

PERFECT HOME

MAGAZINE

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BY AARON COPLAND

Always in My Thoughts



THE perfect home is still ahead of me. If I have my way it will be a kind of composer's dream house. The center of interest will not be the easy chair, or the play room, or the dining alcove, but the studio. It will be sound-proofed and air-conditioned and have a majestic, ebony piano in it, and a work table from which the eye can look out on a broad expanse of rolling hills.

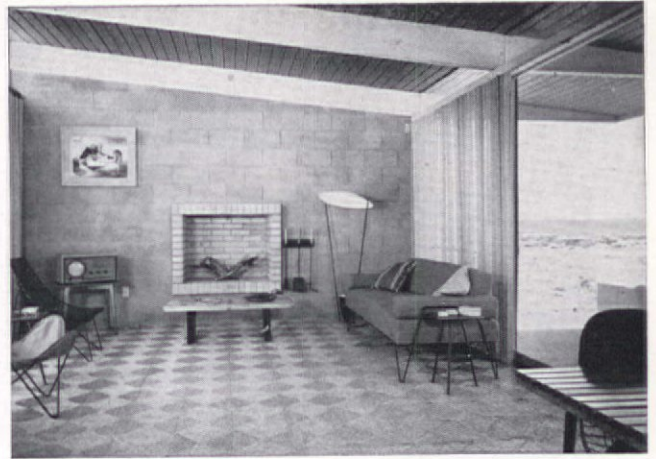
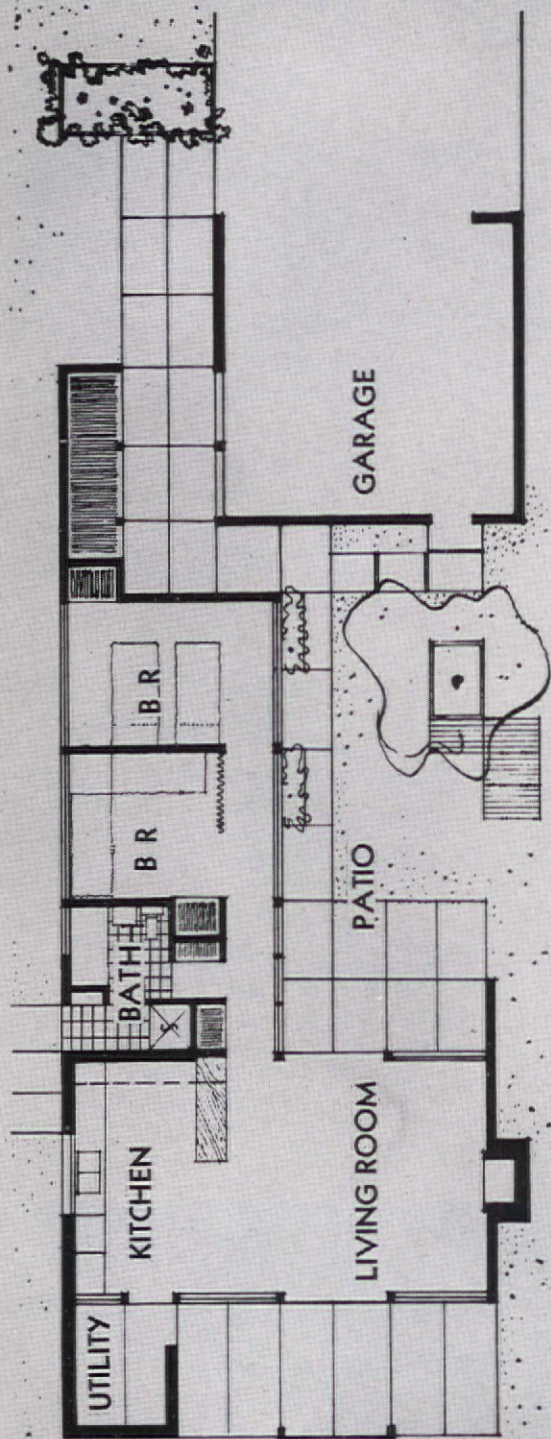
To a free-lance composer like myself, the perfect home is a kind of mirage. Like generals or correspondents, composers without permanent jobs move about a good deal. But since we most appreciate the things we *don't* have, I can honestly say that the ideal of the perfect home has been always in my thoughts. I had a notion of what it might be like through four years spent in an enchanting house on the left bank of the Hudson. It had an upstairs veranda, New Orleans style, with a truly sensational view up and down the river. I left it for the wing of a beautiful villa on the Janiculum, overlooking Rome.

