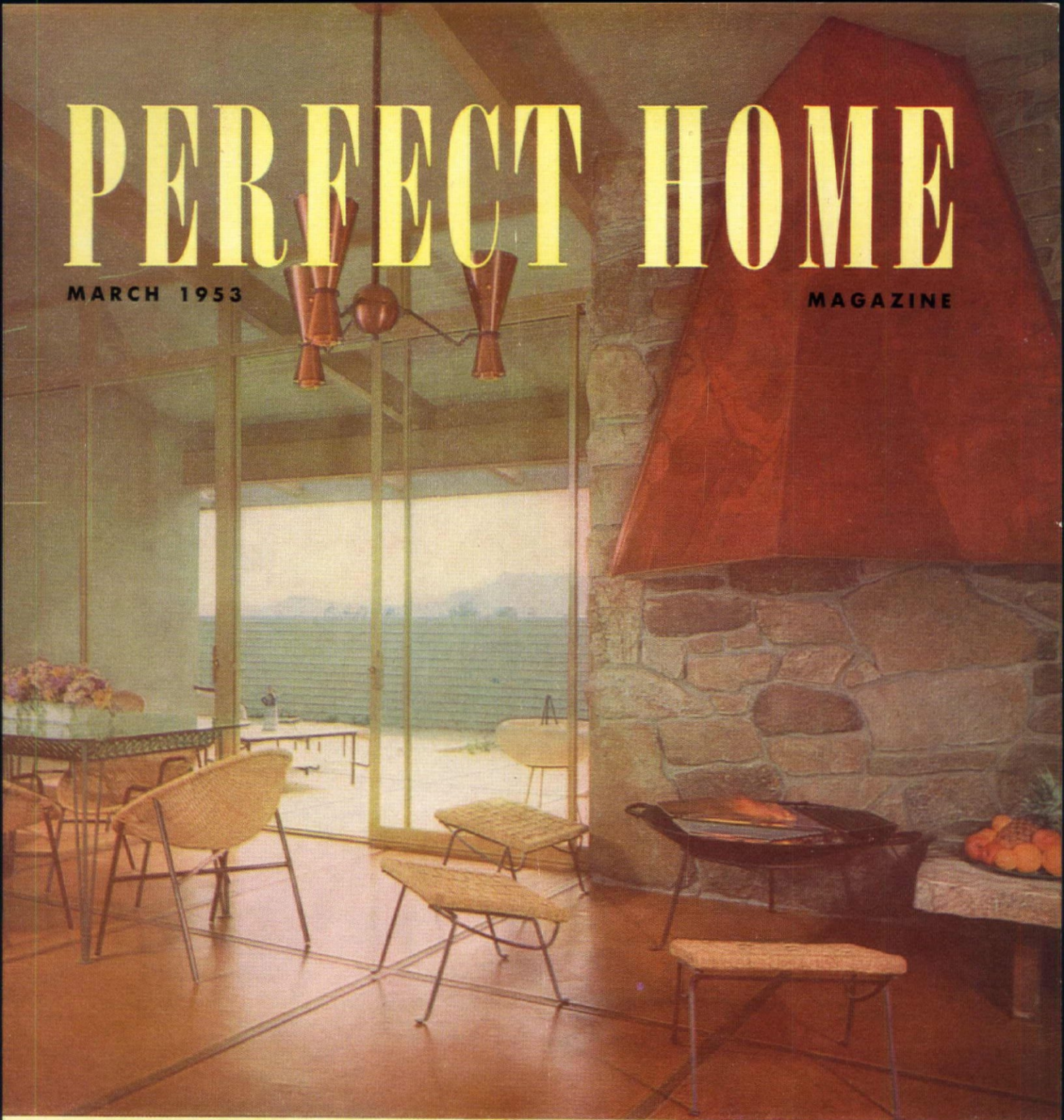


PERFECT HOME

MARCH 1953

MAGAZINE



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

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Real Estate

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Homecoming



I HAVE JUST returned to the United States after spending four months abroad. The greater part of this time I was in Spain. It is a country of contrasts, whose gaunt deserts merge into rich rice fields, whose marbles are mellowed by sunlight, whose austerity is tempered by mysticism and whose splendor is imperishable. It fascinates me and challenges me and uplifts me. I have been there four times already and I hope to go at least four times more.

But not until I have been at home for a long while. In my living room a fire is burning brightly under an iron crane. The wood for the fire came from our own timber lot and the crane has hung in the fireplace ever since I was a little girl. There is nothing in Spain which means as much to me in just that way. There are books on the shelves behind me which belonged to my great grandfather, and which we have gone on reading ourselves, and reading to our children, in each successive generation. There is nothing in Spain which means as much to me in just that way. As I look out of the wide windows at the west, across the green valley toward the village on the other side of the river, I see the spire of the church built by a still earlier ancestor, and beyond it the foothills of green mountains. There is nothing in Spain that means as much to me in just that way.

All this, of course, is because the fire and the books and the views are an integral part of my home, that I belong to them and they to me in a way that nothing which is alien, no place where we do not have roots and which does not arouse the rightful pride of possession can ever belong, no matter how splendid it may be. I could go on indefinitely referring to the things about my home which mean much to me: the blue and white china dishes in the pantry; the neat stacks of sheets and towels in the linen closet; the chintz-covered furniture, the deep window seats, the old quilts, the brass candlesticks, the copper measures. But in the end I should have to admit that the essential beauty of all these things is increased a hundredfold in my eyes because they are mine!

There is an old saying that he who knows only his own religion knows none at all. If this is true, then perhaps he who knows only his own country does not really know any. One of the benefits of widening knowledge should be that while discovering that truth and beauty are universal, we should also discover that in our own private universe we find what is most significant, most precious and most essential to us personally. I am thankful indeed that I have been privileged to see the castles of Spain; but I am more thankful still to have been blessed in coming home to an old New England farmhouse.

