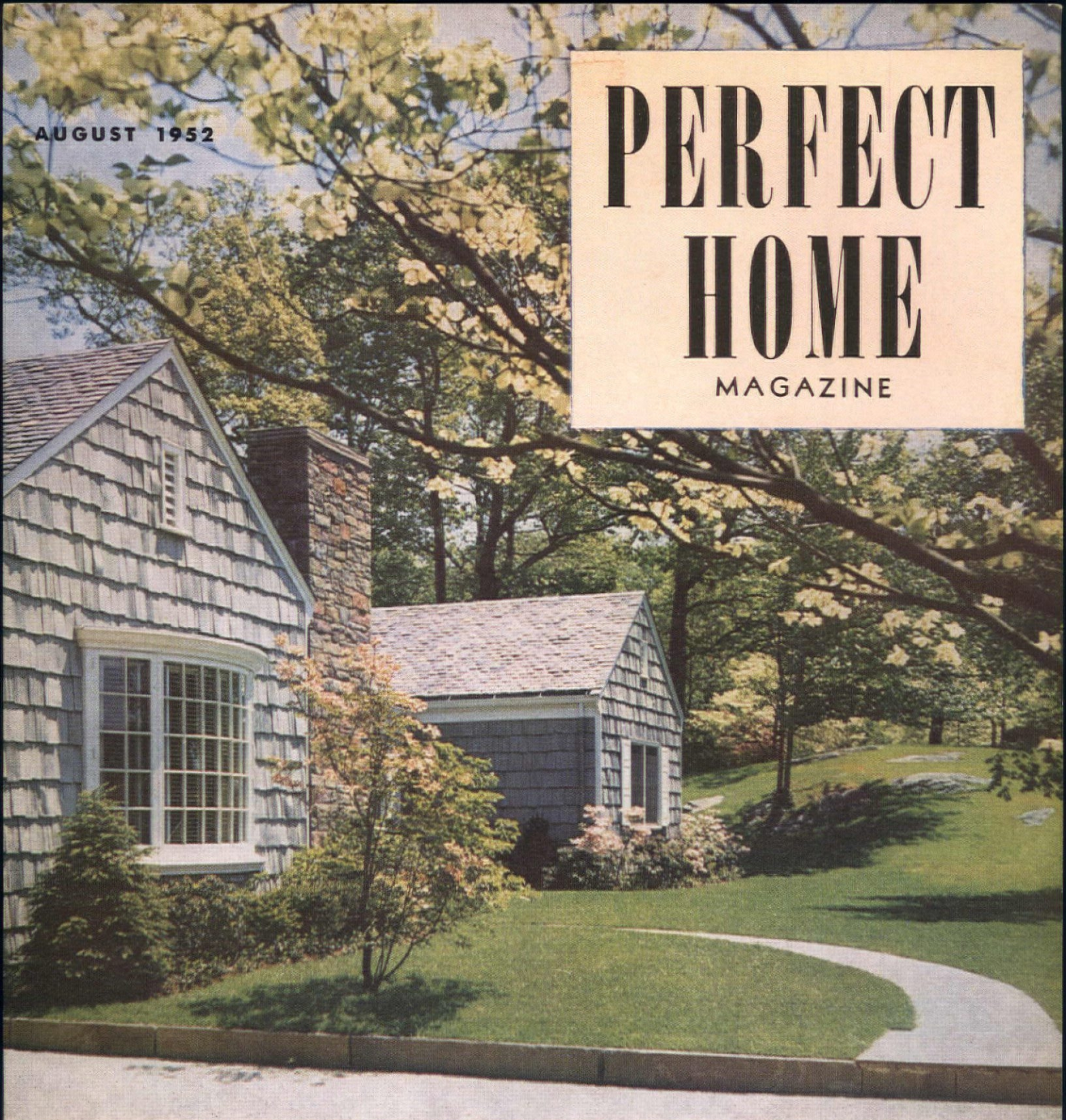


AUGUST 1952

PERFECT HOME

MAGAZINE



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

ATTILIO R. FRASSINELLI
STAFFORD INSURANCE AGENCY
Real Estate

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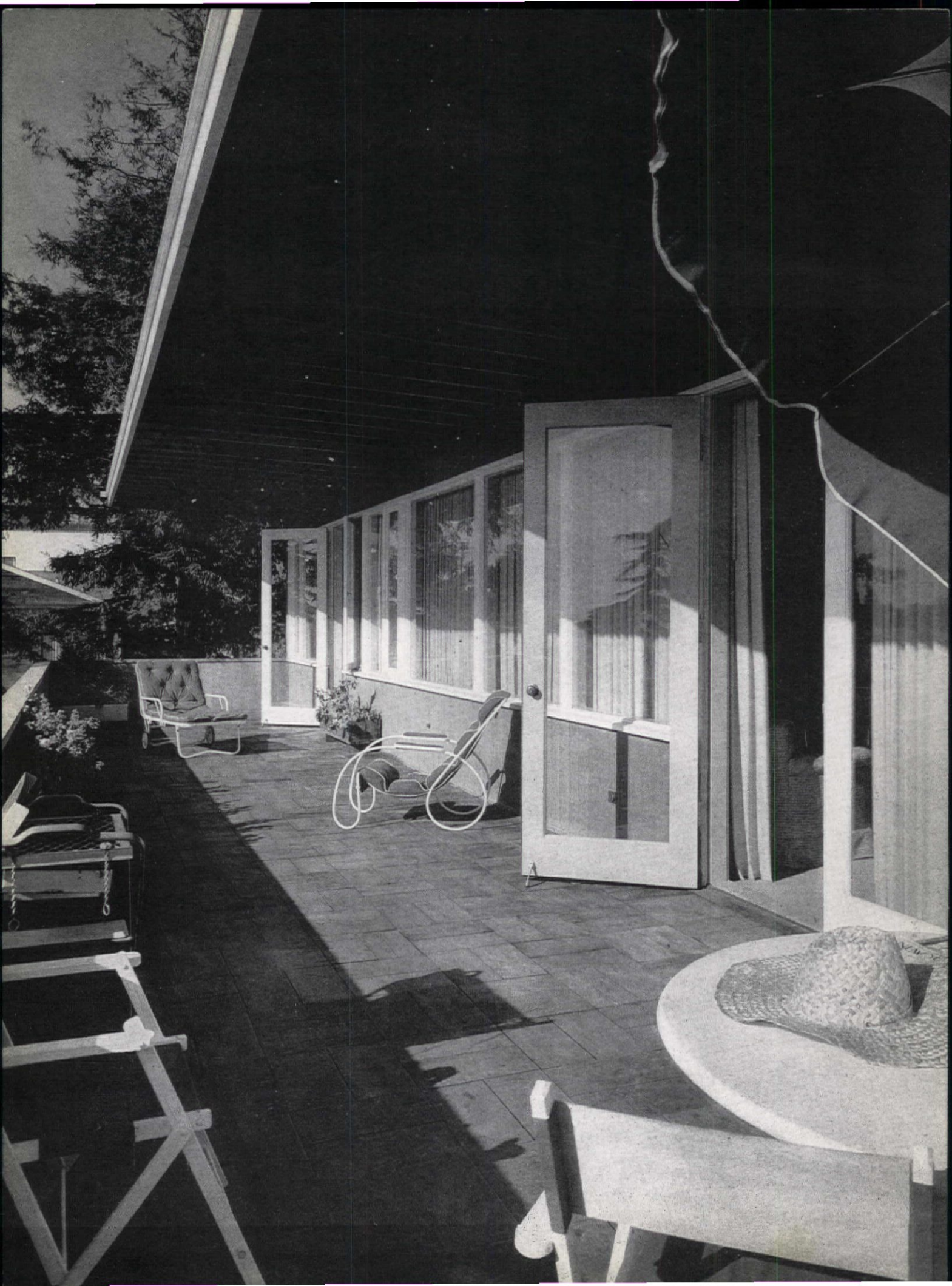
Stafford Springs, Conn.

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A Tranquil Home

I REMEMBER that some time ago a very good columnist said, in an American newspaper, "What this country needs is a good dose of tranquility." And that is certainly true. And where should tranquility start but in the home?

One of the loveliest memories of my life is the simplicity and tranquility of my childhood. What would you think of spending a Sunday afternoon or Sunday evening at home, singing around a piano? We had an old square upright and Mother could play and Father had a pretty good tenor. Sister could carry the lead, Mother could sing, too, though none of us knew a note, and I was around for ballast.

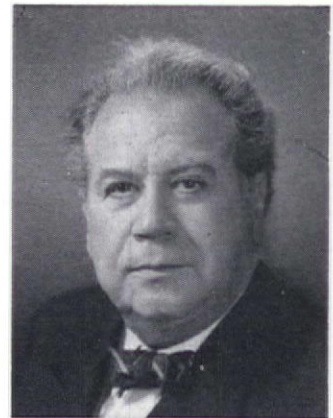
The happiest hours of my life were spent singing around that big old square piano. We never had heard of a radio then, and we had no player piano and had never heard of a juke box — thank goodness for that!

We just gathered around the old piano and sang, and then Father would go down cellar and bring up a pan of hickory nuts and walnuts, and some fine Northern Spies or Baldwin apples. Sometimes we would pop corn. Does anybody pop corn these days at home, and just have a good time popping corn or cracking hickory nuts or walnuts? Does anybody do that any more?

I don't believe my parents ever heard of "Child Psychology." But my mother and my father never lied to me once. My mother never made me a promise she did not keep. When she said she was going to do something, or I was going to do something, I knew exactly what she and I were going to do. I had that kind of mother.

She never lied or broke her promise to me, never once, nor did my father. I think that is the basis of pretty good child psychology. You don't have to be specifically trained or educated to understand that. It is just reasonable and sensible.

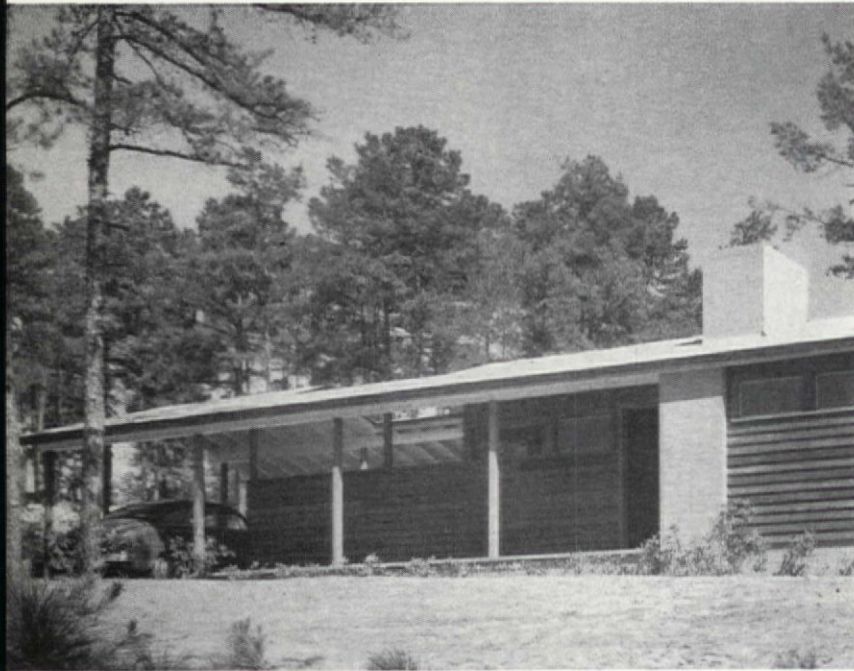
Neither one of them had to punish me physically. I was disciplined by being reprimanded a little bit; but my mother and father were basically integrated in the responsibility of parenthood, and to my dying day I shall owe something to them both that I can never, never repay.