There is something to be said for the nomadic life. If I think back to the places I've called home — the one room Maisonette in Hollywood; the reconditioned barn near Tanglewood; the long, low adobe ranchito in Tepoztlan, Mexico; the bungalow on the Minnesota lake at Bemidji; or the studios, lofts and apartments in Rio, Paris or New York — I can see that each added its special zest to life. And at least I saw places. All that was lacking, really, was a pleasant place to come home to.

One thing all these living quarters had in common was a piano in the main room. Without the possibility of making music, any home seems like a dull spot to me. It isn't that I want to hear music all the time, but it's a great comfort to have it around at moments when you do want to hear it. The house in Tangier, for example, seemed singularly empty until I saw the piano approaching, strung across the back of two sturdy mules. True, it wasn't much of an instrument to play on, but merely having it there made the place seem like home. To my mind, the perfect home contains the perfect piano — not one of those new-fangled spindly things, but a rich-toned, vibrant instrument, whose mere presence induces music.

Yes, the perfect home is still ahead of me, but not too far ahead, I hope. In fact, it's the next thing on my agenda. Aside from being a pleasure in itself, I can think of only one other requirement: it must be easy to leave, and delightful to come back to.

Outstanding American Composer, critic and author of the recently released book, "Music and Imagination"



BANTAM HOUSE

EVEN though it's a bantam, this house is a paragon of convenience and of bright, comfortable arrangements. Careful planning has put every inch of space to work. What's more, the absence of all but casual boundary lines gives the place an air of spaciousness that, according to the tape measure, it doesn't deserve.

Kitchen and living-dining areas are merely opposite ends of one long room — the only division is a coffee counter. The bath is next to the kitchen, an arrangement that saves a lot in plumbing costs, and is entered from a small hall that leads on to the sleeping area. Folding screens convert this last space into two private bedrooms when desired.

A glance at the pictures will reveal the extreme simplicity of construction that kept costs to rock bottom. Wise use of color gives character to the smart, simple exterior.

ARCHITECT MILTON CAUGHEY





PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT CLEVELAND

OF THIS AND THAT

TAKE that tongue out of your cheek. When your building contractor tells you that *plaster is one of the longest wearing wall surfaces* you can select for your home, he has plenty of evidence to back it up. Practically adolescent in the time scheme are the walls of the great Casa Grande monument in our Southwest. The fingers of unknown Indians smoothed native clay over them sometime between 1300 and 1450 A.D. Hand prints are still clear though exposed to desert heat and rains for nearly 600 years before they were covered by a great metal canopy.

Older are the walls of the pyramids of Giza at Cairo, Egypt. Through thousands of years the richly decorated plastered walls still retain their smooth sturdy surface.

Doorways in your home should be at least two feet, eight inches wide. Most of us can squeeze through an opening no more than eighteen inches wide but unless you intend to sit, sleep and eat on orange crates, plan openings large enough to let you move furniture in and out of rooms without removing doors or window frames.

Those good-looking *white asbestos shingles do become soiled.* The stain caused by water flowing over metal flashing is particularly disfiguring but can be removed by the following process. If copper caused the discoloration, have your roofing man try covering it with a pasty mixture of one part sal ammoniac and four parts of whiting with enough household ammonia to make a paste. Several applications may be necessary for complete removal.

Rust stains will yield to a paste mixture of one part sodium citrate in six parts of water and six parts of commercial glycerine mixed with powdered whiting.

These mixtures are spread on thickly over the stain and allowed to dry. If the stain still remains after this treatment, it may be painted with rubber base masonry paint. Ask your paint dealer for a clear metal finish to prevent further damage.

The daily wear on the average home wall can be pretty rough in rooms like the kitchen, utility room and bath. It can add up to an annual redecorating job.