Frances Parkinson Keyes

If you have read "Steamboat Gothic" you'll know why Frances Parkinson Keyes is one of America's favorite novelists. Her "Joy Street" and "Dinner at Antoine's" are rich with color as is this latest picture of three fabulous generations

With a

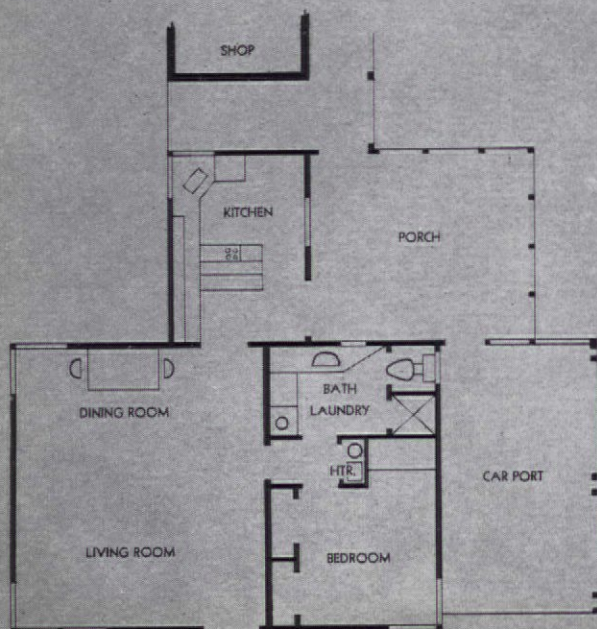


*Sentimental
air*

SHELTERED by boughs and bordered with blossoms, this home sweeps the lyric mood of its surroundings through its picturesque gate and quaint Dutch door into its interior. Finished and furnished with a loving touch, it makes an appeal that is frankly sentimental.

It's an airy, cheery house with a bright friendliness echoing from every corner. Its quaintness-and-comfort theme is carried by many treasured antique pieces. Printed fabrics, striking wallpaper, pictures, flowers and ivy contribute color. Paneled walls and an inviting collection of books strike an overtone of restfulness.

Every element, in fact, blends into a visual melody that would put even the most obdurate apartment dweller into a my-blue-heavenly state of mind.



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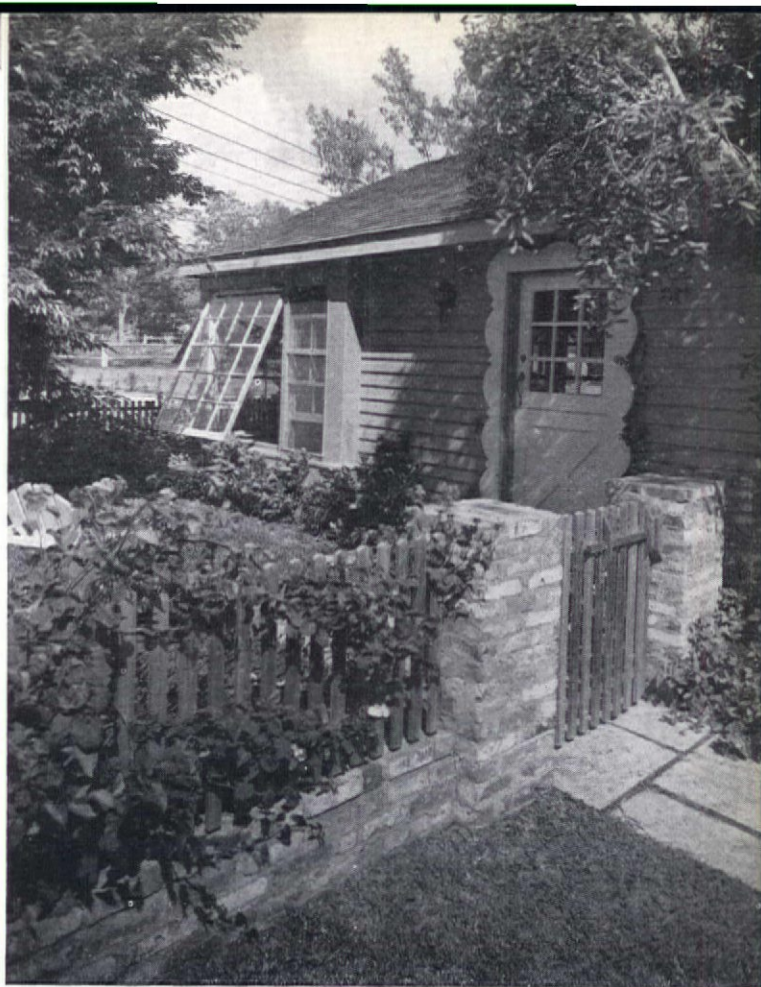
Nestled into a restful background of flowers and trees, this house carries the summertime mood inside. The attractive setting also supplies afternoon shade

Enclosed porch has natural stone floor, displays treasured antiques. One of the most popular spots in the house, it often doubles as a recreation room

Breezeway holds a gardener's den with storage space for garden tools and a counter for making flower arrangements, potting plants and cleaning up tools