In addition to guiding the religious program of the Peoples Church of Chicago which he founded, Dr. Preston Bradley has written many inspirational books and magazine articles and edits the church magazine, the *Liberalist*

Rudolph Edward Leppert's photo of the gray house on cover and this terrace shot by Max Tatch are rich with the lure of the out-of-doors

LESSON IN SIMPLICITY



Exterior view from street side shows how well house blends into its setting. Carport is wonderfully convenient to both front and back doors

BY BILL TURNER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RICHARD GARR



Dining area can be shut off from the rest of the house by drapery. Windows at left face the terrace



STRETCHING across a hillside lot, blending with its ever-green setting, this house demonstrates a charming relationship between simplicity and economy. Planned with an eye to low building costs, it nevertheless boasts three bedrooms, two baths, and plenty of room for a family of four.

You enter beside the massive chimney. You follow the brick of the entry floor round a corner and find it becomes the hearth of the living-room fireplace. You discover, too, that the big chimney is really a chimney-wall that forms one end of the living room, that it houses a wood box that can be filled from the porch, and that it gives a touch of informality to a room that might strike you at first as being a bit austere. But once you're ensconced on the sofa or in one of the comfortable wide-seat chairs, you begin to feel the quiet friendliness of warm gray walls and white ceiling. High windows on the street side assure privacy, give you a secluded feeling, and at the same time make for good cross ventilation. On the opposite side of the room and at the end, glazed doors open onto the terrace.

The dining area also faces the terrace and is provided with a window-wall on that side. Furniture is simple, practical. A sliding screen drapery can be drawn to cut the dining room off from the rest of the house.

Kitchen and utility sections are not separated by a partition but are distinct areas at either end of a long room — an arrangement that is both convenient and economical. Traffic lanes were carefully planned here. They run between the two areas and through the utility room, giving Mother the kitchen all to herself.

Moving into the generous back hall, you find the three bedrooms in a neat row across the end of the house, flanked by the two baths and two large hall closets. A peek into one of the baths reveals a convenient counter that stretches the length of one wall, continues past the end of the tub. There's plenty of room below this counter for hamper and storage cabinets.

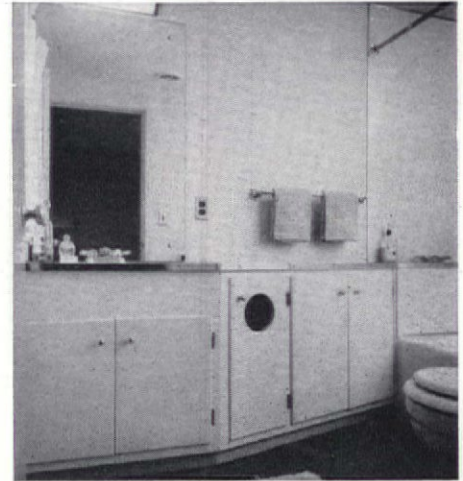
The outside of the house is natural redwood. The under-eaves and ceiling of carport are painted chartreuse. Porch is brick. Roof is white asbestos shingles. Between the kitchen and carport is a screened yard for children's wagons and bikes, and for clothes drying.

The house is built on a concrete slab. It's heated by gas with hot air forced through a copper pipe in the slab. Floors of bedrooms, bedroom hall, and dining room are black asphalt tile. Kitchen and utility floors are linoleum. Living room floor is cement, covered by a taupe rug.

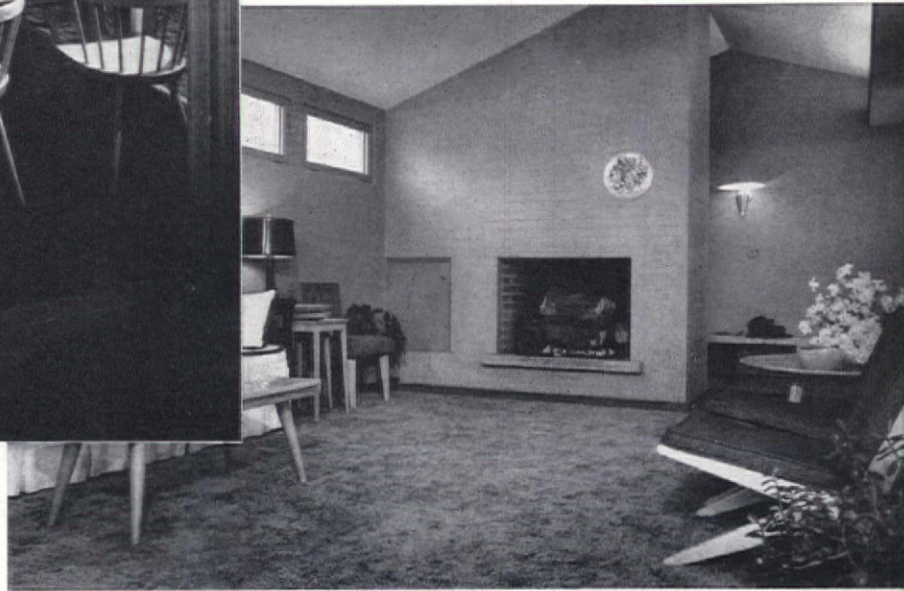


This view of the dining area shows harmony between interior and exterior walls. They are both of redwood

Architectural highlight of the house is chimney-wall with fireplace. Wood box can be filled from outdoors



This counter extends the length of bathroom, even continues past end of tub. Hamper and storage cabinets fit neatly into the space below





Gateways should never be less than three feet wide. This traditional picket fence is cleft by a simple double gate that swings back and forth at a touch to let family and friends pass through. Tapering line of the pickets is achieved by nailing along rails at graduated heights

Please Fence Us In

WE love our neighbor's puppy and all of the assorted moppets who constitute the lollipop set on our block. But their friendliness often caused nostalgic sighs for lawns that held no buried cache of bones, and flower beds that bore no evidence that a band of midget Indians had recently passed that way.

It seemed possessive to consider fencing in 50x150 feet of all of God's acres — like children counting candy with a precise, "This is for me, and this is for you!" Then we remembered the words from a poem by Robert Frost:

*"My apple trees will never get across
And eat the cones under his pines," I tell him.
He only says, "Good fences make good neighbors."*

We built a fence of trim white pickets, because ours is a Cape Cod home and it's a basic rule to choose a style that harmonizes with the surroundings. Besides, the picket is one of the easiest fences for carpenters to cope with! A fence with 4-foot pickets requires 6-foot posts and 8-foot lengths of 2x4's. Post ends should be dipped in creosote before setting to prevent rot. Ours are cemented into old coffee cans and sunk two feet below the sod.

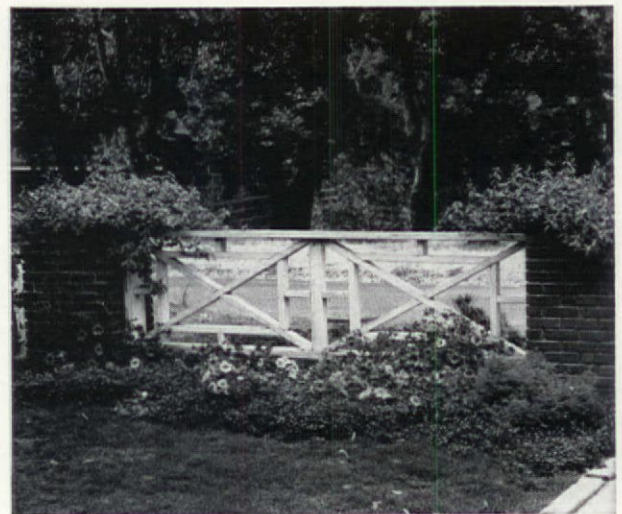
Pickets and rails that are prime coated before the fence is assembled will have even hard-to-reach surfaces protected against the elements. As a final precaution against rust stains marring a gleaming white finish, the entire structure should be hammered together with aluminum nails.

Before the fence is planned, we learned, it is wise to check local ordinances for possible limitations in height or proximity to streets, and for rulings governing lot lines.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAX TATCH, PHIL FEIN



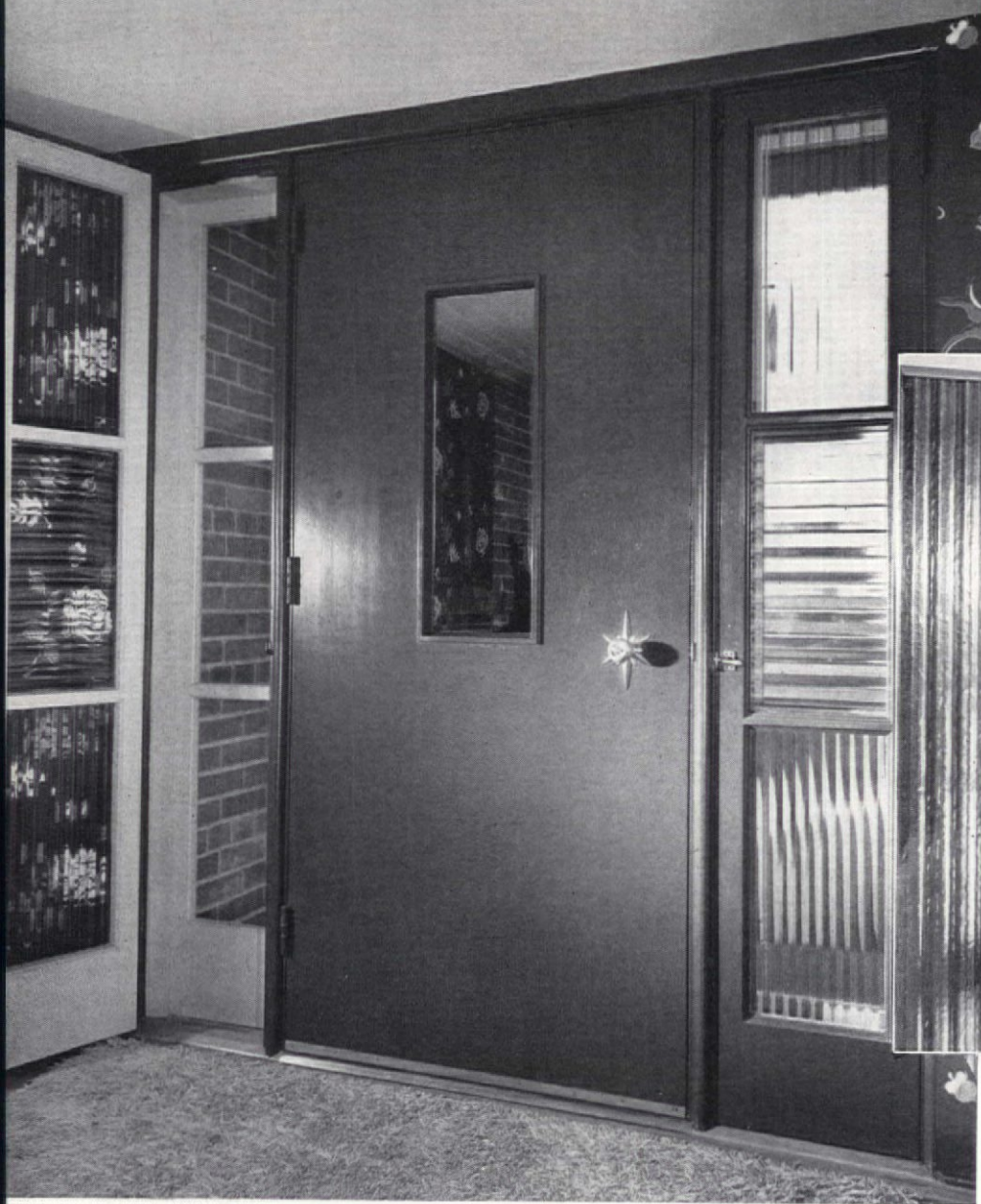
Desire for privacy, undesirable views, protection for livestock are but a few of the reasons for building this horizontal board fence. Note interesting way in which boards are alternated