For walls that will take real abuse many builders are *using regular asphalt tiles.* They can be applied to any smooth surface, dry wall or plaster, plywood or hardboard. All paper should of course be removed and any large holes or cracks filled with plaster. Unpainted plaster walls should be primed with wall tile primer. Your tile man will tack a level guide strip to the wall about seven inches above the bottom of the lowest tiles. This will prevent the first row of tiles from slipping before the mastic sets.

Starting at a door casing he will work along this horizontal line until a row of tiles reaches across the wall. He applies them just as he would to a floor. Tiles may be bent to go around corners or pipes by heating them front and back.

You might also consider this wall treatment for the entrance hall, laundry and children's room. You will have walls that are colorful, easy to clean and good-looking; and you will avoid periodic-repair headaches.

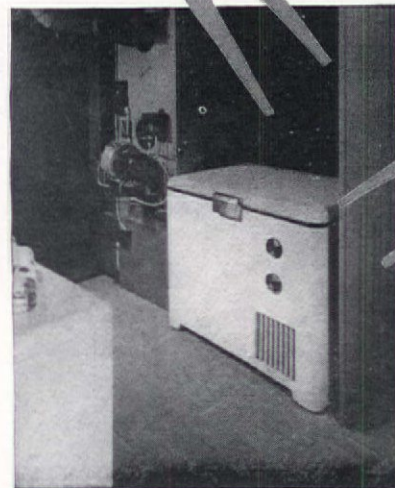
You are lucky that you can ask your paint contractor for his *best grade of varnish* without having to be concerned with its ingredients. Many of them come from coal and have almost unpronounceable names. A synthetic resin is made of phthalic anhydride which in turn was made by oxidizing naphthalene. Coal combined with hydrogen and oxygen is a source of methanol which in turn is changed into formaldehyde, one of the important ingredients in synthetic resins. Yes, isn't it simple to ask for "One gallon of your best varnish, please"?

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOWELL WARD AND ASSOCIATES



ON THE

Laundry List



EVEN with automatic washers, automatic dryers and soaps that will get clothes whiter than white, somebody still has to wash the dirty linen. So we might just as well make the routine as effortless as possible.

Our thinking about the location of the laundry has changed almost as much as the equipment itself. The basement laundry originated because the process was both damp and disorderly. This is no longer true, so equipment may be placed wherever it is most convenient. Why, indeed, must we hide a laundry underground when it can have the same light and convenience that you like for your other work areas?

Probably today's most popular laundry is the one that is planned in conjunction with the kitchen. This is the natural household work center and with localized equipment it is easy for the housewife to complete other projects while the clothes are sudsing. No need to trudge up and down stairs with clothes baskets. Doorbell and telephone are nearby. Supervision of the children is simplified.

In the larger two-story house the second floor is a logical location since most laundry originates there. The space should, if possible, be in or back-to-back with the bathroom to take advantage of single plumbing lines. There might be a clothing hamper with two doors (one in the hall the other in the laundry), a waist-high table for spotting and sorting, or a portable cart. The wall between laundry and hall might well be a two-sided cupboard with doors opening into both areas. Sewing equipment, including the sewing machine, could be conveniently located here. Either a portable or standing model will tuck away into a wall cupboard when not in use.

Since the utility room has replaced the basement in many houses, the heater and hot water tanks are now located in this ground-floor space. Many of them are large enough to house the laundry, too, or may be expanded to do so. In warm climates all laundry facilities may be assigned to the garage or carport. Units should be enclosed in protective cupboards if they do not have a room to themselves.

In most existing homes with basements it is still practical to keep the laundry in its traditional place; but with new cupboards, sorting tables or bins, better lights and color, it will be a far cry from that dusty corner it used to be.

The laundry should be planned just like a factory, with soiled clothes coming in one end and passing along the production line to emerge fresh, clean, and ready for use.