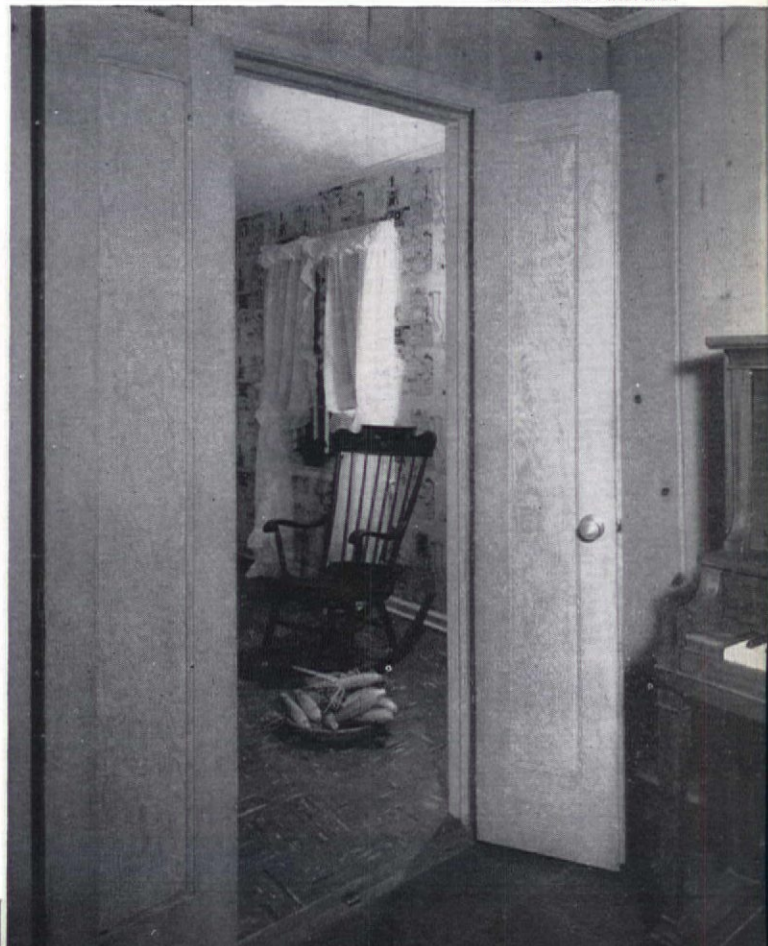
Big windows, lots of color, indoor plants, quaint furnishings, cork floors and paneled walls combine to form a room with a sentimental, hearts-and-flowers appeal. Old tea chest doubles as a chairside table and receptacle for ashes

Inside and out, this home communicates a feeling of hospitality that is a main ingredient in its recipe for charm. You feel at home the instant you're inside



You feel the sentimental charm of this cheerful home before you even swing back the gate. Note how window opens to trap breezes

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RUDI RADA





1

Shallow Shelves

MAKING SHELVES grow where none grew before can be almost as exciting as finding the first spring crocus. With a few feet of lumber or a piece of glass — with a couple of metal brackets or braces, any carpenter can produce all kinds of space for anything from baby food to overshoes (4).

Even four inches of space can ease your storage problems. A space four inches deep behind a kitchen door can accommodate up to 50 cans of food (3). Four inches beneath your dish cupboards will take care of all of your spice cans (6). Four inches on the back of an under-the-sink door will keep scouring powders, soap flakes and dish washing supplies right at the scene of operations. Four inches above the bath tub will offer a ready supply of lotions, colognes, or water softeners (2). A four-inch shelf will hold your glassware (1 and 5), most packaged foods, small cooking utensils; and there will be no need to waste time removing items stored in front of the one you need.

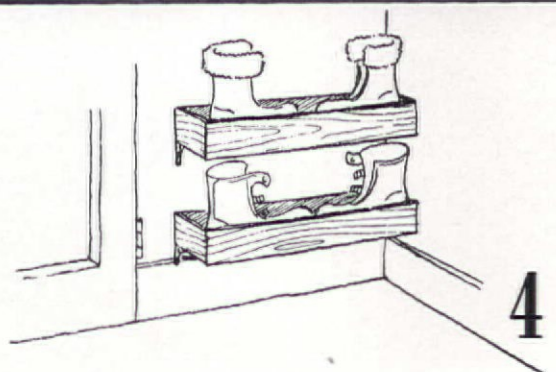
Practically all other kitchen supplies, your linens (7), books, dinnerware, magazines will fit on shelves from 6 to 12 inches deep. When you search for extra storage, keep alert for space for shallow shelves. You will find that they will make supplies easier to store, to see and to reach.



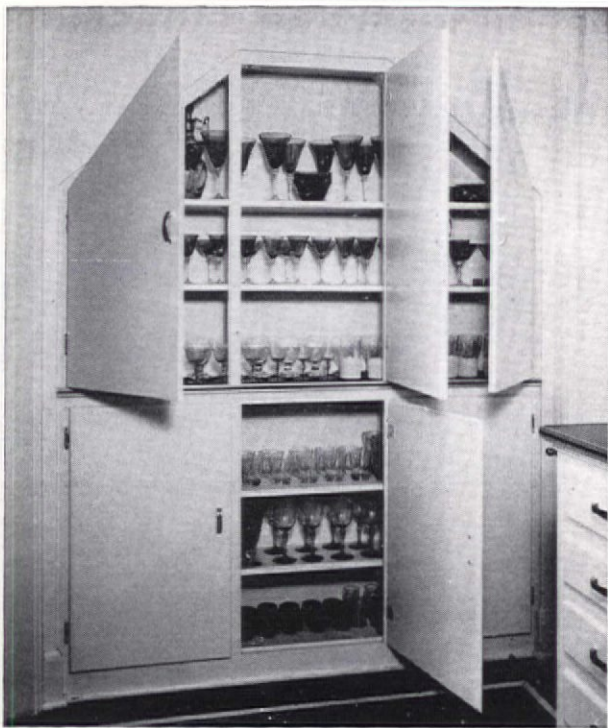
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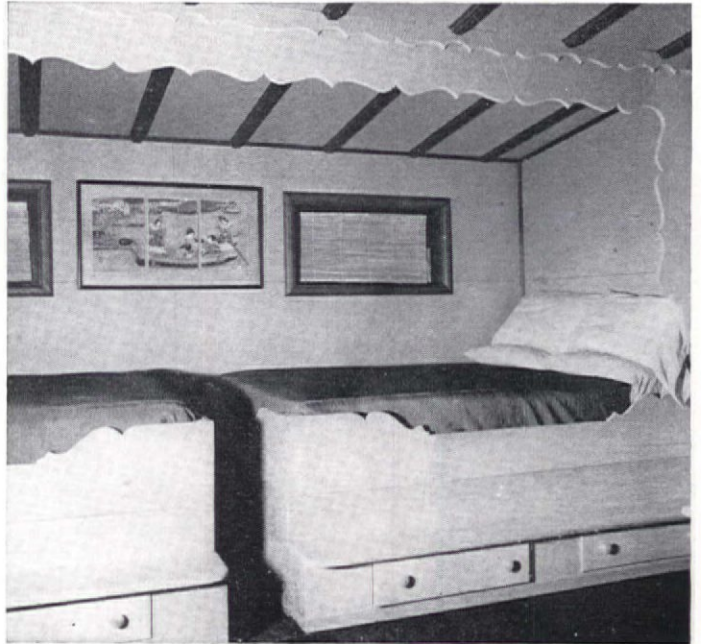
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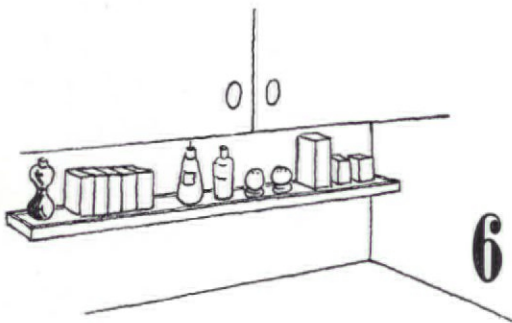
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So pert, so pretty, so completely practical, this dream-dusted duo with its full sweep of scallops and drawers for extra blankets and linens

