

MAY 1953

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

4 East Main St.

Stafford Springs, Conn.

Telephones: 300 J-1 — 300 J-2

In cooperation with these outstanding Tolland County firms (see back cover)

The Countryside Furniture Co.
Richard W. Slater — Painting Co.
The C. H. Moore Co.

Stafford Electric & Supply Co.
Bruno A. Muzio — Plumbing & Heating
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“I’m coming home.”

I’ve held those words close to my heart, cherished them down the years, as millions of others must have held them and cherished them. They are as precious as “I love you,” and they have almost the same meaning.

Early in my young life there began to fade the memories of the high-ceilinged, Colonial rooms of my grandmother’s house in Washington, D.C. . . . the broad, shining balustrade leading up and up and beyond into space . . . the door with the brass knocker that always made a joyous clap.

Their place was taken by hotel rooms, little “diggings,” and apartments converted by Mother’s fairy wand into cozy, clean, comfortable havens. Traveling as we were through England and the Continent, I came to know this new kind of home as something that was created and gathered about us and held to tightly by Mother and Father. I can close my eyes now and see the glow of a shining lamp with Mother reading aloud, bringing us the beautiful writings and the wonders of the world, studying with us, giving a sense of love and protection and companionship — which is what home means.

Later, I knew the joy of an English garden. Finally, back in our own dear country, Mother could at last live among the trees she loved so dearly along the Hudson. Home was indeed home then, blessed in every way.

Time moved on and I with it — to find the beauty of California, where the loveliest homes imaginable are. Still blessed with a little home, I’m now alone — yet near and always welcome at another home filled with love. For the picture repeats itself. Now there is a golden-haired mother with her children, reading to them, teaching them, helping in their gropings to understand.

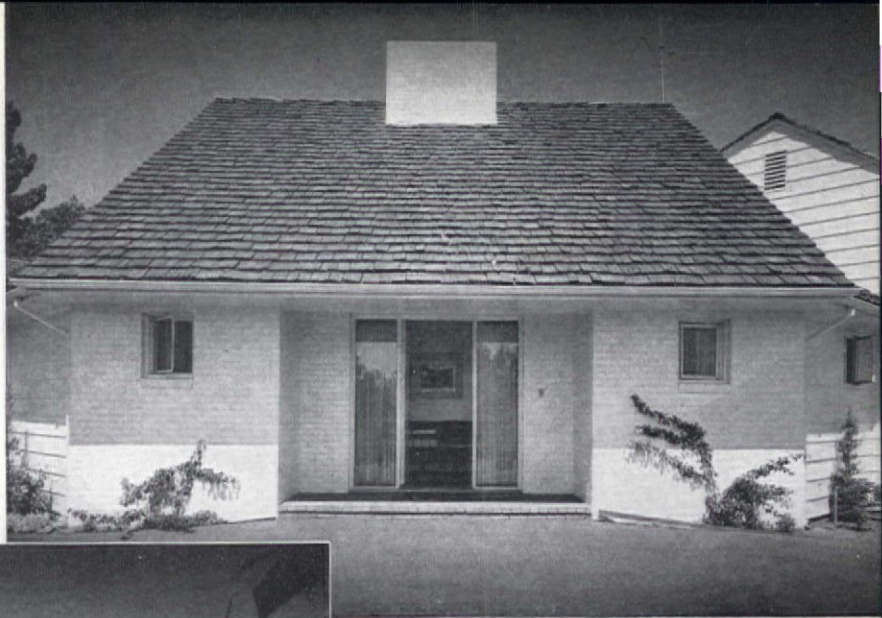
The blessedness of home springs eternal and safe, we pray, in these confusing years. For home is our greatest treasure, regardless of surroundings, be they simple or exquisite. It is love that creates it, love that gives it the meaning those dear words have for us when we know we are coming home.

Billie Burke Ziegfeld

The Billie Burke story is one of the most colorful to arise from the fabulous world of the theatre and motion pictures. Its fascination and fantasy fill the pages of her autobiography, “With a Feather on Her Nose”

A protected front entrance is framed by a deep overhang. We particularly like the formal balance of this approach and the massive white chimney atop a cedar-shake hip roof

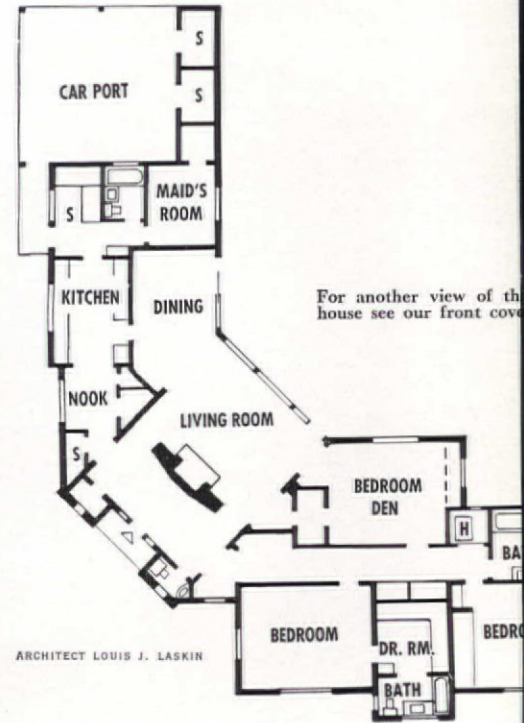
If this particular brand of charm is your aim, we warn you that you'll draw a complete blank if you let the old-fashioned precept of "Be correct" get you in its clutches. There are no set rules for such a blending of details. Modern paintings, old glass candy jars, a Chinese reed basket, a modern bubble glass bowl and plants growing in plain red clay pots



Not According to

Hoyle

BY DONNA LOUIS NICHOL



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT C. CLEVELAND



Wood walls appear in both the living room above and the bedroom below. An old round dining table was bleached and cut down to coffee table height. There's an antique bed of most unusual design in bedroom below. The spread is a copy of an heirloom coverlet



Most of us think of cork as one of the most modern of flooring materials, yet there is no lack of harmony when its friendly brown tones are complemented by the brighter colors of colonial braided rugs, an aged pine settee and a white painted iron plant stand and bricks



Consistency of mood, craftsmanship and proportion are today more important than the name of the style you may choose to use

TIME was when every home decorator planned a room around one single period, one traditional pattern. Once you had linked your living with your favorite style you were married to it for all time, unless on some distant day you were lucky enough to be able to retire your battered veterans and redecorate in some other "style."

Today we know that good designs of many periods can be combined to give maximum interest and charm.

The point of harmony between such unrelated elements is not style but a matching of spirits. In this home, furniture and accessories of several periods and places have been welded together by similar scale, moods and quality. Notice that whether old or new, each piece reduces design to its basic components, ornamentation to a pleasing minimum, thus glorifying simplicity.

Each room is full of surprises, of contrasts. For example, we doubt that the decorator of yesterday would have visualized the dynamic interplay of textures when painted brick is teamed with cork flooring and knotty pine walls in an entrance hall. She wouldn't have discovered the charm in the combination of an old dry-sink with metal and string shelves or a wrought-iron candelabra on a skirted victorian table.

However modern or traditional your outlook may be we think you'll admit that blending the beautiful things of the past into a contemporary setting makes good sense as well as good living.

Translucent Toughies

ALMOST DAILY some designer or decorator comes up with a new use of corrugated plastic.

Tough, translucent, weather resistant, these panels admit a diffused light, shut out glare. They can be used either inside or out — everywhere, in fact, that opaque glass can be used and a few more places to boot. They are stronger than glass, shatterproof, and can be nailed, sawed, drilled, bolted. And please note: rocks, hailstones and such bounce off them like rubber balls.

The material comes in several appealing colors. Besides being used in awnings and roofs, it makes attractive patio enclosures, storm shutters, shower stalls, car ports, skylights, greenhouses, doors, bar facings, porch glazing — even outer walls.

For those who like their facts backed with figures, we might point out that a four-foot span of the plastic shown in the photographs will support 100 pounds per square foot (that's more than twice the strength of the average residential roof).

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT C. CLEVELAND



Above: Corrugated panels that top this awning are highly translucent, admit lots of light to the room they shelter. Yet they effectively bar heat

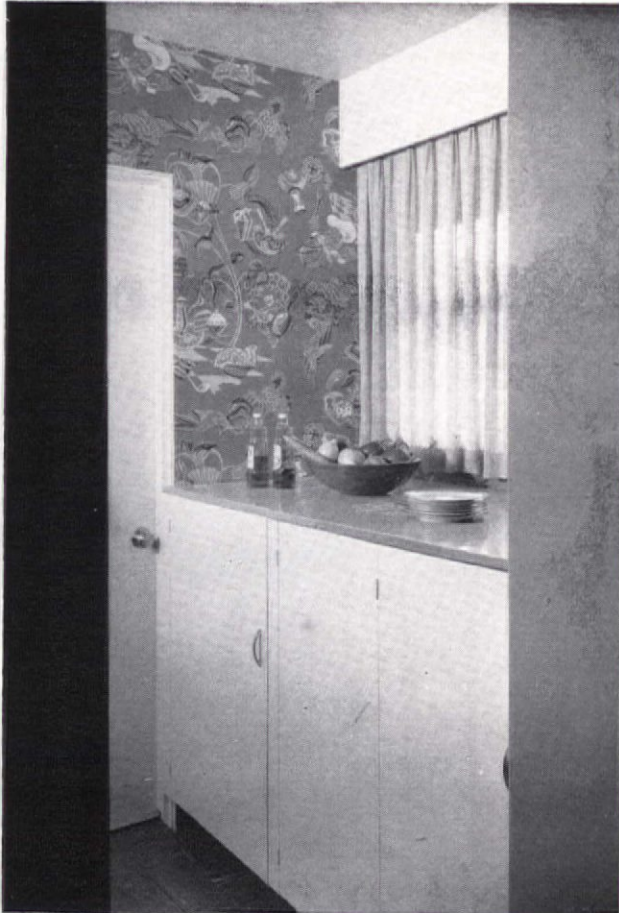


Below: The owners have used plastic panels skillfully to roof this light-and-airy living room. It probably would have been a bit on the dark and gloomy side if they had roofed it with an opaque material

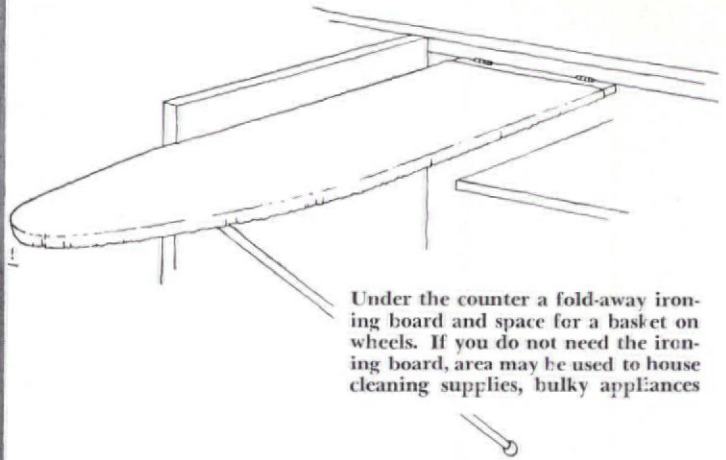


Below: This is corner of a patio that needed a windbreak that wouldn't rob the barbecue area of light. Corrugated plastic did it