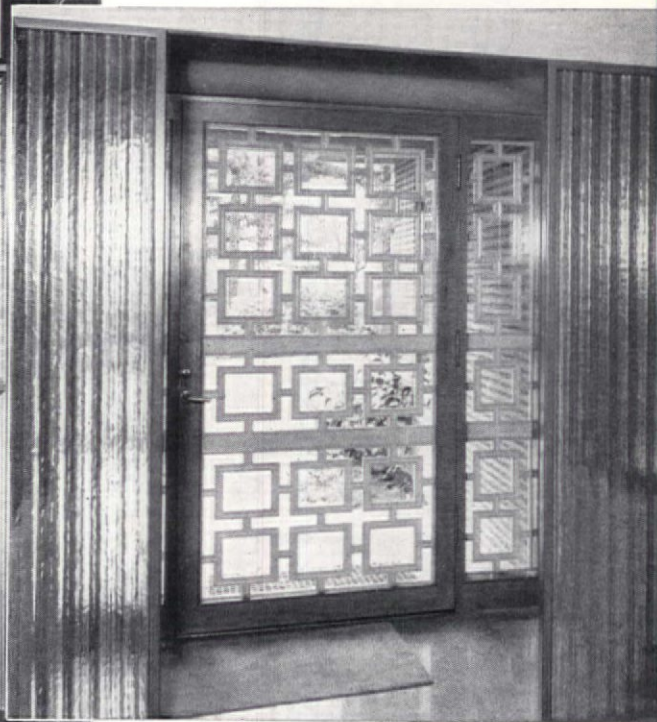
Two-by-fours create a formal version of the rail fence. Built between posts of red brick, it has a pleasing effect of solidarity in keeping with the background of substantial old trees



Elaborate use of glass and brick assures privacy within whispering distance of intersecting sidewalks. Less expensive, but equally view-stopping, would be vertical board construction



Louvered glass softens a less than perfect view. Panels swing aside to permit free circulation of summer breezes



Classic fretwork breaks the line of vision through wide entrance door. Side panels are hinged behind screen

Bold black iron "L" hinges on a sparkling white Dutch door, white pots of violets for an overscale cottage door

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALLEN, GAYNOR, PARKER

SIDE-LIGHTS

ONE of those architectural details we seldom think much about is the side-light, that long slender window you'll find at either side of your front door. It admits a little light, serves as an inspection post for visitors and of course adds pleasing emphasis to the entrance. But since such limited use scarcely justifies the cost, few contemporary homes have used them.

Now we find three houses that give new importance and use to this vanishing feature. One is a purely decorative treatment but the other two have actually put these narrow strips to work.

As you can see in the large picture, the glazed section is hinged. Outside is a matching screened section that admits every summer breeze and makes it possible for you to keep the door latched. That glass panel in the center of the door is a one-way vision panel that allows the homemaker to look out but blocks the view to the inside. The second doorway also conceals screening beyond its fretwork grill.

The Dutch doorway has unusually deep reveals into which have been inserted sparkling glass shelves for matching pots of velvet-leaved violets.



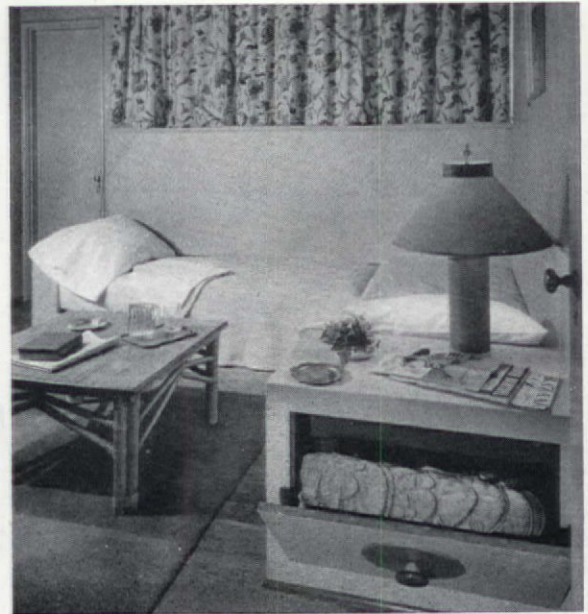
Made to measure storage ideas

WE have just seen a hide-away for the bathroom scales . . . a simple man-of-the-house bit of carpentry that set us thinking about all of our homeless ones. We mean our typewriter, sewing machine, electric iron, kitchen mixer, card tables, waffle iron, vacuum cleaner, electric fans, heaters and hair dryers, all those shining treasures on which engineers and gadgeteers have spent their genius. Not one of them has its own special niche. Not one of them can be shut completely away when not in use.

Yes, these scales started us scheming to find homes for all of those wonderful time-savers. The scales are bolted to a sturdy leaf that drops down to the floor whenever a check on the waistline is in order. Meantime it fits between the studding, no hazard at all for vulnerable toes. The idea suggests an asbestos-lined cubbyhole for the iron and a swing-out corner cupboard for the mixer. The card tables will be a cinch, four of them will fit flush against the wall behind the back-hall door. The sewing machine and typewriter will eventually find their place in a built-in unit much like the one shown at right.

Storage that would ordinarily take up valuable floor space can very often be sandwiched in between the studding, suspended beneath wide shelves, fitted into stair steps or built in below higher furniture. Such space-savers will give any small house a big house air.

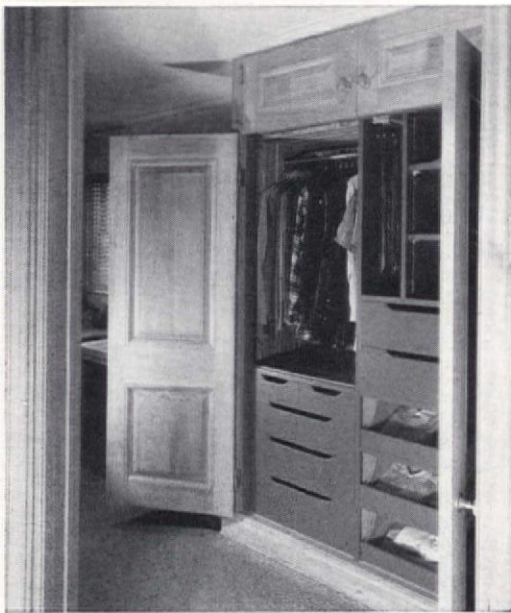
Whether it is old or new, your house will certainly welcome one of these ideas. With the exception of the television set, none of them requires more than a few hours work by a competent carpenter and you'll find that their worth and your enjoyment will certainly far out balance their cost.



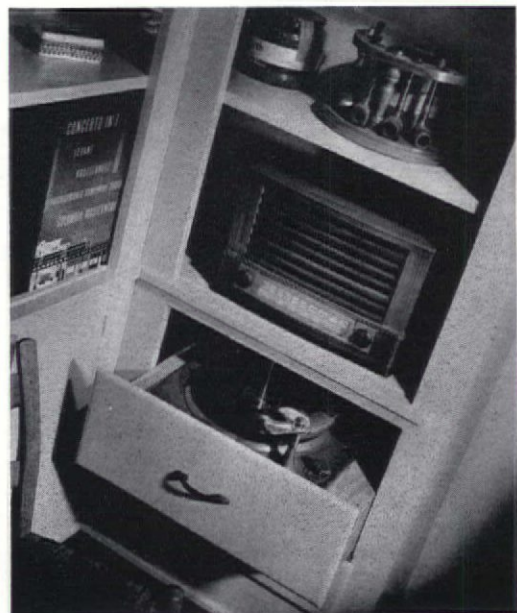
The dual-purpose idea as applied to the linen storage problem produced this hard-working end table that has lots of storage room under the big square top. Whisk bed linens inside and all's ready for day-time use



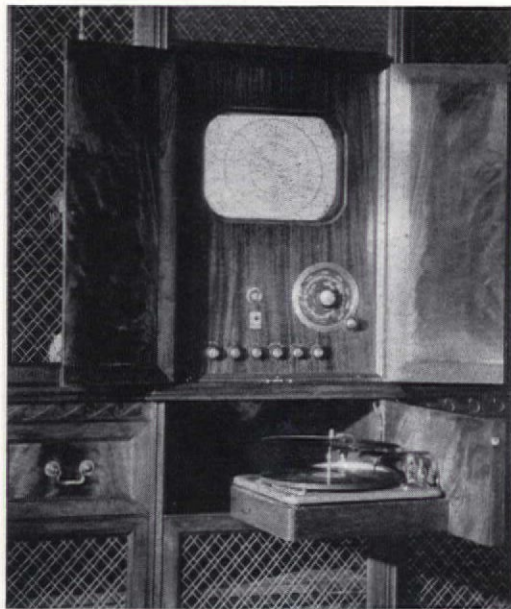
The electric sewing machine with its own ironing board closes away in a dust-proof compartment. An easy tug brings it out when needed. Between times it swings back to become a part of the adjoining built-in desk



Storage space beneath shirts and jackets is seldom used. No need for a chest of drawers in this room when a wardrobe fits into one closet. Longer robes, suits, and coats are in section hidden by right door



Too bad that owners of all record players can't have a pull-out hide-away for their machines. Just below the radio, this deep drawer was tailored to hold entire unit. Adjoining shelves hold record collection



Anyone who has had to position a television set knows how much furniture-shifting is necessary before the view is just right. So do away with several pieces by combining them all in one unit



"That's for me" . . . we can hear the chorus certain to greet this idea. Hide-away steps for short stretchers glide out on their own guides and rollers. They are locked safely in place by a latch on concealing door

A STUDY IN PRACTICAL REMODELING

Maybe you can remodel profitably. Maybe you can't. The job may be simple or involve as much time and almost as much money as a new house. But with careful planning you can count on more space, on retaining the value of the old house and on landscaping that is years ahead of any you might plan now



TIME was when anyone who considered the possibility of remodeling an old house did so only because of necessity or because the structure was valued for the famous ghosts it sheltered. Today we realize that under the bandy-legged porte-cocheres and wooden-lace we can often find sound plans and the finest of craftsmanship. The bad taste of the gingerbread-era was largely superficial and it is shortsighted to condemn these sturdy old structures to the wrecking squad.