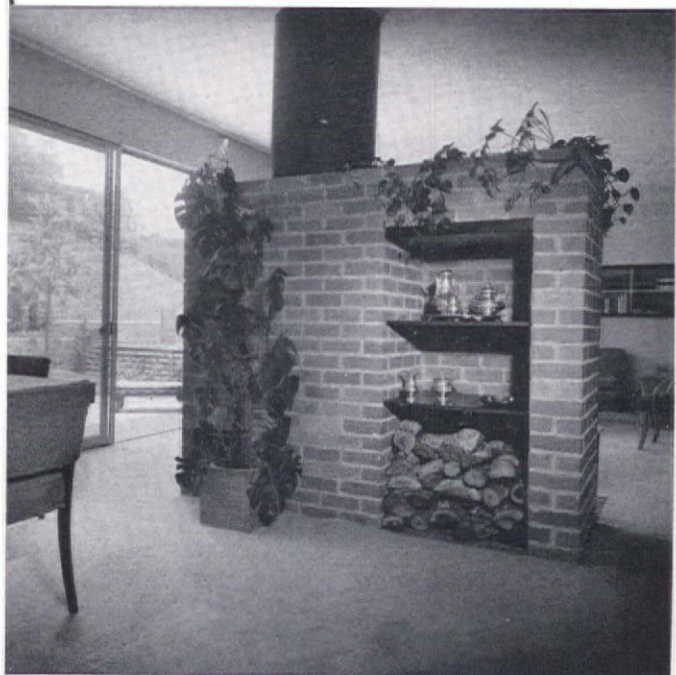
When planning the wiring of any house, consideration should be given to future appliances. A new dryer or ironer may dangerously overload a circuit that has been planned to handle no more than a washer. The cost of augmenting minimum requirements at the time of the original wiring job will be far less than rewiring at a later time. Additional electrical aids you might want to add later are a radio, a clock, a hot plate, and perhaps an electric percolator.

"Sparkling and bright" should apply to the place as well as the product of your laundry. If yours is an above-grade setting, adequate lighting fixtures and sun-inviting windows should be teamed with washable walls in a restful or gay color. We're partial to sunshine yellow, crisp blue or bright coral. The room pictured here, however, employs a dark color to make a very limited space look larger. Charcoal black walls and ceiling blend into nothingness behind the sparkle of white enamel appliances and brilliant prints.



Right about face

HERE'S a fireplace that makes a piker out of two-faced Janus. It's a fireplace, a wall, a planter, a wood box, and a storage compartment — count them. This one handsomely styled unit functions as all five. See how completely it screens the view of the dining table? See those green leaves trailing down over the bricks? A metal-lined recess borders the top. It's quite evident that the wood box is capacious enough to hold fuel for many cozy before-the-fire evenings, and that the handy shelves above it function as a service counter or for storing china or silver.





RAISE THE ROOF

Double decker? Two levels are better than one if your home is cramped for space. You'll be surprised how simple and economical it is to raise a roof. This is a maneuver that calls for the skill of an architect. He will jack up the roof, extend the side walls, to meet it, and practically double your floor space. This is a particularly happy solution if your lot prevents horizontal expansion



ADD A BAY

The smaller your quarters, the more each extra foot will be appreciated. A bay window may not sound like a great addition; but if it is scaled right, you will be able to move your sofa, the dining table or the television set completely back out of the room



YOU CAN MAKE IT BIGGER

Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? During the next few months we plan to feature many home-stretching ideas that should lay this dusty old saying neatly to rest.

There are countless ways the old house can keep pace with the elastic needs of a growing family. Several of them do involve major remodeling while others are no more than a day's work for one carpenter.

Each of them will add much needed living or storage space

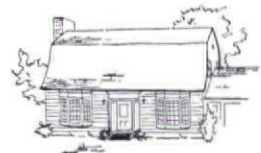


SPREAD YOUR WINGS

New England homes are charming, spacious and more private because of their many meandering wings. Many small homes might follow their example by expanding along with the families they shelter. Almost any plan can be enlarged if there is sufficient land. The home pictured here added a wing with two bedrooms and a bath

SPROUT DORMERS

A Gloomy Gus of an attic can be given light and an optimistic future by adding a pair of dormers. You can have a pleasant new bedroom and bath, a large family room for games, or a most congenial place to entertain

