the versatility of these tables look at the five we picture here — one telephone table, one dressing table, one sewing table, and two snack bars. The largest of the five has a scant four square feet of top and your carpenter can build it for you in just a few hours. You'll certainly never miss the space and just think what a charming useful spot one of these tables could make for you.



## Doors... Keys to Kitchen Planning

Most present-day kitchen planners are disciples of the three-work-center school of thought. Work centers are areas of counter space around 1) refrigerator, 2) sink, 3) range. Storage space is planned so that food and utensils are kept handy to the center where they'll be used.

Theoretically, the work centers should be in sequence — the refrigerator nearest the back door, the sink next in line, and finally the cooking- and -serving center nearest the dining area. Add the need to adapt this production line to a U-shape, L-shape, or corridor-type arrangement, and kitchen planning begins to get complicated. Throw in an extra door and a couple of windows and the problem becomes one that's likely to thwart the inexperienced planner.

It isn't the mere presence of doors and windows that complicates things so much as their by-products — traffic lanes, lighting problems, and the frustrating matter of door-swing. This latter difficulty is often neglected because it's easy to forget

traffic lane and inviting catastrophe.

And before you sketch a stove into a corner, make sure that the burners will be on the side away from the corner. Otherwise, large kettles won't sit on the burners squarely, the cook will lack elbow room, and the wall is sure to get scorched, steamed, and splattered. When possible, place the range so that it has counter space on both sides.

Still another unforeseen difficulty arises if you place the range with cooking units



next to a corner that's filled by the end of a counter. Result: corner space is blocked off when cooking is in progress. Solution: move the stove along the wall a couple of feet and extend the counter around the corner.

In spite of modern insulating techniques, a range is sure to warm adjacent cabinets, especially when the oven is turned on. So plan neighboring storage space for utensils, not food.

If you're planning a new home and can design your kitchen from scratch, you can save a lot of puzzles by placing doors and windows carefully. Doors should be at least 30 inches from the nearest corner — farther if possible. And don't forget that a door means a traffic lane.

Windows should be at least 15 inches from a corner if you want wall cabinets



to run along the adjacent wall all the way into the corner. Also, windows should be at least 44 inches above the floor to allow for a 36-inch counter and 8-inch back-splash.

These are just a few details that can ambush the kitchen planner. Consider the special problems connected with snack bars, breakfast nooks, ventilating fans, and broom closets, and you can see how easy it is to plan in an unsuspected booby trap or two. We don't mean to suggest that kitchen planning is an unrewarding project for the amateur — as you very likely know, it's more fun than anything. But we do suggest that you have an expert check over your plans before you get to that final hammer and nail stage.



at the on-paper stage that refrigerator doors generally open from the left — an insidious fact against which many a kitchen planner has figuratively bumped her nose. Once a refrigerator is installed on the wrong side of an in-swinging door, nothing short of a four-way stop sign will prevent nerve-jangling crashes and, likely as not, the literal bumping of noses.

And, on paper, a refrigerator may fit nicely into a corner where its door swings away from the wall instead of against it; but when the plan is translated into reality you find you have to do-se-do every time you put away the left-overs.

Another point that deserves special consideration in the planning stage is the immediate environment of the stove. Most modern ranges have surface cooking units on only one side, and to place



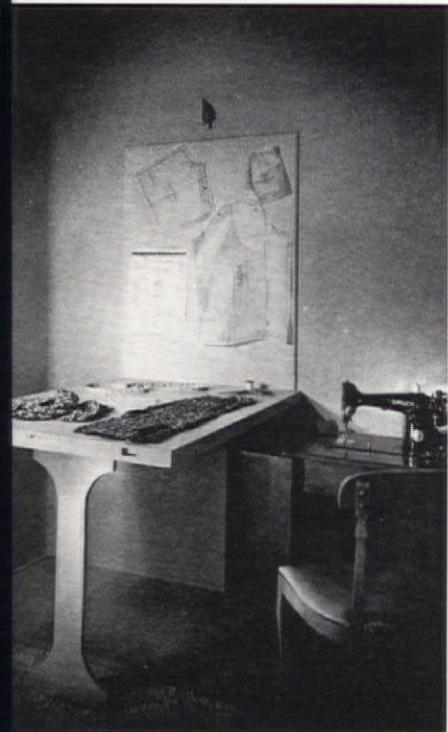
a range so that these units are next to a door, for instance, is a definite blooper. Even if the door, by the grace of a kind fate, swings away from the stove, you're likely to have pot handles sticking into a



enty of room for the telephone with ough left over for inevitable note writing d for gloves, mail, and a garden bouquet