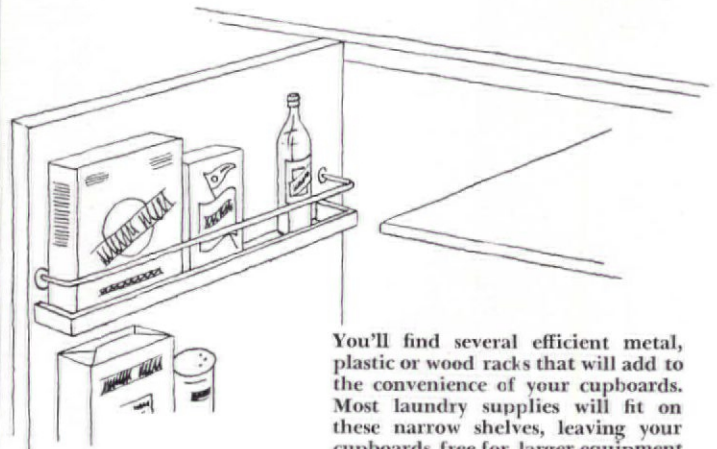
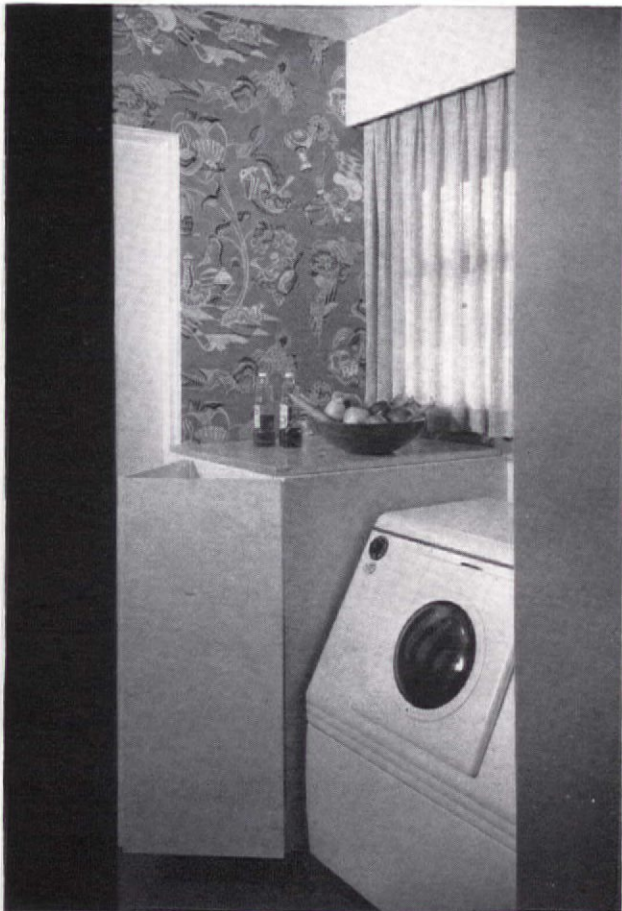
With five feet of free wall in or near your kitchen you have room for this laundry corner. Area alongside the washer is filled with versatile cupboards. When not in use, the washer is covered by a wide counter top



Under the counter a fold-away ironing board and space for a basket on wheels. If you do not need the ironing board, area may be used to house cleaning supplies, bulky appliances

Tips For Pin-Up Girls

Gone are the days of rubbing, wringing, rinsing. In their place we may spend an easy hour with automatic appliances. Even that hour may be pared to minutes if your laundry is in or near the kitchen like this one. Load the washer, set the timer and back to your cooking. "Ting" sounds the bell! . . . Scoop up those clothes pins, load up the laundry cart and out to the drying yard. There's even a new washer-dryer that will eliminate the pin-up job. You'll have to admit that's a rosy prospect for any blue Monday.



You'll find several efficient metal, plastic or wood racks that will add to the convenience of your cupboards. Most laundry supplies will fit on these narrow shelves, leaving your cupboards free for larger equipment



ROUGH STUFF

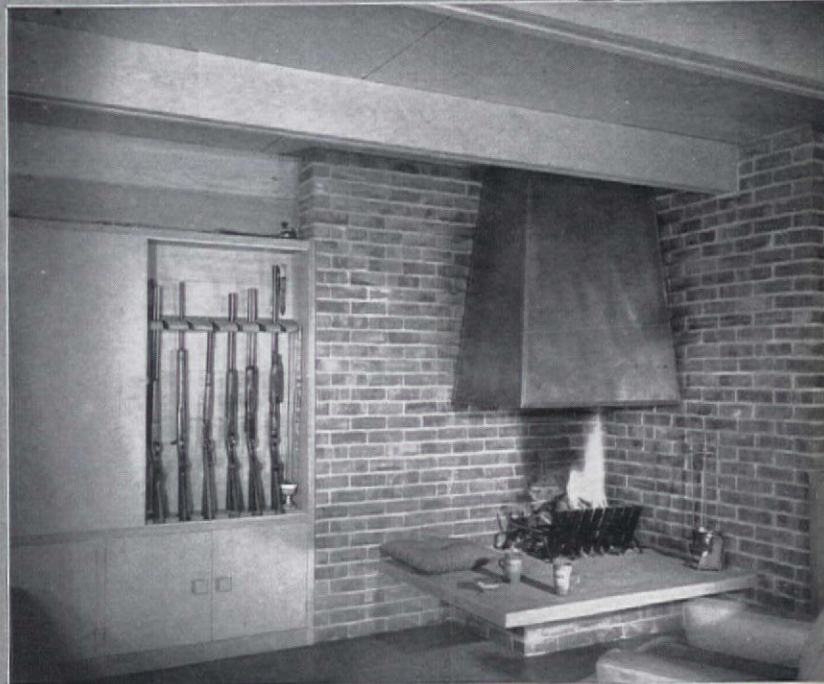
THOSE thick 'n' thirsty terries you love for the pink-glow feeling they give you aren't the simplest things in the world to store. And now that bath towels and such are available in luscious decorator colors, you want them to *show* too.

The shelf, above, does the trick with glamour — even displaying those in use. It is a plain board, trimmed with gilt metal edging, with a towel bar fastened beneath. More rugged, but just as effective in its setting, is the plank style with its thick rope decor.



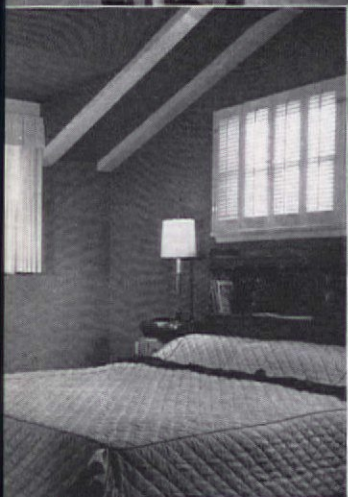
Sprigged wallpaper carried over the beam and across the ceiling has overcome what could have been an awkward extension of this hospitable dining room

A massive feeling is achieved in this completely masculine gun room by using double pine boards retrieved from an old barn to simulate wide beams





Rafters slope gently upward from a lower-level sitting room to meet the cross-beam of this bedroom for a charming effect



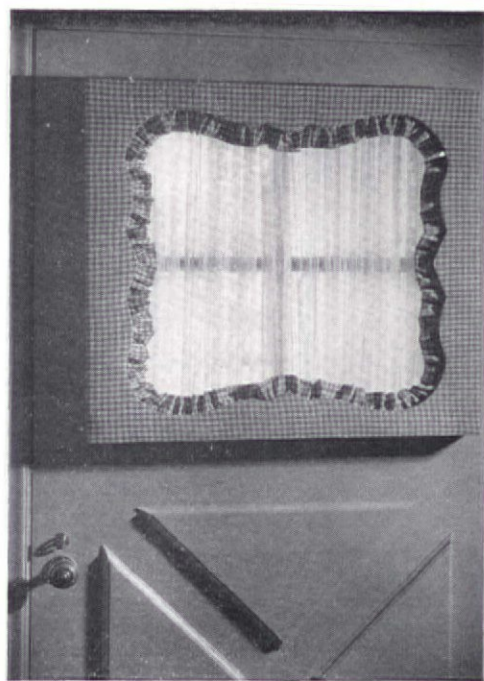
Stark white beams fitted snugly to the non-conforming lines of this ceiling lend a touch of the spectacular to a simple setting

HIT THE CEILING

CHIC French women have a theory that if you play up a weak feature you can make it the dramatic focal point of your entire appearance. This idea seems to work just as effectively when applied to home decorating — as these interesting interiors will bear out.

Here are ceilings whose uneven structures could very well have defeated the beauty of these rooms. But see what a knowing eye to their design values has achieved with such irregularities as slanted beams and two-level floor plan. No one would suspect that they weren't planned as the central theme — they're *that* attention-getting.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT CLEVELAND AND SHAN STEWART

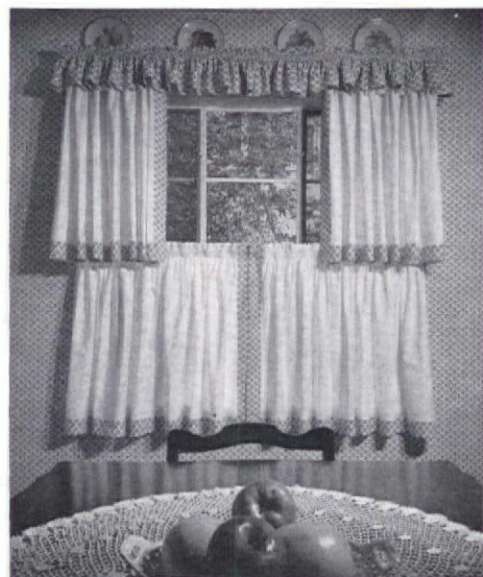


'N' RUFFLE STUFF

THERE'S something about a ruffle that says a feminine heart rules here. But it can be a test of your ingenuity to add such frills without taking away from the orderly look of a crisply tailored room. The secret is restraint: a wee bit of ruffle strategically used.

Above is a door panel upholstered in gingham, its scroll-work opening edged with a matching ruffle. Below, the valance is the froth. Its rosebud print takes on fresh excitement because it matches the gay wallpaper.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT CLEVELAND AND SHAN STEWART



An outdoor planter is perhaps most effective just outside a window-wall. Here it produces a strong feeling of indoors blended with outdoors. Plants on the inside of the wall are a necessary part of the transition



TO MAKE a house and setting belong to each other instead of seeming an incongruous fusion of countryside and structure — well, sometimes it isn't easy. And to make the marriage a happy one from the inside looking out as well as from the outside looking in requires expert planning indeed.

However, it is often well done these days — thanks to a technique that is a blend of skillful designing,

landscaping, and decorating. Outdoor plant boxes frequently play a vital part in the illusion.