Remodeling is seldom a simple or easy way to get a modern house but the old relic very often has spaciousness and a mellowness of time and living impossible to duplicate in the new home. As a result many a sad old spectacle is being restored rather than demolished. Home-seekers looking beneath the splintered siding and curling shingles see a strong frame, a pleasing setting and a busy future.



If you are one to go dewy-eyed over every orchard-shrouded derelict — go slow. Take along an architect or carpenter before you start battering down walls. Let unprejudiced judgment size up the merits of your aged dream house — or it may turn out to be The House That All Your Jack Rebuilt. Many an enthusiastic remodeler has discovered too late there can never be enough whitewash to brighten some black sheep.



Climb down into the webby cellar. Peer into dark corners. Poke pins into supporting beams. Cast a critical eye over each damp patch or crumbling stone. They'll tell you whether the house is worth your time and money. If walls, footings and beams are sound, undamaged by dry-rot, water seepage, settling or termites, chances are that the house is as sturdy as the day it was built. If there are signs of settling, walls above will be out of line, plaster cracked, and extensive repairs may be in order. Damp walls may be brought under control by a coating of one of the new water barrier paints or they may call for an exterior moisture sealer or even a line of tile to channel water from the foundation.



Chances are, however, that if prolonged basement dampness had been a problem, beam and basic supports will have been weakened to a degree that might make the project inadvisable.



If the house passes the basement test, next consider orientation and room arrangement. Ideas about both of these have changed a lot since the house was planned. Every room should have sunlight at some time of the day. A new window may be all that dark room needs to make it inviting. Could be that meandering old porch should make way for a sun-flooded terrace and more light for all rooms it shades. Big windows are one of the most obvious signs of the modern house. You may wish to add, enlarge or combine old windows. This job is a simple one and probably not as costly as you have imagined.



Convenience should determine any changes in floor plan. Access between rooms should be simplified if possible. Perhaps you will want to combine rooms making one large area out of two smaller ones. Increase the size of the living room by joining it to an enclosed porch or enlarge the kitchen by getting rid of the partition that divides it from the pantry. You may wish to convert existing rooms to new uses. Make a dining room from a den or a bedroom from a sunporch. The wonderful thing about most of these old houses is their wealth of space.



Additional entrances may ease the traffic problem. Our new out-of-doors terraces become living areas only when there is direct access to interior space.



Needless to say, electrical and plumbing systems will have a much heavier load to carry than they were engineered to handle. For safety's sake, entire wiring system should be checked, replaced and added to wherever it seems necessary. Unless most unusual, the old house will need additions in the number of bathrooms, kitchen and laundry facilities. Such additions will require careful figuring if they are not to steal a large chunk of the remodeling budget.



Odds are more than even that the house has no insulation or at best is only partially protected. Attic insulation or blown-in type filler in ceiling and walls, along with double glazing or storm windows give you much more pleasant living in either hot or cold weather.



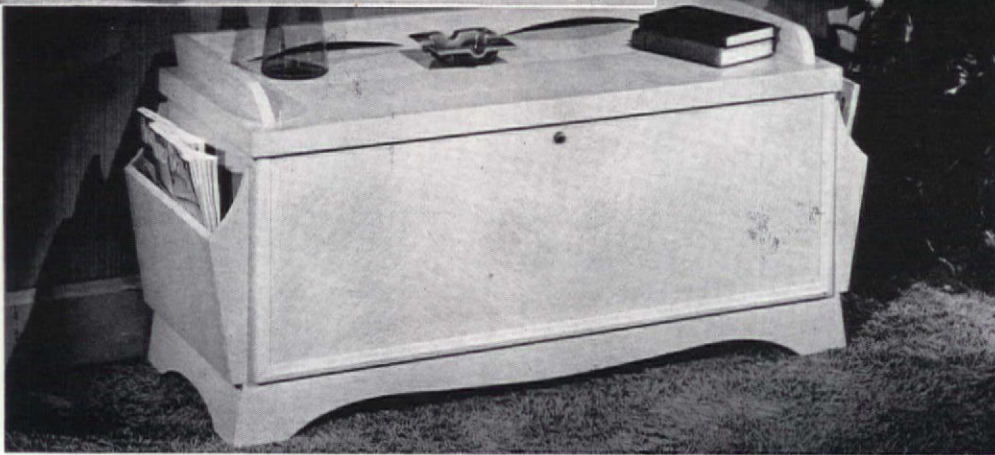
In addition to all of these things a new heating system, more closets, a modern kitchen, roof repairs and redecorating will probably all enter into your planning.





This step-table serves as magazine rack, bookcase, reading table, coffee table. Angled leg construction adds to appearance and stability

Cures FOR CLUTTER

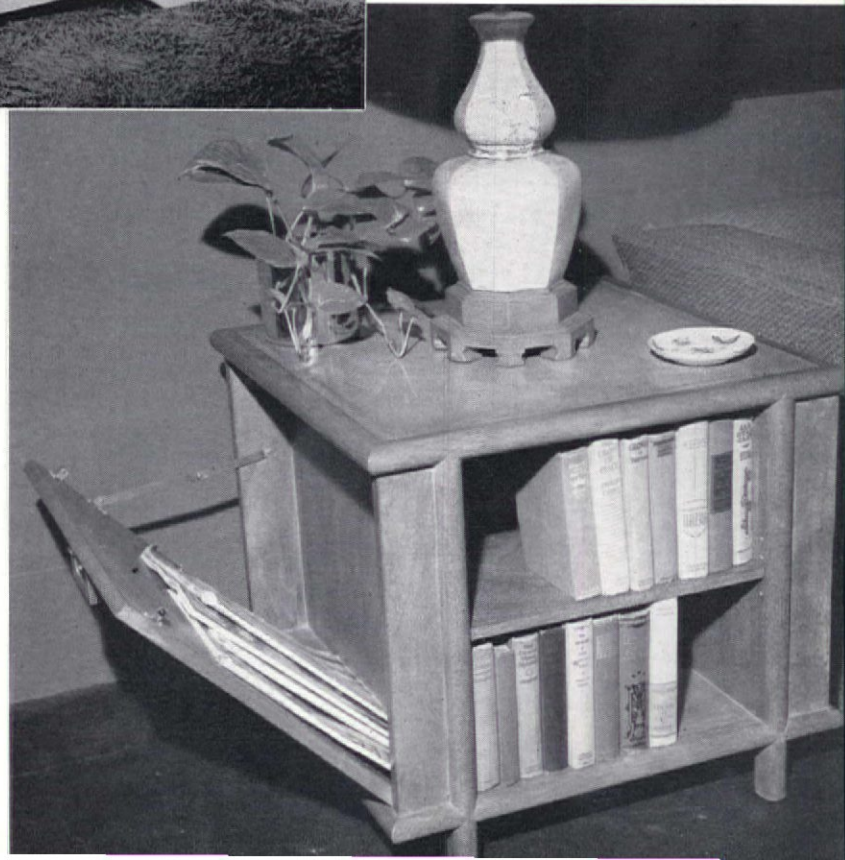


Finished in lime oak, this cedar chest offers plenty of storage space, serves as a window seat, has a neat magazine rack at each end

The drop-leaf sections of this book-table keep magazines hidden but convenient. It's of mahogany with a beige finish

A MAGAZINE is a restful thing. A *Readers' Digest* or a *Perfect Home* beside an easy chair graces a room with a comfortable suggestion. But strew a few more around — just a few — and the lived-in look becomes a muddle; instead of being touched with a restful air, the place looks as if a cyclone hit it.

The compact modern pieces on this page offer, among their other functions, homing places for your family's favorite periodicals. Each is a handsome, multipurpose unit that is useful in its own right and holds magazines as a sort of sideline.



Candidly



Flowers give a friendly look to the entrance of this charming country home, above. Lamp once adorned a carriage

Large window, top right, overlooks a pear orchard. The old harvest feast table displays old salt box, pewter plate, tea caddy, and recalls the life of bygone eras

Pantier, center right, is now used as a coffee table. Prints, water stand that holds greens, and cherub's head make an interesting and typically French group

Bedroom walls are finished in dusty pink. Still more prints and matching curtains and bedspreads add plenty of color



PHOTOGRAPHS BY MORLEY

Quaint

You feel the *bienvenue* of this French Provincial home even as you approach its entrance. There's a friendly quaintness about the double door with its handsome white knob, the cheerful blooms along the steps, the porch lamp that once adorned a carriage. Here's a home that promises to be rich in details that touch a visitor with a pleasant message and make him want to stay.

Inside, you find the promise lavishly kept. You find white walls, a background that permits furnishings of delicate ornateness — figured fabrics, plenty of knick-knacks, profuse groups of old prints. These plain walls make each piece of furniture stand out, assure each treasured heirloom the attention it deserves. At the same time, they prevent any suggestion of crowding or clutter.

In front of the tan divan at one end of the living room, you find an old pantier serving as a coffee table and as a storage place for magazines. Above the divan, French prints frame a copper water stand that holds greens. Across the room, fireplace, mantel, and mirror are as French as onion soup. Twin chairs in green velveteen add a cozy touch.

There's another arrangement of prints on the wall to the left, flanking a quaint barometer. Most of this wall is taken up by a wide window that overlooks an orchard. The old drop-leaf table in front of this window is a harvest feast table, vintage of 1700.

In the dining room, there's another print grouping above another cherished piece — a dry sink used as a planter and as a display spot for prized pewter that suggests the hospitality of past generations.

A visit to one of the bedrooms reveals still more treasures. An old chest serves as night stand. Atop this is a quaint spice cabinet, a convenient place for odds and ends. An old secretary makes an ideal showcase for a shell collection. Two more print groups grace the dusty pink wall above the beds and strike a color note that's carried out by figured spreads and curtains. Here again, the spell of color and figure and displayed prizes captures the visitor and makes him feel a part of the gracious living of long ago.

We like the way this house has been decorated to form a background for the trove of antiques it contains. We also like the way these treasures are frankly displayed. With such a wealth of conversation pieces, we can't imagine that interesting talk ever lags for long in this friendly home.