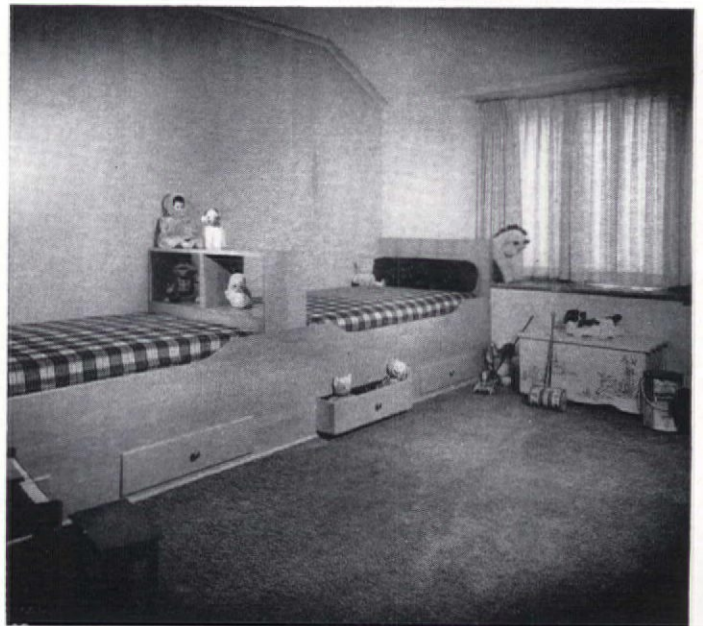
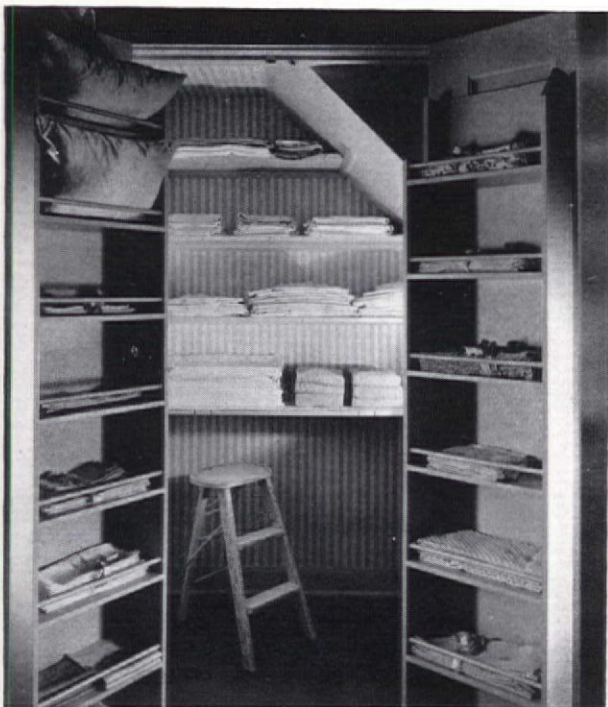


PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT CLEVELAND, F. A. DEARBORN



Paired from Yawn till Dawn

THE INSTANT most people think of twin beds they visualize them standing properly, heads against the wall, decorously separated by a square night table topped by an inadequate and beruffled lamp. Such rooms are probably dominated by these space-hungry twosomes and there are only corners left for necessary chests and chairs. The examples shown here may help you picture twin beds as built-ins set foot to foot along one wall. They will make your room look and act twice its size and free most of the floor for other furniture. It's an idea particularly suited to use in children's rooms as we show you here.



Natural wood bunks and convenient reach-through shelves, fine foils for bonnie-bright plaid spreads, snuggle up against a wood paneled wall