The idea, of course, is to snatch up an element of the landscape and transpose it so close to the house that it softens precise contours, blends man's work with nature's. It should be placed, too, so that you see it from inside the house, joining interior and exterior in a subtle way that you find hard to define.



This house was blended with a leafy landscape by means of a wide, low planter filled with shrubs and large plants that fit into the setting

from the
*Inside
out*

ersize planter at the entrance to this home gives the visitor a greeting. The glass panels behind the box supply the inside of use with a pleasant view, the ferns forming a refreshing silhouette



's a house that had a stark, unfinished look until the owners d the planter and egg-crate overhang; now it's married to its site

Plan It *Expansible*

A house that will grow with its family calls for an extra bit of planning, but it's worth it

THE YOUNG, growing family that buys or builds an expansible house often shows great foresight, we think. They have a small home of their own without delay and without the feeling that it's only a temporary refuge. They can move in with the knowledge that they've made a good beginning, that eventually this house will grow into the home of their dreams.

Planning an expansible house must begin with consideration of the lot. It may accommodate the basic house gracefully enough, but how about those future additions? Is that new bedroom going to mean a narrower driveway, the felling of a shade tree? And even if the lot is large, you must give the problem of placement careful study. You wouldn't want that future sundeck to be on the north side of the house in the shade of a neighbor's elm, for instance.

Designing an expansible house calls for professional skill. It means studying traffic lanes, planning for good room-to-room circulation at every stage of the project, placing halls and closets where they can later be converted to new functions. It means choosing materials that won't have to be replaced (when an exterior wall becomes an interior wall, for instance). And it means planning additions that can be made with the least possible inconvenience to the family.

Pipes, ducts, and other utilities should be roughed in where they can be conveniently connected up for new additions. Future doors leading to new rooms should be framed when the house is built — a window can be installed in the framing until the time comes to put in the doors.

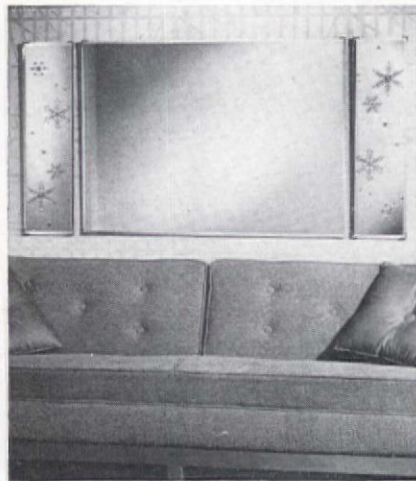
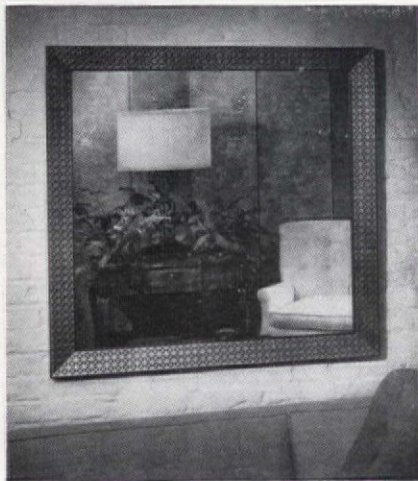
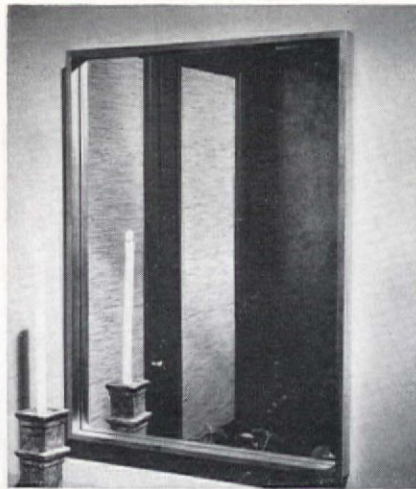
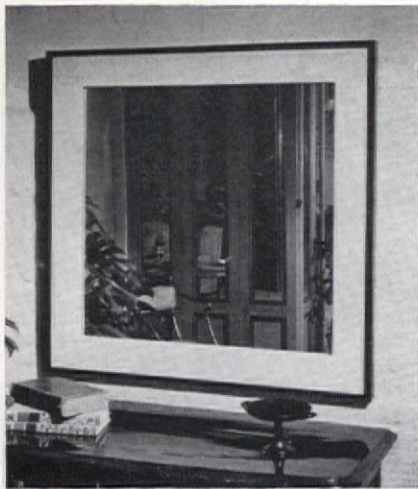
Most expansibles start as one-bedroom houses. Probably the simplest of all is the Cape Cod type with an unfinished attic that can later be turned into a bedroom or two and perhaps a bath. The one-story expansible is currently popular: it usually starts out as a simple rectangle and adds wings.

One expansible we're particularly fond of begins life as a three-room house, expands to seven and a garage. And it fits a 50-foot lot.

In the first stage, the bedroom has an alcove that can be used as dressing space or perhaps as a nursery. When two bedrooms are added on to this end of the house, a partition converts this space to two smaller rooms, either of which may be used as an emergency guest room. The plan also calls for a new living room next to the original living-dining area. The latter then becomes the dining room.

Another favorite of ours begins with kitchen, large living-dining room, and a bedroom. When time comes to expand, a large section is added to the kitchen side of the house. This new section becomes living room and dining room. The section that was originally the living-dining room is easily converted to two new bedrooms.

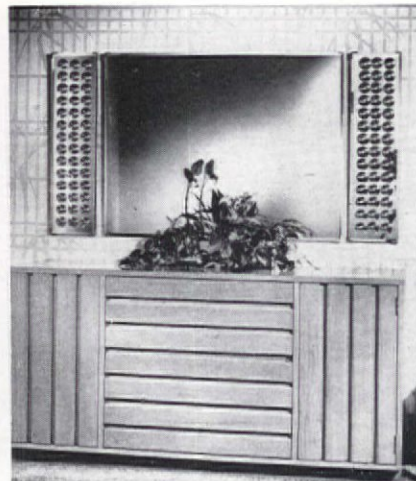
BY BILL TURNER



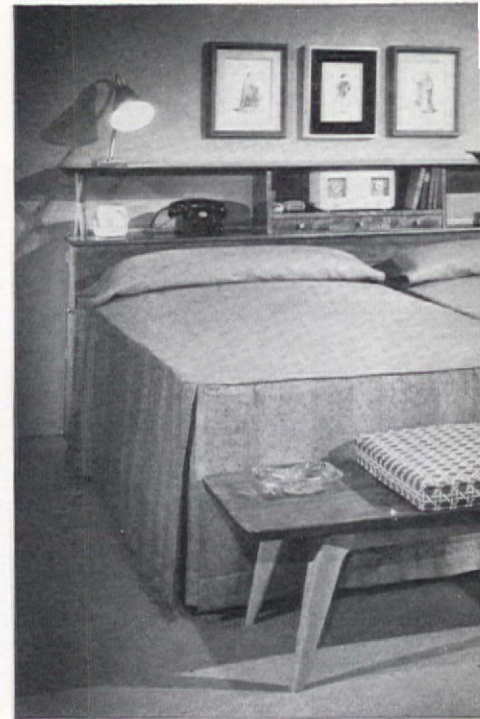
FOR YOUR REFLECTION

MIRRORS are being designed this year in varieties to beguile every taste. Frames may glow in the splendor of gilt or hang quietly in softly lustrous lacquers. The most impressive are elegantly simple with telling combinations of glass and frames. Pleasingly large, these mirrors blend equally

well into either period or contemporary settings. Pictured here are, top row: black frame and white painted linen, plain gold leaf frame. . . . Second row: expanded metal grill over black and a snowflake design in twin accessory panels. . . . Below, frame stippled in gold and panels with convex circles.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DALE ROOKS



BY RUTH COREL

NIGHTLY, Grandma knelt to strengthen her plea for a new bed . . . not just any bed but the biggest hunk of walnut she had ever seen. It had been awarded a blue ribbon for design excellence at the great Philadelphia Exposition of 1876 and there were, as you can see, plenty of places to hang the award. The bed was ornamented with walnut burl and walnut veneers, and it sparkled with gold striping.

Probably Grandmother's prayers bore little fruit, but the bed, called the General Grant Victorian, launched a little-known, inaccessible town on an unprecedented career in furniture manufacturing.

At first glance, comparison between the wonderous bed and the modern one we picture seems startling. Such splurges of ornateness are now happily quiescent. Having sloughed exaggerated details and having acquired a sense of simplicity, designers from that now far from unknown town are using the same skills to produce today's quality furniture.

In our remembrance of times past we shoulderingly recall the Golden Oak period. The multiple-purpose idea is old stuff as you can see by the combination bookcase, desk, secretary and what-not, a masterpiece created about the turn of the century. Sometimes the locked door protected the best family china and glassware. It as well as its modern counterpart beside were produced in Grand Rapids. Today's more flexible units perform all the same functions but may be used separately or as single units. The 1907 chest of drawers is almost Spartan in design but in line with present day design trends are wheels which put it in the mobile class.



Blue ribbon bed
at Philadelphia's
1876 Centennial



S hades of General Grant

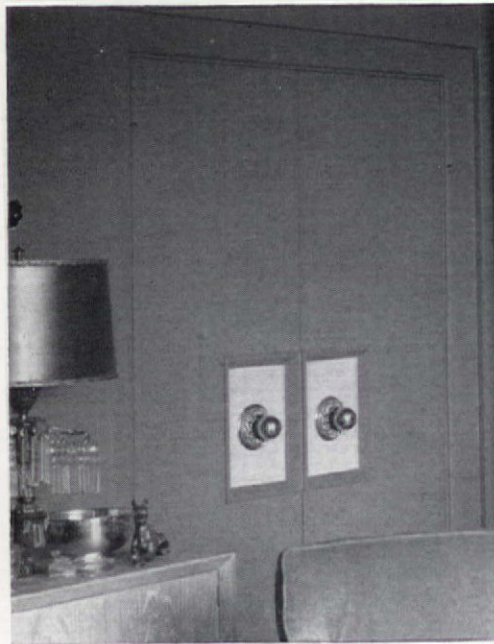
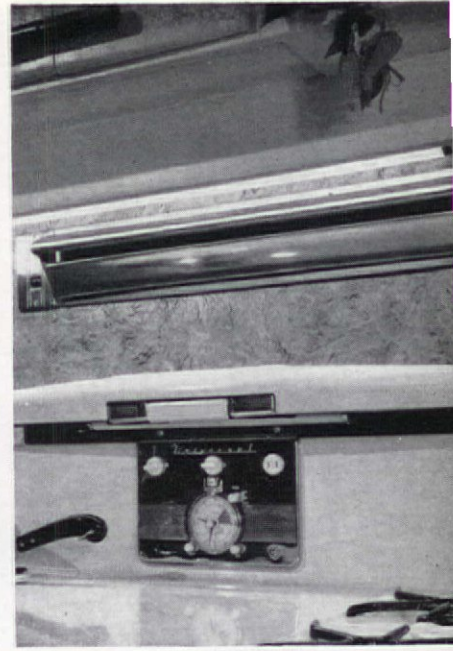


"Modern" kiln-dried
wood chest of 1907



Applied ornamentation
dual purpose features fa-
vored at turn of century





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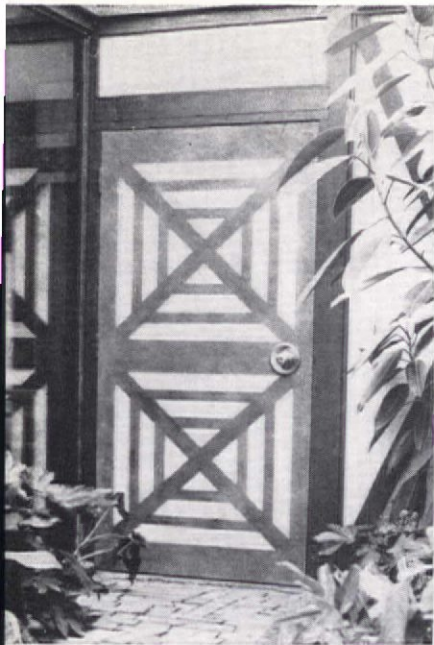
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Lagniappe...