Fruit prints hold forth above lovely old dry-sink. Print groups occur in this home with calculated regularity. They add color, accent French-country-living theme



Front of fireplace is soft green and green velveteen chairs flank it. Floral prints border a barometer on the left wall. Hospitality, restful and quaint, is the result

Background



● Handsome birch plywood scrolls for graceful headboard above. A narrow shelf stretches the width of two beds. Fluorescent tubes are recessed behind panels of opal glass for a soft diffused general light

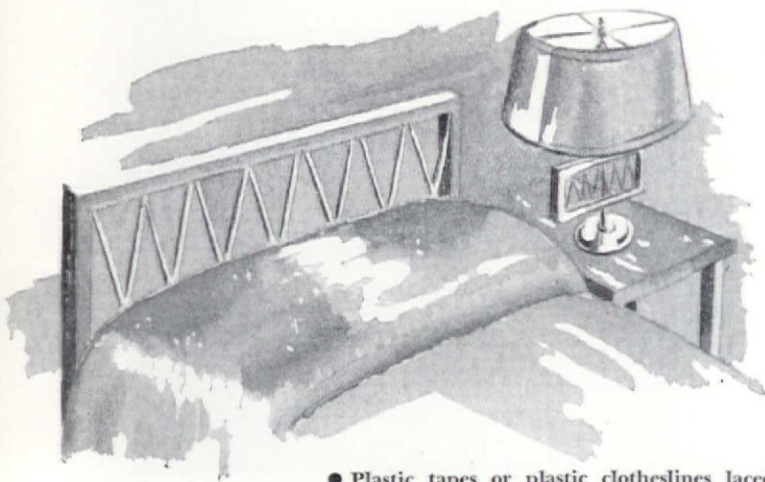
TIME was when no bed would face the world without a head at least five feet high and footboard almost as impressive. Then the homemaker discovered that by getting rid of the footboard she cut hours of time, miles of walking from her yearly bed-making task. For a while she was also content to do without the headboard as well; but meandering pillows, the lack of a satisfactory back-rest for late-hour reading, and soiled walls put many of them back on the job.

Because of their versatile styling, headboards are welcome in elaborate or simple bedrooms. Their design can determine the spirit of the room.

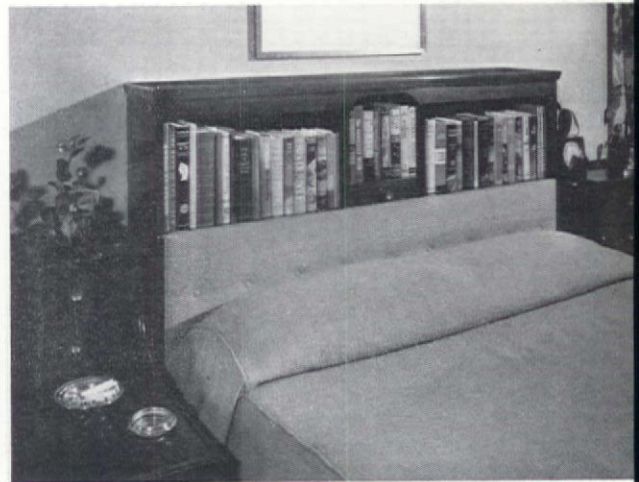
They can be planned for a double, a single, a pair of twin beds. They may be anchored to the wall, to the beds or even hinged to swing out from the wall when night time arrives.

These six show just how very effective a headboard can be. Whether designed by a leading stylist, as was the one pictured right, or planned on the spot by the homemaker, it can do more than any other single piece of furniture to distinguish a room — whether it be girlishly feminine, vigorously masculine or graciously sophisticated.

● If reading is one of your favorite pastimes build a headboard with plenty of shelving. Padded section conceals a shallow cupboard that may be used for extra pillows and your winter blanket



● Plastic tapes or plastic clotheslines laced through holes drilled in simple wood frame is an idea borrowed from one of the year's leading chair designs



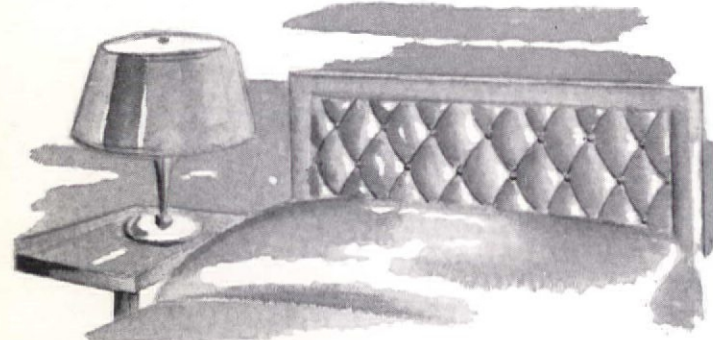
PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEWART, KRANTZEN, B.

for Beds....

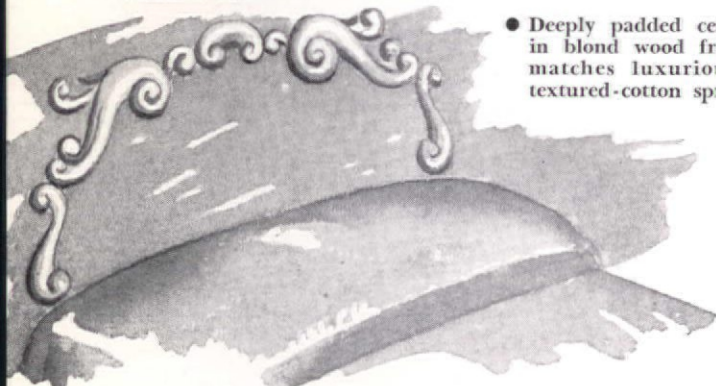
of space and time and housekeeping



- This unusual bed with cane headboard is combined with shelving and step tables. Headboards may be fastened to springs and mattresses or directly to wall, facilitating moving and cleaning



- Deeply padded center in blond wood frame matches luxuriously textured-cotton spread



- Wallpaper cut-outs and pressed-wood are the sole ingredients for this gay headboard. Bold floral motifs border solid color. The paper is protected by clear spray-on plastic

JUDGED by the standards of earlier generations, today's uncluttered homes would seem almost bare. Furniture is present only where it's useful; it isn't acquired with the idea of filling a room. For we've learned that empty space has a dignity that needs no apology — and no housekeeping.

Much modern furniture is designed to serve more than one purpose, to do the work of two or three old-fashioned pieces — a characteristic that's economical as well as a saver of dusting time. And, being without carving or curlicues, modern pieces can be cleaned with a flip and a whisk. Then, too, there's the marked tendency toward more built-in furniture — no moving it to get into corners with sweeper or dust mop.

Of course, less furniture and more practical design are only part of the story of the housekeeper's rebellion. Today's homes are planned and built to eliminate dusting as a daily chore. They're heated cleanly, often air-conditioned, tightly sealed, and windows are double-glazed. Excess woodwork has been eliminated — and a lot of dusting and scrubbing along with it.

Rooms are smaller but (since the home-planner now thinks in terms of function rather than in terms of cubic feet) they are more comfortable; and often there's as much living space in a small modern room as there is in a big old-fashioned one that's cluttered with unwieldy furniture. There's less area to be cleaned than there used to be — and it's easier to clean.

Add to these advantages the elimination of stairs, walls that contain more storage space than we ever had in the old attic, a step-saving kitchen full of time-saving gadgets, a utility room full of appliances, and — well, Grandma can have her space. For our part, we'll take less of it and have more time — time for comfortable living and relaxation, free from the constant pressure of housekeeping chores.

The Easy Way

EACH day produces new items that are designed to simplify housekeeping. One of these is a one-piece plastic-laminated counter top. The front edge is raised just slightly to prevent spilled liquids from running onto the floor. No metal edging is required since the edge folds neatly under. This new counter top may be applied to old work surfaces or to a new base with nothing more than a few dabs of special bonding cement. Another kitchen time-saver is the portable kitchen cart that wheels about from work center to work center then tucks into its special recess: the kitchen stove when not in use.

Another convenience that will be welcomed by the housekeeper who hates dusting will be an in-the-wall television set. Flip a nearby electrical switch and a large wall picture drops down between the studs to reveal the screen.

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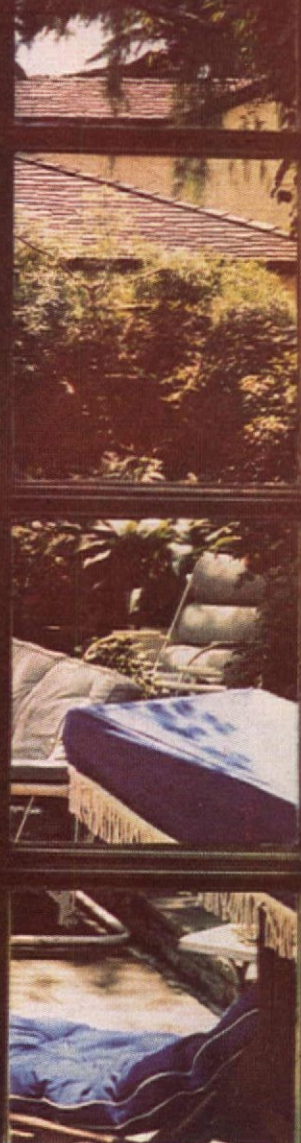
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PERFECT HOME

JULY 1952

MAGAZINE



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

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Loved ones make it a home

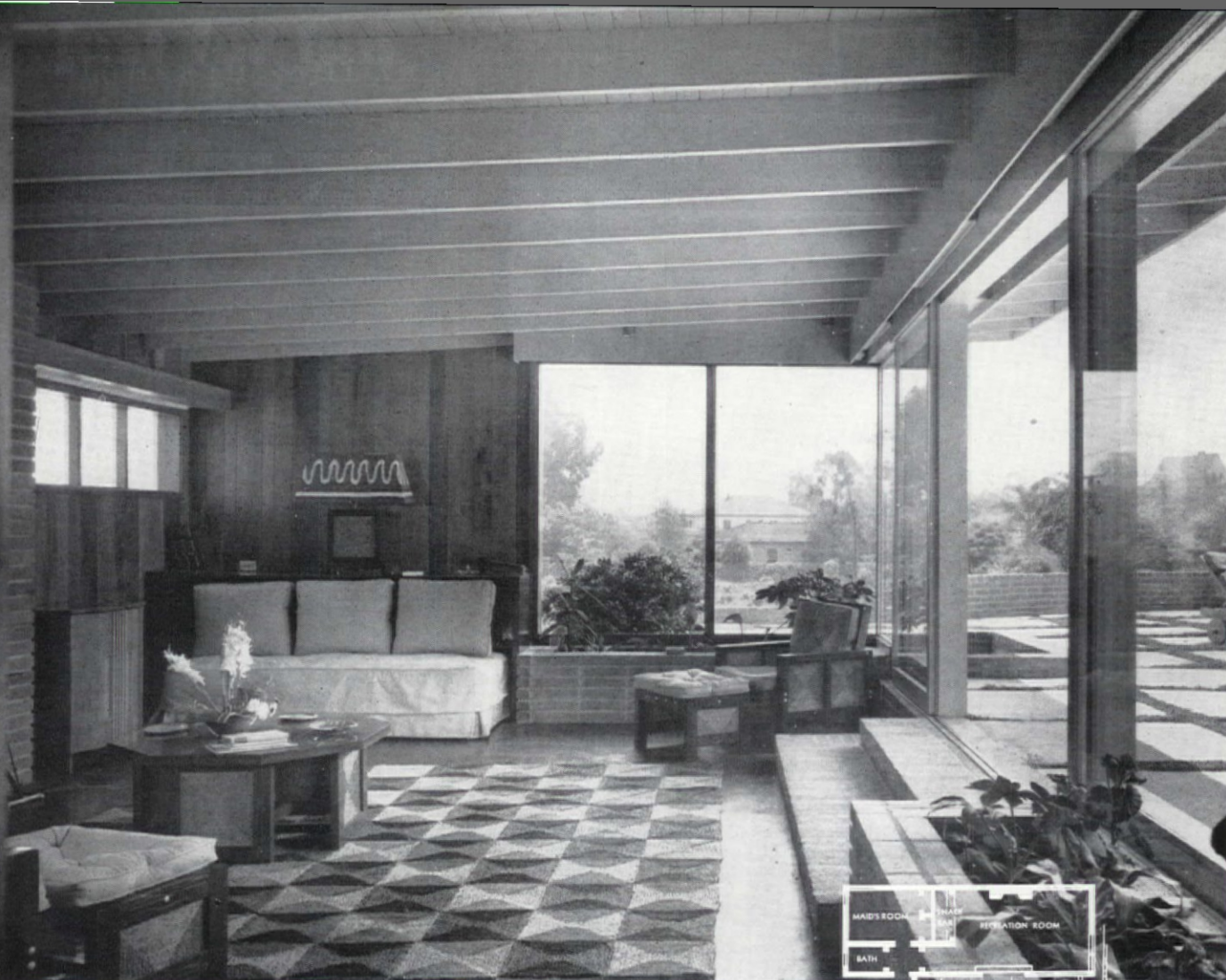
The warm, friendly characters portrayed by actor Jean Hersholt have entered our hearts by way of the screen, our homes through radio. It's no surprise to find that his own home is one of his most precious treasures