Y RUTH CORELL

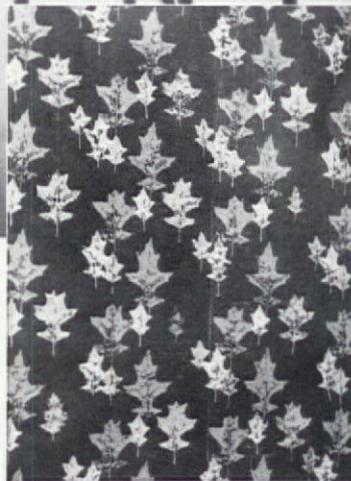
u won't need much space to be able to ve a sewing table like this one. It folds flat ainst the wall of this small upstairs hallway



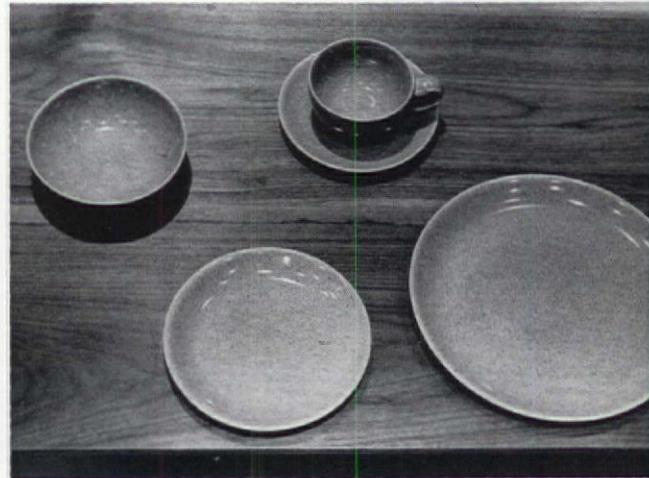
PHOTOGRAPH BY PARKER

# LOOK AGAIN AT MODERN

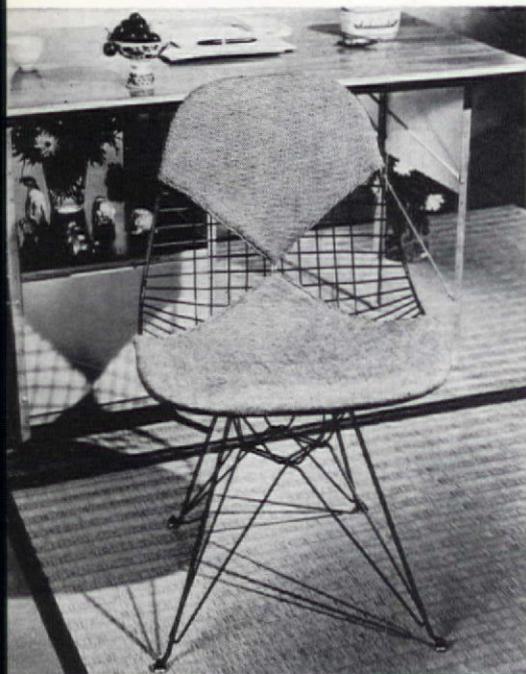
BY ELEANORE PAGE HAMILTON



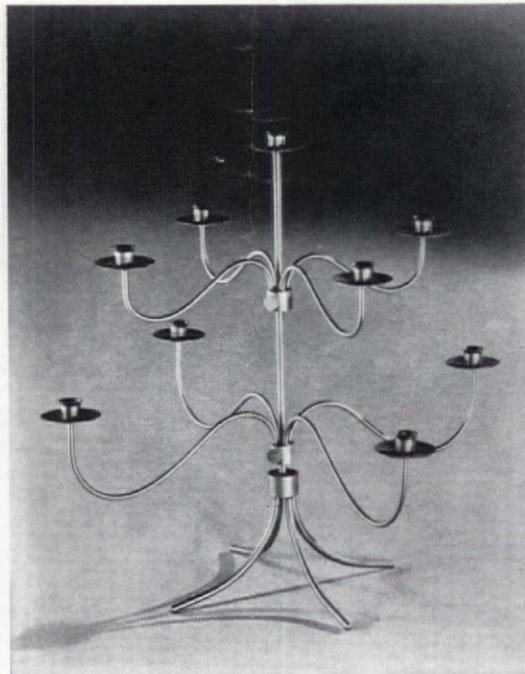
The walnut nest of tables, above, is evidence of the beauty and practicality of the new modern design. Four drop-leaf pieces slide compactly beneath an end table for ingenious storage. At the right, the soft cascade of oak leaves in black and white flows against silvery grey wallpaper