(pronounced LAN-YAP)

It's Louisiana patois for that extra something you get for nothing . . . the thirteenth roll in a baker's dozen . . . a real find. Here are twelve-plus-one wonderful ideas you won't be able to resist picturing in your own home

1. Wonderful way to finish off Christmas cards we find too nice to scrap. Mass them in small frames for a lavish effect. 2. A six-inch magazine shelf and eight-inch bolsters shear the library-guest-room bed down to comfortable lounging width. 3. The haunting odor of baking bread or frying chicken — we love them but there are others we could do without, and do, since we discovered how completely ultraviolet or ozone lamps rout cooking or tobacco ghosts. 4. A new partnership — laminated, translucent fiber glass and plasticized pine for a new door. What's more, we understand there is a choice of colors. 5. Camouflage — draperies of adjoining window frame the center mirror to make a single trim unit of this wall. 6. Another window treatment that will personalize any room. Beautiful great ones for the unusual, we really like this idea of encircling the window with a selection of photographs, prints or sketches that reflect family interests. 7. Fortunately, you don't need a mint of money for dramatic decorating. Two picture frames, two large shining knobs, two colors of paint and two flush doors — a double



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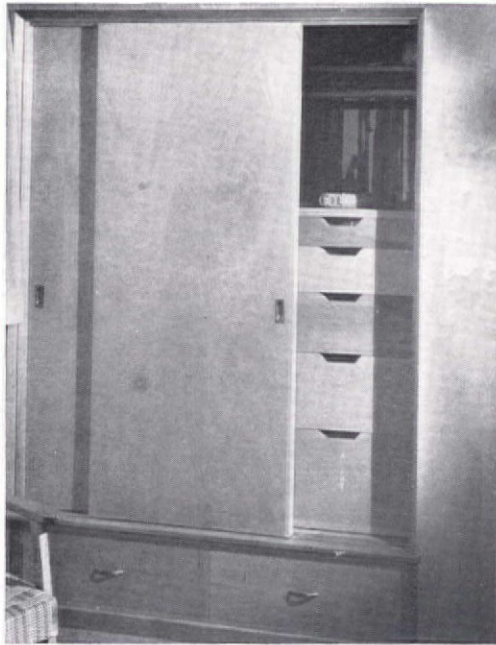
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6



10



11



12

portion of everything — that's the list of ingredients for this luxurious
 or treatment. **8.** Short and sweet — a quick snack bar just 16 by
 inches wide. It cuddles the busy homemaker's minutes and it's
 just-right spot for mapping out the day's menus. **9.** New tri-
 angular closets at either side of a bedroom window have mirrored
 ors for a fore and aft check. **10.** It couldn't be more compact.
 e mean the drop-leaf desk that was fitted into the book shelves
 ded to this bedroom. **11.** In the minds of many people, a closet
 a closet and that's that. But add finger-grip drawers for clothing
 d deep drawers for extra bedding and it becomes a major con-
 nience. **12.** A dressing table tucks into the tiny hallway between
 drooms and bath. Now let's look at lucky number **13**, the bonus
 ea. We went limp at the first sight of this French Provincial table
 with its electrically operated Lazy Susan. That is a button on each of
 e four sides between each two persons the table seats. The table
 d the matching chairs are finished in an antique fruitwood color.
 e grilled-front cupboard is also designed in the French tradition.

+ 13



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material at fair prices. Each is staffed by personnel who know that they best serve themselves by competently serving others. Each is a friendly, community-minded firm that you'll find it a pleasure to deal with. Use this page as a guide.

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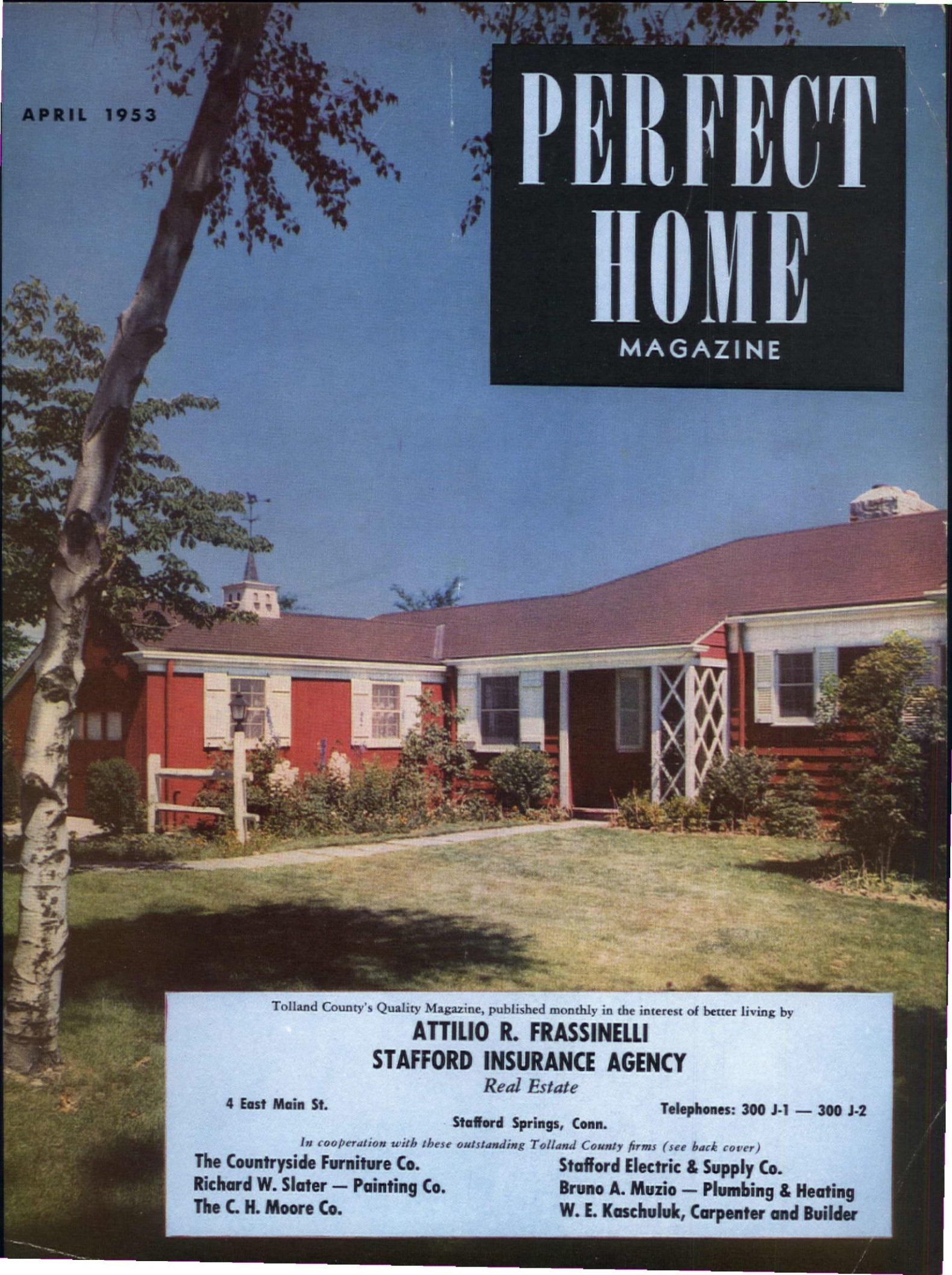
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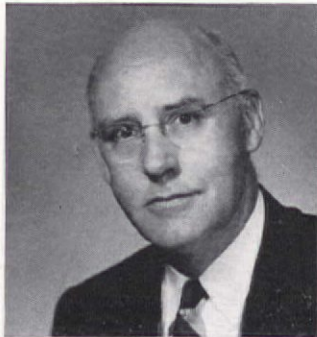
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I REMEMBER



In addition to his duties as president of Grinnell College, Dr. Stevens is a member of the Board of Governors of the United States Military Academy and president of Stevens, Thurow and Associates, personnel management firm

WHENEVER I recall the days of my boyhood there comes to my mind a panorama of home which is unique only in the sense that it is peculiarly my own.

I remember the house with its many rooms, its wide hallways, and the long bannister rail down which I slid with such glee and excitement. I remember the barn, big, old, beautiful, smelling of horses, cows, and hay, and the tobacco barn with its rafters crowded with tobacco stakes and long brown leaves curing during the autumn and early winter.

I remember the long table at which fourteen people usually sat for three meals every day. My two grandfathers, each running his end of the table as though he were, indeed, the head of the house. My mother with her quiet ability to keep boys and girls in order and to keep the peace between the grandfathers, who regularly played favorites. I remember the circle for table prayers and the quiet moment after dinner when my father read the Bible.

I recall discipline applied equally to all, the guilty and the innocent without fear or favor, with switches supplied by the culprits from the willows which grew along the creek. I remember the long walk to church on Sunday mornings and the boredom of service after service which consumed most of the day.