WHEN one has lived in the same home — the perfect home, as I call mine — for more than a quarter of a century, he realizes that a good many factors enter into the making of such a home and that it would be exceedingly difficult, if possible at all, to do full justice to these in a few words. But I feel that two of these factors stand head and shoulders above the others. To me they will always be synonymous with home.

The first of these — and no doubt most happy husbands and fathers share my sentiments — is one's family. Walls, roof and furniture make a house, but it is primarily your loved ones who make it a home, the center of a full and happy life. In my instance, it has been a dear wife and son, and more recently a daughter-in-law and grandson, who have breathed into my home the life and warmth, the radiant love, that prevails there. It is they who have made it a home in the truest sense of the word.

In a broader sense, a home to me spells America. As one of foreign birth, I can fully appreciate what it means to have one's home in America, whose very structure, like that of the well-built home, rests upon a foundation of love. Indeed, it is in no small measure America itself which makes yours and mine a home, be it in Beverly Hills, where I live, or in Kalamazoo. Whether you realize it or not, and I think you do, the sunshine which Uncle Sam radiates has a way of penetrating the darkest hallway, of casting a warm, peaceful glow across your room that — well, simply makes it your home, and keeps it that way.

The lure of the out-of-doors is pictured in this patio setting photographed by Max Tatch and in Maynard Parker's garden view we show in color on our front cover



Great window-wall of fun-room overlooks the large enclosed terrace

they added on just for fun



Rush carpeting adds interest to fun-room furniture

It's well nigh impossible to improve the flavor of a sun-ripened strawberry, but who wants to make a full meal of them? It's the same with our day-to-day living. Formality is fine, but not for a full 24 hours of every day. There's a touch of the rowdy in each of us. That's why this house was built in two parts. It was, as you can see from the rooms pictured on the opposite page, a gracious home.

All would have been perfect had the family been willing to confine its activities to bridge or quiet conversation, but like almost every other family, this one, too, was a combination of contradictions. The desire for a truly





Living room corner for conversation

Boy's room has corner view



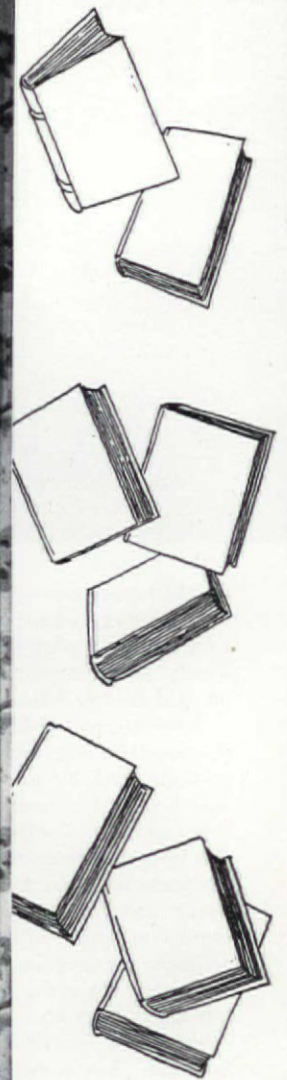
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAYNARD PARKER

lovely house was out of balance with naturally exuberant spirits. There was no place for a ping-pong table, and the lovely shag carpet automatically put an end to any idea of dancing.

Since there was little chance of compromise the suggestion of a fun-room was cheered by all. The plan shows how well it has been worked out. The new addition, pictured on the opposite page, encloses the old terrace and connects with the house via a covered breezeway. A new bedroom and bath were combined with the fun-room in a simple rectangular structure. There's a cement floor for dancing, a radio, television set and piano for sound effects, and a well stocked snack-bar for those oh-so-necessary refreshments.

Dining and living areas look out on a paved terrace toward new addition

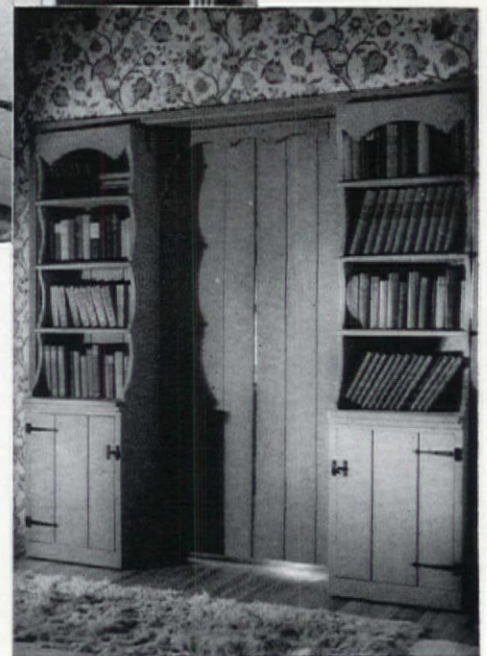




High Wide and Handsome

HAVE you ever tried to enjoy a leisurely family meal while all of your young neighbors waited impatiently in the living room for their first baseman to finish his dessert? If so, you'll appreciate the problem that prompted this remodeling job. A wide doorway between living and dining rooms offered an uninterrupted view of the entire table.

At first it was decided to fill in the opening with bookshelves. Then some ingenious soul suggested mobile sections. Concealed casters under the bottom cupboard sections allow the shelves to swing back into the dining room. Doors open and fold flat against back of bookcases.





LIGHT IN YOUR LIFE

ABOUT one-fourth of the daily energy expended by the average person can be accounted for by activity of the eye mechanism. In other words, we use up a large part of our vitality by just looking at things!

You can see how this is true. Take cooking, for instance. It goes fast and easy if there's plenty of diffused white light on every kitchen work area. On the other hand, getting a meal in a bad light is a strain. Tuckers you out in no time.

A home with perfect lighting for every phase of day-to-day living isn't the rarity it used to be. All that's required is a bit of analysis and planning. Let's go through your home room by room and consider some lighting details that experts have worked out — details that save eyesight, add to convenience, and lend charm and cheer to the setting.

We'll begin with the front stoop. Entrance lighting should serve as a welcome and also a protection. It should illuminate the late caller who rings your bell. Decorative weatherproof fixtures that hold 40-watt bulbs on each side of the door will do this well. If you have just one porch fixture, you'll need at least a 60-watt bulb.

For other outdoor lighting, you can get neat weatherproof floodlights that fasten inconspicuously to the outside of your house. They'll light your drive and the area around your garage. And if you have a badminton, shuffleboard, or horseshoe court, these lights will assure after-sundown action.

Inside, we need spend only a moment on the front hall. Here lighting should be simple and unobtrusive. A ceiling fixture will serve — or indirect lighting from behind valances over door or window. If there's a stairway nearby, remember to place fixtures so they don't look bad from above.

The details of living-room lighting depend on size, shape, and style of the room; so we won't try to lay down hard and fast rules. Valances over doors and windows are a good bet for most homes, however. They give drama to the room and, carefully placed, they can make it seem larger too. Some experts recommend a minimum of 16 feet of valance.

If you have recessed nooks and niches in your living room, these offer opportunities for concealed lighting that will add immeasurably to their interest. And for a really dramatic effect, plan to spotlight planters and pictures.

Make adequate provisions for table and floor lamps — an outlet every 20 running feet is the absolute minimum. Here are some figures that will help you choose lamps:

The ideal height for a floor lamp is 49 inches from the floor to the lower edge of the shade, but an inch one way or the other isn't going to give anybody astigmatism. For reading, a floor lamp should be placed so that the bulb is 26 inches behind your book and 15 inches to the right or left. A swing-arm lamp is excellent for sewing (which requires more light than reading), because you can adjust it so that the bulb is almost directly over your work. A sewing light should be only 12 inches behind the center of your work and 15 inches to the right or left.

If table lamps are to be used for reading, arrange them so that the bulb is 16 inches behind the book and 20 inches to the right or left. The best height for a table lamp is 15

to 17 inches — from the bottom of the shade to the surface of the table. The diameter of the bottom of the shade should be at least 16 inches; the top of the diffusing bowl should measure 8 or 9 inches. All lamps, floor and table, should have either diffusing bowls or indirect-light bulbs.

If you use the living room for television, you've probably learned that the screen is much easier on the eyes if you do *not* black out the room. The important thing here is to *balance* your lighting to avoid bright spots and shadows.

For your dining area, an overhead light is best because it will make your tableware gleam and twinkle like a bride's smile. If you don't want to go in for an old-fashioned crystal chandelier, almost any simple overhead fixture, either close to the ceiling or suspended, will fill the bill. Be sure it's good and bright, however. Eating doesn't require so much light as a lot of other activities, but remember this: Your dining table is the largest table in your house and chances are it's used for everything from parchesi to package wrapping. So choose a fixture that sheds good white light.

In the kitchen you need a central fixture to hold a 150-watt bulb — or its equivalent in fluorescent tubes. This central light is necessary to eliminate contrasts between lighted areas and the rest of the room. A room unevenly lighted tends to tire the eyes. You can't depend on this central light alone, of course, because you'd find yourself standing in your own light at almost every work surface.