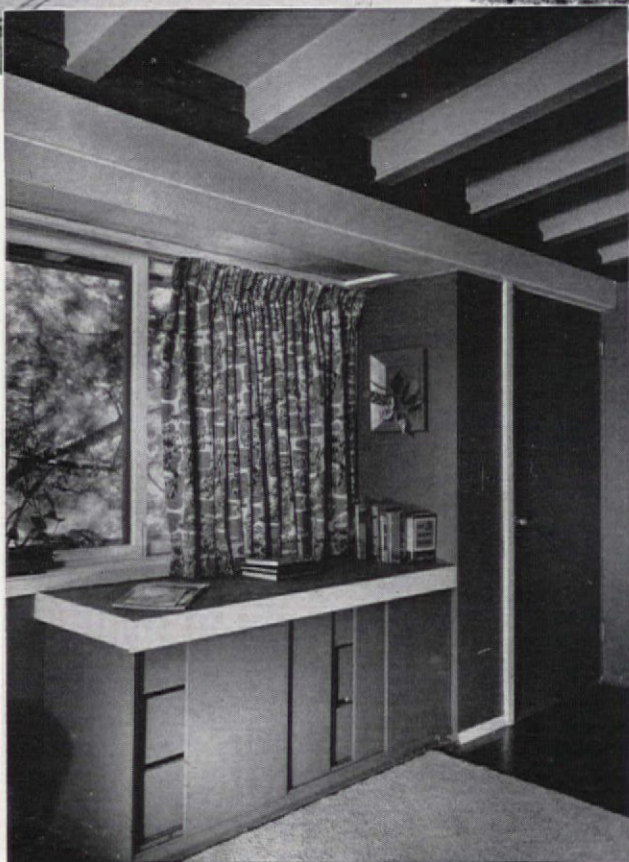


BUILD A STORAGE WALL

Consolidate storage space in one unit. Those out-of-season items can all safely be stowed away in a storage wall such as this one that was built along one side of a carport. It is almost three feet deep and twenty-one feet long. That adds up to a lot of storage space. It is divided into cupboards, drawers, shelves and even a cedar-lined nook for clothes and bedding



BY DONNA NICHOLAS



Built-in storage cabinet near front door fills corner efficiently
Wide overhang, glass eaves, and fin extension give style to the exterior of this small house and eliminate boxlike appearance

House with

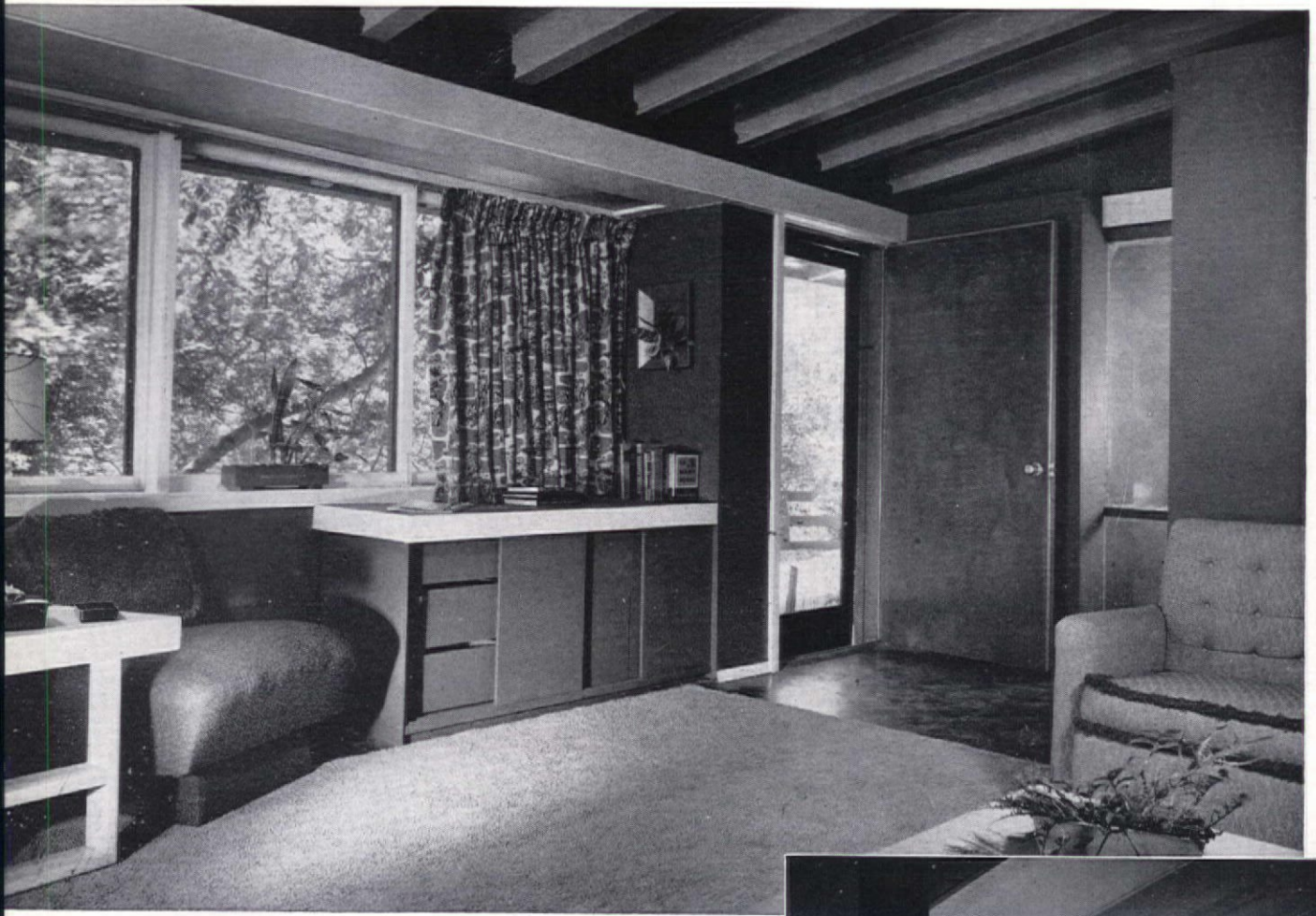
This house is only 16 by 28 feet over-all and it's planned like a studio apartment. Doesn't even have a bedroom — relies on a living-room alcove for sleeping space. In fact, you might call it a "minimum" house, but a livable, attractive, comfortable minimum — object: expansion.