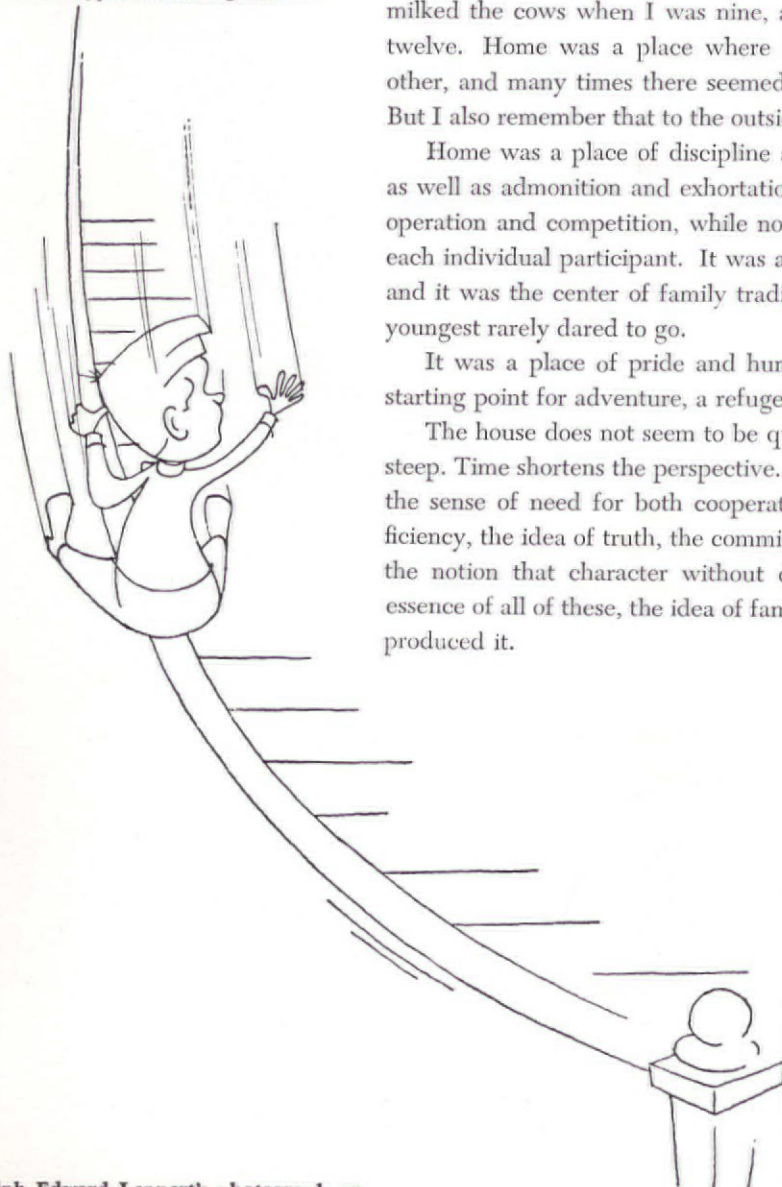
So many images crowd in. Home was a place where work was shared, each according to his age and his ability. So I collected the eggs when I was five, and milked the cows when I was nine, and helped cultivate the tobacco when I was twelve. Home was a place where each within the circle could argue with the other, and many times there seemed to be a civil war ending only with violence. But I also remember that to the outside world there was a common front.

Home was a place of discipline as well as love. It was the center of learning as well as admonition and exhortation. It was a beloved community in which cooperation and competition, while not always balanced, made for the character of each individual participant. It was a place of beauty that could never be ignored, and it was the center of family tradition against which neither the oldest nor the youngest rarely dared to go.

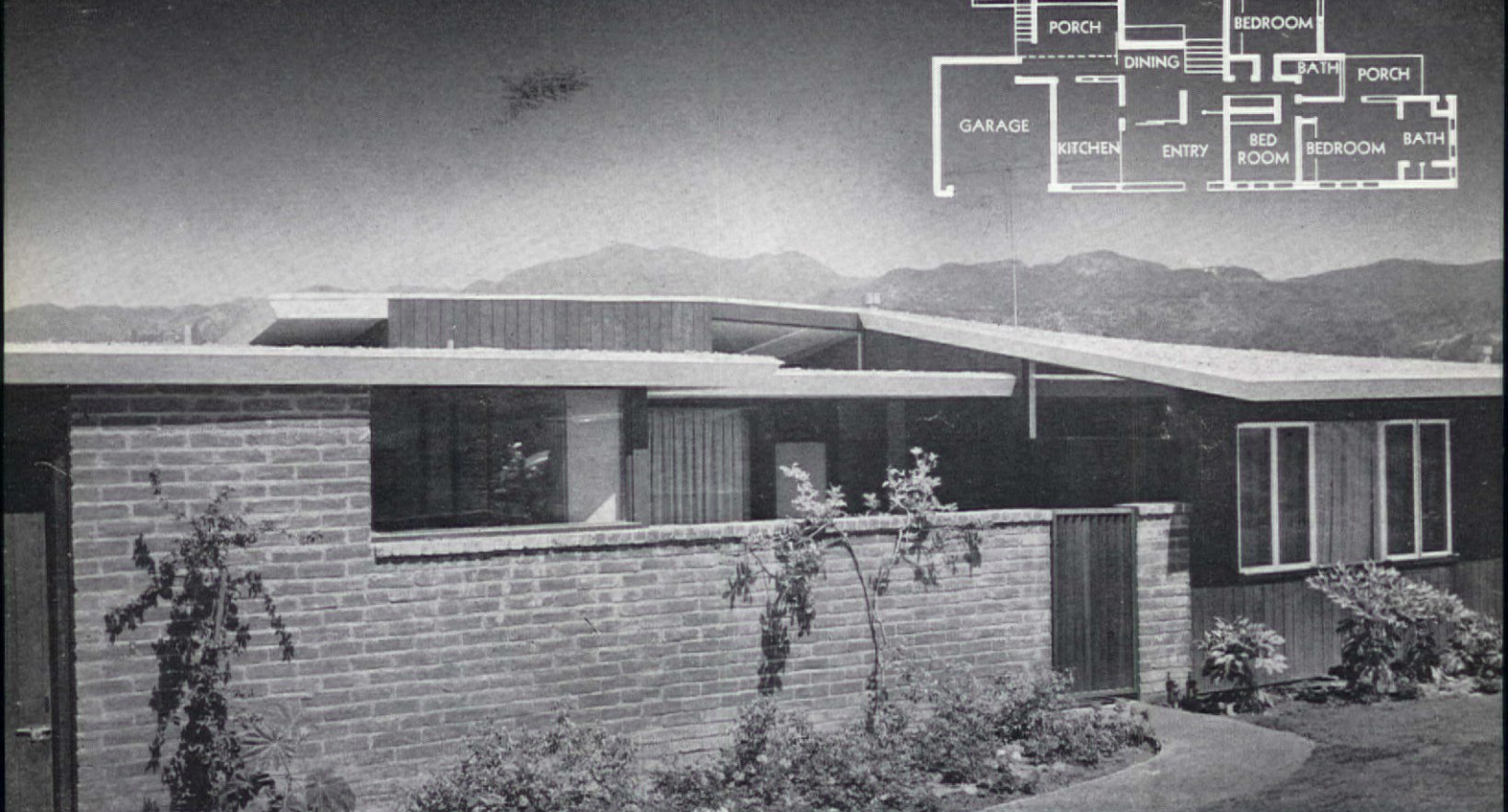
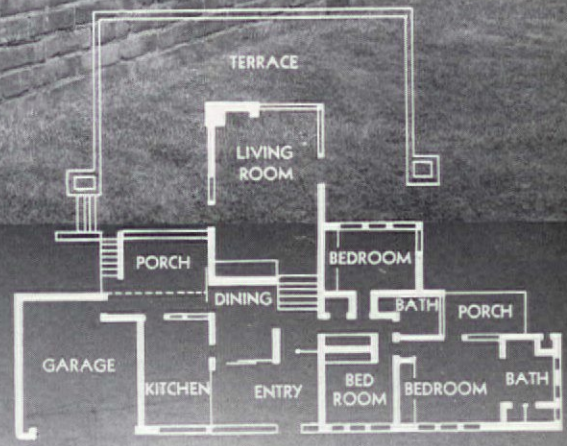
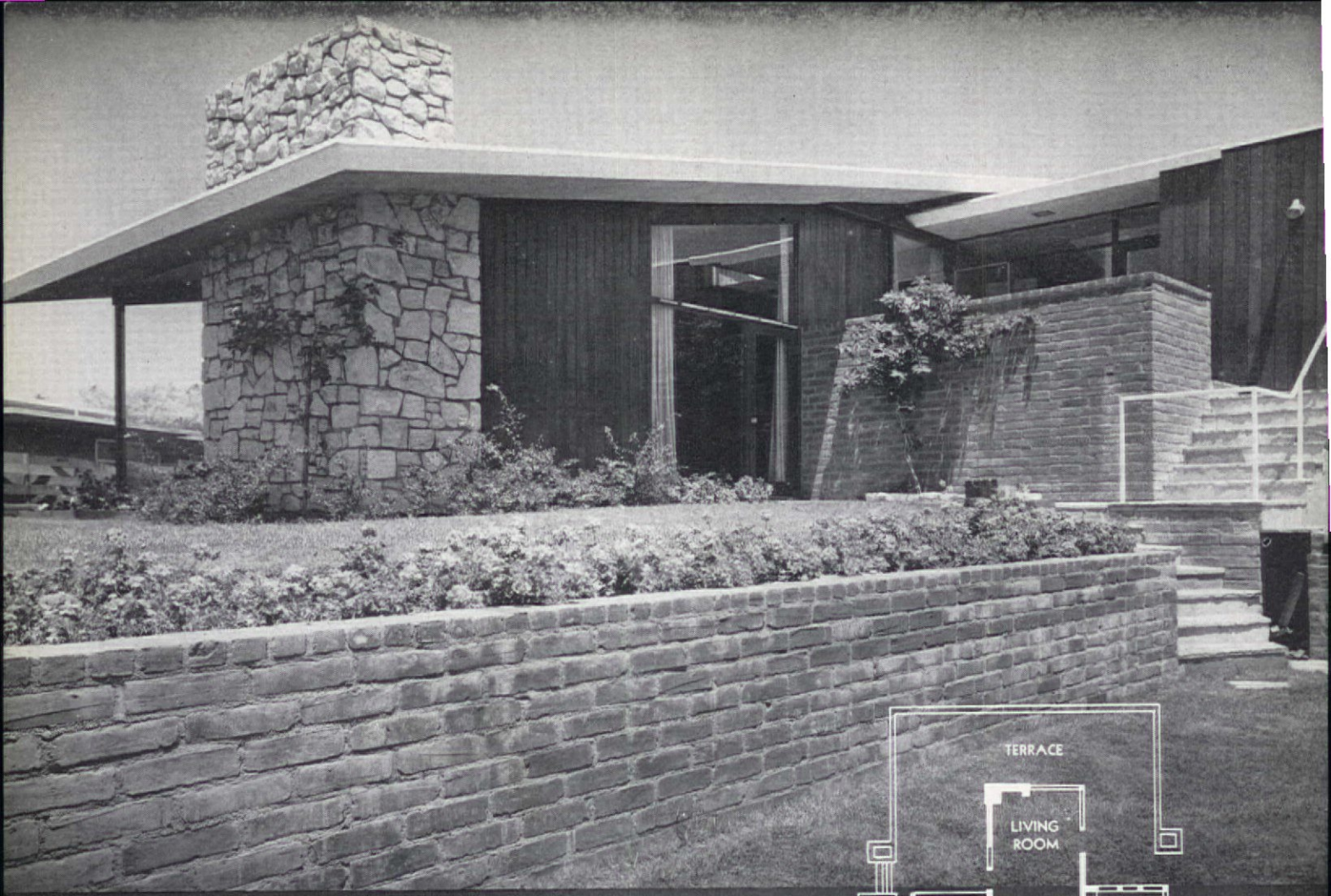
It was a place of pride and humility, a source of wisdom and foolishness, a starting point for adventure, a refuge in failure.

The house does not seem to be quite so big now, nor the bannister so long and steep. Time shortens the perspective. Some things remain. The idea of community, the sense of need for both cooperation and competition, the desire for self sufficiency, the idea of truth, the commitment to values that were beyond the horizon, the notion that character without discipline is impossible. Also, as a distilled essence of all of these, the idea of family life as worth every bit of the travail which produced it.