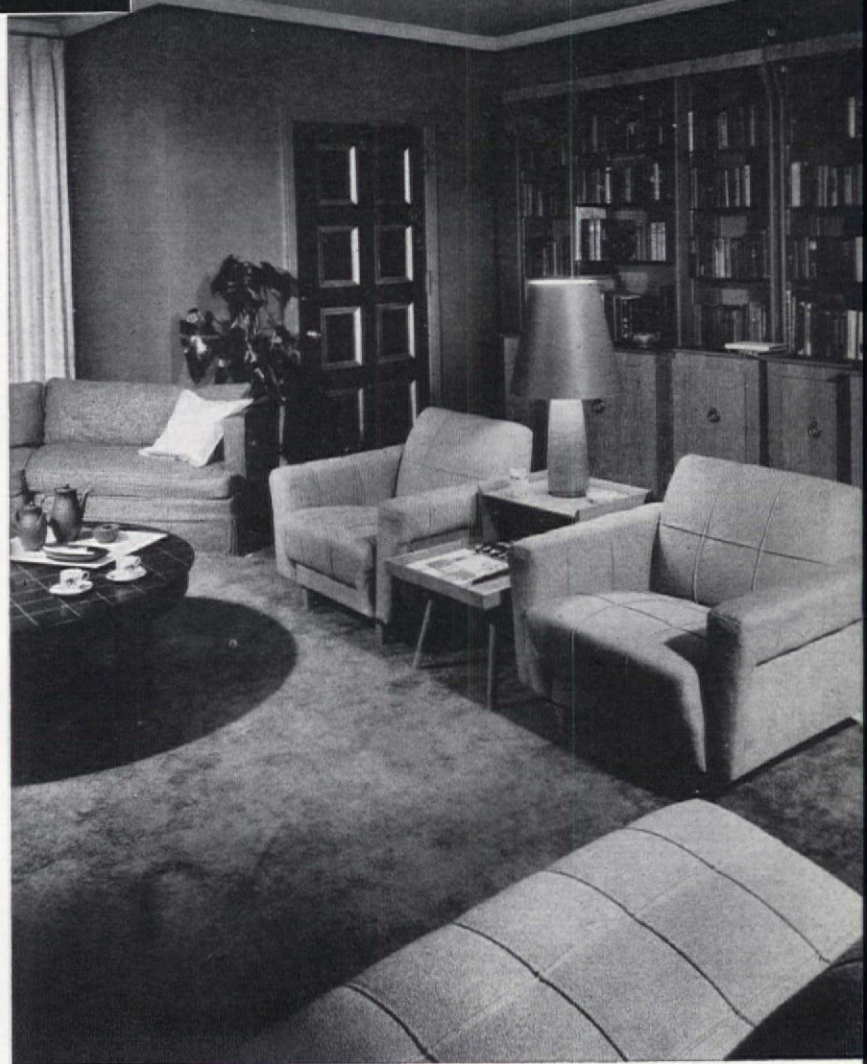
ALMOST ANY structurally sound house can have a bright future — even if it is a dowdy old brownstone-front affair — even if a dozen families have added to the battle scars of its more than 50 years. This was just such a sorry house. It was sturdy in the fashion of homes constructed a full half-century ago. It was rampant with glossy white enamel woodwork and a succession of “improvements” added by hopeful former tenants. Toothy steam radiators leered from every corner, floors had long since seen their heyday, and color throughout were safe but spiritless.

It is difficult to imagine that a few very simple structural alterations could produce the results you see here. But add to them many imaginative decorating touches, a lot of grit and determination, and the old derelict becomes a delightful home well able to compete with most others built within the year.

Let’s take an inventory of the most obvious changes. Probably the most dramatic effect was produced by the plastic tile floors laid in living and dining rooms. A boldly contrasting herringbone pattern of white and terra cotta for the living room, green and white for the small dining room.

Three living room walls now match the terra cotta floor while the remaining wall loses its boundaries with a gold veined charcoal-black paper.

A wonderful color scheme is no trick at all when you have a floor as dramatic as the terra cotta-and-white or the green-and-white plastic tile floors that were specially designed for the living and dining room



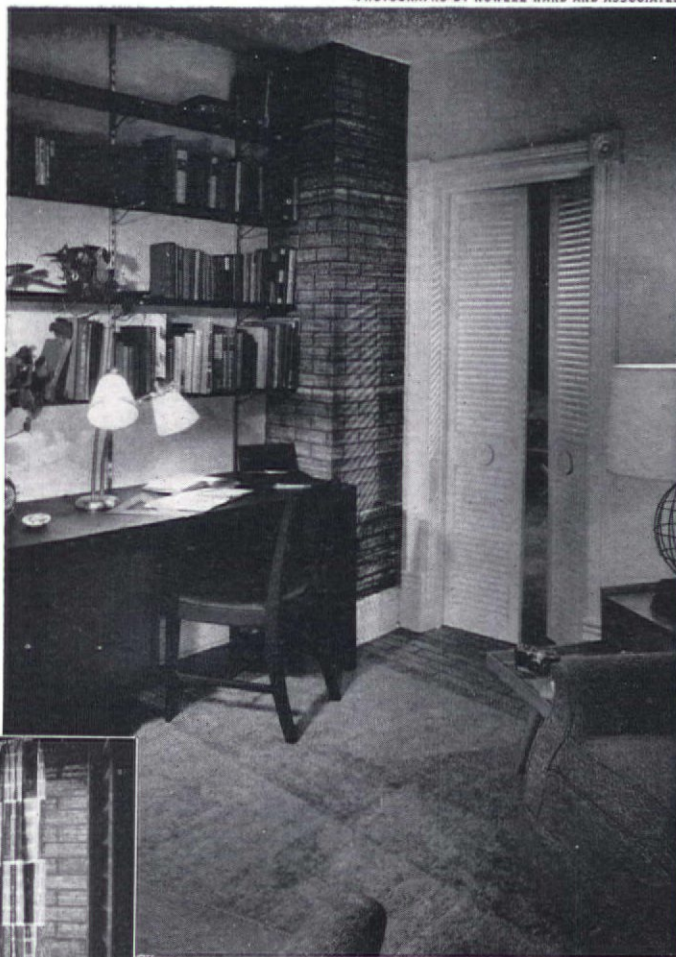
The front door treatment is one we know will be widely copied. The old glass panel now hides between sheets of black pressedboard and gold-painted picture frames. The same black and gold scheme gives the old stairway a new personality. The idea we found particularly intriguing was the dark little closet that now serves as a telephone room. It's quiet, and private, and wears a photomural of Manhattan on its walls.

Former tenants had concentrated their efforts on the kitchen where new grey steel cupboards and yellow-tiled walls needed little more than a coordinating print at the windows and new breakfast set.