A low roof with a big overhang, a bay window under glassed eaves, and a sheltered entrance give style to the exterior and prevent a pillbox aspect. Inside, open planning and beamed ceiling (rafters showing) help offset the small dimensions, give an illusion of more space than is actually here.

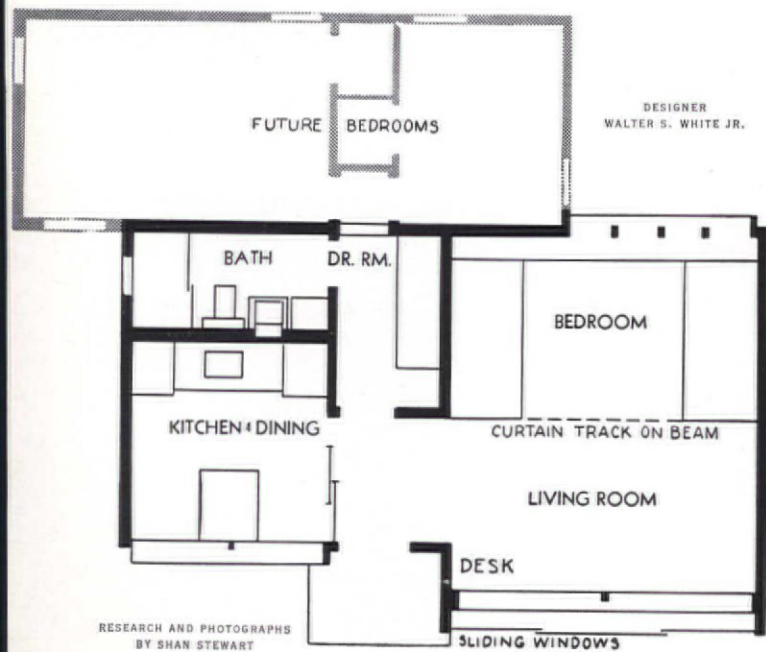
The living room is 14 by 16 feet with sleeping area that can be shut off by a curtain. The bathroom is backed up to the kitchen to save plumbing costs, is adjoined by a dressing room with an ample eight-foot wardrobe. Kitchen AND dining area occupy a nine-by-nine-foot space.