James H. Stevens
PRESIDENT GRINNELL COLLEGE



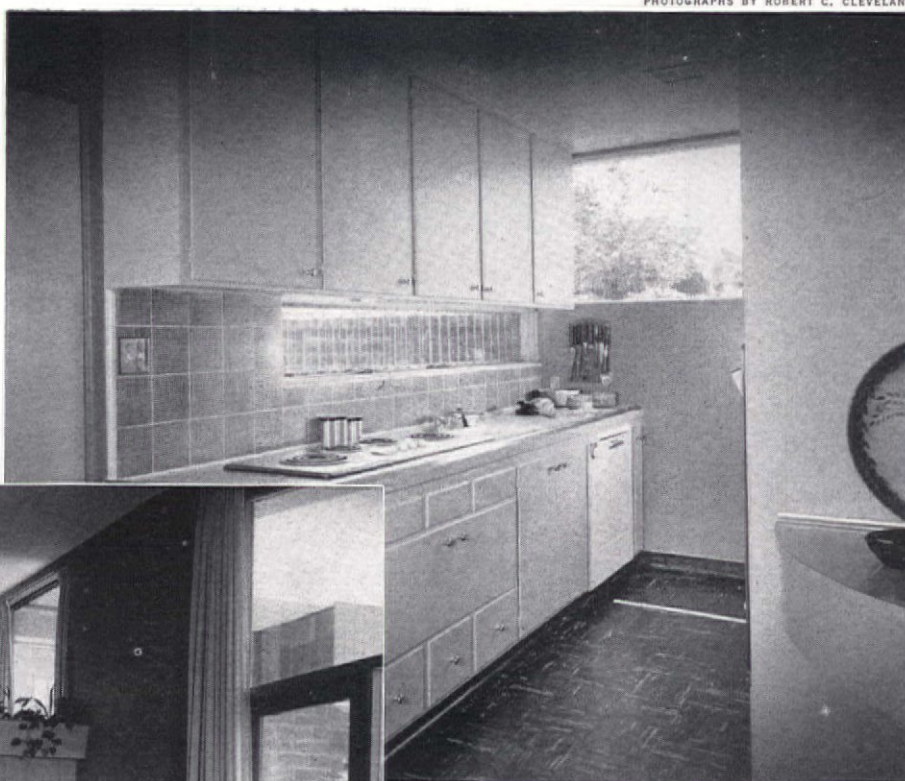
Look at Rudolph Edward Leppert's photograph on the front cover and you'll know why so many people like the red cottages. If you prefer a brown house, look at this one photographed by Rudi Rada



Once you are inside the front gate, you are within the sphere of the house, because interior-external lines are thin. The small roofed court is separated from the interior only by a window-wall. The back-yard stairway leads to a landing on which a door opens from the living room. The steps then go on up to a porch off dining room and kitchen where there's still another entrance

Spacious and Gracious

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT C. CLEVELAND



The efficient kitchen features a sink-range-refrigerator unit with a louvered glass window above it, which furnishes plenty of light and ventilation



The large, high-ceilinged living room with its smart modern furniture is on the lower level. The door at the far right opens into the back yard. Straight ahead, on the upper level, is the front door. Dining area is behind planter

MOLDED to the contour of its sloping lot, this is not a large home if you consider only the number of square feet under roof. But it blends porches, court, and terraces into its plan and thus achieves an impression of spaciousness and a leisurely, luxurious charm.

When you enter from the street side, you come first into a small, brick-walled court. You enter the house itself through a door in a window-wall. You find yourself in a hall with the dining area on your left and the living room straight ahead, down six steps.

The dining space gives you the pleasant feeling of being on a balcony. When you are seated at the table, however, the living room is completely concealed by a large planter. A big cabinet doubles as a wall between you and the steps. The window-wall makes the room seem much larger than it is by making it a visual unit with the court.

Across the hall, you find the other end of the upper level occupied by a bedroom, a study-guest-room, and two baths. A balcony is an intriguing adjunct to the bedroom.

The large living room is the only room on the lower level. Its glass floor opens on a landing of the outdoor stairway (steps continue upward to a back porch off kitchen and dining room). Other skillfully placed glass sections supply an abundance of light and increase the feeling of intimacy with lawn and flowers. A swish of draperies converts the room to a cozy-evening retreat with the corner fireplace beckoning hospitably.



Among the advantages of this bedroom balcony is the promise of good ventilation on a warm night. Good spot for sunning, too



Placed to Good Purpose

THIS INGENIOUS divider should please lovers of the functional. Steps to the right of the dining space lead to a lower-level living room (for a plan of the house, see page 4). The big cabinet walls off the brief stairway nicely and, not reaching to the ceiling, doesn't destroy the feeling of sweep that is part of this home's special charm. Above: the generous interior of the cabinet contains a wealth of storage space for china, linen and other dining accessories.





Is White Your "Color"?

ONE OF THE curious paradoxes of decorating is that though color is widely lauded for its "way" with a room, few of us realize that the absence of color can be every bit as charming.

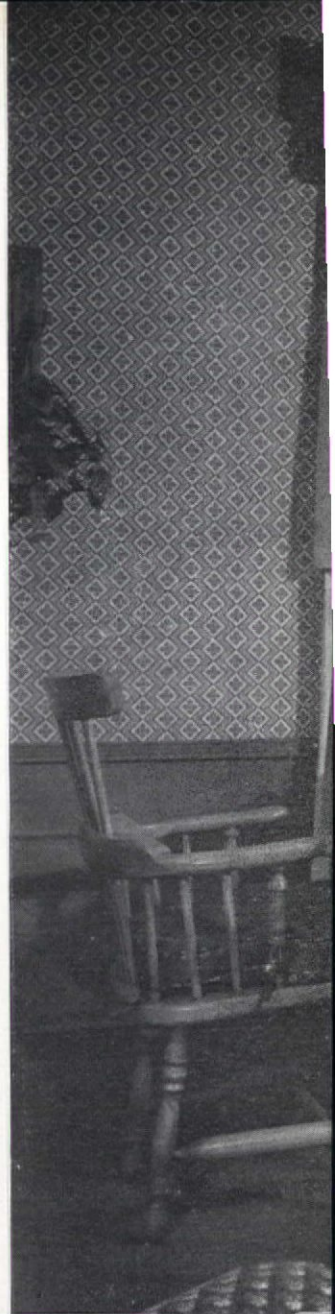
To use color is easy. To capitalize on a lack of color is an art. The absence of background color in old Chinese watercolors is the greatest strength of these paints.

The white room is a fresh though hardly new note in decorating. The early Greeks, Madame de Pompadour and even the Shakers created serene interiors through the complete lack of background color, with scrubbed-white walls.

Never underestimate the power of white. It is a "color" with many moods. Underscore it with bright tones . . . warm it with golden yellows . . . wash it with cool greens and blues and it will change from provincial to contemporary to traditional without a single stroke of a brush.

Too much color can cause visual indigestion. White creates an illusion of space and serves as a restful foil for the brilliant splashes we like to use as accents. In this pleasant room even the floors are white. The blue and white of the ceiling is repeated on chairs. The sofa and matching lounge chair are cherry-red.

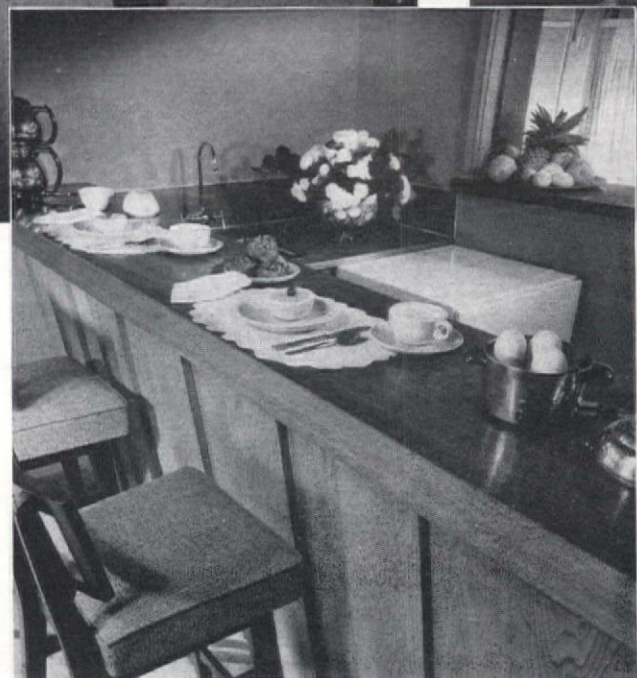




1

Set your table
where the view
is new

3



4



WE HAVEN'T the slightest intention of involving ourselves in the never-to-be-settled controversy concerning dining rooms — to have or not have. Honestly — we think there are some very strong arguments on either side.

Those who argue that the small house can ill afford the space allotted to a dining room back up their arguments with the claim that most such rooms are marked for "occasions only" with family meals arranged in the kitchen or breakfast nook.

The Defenders of the American Dining Room bemoan the too-casual atmosphere of such substitute measures.

Dining room or no dining room, we feel that mealtimes in your home can be more inviting, more colorful, more interesting if you occasionally change the setting — alter the mood. Mealtime is an event in any one of these five delightful spots.

1. Familiar scalloped potatoes and meat-loaf become palate-thumping company fare if moved to a living room table. Lamplight and deep chairs are certainly a powerful inducement to leisurely meals

2. Just right for Sunday supper, with a mood compounded of that fine combination of lamplight and the nostalgia we all feel at the end of the day. So let's gather around the table with good food, pleasant company and lots of time to enjoy both

3. We feel that no kitchen is quite complete if it fails to include a corner where we can sip a hot cup of our favorite brew or munch a hearty sandwich. This kitchen counter has knee-pampering sides

4. When appetites give your favorite recipes the brush-off it could mean that your breakfast meals need a change of settings. Picture your breakfast table on this terrace. Canvas directors' chairs, a checked table cloth and early sunshine are its complements

5. Plan the setting to suit the meal. Feasts and family get-togethers rightly belong in the dining room but end-of-the-day duos or trios find delight in just such a drop-leaf table set in a spacious bay window

2

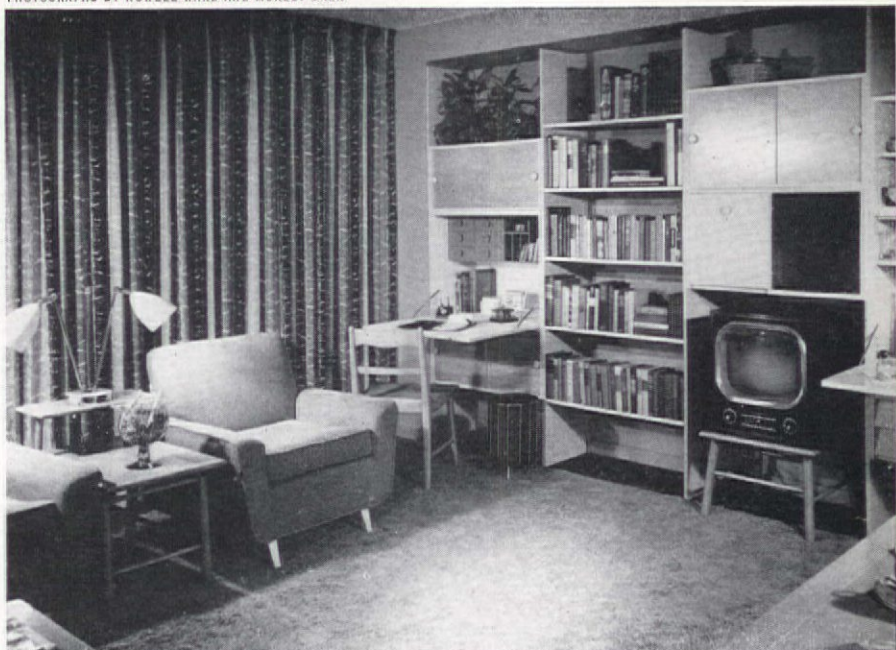


5

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GEORGE DE GENNARO . . . COURTESY OF BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS MAGAZINE, MAYNARD PARKER AND ROBERT CLEVELAND



PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOWELL WARD AND MORLEY BAER



The storage wall combines an astounding assortment of varied requirements. It holds desk and buffet in addition to the television set. At present the latter rests on a temporary perch but the plan is to place it on a turntable so that it may be angled toward its audience.