We wish we could show you the "before" pictures of the dining room. They would be convincing proof of just how very effective mural wallpapers can be. The oval cotton rug and the paper repeat the terra cotta of the living room. Doorways were simplified, a new lighting fixture and louvered vertical blinds at the windows have banished the ornate little room that probably delighted some grandmother's heart.

Oh, yes! And we do have to mention those wallpapered doors in one of the bedrooms. We don't know why eyebrows go up when we suggest papered floors. They have long since proved their serviceability and, as you can see by our photograph, there's no doubt of their handsome appearance.

Beauty treatment for your home may be strictly a paint and paper project as in the bed-sitting room, bottom of page. Structural changes are minor. Wallpaper and modular furniture wrought this magic



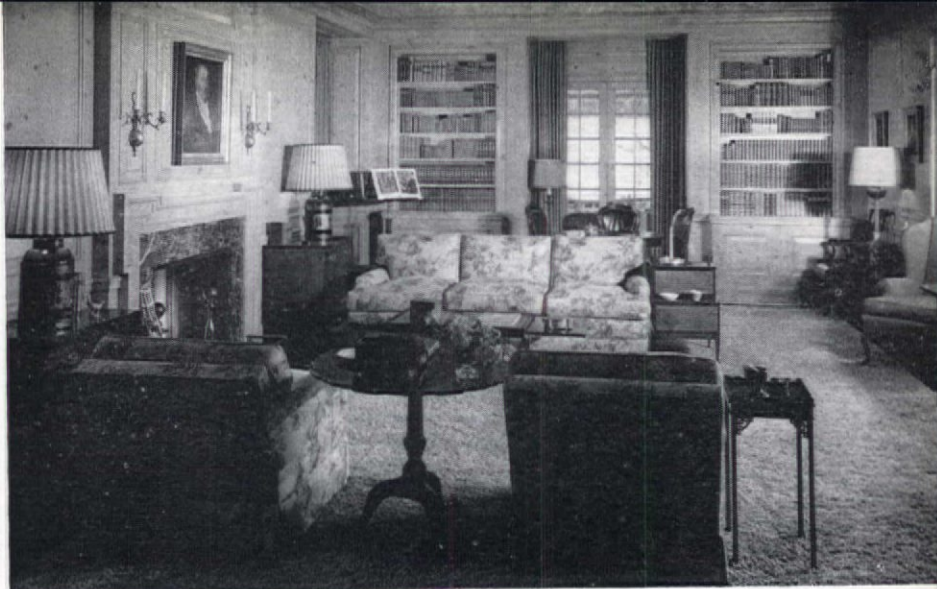
If you have a weakness for painted brick you will like the new plastic finish wall coverings made with a sturdy surface that makes them suitable for use on the floor under louvered doors



Vision and revision

BY DONNA NICHOLAS

A sofa can divide a room almost as surely as can a solid wall. The isolated game area at one end of this long living room is protected from distracting traffic, but the busy center before the fireplace is rich with snuggle-down content, complete with the lively background music of crimson and golden flames pirouetting on dried birch logs



Large sofas look their best when large rooms keep them company. Can you imagine how this one might have appeared had the setting been less generously proportioned? It probably would have seemed gauche, as a lanky lad in last year's suit, but with a five-foot coffee table, a substantially scaled chair and a great expanse of wall it takes on a companionate quality usually found only in smaller furniture



This window recess might have been made-to-order for the sofa it holds. With a fireplace as unusual and as pleasant-to-look-at as this one it was quite natural that activities of the whole family should focus about this corner. When the fires of day burn themselves out beyond the window they are renewed in full color within the expansive frame of the hearth

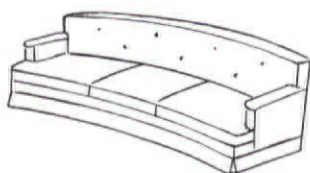


Where shall
we put the

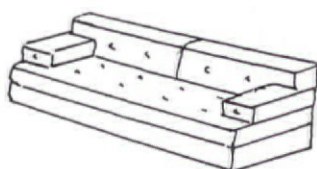
Sofa?



The long lines of a sofa can be a real problem in the attenuated room. Placed against the long wall, it only adds to the lack of proportion. On the short wall it looks as uncomfortable as a dowager caught in a phone booth. Here a mirror and a striped fabric are used to counteract the room-lengthening



If you are one to share a largess of conversation and companionship, look again at this setting. Two sofas and plenty of matching chairs furnish this talk-provoking, relaxation-inviting spot — an arrangement that will accommodate a party-size group as comfortably as it will a duo



Readers ask us

Q — We would like to wall a room with knotty pine but recently saw a wood-paneled room with boards that were badly cupped. How can this be prevented?

A — If your pine boards are kiln dried and are kept dry until they are nailed in place you should run very little risk of an unsatisfactory installation. If possible, store the boards in the room for several days. Almost every lumber dealer has a gauge to test the moisture content of the wood you select. He may advise you to back paint the wood before applying it, and may suggest allowing expansion joints particularly if it is to be used in a basement that may occasionally be damp.

Q — Can our old dark linoleum floor be painted?

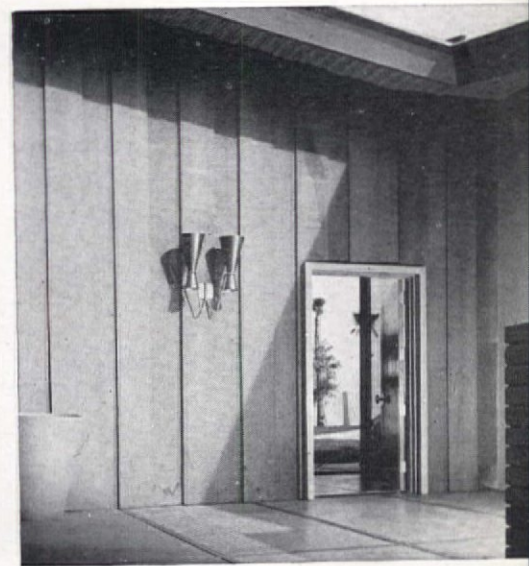
A — Yes, it is practical to paint unattractive linoleum if it is in sound condition. We know of one floor that has been successfully painted and re-painted. A few necessary patches were made with linoleum of the same thickness. The floor was very carefully cleaned to make certain there was no wax left to spoil the new finish; then the painter applied two coats of enamel undercoat. The color was matched carefully to the finish coat. Next, two coats of a good enamel were applied, and when this was completely dry it was given two coats of paste wax. The enamel used for this job was not floor enamel since a pastel color was desired but it has worn most satisfactorily.