The house has been carefully planned for easy expansion. New rooms can be added without knocking out walls because cutting a door in the outer wall of the dressing room will neatly convert it to a hallway that leads to the new wing.

So, even though it's a bit compressed, this floor plan is a good one for the couple who want a home *now* and are perfectly willing to start their venture with the minimum.



FUTURE



Dining area of kitchen is tiny, but it's cozy and has a lovely view
Top, this shot from sleeping area across living room shows how every inch of space was utilized in this "minimum" house



What's up
below?

The brick fireplace in this basement retreat is an invitation to barbecue dinners, as well as to quiet hours of building dreams in the flickering light of flames caressing forest-fragrant logs



Vertical boards in barn red make an artistic background for the mellow glow of antique pine furnishings and early American type fabrics. The floor is covered with brown asphalt tile that adds to the colonial air

WHEN our grandparents went down cellar — bless 'em! — it was usually a descent into a dank world of coal-dusty, musty odors. Of course, there were compensating attractions like Grandma's mustard pickles and Grandpa's elderberry wine; but these were quickly retrieved from their shelves and hustled above ground level.

What miracles have been wrought by automatic heat and modern ventilation! Today's basement goes by another name: TV room, game room, recreation room, or whatever — depending on the owners' individual way of life. But no matter how you consider it, an artistic basement is a completely satisfying home improvement. It not only increases the value of your property, but it preserves your house by controlling dampness. Besides, the space it adds takes care of all sorts of overflow: teen-age hops, little theatre rehearsals, over-night guests.

These traditional rooms could take their place proudly anywhere in today's house.

A little goes a long, long way

A little ingenuity adds a lot to the convenience of any kitchen. Witness these five ideas — simple? — but wouldn't you give a lot to find any one of them in your own kitchen some fine morning?



The kitchen counter, left, has the kind of illumination we would like to see in all home work centers. Looks complicated but it is just a battery of bulbs set into an above-the-cupboard frame. Diffusing glass spreads the light

Around the corner goes the counter at the right and it forms a snack bar for two. The comfortable plastic-topped stools repeat the shape and color of cut-outs used for door pulls

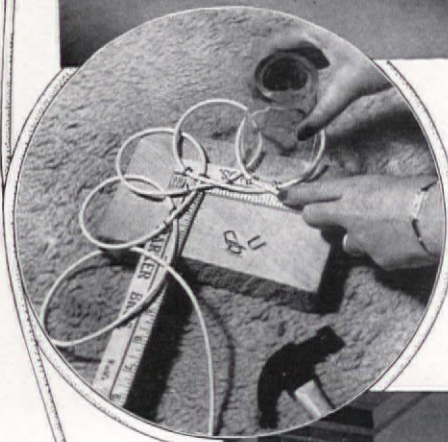
Ideas for supplementary storage space are always welcome. Below are three as versatile as your imagination. First is a slide-away shelf for the electric mixer. It operates just like the type-writer shelf of an office desk. It hides an ungainly appliance yet keeps it always ready for use. There's an electrical outlet inside the cupboard

Second, mobile bins store vegetables right along side the kitchen sink where they are prepared. These ventilated bins hold a bounteous supply

Third, another set of three bins for vegetables. These tip out at an angle, have ventilated metal liners that are removable and a breeze to suds out