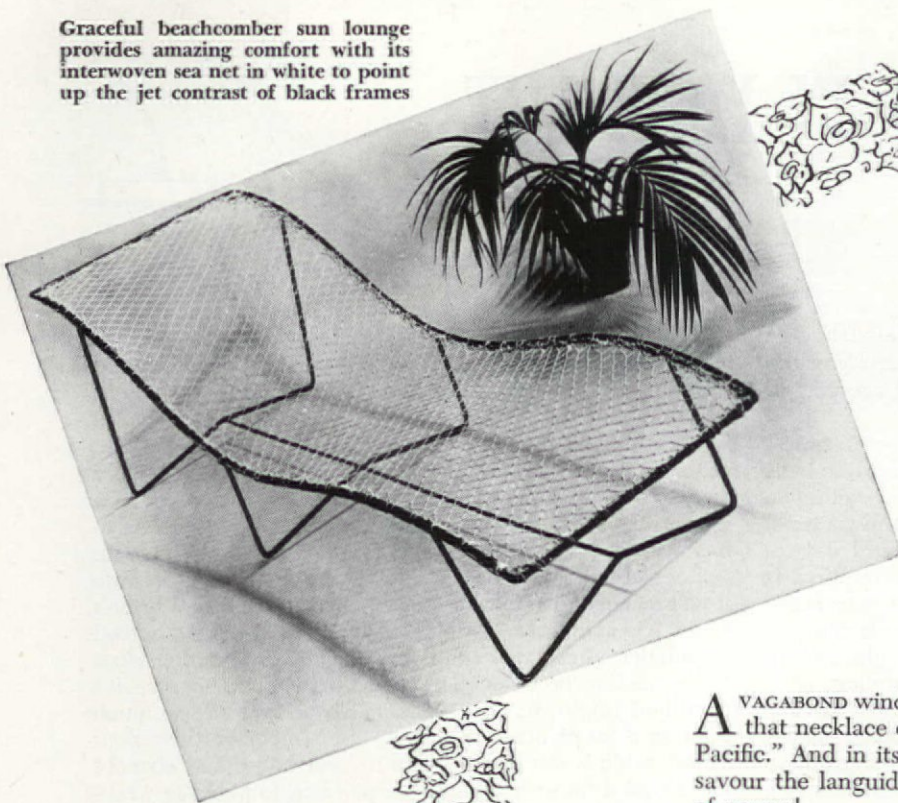
Fluorescent tubes are excellent at ceiling height over the sink; if possible, or they should be concealed — tucked into a recess in the ceiling or hidden by a cornice. A shielded light just below eye-level (58 inches from the floor is the recommended height) is what you need over the range. If you have wall cabinets over your food-preparation area, that's fine. Use them for a shield and install a fluorescent tube under them — back in the corner out of sight.

In the utility room, fixtures can be entirely functional. They should be placed directly over work areas. A plain metal reflector and a good bright bulb are all you need above the laundry trays. Two 25-watt fluorescent tubes above your board or ironer will eliminate twilight-state ironing and assure you of seeing all the wrinkles.

In the bathroom, your chief lighting goal is shadow-free light on a person standing before the mirror. A vertical fluorescent tube on each side of the glass and a fixture directly overhead — 12 to 18 inches from the wall — will do the trick nicely. The overhead fixture is important: it assures an even distribution of light for shaving or make-up. All switches should be away from grounded plumbing.

In bedrooms, you'll want a ceiling fixture of relatively low brilliance (this is especially important in a child's room). Since the present-day bedroom is often a study and a sewing, writing, and reading room, its lighting should be planned accordingly. Put in plenty of wall outlets. Mirrors can be lighted with bracket or trough lights (one on each side) or by twin vanity lamps. For really comfortable reading in bed, put a wall fixture directly over the head of the bed with 30 inches between the lower edge of the shade and the top of the mattress and use an indirect-light bulb.

Graceful beachcomber sun lounge provides amazing comfort with its interwoven sea net in white to point up the jet contrast of black frames



Let's GO nativ

A VAGABOND wind blows eastward to the States at times from *Hawaii Nei* — that necklace of eight enchanting islands known as the "Paradise of the Pacific." And in its wake it leaves a restlessness in some who would like to savour the languid life of the South Seas . . . in a perfectly civilized way of course!

Your tropical dream is nearer than you think — no farther away than your own porch. And if you lack this supplement to your home, any interior room can be transformed into a romantic *lanai* with a little exotic legerdemain.

In Hawaii, the *k'ang* would be your most important piece of furniture. This island version of the sofa that originated in ancient China is usually long and low and definitely designed with an eye to luxurious indolence. You will want yours strewn with the invitation of lush cushions covered in "Pomegranate" or "Papaya" fabric in brown and orange, or in one of the tropical fish or foliage patterns so new this season.

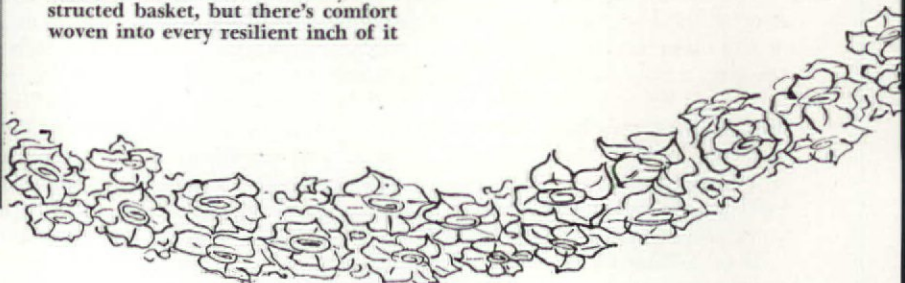
Underfoot will be hemp squares, fiber or lauhala rugs. The latter, hand-woven in Samoa from native lauhala plants, may also be found in nut-toned place mats for table or buffet trays. Any touches of bamboo, straw, or even the rough-textured tapa cloth pounded from bark by the natives will cast an authentic sea-island spell.

If you want to submit without reservation to this mood-making plan there are wall coverings that simulate all three of these tropical materials. Made of molded plastic in a three-dimensional design, they are flexible, easy to apply, and capable of deceiving even a true islander!

Those who have a touch of beachcomber in their souls can take their imaginative sea-spray in lounge chairs of black-painted steel covered with a rugged sort of fishing net . . . and pray that the goddess Pele who watches over *Hawaii Nei* from her Kilauea volcano won't be overcome at the sight

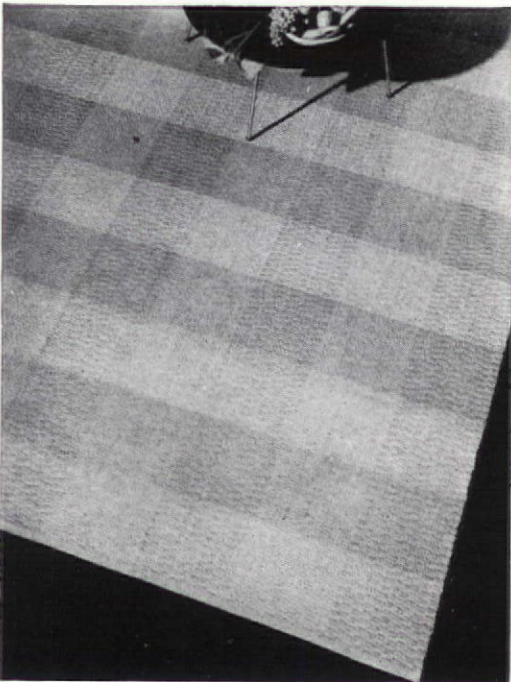


True, it looks like a sturdily constructed basket, but there's comfort woven into every resilient inch of it





A place for conjuring up dreams of sea-swept shores, moonlit mountains, and valleys of spun-gold sun. Every curve of the sofa, cushioned with four inches of foam rubber, beckons the lazy loungeur. Coffee table in outrigger design matches the drawer fronts of end tables with an exotic new material resembling the mottled shell of the giant south-seas tortoise

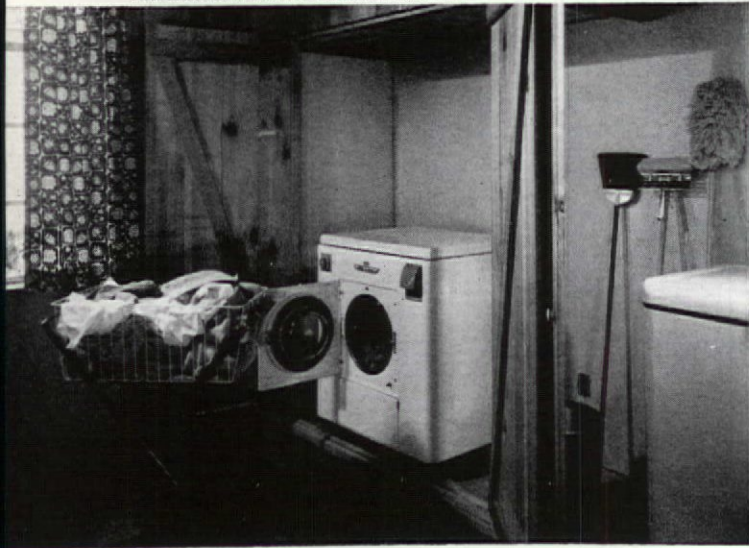


Reversible fiber rug with a native-craft look, but it was woven on American machines! Three shades of beige define the interesting foot-square rush blocks

BY ELEANORE PAGE HAMILTON



Black iron lamp in simple tripod form is topped with a shade of paper parchment covered with native grass cloth — laminated for permanence. Lends atmosphere to modern lanais



Convertible Corner

Three different rooms? . . . Look again. These pictures are all of the same corner of a room that leads a triple life, saves space and steps



PLANNED to save space in a small home, this just-off-the-kitchen room would do credit to a designer of stage sets — so quickly and easily can it be converted from one phase of its triple life to another.

First, it's a dining room where family and guests can eat in a cozy rustic atmosphere. Whisk aside table and chairs and — presto! It's a playroom — just the place for toddlers while Mother's at work in the kitchen. A peek behind the two sets of double doors reveals its third function as that of utility room — who'd have guessed that those handsome panelled walls concealed washer and freezer, along with plenty of space for mops and brooms?

Weather

STAY 'WAY FROM MY DOOR

THE classic complaint that nobody does anything about the weather need no longer be literally true for the home owner who plans his landscaping wisely. We can't tell you how to rearrange the seasons to suit your mood, but we do say that strategic landscaping can take some of the bite out of severe weather.

Take a look at the windbreak in Figure 1, for instance. In many parts of the country, harsh winter winds and cool summer breezes come from different directions. A curved line of trees will keep away the freezing blasts but, come dog days, it can trap caressing zephyrs. If a windbreak reduces a wind from 12 to 3 miles per hour, at 32 degrees F. it will take only half the amount of fuel to heat your house during the period of wind. The success of a windbreak depends, of course, on getting it in exactly the right place. Get expert advice before you plant one — from the weather bureau, your nurseryman, or both.