Q — My large brass wall plaque has turned black with tarnish. How may I brighten it?

A — Rub the surface with a half lemon dipped in salt. There are several liquid tarnish removers on the market that will also do the job, but remember that a bit of darkness left in the depths of the pattern can do much to define it. The lemon and salt treatment will highlight the detailing. Fine silverware too is always oxidized.

Q — Our old house has 10-foot ceilings. Dark paint did a wonderful job of hiding their height but we still have a serious heating problem. Would it be practical to build a false ceiling?

A — A false ceiling is not difficult to install. Weigh carefully, however, the cost of the new ceiling against the estimated fuel savings. Your carpenter will drop the ceiling to the desired height by building a framework onto which can go plaster, plaster board, building board or acoustical tiles.



Spacious and Spartan

BY BILL TURNER

THE KEYNOTE of the handsome modern ranch house pictured here is simplicity — in large doses. Massive chimney wall, stone planters, the cavernous fireplace — these large elements complement a high ceiling and paneled walls. The effect is rescued from severity, however, by the comfortable contrasts of cane-and-rod modern furniture, lush carpets, and a huge hearth-corner sofa upholstered in a handsome plaid.

A large porch with a canopied barbecue grill is insurance against rain-spoiled picnics. Architecturally speaking, it serves as a transition between indoor living quarters and the patio. Other things that tie together interior and exterior areas are expansive window-walls, ubiquitous concrete floor, similar paneling inside and out. A brick wall surrounds both house and patio to clinch the effect of unity. You'll find a color view of this house on our cover.



Left — The ultimate in hearth-corners. This setting will surely persuade any open-fire addict to settle down for the evening

Left, opposite page — Whether you're in the mood for a rare steak or a well-done sun-tan, barbecue porch and patio are convenient. The brick wall shields all your outdoor living from your neighbors' eyes

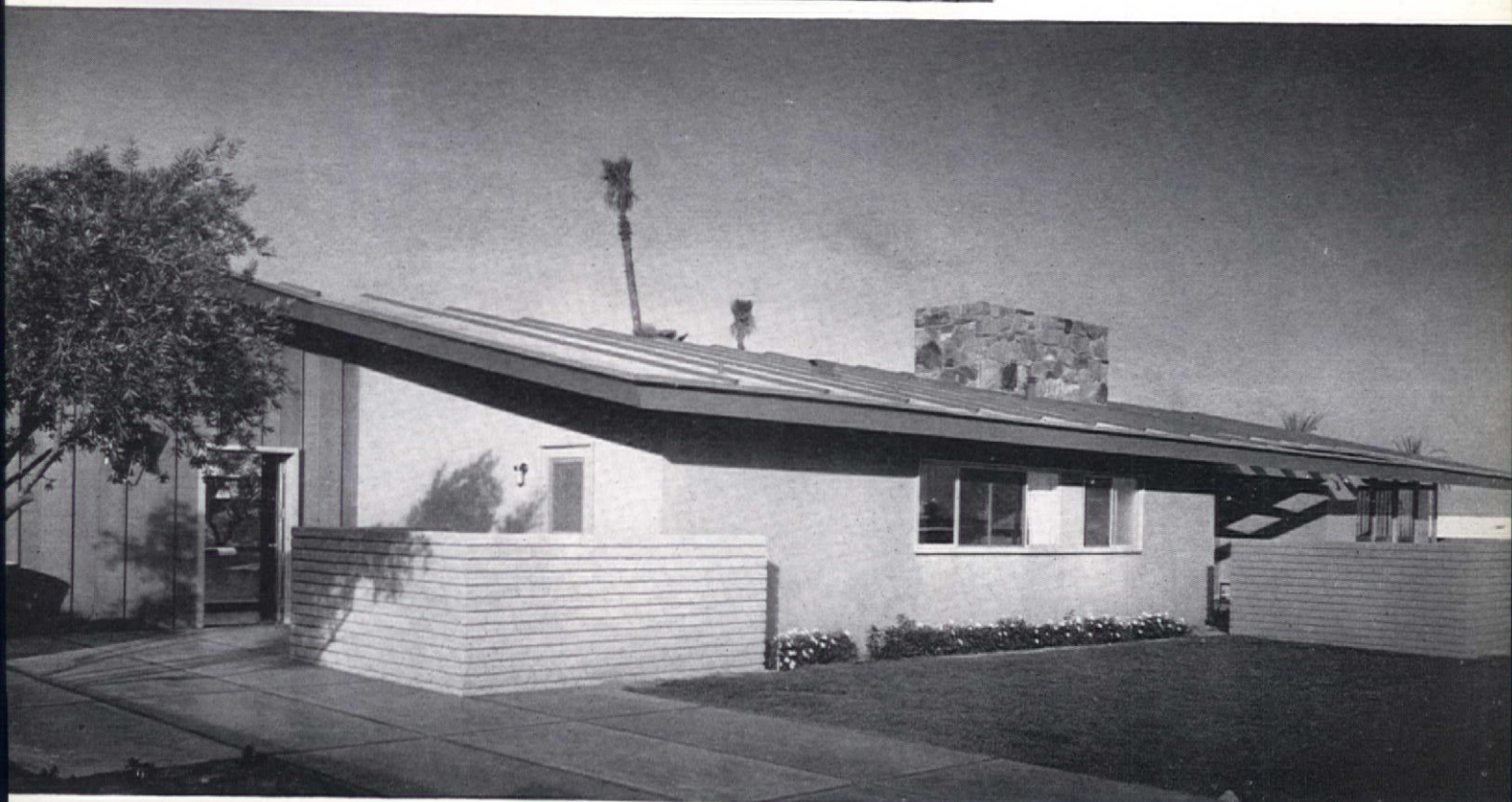


Top right, opposite page — This food bar is at one end of the enclosed porch with a convenient serving window near kitchen