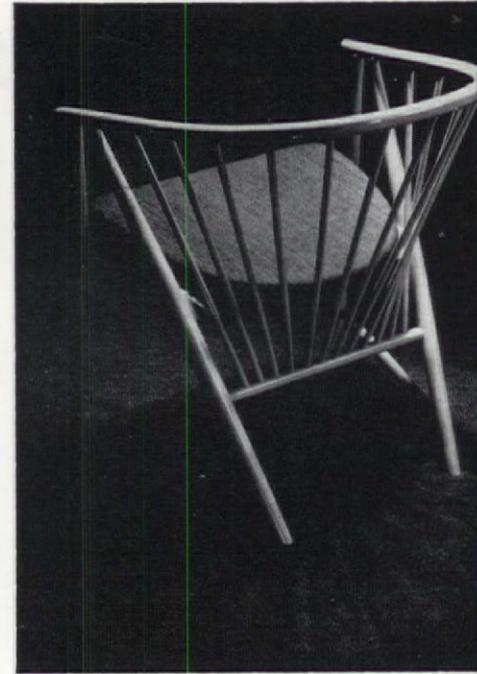
Surprise of the spring showings is this gracefully designed tableware. It has the look of fine china, but when you lift it you realize that anything so feather-light could only be plastic! Its color is "punkin" star-dusted with brown flecks



Lounge chair with an airy look is a deceptive piece, for it stands sturdy as a rock despite its fragile outlines. Black metal with tweed that moulds to your contours



Candelabra of Swedish brass with upraised holders reminiscent of flower petals reaching toward the sun. Designed for candles as tiny as those used on oldtime Christmas trees



Natural birch contrives a lightweight chair for modern interiors. Its comfortable slatback is nostalgic of the New England Windsors whose simplicity of design made them ageless

**WE** THINK the new modern furniture is wonderful! It has reached exciting peaks this year that poignantly express typical American attitudes. For the first time, there is a foreseeable future to contemporary design because it is suited to both the taste and use of our times. What's more, it has a crisp-lined simplicity that is timeless in its appeal.

It is a pleasant feeling to contemplate all the new things that you can acquire for your home today, and realize that modern furniture has definitely "arrived"; that Contemporary, circa 1952, is quietly taking its place among the immortals of such periods as Biedermeier, Regency, Empire, and Victorian. And somehow it seems most appropriate that this new concept of the furniture-of-today should be classed simply as "good design."

It has been a long — and oftentimes painful — journey from the Victorian era to the present. Modern design made so many false starts in its early struggles for expression that those to whom good taste was a fetish clung adamantly to the traditional. But even the finest of antiques began to lose ground before the quickening pace of living. Pocket-edition homes and small apartments demanded a modification in sizes of most furnishings. Manufacturers lost no time in meeting the needs of today's women by translating the lines and motifs of traditional furniture into more functional counterparts.

In the meantime, modern design was having growing pains of an extremely discouraging nature. It went through blatantly awkward stages of growth with such labels as "Art Nouveau," "Modernistic," and "Cubist." And every step of the way it has been almost impossible for the laymen — and even some of the creators — to tell the good from the bad.

There came a time when a feeling for "form" in modern furniture produced designs with fluid grace and clean-lined proportions. But it seemed that the designers had floated away on Pink Cloud Number One and never came down to earth long enough to actually sit in one of the ethereal shapes they had dreamed up.

It took a few engineering principles and a comprehensive study of the times to wake everyone up to the fact that present day living demands beauty with functionalism, drama with warmth. A meeting of the minds among designers, manufacturers, and American women has been achieved in this year's modern furniture fashions.