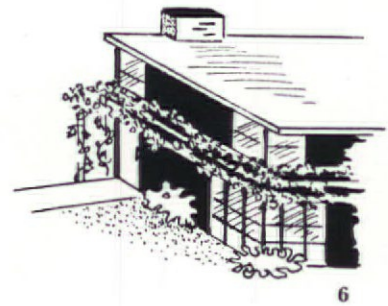
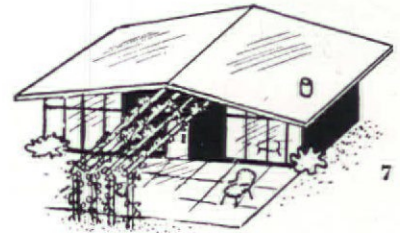
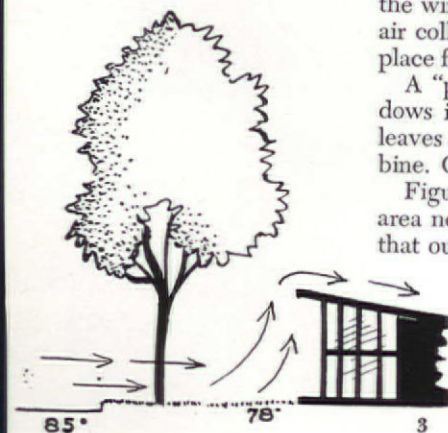
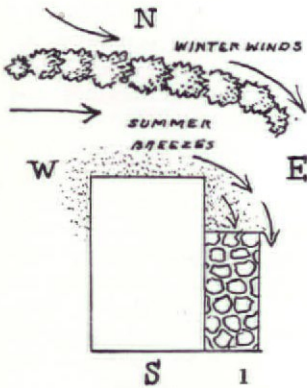
Of course, landscaping isn't always a matter of planting. Sometimes it's a matter of where to place the house. If you have a lot graced with a big tree, plan to build where it will shade not only your outdoor living area but also the house. Studies show that a tree in the right place (see Figure 2) can reduce roof temperatures 20 to 40 degrees. The right place is to the west of the house where the tree will shelter walls and roof during the early afternoon.

Lots of lawn around your home will make it *look* cooler and really *be* cooler. Grass is cooler than bare ground or pavement. Take a look at Figure 3, which pictures an actual situation where temperature readings were taken. At the hottest part of the day, the grassy area on the shady side of the tree was found to be 78 degrees, and the barren area 85. Even when the sun struck both areas evenly, the grass was cooler than the bare ground. Following this same line of thought, we conclude that a walk of small squares with lawn between them (Figure 4) is cooler than solid concrete.

Figure 5 is a bit on the theoretical side, but it illustrates a principle worth taking into consideration. The home is built at the rear of a plot that slopes downward toward the front gate. Cold air flows downward and will drain off through the open gate, not collecting around the house in the winter. Close the gate on a sultry evening and the cool air collects at the lower end of the property, makes a nice place for a picnic.

A "plant awning" is shown in Figure 6. It shades windows in summer, allows sun to enter in winter when the leaves are gone. Grape vines might be good here. Or wood-bine. Or colorful flowers.

Figure 7 shows a pergola that makes a delightfully cool area next to the house — a good spot to set up a table for that outdoor dinner — or just to lounge of a sultry Sunday.





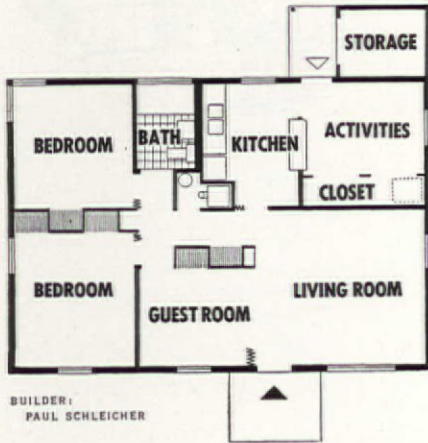
WHAT'S YOUR DREAM OF HOME?

WHEN we were very small our dream of home was fashioned around the gingerbread house that held such allure for lonely Hansel and Gretel. It was rich in sweet lacy fretwork, had a cobbled chocolate walk and a frosted door stood slightly ajar to coax the curious inside.

Today's dream is not so colorful but it is far more practical. And every bit as exciting. It concentrates on details beyond the inviting entrance.

There's not a hint of superfluous frill in the detailing, but check carefully and you'll find plenty of real surprises like the expandable living-guest room and the large storage for inevitable household extras. There are many conveniences that break slowly on the eye, like the wonderful plastic counter tops, the easy-to-open kitchen cupboards, the sound-barring closets between bedrooms, the well-planned kitchen that also holds an efficient laundry, and even more unusual, the large activities room with its wall-wide storage closet. (You'll see it pictured on page 10.)

Yes, our ideas have certainly changed. Peppermint paths no longer lure us but we can grow misty-eyed over the practical features of a plastic cork floor. We feel greater delight over the inch-thick, aluminum-foil-backed insulation blanket hidden in our walls or the baseboard heating ducts than we were ever able to feel over the doom of the crafty witch. But we're not at all unusual — for a home such as this fits both the dream fabric and the budgets of young families.



Warm colors give the combination living and guest room unusual visual continuity. The walls are deep beige while the plastic cork floor is deep cocoa brown. Salmon pink and golden yellow are used liberally as accent colors





Guest room doubles as a television room with folding plastic doors shutting out activities in the adjoining living room

Kitchen and laundry are combined in this cheery room. Sunny chartreuse walls are a fine foil for leaf-patterned curtains

Furniture is used interchangeably throughout the house. Chairs are used singly or lined up to form one sofa-length unit



BY
DONNA LOUIS
NICHOLAS

BY BRUCE ALLEN

HIGH WINDOWS MEAN MORE WALL SPACE

EVER since the idea of large picture windows caught on, the ratio between usable wall space and glassed areas has been getting more and more out of balance.

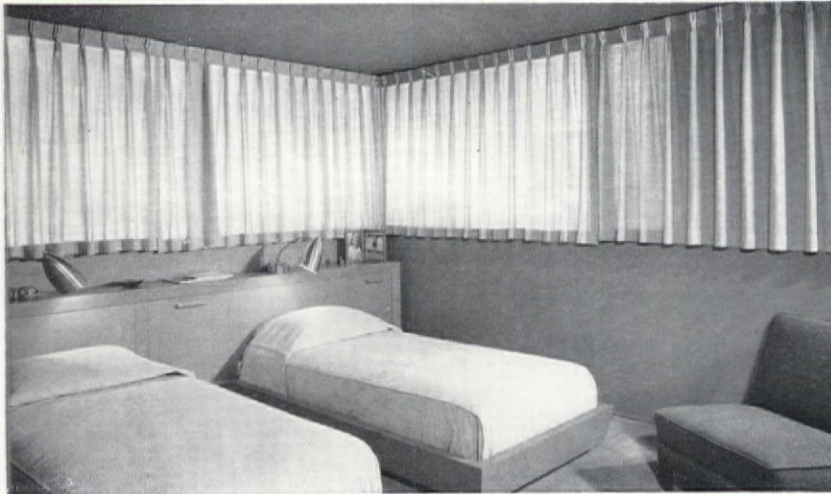
In spite of the fact that one famous architect advocated a house with no exterior windows, most of us are too dedicated to an abundance of light to give up a single foot of glass in favor of the wall space that would simplify furniture arrangement.

As a result, we too often have to back the sofa against the picture window or set a chair smack in front of a fine view.

Each of the rooms pictured here has more than the average amount of light and ventilation — and of usable wall space, too! This has been brought about by high windows running well above the top line of most furniture.



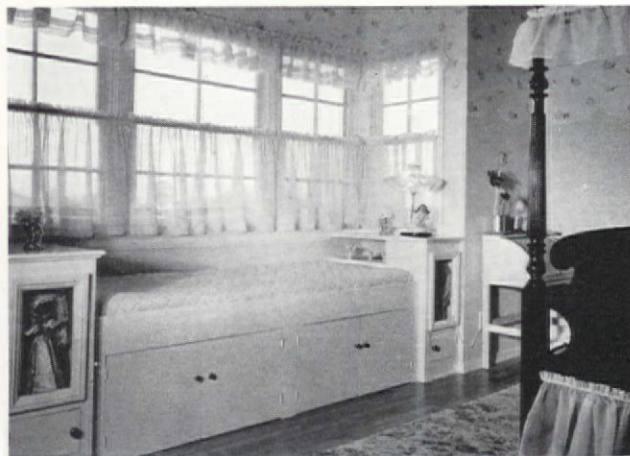
PHOTOGRAPHS BY CLEVELAND, BAER, FEIN AND WARD



Curtains of high corner windows have been carried on across end of room to give appearance of wall-wide ribbon of high windows



High windows in the two rooms above allow much more flexible furniture arrangement and assure a far greater sense of privacy



Short windows in bedroom bay have full-tucked cottage curtain skirts. A built-in bed and deep toy cupboards fit beneath windows



These just-under-the-ceiling windows counteract the vertical lines of the fireplace. Bookshelves repeat strong horizontal sweep

ELEVATOR TABLES



A TABLE that grows or shrinks to fit your purpose may seem like something out of *Alice in Wonderland*, but here it is — another modern convenience. The top photograph shows it at coffee-table height. Its mahogany top, widely banded with rosewood and inlaid with an ebony line, makes it a strikingly handsome piece of furniture for anybody's living room.

At mealtime (second photograph), you need make only a simple adjustment to bring it to the right height for fireside dining. What's more, this convenient piece of furniture can be locked at any of six different heights.

The third picture shows a smaller model set at chairside height. Twenty-three inches in diameter, it's as versatile as its big sister, elevates to a small dining table or a game table that's just right for two.

Cool attic = cool house

MORE and more home owners are finding relief from sizzle-and-wilt weather by installing attic fans. The effectiveness of the device varies somewhat with the house — depending on size, location, and general plan — but if you have serious trouble keeping your house cool, it may pay you to consider a fan plan.

Here's why your home heats up till you feel like a brick in a kiln: Hot air collects in the attic, can't get out, and so gets hotter and hotter as the sun beats down on the roof. In some cases attic heat has been found to be as much as 40 degrees higher than outside temperature. When night falls, the air outside usually cools off quickly; but the hot, dead air in the attic cools only a little. This is likely to cause the rooms below to stay stifling all night.

An attic fan changes all that. When the sun goes down and the mercury begins to go down a bit, too, you flick a switch and the fan goes to work. It draws the stale downstairs air up through a louvered opening in the ceiling and forces the steaming air out of the attic through exhaust openings. Fresh air is drawn into the house through doors and

windows. The success of the operation naturally depends on how cool the outside air is; but even on the stickiest of nights the air you bring into your house will at least be gently moving and you'll get a better night's rest than you would without the fan. In the morning the house will be cool and it will stay cool much longer than it would if it started the day under a still-hot attic. And — most important to summer comfort — the air will be thoroughly fresh.

There are several makes and models of attic fans, most of them now developed to the point where they do their work quietly and efficiently. One that we happen to be familiar with is set on a heavy rubber base and makes less noise than a purring kitten. It's only three feet square and a scant foot and a half high; so it will fit easily into the most cramped attic. The shuttered ceiling opening is automatic — opens when you switch on the fan — and has a "weatherstrip" construction that eliminates drafts when it's closed. Installation of the fan is easy, economical, and accomplished without mess — the ceiling opening is fitted in place without need for re-papering, plastering, or painting.

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Sometimes it isn't so easy as that to figure comparative values. Take the money you put into a new home, for instance — or into repairing or remodeling. Your assurance of full value depends entirely on your dealing with firms that insist on conscientious workmanship, the best materials, friendly service. The PERFECT HOME family listed below consists only of such firms. They deserve your patronage. Your home deserves their craftsmanship.

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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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