Bottom right, opposite page — This is the door from patio to front yard. Note that paneled walls and perforated metal lamps are the same as they are inside the house

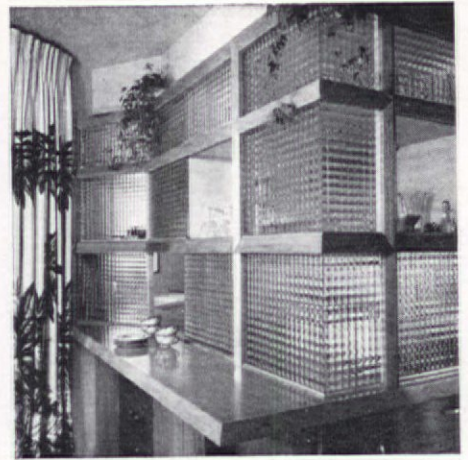
Left — This view through dining room shows entrance to living room at different level. Entire back wall of house is glass

Below — Street view of house gives no idea of its unusual interior arrangement





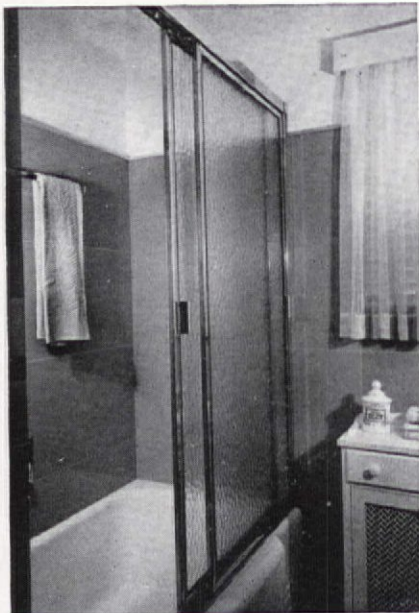
Structural glass provides needed light at places in the home where ordinary windows are not practical. It offers a beauty treatment for an unattractive view in dining room above, and forms an easy-to-clean divider for the bathroom, right



Wall of embossed glass has sliding sections that simplify kitchen-to-dining-room service and others that open to reveal convenient cupboards for china and glassware while borrowing light from the adjoining dining area



BY RUTH C. CORELL



If your bathroom is too small for a shower stall and tub you can still have both with a glass door that rolls smoothly shut

ON THE BRIGHTER SIDE

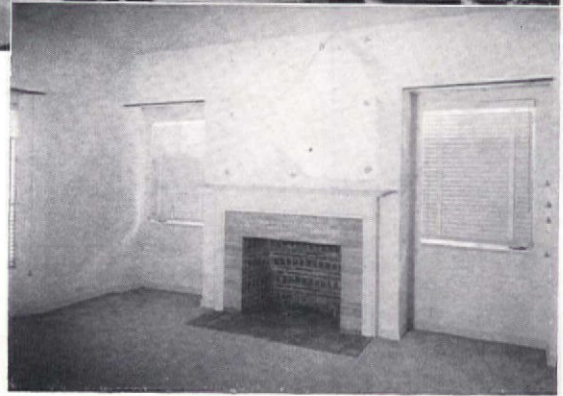
THE FRIENDLY HOUSE is a bright house . . . a house with no shadowed corners . . . a house where glass purposefully persuades light to flow into and through rooms, accenting their color, comfort and charm.

Structural glass has several advantages over clear glass but it must be used within the limits of its decorative and structural capabilities. Too much glass in a home will leave it looking like the twin sister of the local dry goods emporium. But, thoughtful use of this versatile material will mean a lot of charm at little cost.

With glass you can borrow light from a sunny south room to spark a dark north room with warmth and color. Translucent but not transparent, it transmits light but not sight . . . it has sparkle but glare is controlled . . . it provides a feeling of spaciousness and makes dingy spots lighter and brighter without revealing the inner workings of your household. Just try to picture any of these rooms without the advantages of glass.



Right — We begin with an unremarkable fireplace sandwiched between windows. The first step will be to wall over the window to the left. Above — The result is a luxurious section of wall that dominates the whole room with an air of richness



CINDERELLA WALL

THIS IS A STORY of how an unremarkable fireplace, two very ordinary windows and a plain-Jane wall were transformed into something very special indeed. An interesting bit of remodeling has combined the three into a handsome mirrored fireplace-wall that radiates richness and projects a mood of elegance into every corner of the room.

As you can see from the picture (inset above), the fireplace was originally squeezed between two recessed windows. The first step was to wall in the left window. This resulted in the fireplace being flanked by a large, unbroken section of wall. This whole area was covered with gold-veined glass (except for a recessed panel for the ornate mirror). A horizontal strip of marble adds to the luxurious appearance of the ensemble and also gives it an illusion of breadth. Cove lighting illuminates the section.



Rich effect of the "chimney-wall" is continued across the end of the room by lush draperies and valence in an arrangement that is unique and impressive

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A child reacts in a healthy way to his parents' pride in a home of their own. Even when he is too young to understand ownership, he participates in their happiness and develops a sense of security that is of great importance to his future.

That's merely one of the many advantages of home ownership that can't be considered in terms of price.

But there's the all-important monetary aspect too. Whether you are building, buying, or remodeling, you must be sure your investment is a sound one. Dealing with the firms that bring you **PERFECT HOME** is your assurance of full value for every dollar. Each is a community leader with a jealously guarded reputation for the best workmanship and merchandise.

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