Modern, and the influence of modern, is felt everywhere. Sculptured

forms to watch for are the airy pieces that look as though they were suspended in space. Chairs, tables, sofas have an open look that gives an illusion of roominess in small quarters. Pieces that appear fragile are precision-engineered for balance and sturdiness. You will see much use of slender black metal frames and supports. Combinations of wood, iron, and glass are refreshingly new. Even chests and cabinets have a "different" touch with bases in such unusual materials as New Orleans style wrought iron; or with trestle or pedestal treatments.

Wood pieces are more fascinating than they've been in years, with finishes that accent rather than conceal the interesting grains. Cherry is this year's favored child, but you won't see it in the old, familiar red hues. Jewel tones of tawny topaz and softly shimmering amber lend decorative excitement to these new treatments. It is used as trim on many pine pieces.

Mahogany, too, reveals subtle changes. Natural mahogany takes precedent over bleached or old world finishes in the new showings. And the deep tones glow with warm, winery depths that range in color from sherry to the ruddiness of well-aged port.

Cane and bamboo are new in the furniture fashion picture, their exotic touches frankly inspired by nostalgic dreams of the south-sea islands. Long, low sofas — reminiscent of the K'ang couches of Hawaii have cane insets;

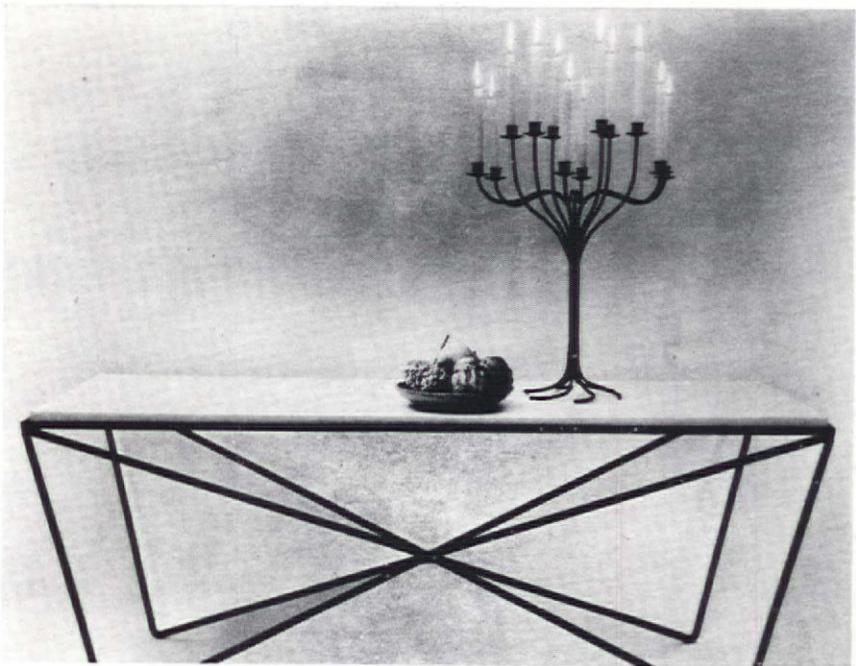
and the same breezy material trims bedroom and dining-room chests.

One of the most welcome trends is the swing toward cabinet and table tops of indestructible materials like marble, linoleum, and plastics that resemble fine woods. Many of the tables are oval or round and designed to be extended for additional length.

Tweeds are still much in evidence in the contemporary setting, but there is a growing tendency toward the use of nylon fabrics in upholstered pieces. Since the new contours of upholstered furniture demand tight-fitting seats instead of cushions, many makers have turned to closer weaves.

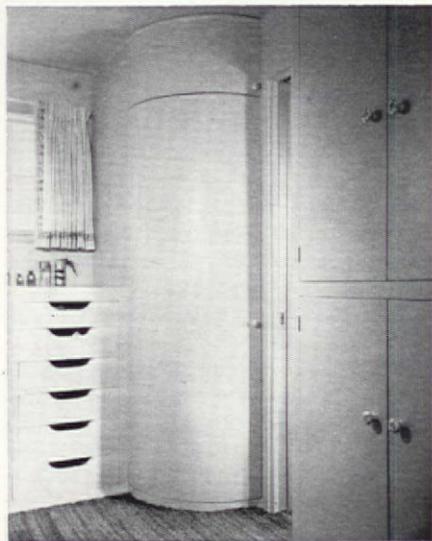
Colors are luscious in both drapery and upholstery fabrics. New and dramatic is the "punkin" shade that decorators are enthusing over. And "black raspberry" — with all the mouth-watering appeal its name suggests — is a close second. You will find much use of cinnamon brown to lend spice to your decorating theme, as well as greens that run the gamut from leaf tones to deep, vibrant hues.