Fireplace on the move

A PORTABLE fireplace? We know in advance that this idea will foster many an argument. We have talked with friends about it and there were plenty of opinions — all vehement. Perhaps we should have shown it to you when the days were still crisp and the idea of a flame-bathed log would make any fireplace inviting. But we are looking forward to those first early spring evenings on the porch and suspect that this unique fireplace could allay the chill breezes that so often rout us from the out-of-doors immediately after sun-down.

Add a stove pipe and damper and a hearth of stone or brick, if you wish, lay on the logs and kindling and your fire is ready for the match.

It's an idea too for that summer home, but make no mistake about it, this is no substitute fireplace. It is handsome enough for any contemporary home. Witness the manner in which it plays up pine paneling, brick and flagstone in this pleasant room. And though we picture it in matte black we understand it is also made with a colored baked enamel finish.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DEARBORN-MASSAR

of sight and



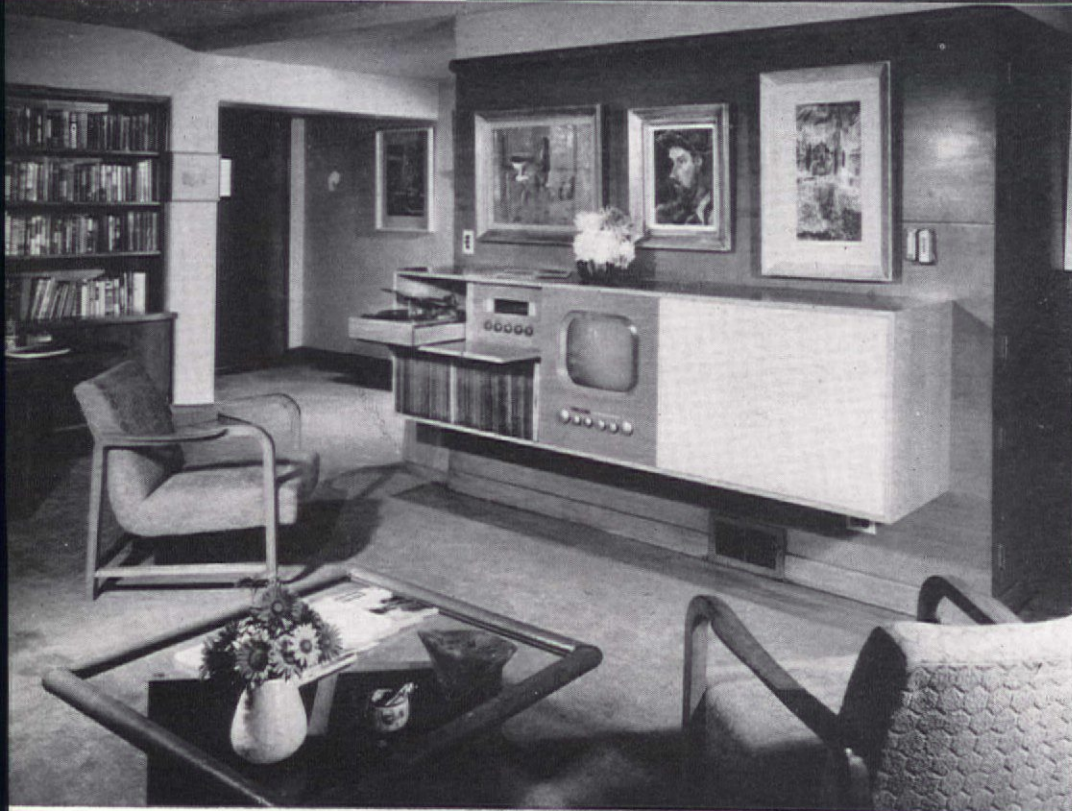
Record player and radio are enclosed beneath a waist-high shelf, a portion of which has been fastened with piano hinges. Shelves above hold books on music and art while there is plenty of space at either side for a choice record collection close to the long built-in sofa.



TWENTY YEARS ago most families were struggling with the mysteries of incorporating a radio set into their decorating. Now they must add the problem of positioning a television screen and perhaps a record player. Each must blend with the setting, and even more important, be situated so that it performs its intended functions with no sacrifice of quality.

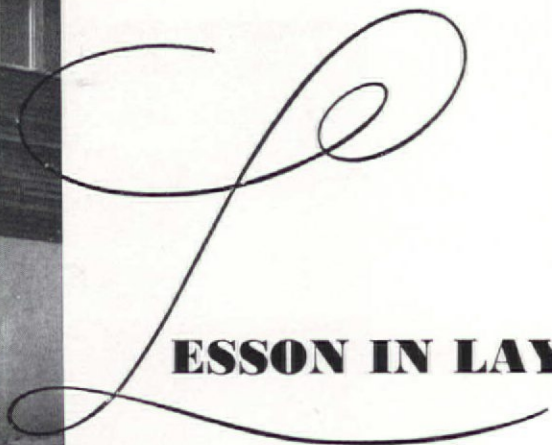
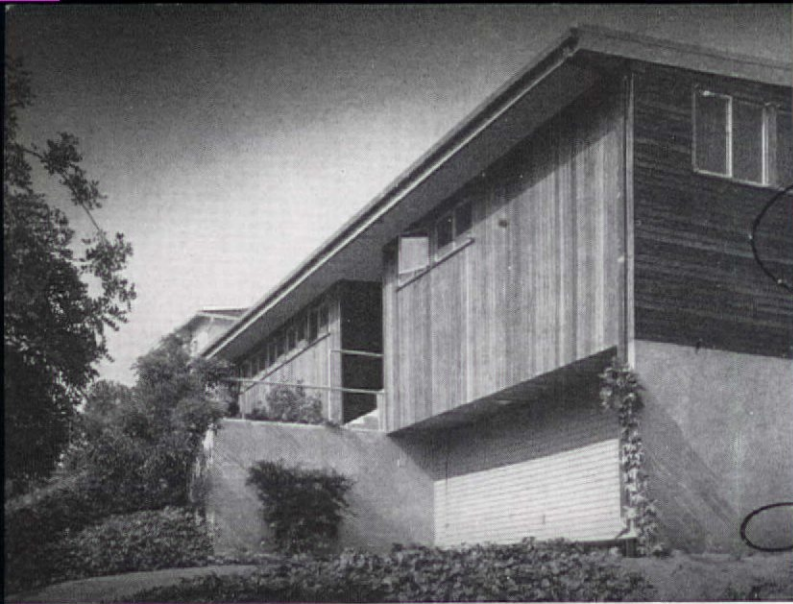
With the new packages for custom-designed sets, a built-in unit combining all elements may be planned to harmonize with the decorating of your room. Here are four fine examples.

Sound



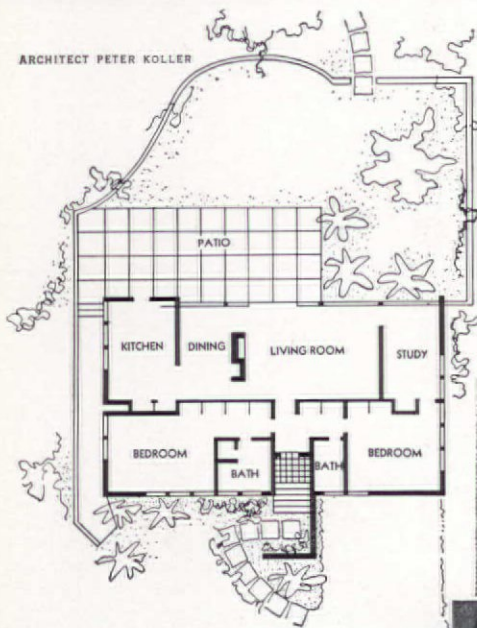
In order to face the screen in the direction of the viewers, the center section of the cupboard that holds the television screen is angled out into the room. This attractive music center is one that any skilled carpenter could duplicate for you

A simple rectangular box of mahogany-faced plywood holds the television set, the radio and record player. Such a convenient music center need not be costly. In fact it will probably cost no more than many conventionally cabined sets



LESSON IN LAYOUT

ARCHITECT PETER KOLLER



THERE ARE several things about this lovely home that will repay a careful look, but the most remarkable is its ingenious floor plan.

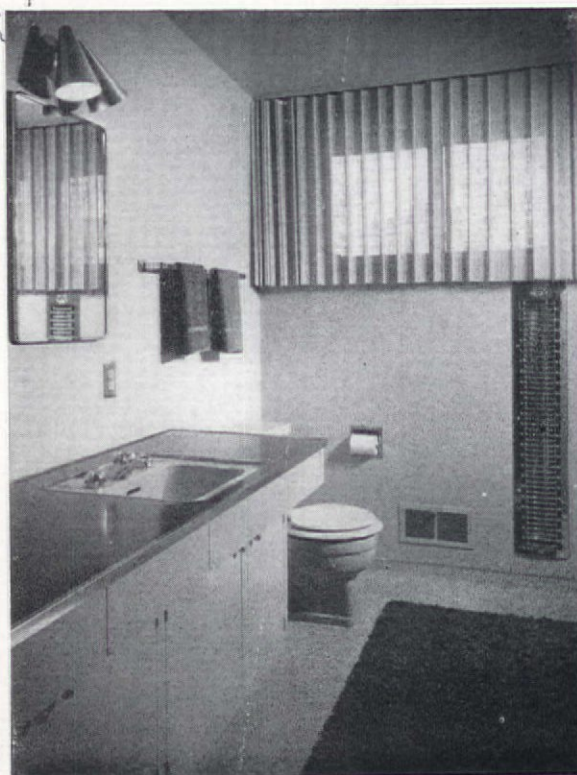
The designer began with a simple rectangle. He divided it lengthwise with a fat storage wall. In the front, narrower half, he placed two bedrooms and two baths. He fitted kitchen, dining room, living room and a study into the back section. He set the front porch several feet into the rectangle of the house. This arrangement brings the visitor through most of the bedroom layer before he enters the house: it delivers him at the entrance of the living room.