Let's put
our heads
together

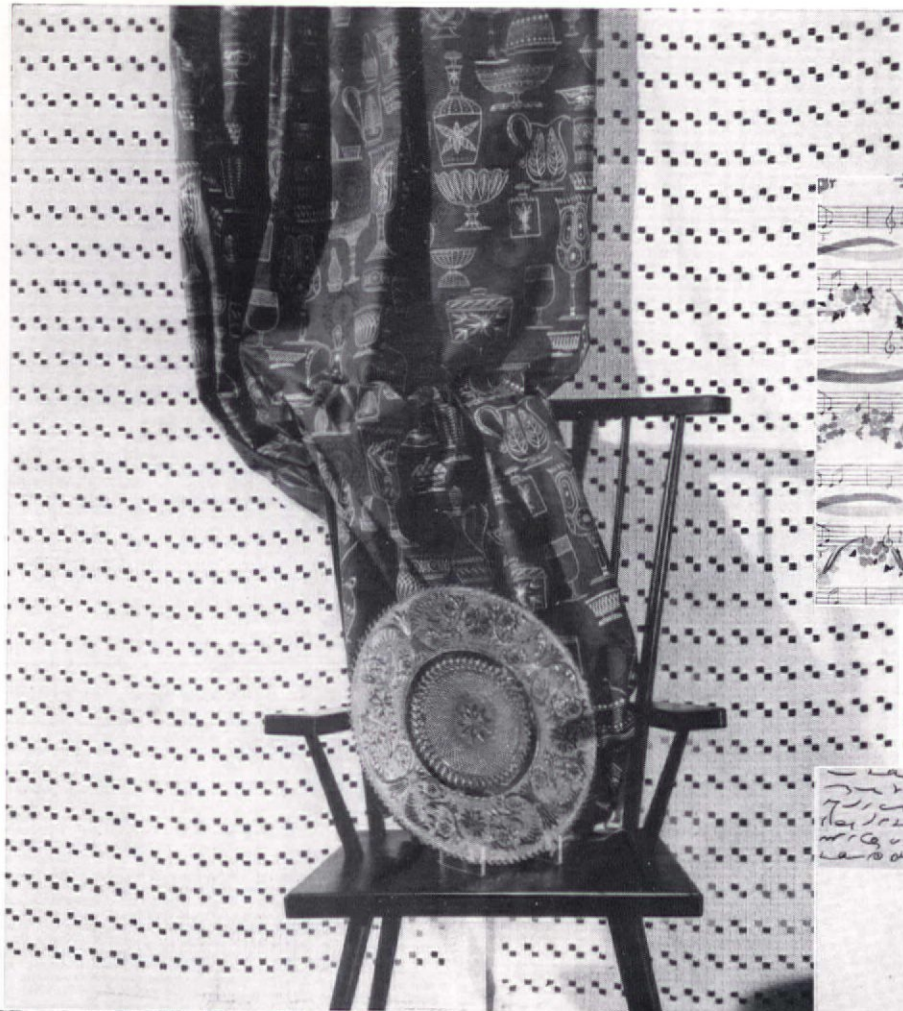


TWIN beds can be neatly unified by sandwiching an extra headboard between them, (above left). Padded covering of boards is shantung-type rayon casement cloth in turquoise to match the spreads. Walls are a rich cocoa. White bedside table is an old-fashioned library table cut down.

The handsome white scrollwork that outlines the headboards is easily made with white plastic clothesline, heavy type. It can be nailed directly to the back of the board or to strips of light wood, such as pieces of a yardstick, which are then nailed to the backs of the headboards. Small photograph, (left) shows how to get the circles even by winding the clothesline around a drinking glass.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SHAN STEWART



◀ Collectors will be charmed with this new percale fabric — called “Sandwich Glass.” The design pictures frosty-lace pressings of antique Boston glassware



▲ The lilting lines of a musical score make a spritely thing of glazed chintz

The heart of a poet might well be intrigued with the contemporary look of verses in shorthand on spray cloth ▼



Injuns ‘n’ owls ‘n’ alphabets on chintz say that this home’s hobby is children who love whimsical design

Hereby Hangs a Hobby

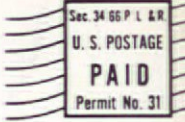
HOME, someone said, is a place to hang your heart. It is a pliant place that takes the impress of your moods until it fits you like a glove. When you close your door against storm or darkness or strife, you make *your* world within a world. Here, everything relating to your activities becomes a reassurance.

Home is fun because you make it so. And the expression of your tastes can be everywhere — even in such tangible form as the pattern of your draperies. If your dreams go off like will-o-the-wisps to hover over a campfire in the northwoods, tell of your longing with a print of pine boughs. If Grandma’s treasures tug at your heart, reveal it pridefully in Pennsylvania primitives or documentary scenes of an early America.

Your hobby will be easy to find in print this year. The fingers of designers have meandered up and down the corridors of time for drapery patterns that weave the exciting story of *your* life.

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The PERFECT HOME family listed on this page is made up of firms that handle only the best merchandise and insist on the highest standards of craftsmanship. These firms of character deserve your patronage. Your home deserves their services.

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