One of the most charming features of this new trend in home furnishings is the compatibility of the pieces. A go-together feeling prevails in contemporary design that will unleash your imagination. You will find great scope for individual expression in your decorating; yet there is a basic symmetry that makes any combination of pieces seem to flow in a continuous pattern.



Iron is an amazingly versatile material in spite of its sturdy properties. Here, it lends itself to a composition that is sheer poetry. Both the base of this striking table and the twelve-branch candelabra are exquisitely fashioned of wrought iron painted black. Off-white linoleum table top is dramatic contrast, and lends practical advantages as well

## BUILT-IN BANDBOX



**T**ODAY'S Mother Hubbard has plenty of cupboards but there always seems to be use for just one more. Any woman who cocks an eye in the direction of such a practical storage idea as this will immediately start looking for a corner that will hold one just like it. A pie-shaped tier of shelves swings out to reveal three large drawers and one long cupboard. Even the just-under-the-ceiling space holds only occasionally needed items.

If your hat wardrobe outgrows the original five shelves, double the capacity, add five more between them.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT C. CLEVELAND



All the glitter and color of perfume bottles is doubled by these deep shadow boxes, reflected in the dressing table mirror. The insides of the boxes are lined with deep grey-blue of the ceiling

## ROOM FOR SHELF IMPROVEMENT

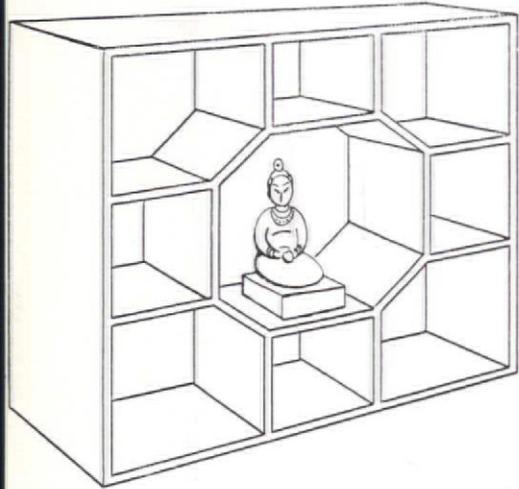
If you are hunting for good-looking places to display your treasures, storage space that will not take up floor area or add extra furniture to an already crowded room, you want shelves. They put forgotten space to work. Here are five ideas that may set you to dreaming. You might plan a window-sill shelf to hold plants or serve as a well-lighted dressing table. A bottom-lighted shelf over the desk, telephone table or bed saves the floor or table space necessary for a lamp. Extend a tray shelf along one side of the bathtub. It will hold your cigarettes, cologne, or manicure needs and take a load off your overworked medicine cabinet. Of course there should be shelves in every room to spot reading matter wherever it may be wanted. A few shelves, a good lamp, and a comfortable chair transform any corner into a library.

Entrance halls just naturally seem to be too small for much furniture but a shelf will not interfere with floor space. A small half-round console shelf will hold a lamp, mail or gloves.

There isn't room in the house from basement to bathroom that couldn't do with a bit of shelf interest. Wander from room to room and you are certain to find walls or corners that will look and work better with a few shelves.

Satin lacquered, one-inch boards on the most simple of metal arm braces are placed just above head height. They hold one-of-a-kind ceramics, driftwood, wood bowls

Chippendale type curio shelves may be found in many sizes and shapes or are a pleasant project for the home workshop. Bric-a-brac should match style of shelves

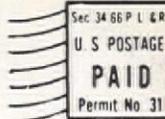
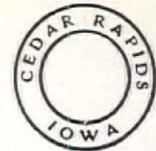


These console type shelves take up no floor space and there are no legs to complicate the cleaning routine. Combined with a picture and a few distinguished accessories, they form focal point

A lighted, mirrored shelf unit that would find welcome in the dressing room, bedroom, or front hallway. Small drawers welcome gloves, cosmetics, accessories, or will even hold all sewing needs

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