The storage wall forms one wall of every room in the house. It provides each bedroom with a row of floor-to-ceiling closets. It holds a coat closet near the front door, a broom closet in the kitchen, a linen closet for the bathrooms.

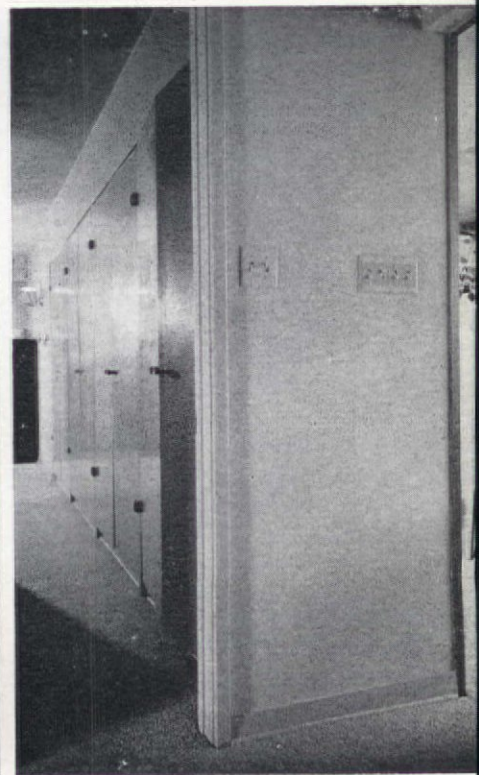
Other features of the plan: Except for the kitchen, rooms at the back section of the house share a window-wall on the terrace. . . . The garage is conveniently and economically located under the smaller bedroom, at front of the house. . . . A chimney-wall serves as a divider between living room and dining room.

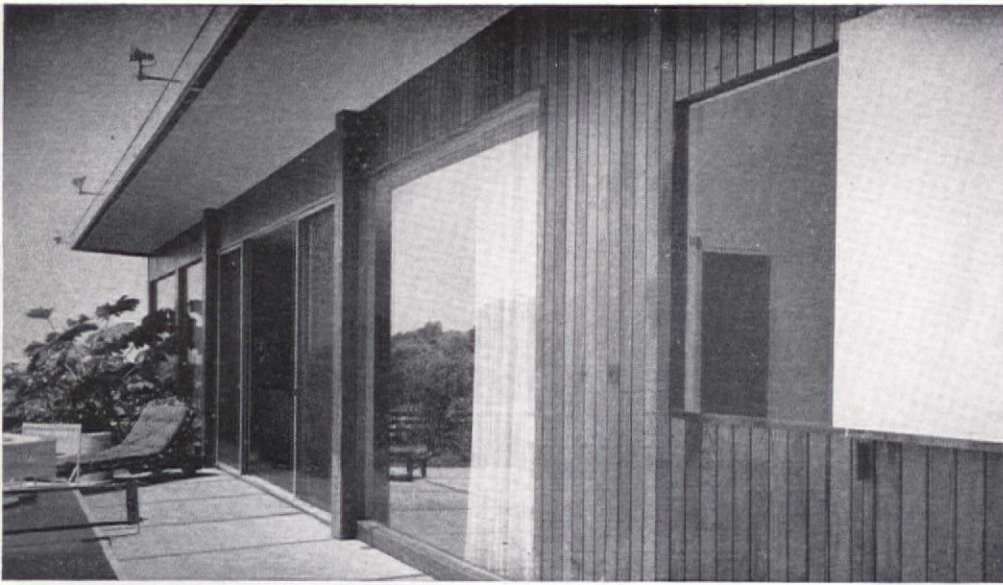
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT CLEVELAND

View, far right, from just inside the front door shows a section of the storage wall between the living room and one of the bedrooms



The bathroom boasts bamboo curtain, counter-top vanity, asphalt tile floor as noteworthy touches





Dutch door opens onto terrace from the kitchen. When closed it blends into exterior redwood wall



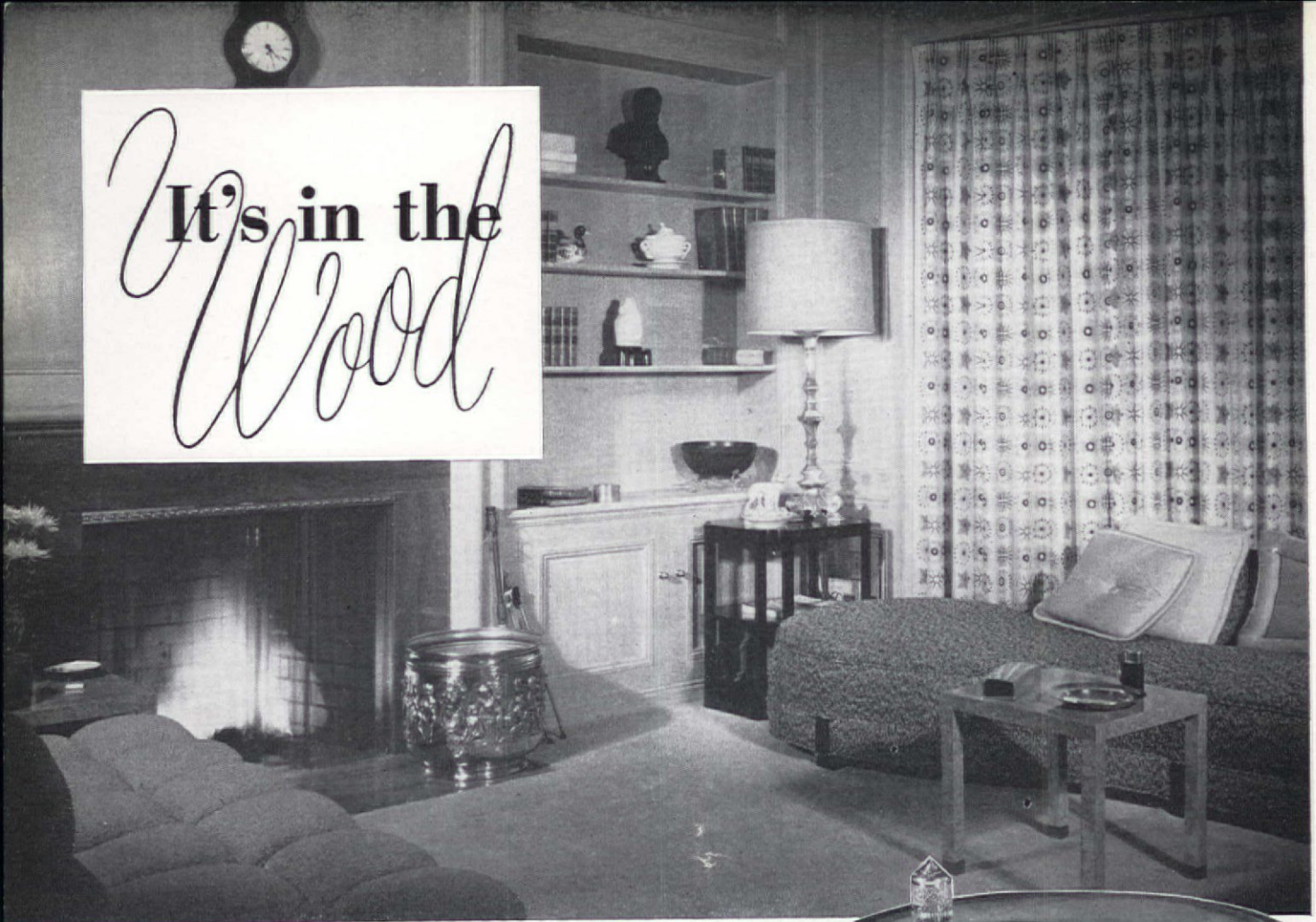
View of living room from entrance hall. Fireplace-wall on the left separates living and dining rooms. Door at the right leads to study



The study, looking toward terrace and door to living room. The picture is taken from the bedroom door. Study doubles as guest room

BY BILL TURNER

It's in the Wood



PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT C. CLEVELAND

VENEER IS USED for much of the finest furniture — the most beautiful wall paneling. A rare, delicate or costly face layer is laminated to a base of more plentiful or sturdier wood. Many beautiful woods lack the strength that would make them suitable for furniture or wall use. Fixing them to a strong ply back gives them the necessary rigidity.

As you know, a paper-thin sheet of fine hard wood is used to face a built-up wood core. This base may be any one of several other sturdy woods. Alternate layers are bonded at right angles to each other. Since shrinkage and expansion are successfully prevented there is only the slightest chance of warpage.

There are several obvious advantages to using veneers. Since the most beautifully grained logs sell for thousands of dollars, it is easy to see what a solid wood table top or wall panel might cost. But with veneering, this beauty will be used to the very best advantage since the same log may be cut into fifty to one hundred thin sheets thus spreading the cost of the log. If it were not for veneering, much of the natural beauty of such rare wood would be lost or hidden.

Then too, often the graining is most beautiful in the small irregular cuts that would be entirely impractical if not used for veneering. A tree exposed to wind, rain, insects or disease, produces irregular growth that often results in a marvelous variety of patterns and colorations. These unusual formations are employed to the best advantage as veneer.

Veneers have great workability. Bow or serpentine construction with flat curves is highly practical with laminated woods. Also such construction is lighter and sturdier than could be produced with solid woods.

New bonding agents actually make the veneered panels stronger than wood, also rendering them impervious to termites and other wood-damaging bugs and quite safe against the effects of dryness or moisture.

Naturally, a large part of the fine veneer produced is used industrially for furniture, for store and office displays and for boats, but much also goes into our homes as panels or custom designed built-ins.



Fine crotch and burl veneers and solid mahogany form this rent table, a predecessor of the filing cabinet. The eight drawers are indexed with inlaid marquetry, there is a storage compartment in the pedestal. The top is gold-tooled leather

Aside from the charm, color and graining of a wood background there are many practical advantages. Once installed it assures easy house-keeping since it is practically maintenance-free and grows lovelier with time. Beautifully grained panels make possible such harmonious settings as the fireside corner that we picture above



Three compartments in this half-wall hold all kinds of difficult-to-store items like the radio and record player

Load dinner on this roll-away cart and wheel it into the dining room. It fits beneath cupboards when not in use



3 CURES FOR THAT STORAGE COMPLAINT



THE PATENT OFFICE is filled with ideas for making life simple . . . wonder gadgets that were fashioned for and must be fitted into our houses. We march proudly home with our shiny, new, time-saving, entertaining or comfort-producing treasures only to discover that we have forgotten we must find a place for them in cupboards, drawers, shelves that are already snug with previously hoarded loot.

If you're in need of more space, take a critical look at every wall and you'll find storage possibilities that you have never suspected. Built-in storage ideas, like these three, will yield an extra bonus in convenience and in orderliness.

Six small under-the-counter drawers hold cosmetics, accessories, jewelry. Blouses, sweaters and lingerie are shelved in the cupboard



PHOTOGRAPHS BY SHAN STEWART

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