

JUNE 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

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BY JOSEPH C. GREW

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The *family* makes the home



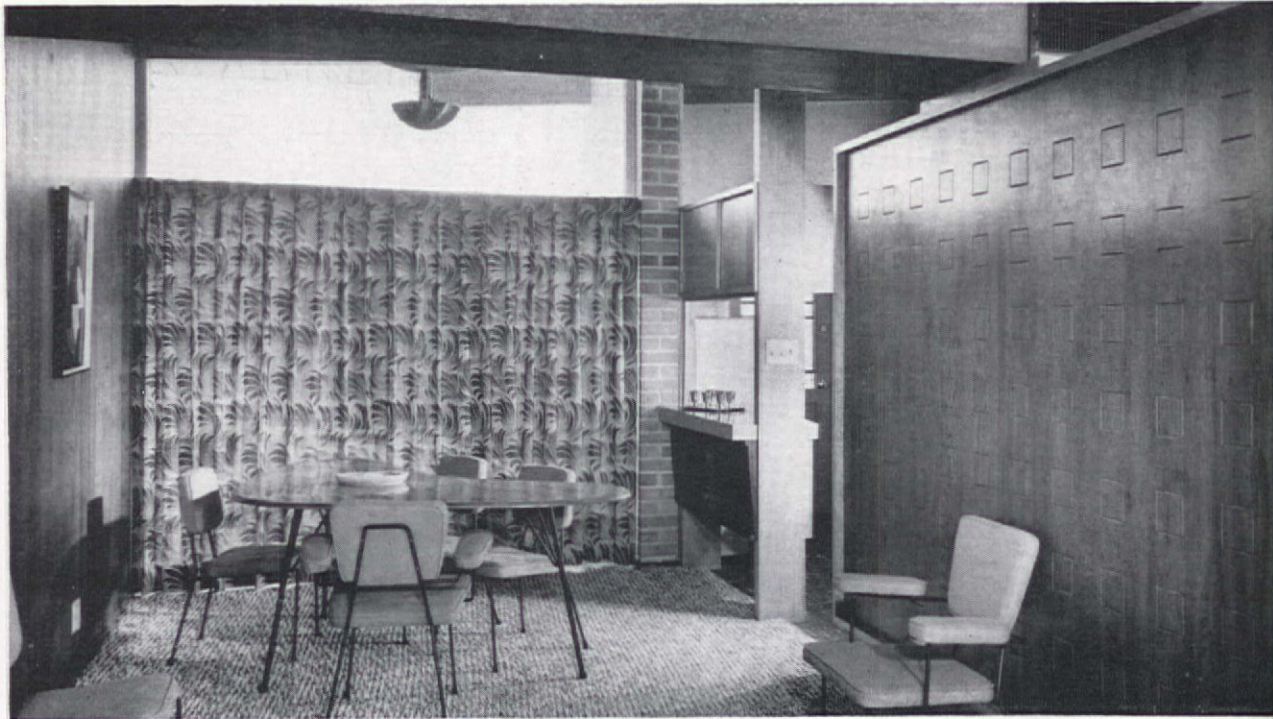
HOME SHOULD be the sheet-anchor of life. Yet when you have to establish sixteen new homes in forty years, as we have done in the Foreign Service, the problem is not a simple one. Only with a deep understanding of what home means and the determination that a real home shall be made out of whatever shack or palace one finds available, can one ever find happy solutions to that problem.

Primarily it is, of course, the family that makes the home. Fortunately, my wife was from the start home-minded, and with sometimes pitifully meager equipment she planned and plotted until beautiful and sympathetic surroundings were produced. I remember that in one home, in Russia, due to interminable and unavoidable delays our living room was at first furnished with a piano and one kitchen chair, the piano being as essential as the chair. But that didn't last too long and eventually the home atmosphere took shape. Then, as our four lovely little girls appeared successively on the scene, we needed little else to make our homes beautiful.

Home should be a place of sunshine and flowers, of music and laughter, a sacred retreat where one can retire for a few hours from the trials and tribulations of the outside world and can live and grow surrounded by beauty, intimate companionship and, above all, by love.

Joseph C. Grew

The Trick About a Patio...



The dining end of the living room is shielded from entry and from kitchen by attractive redwood panel. Pass-through may be conveniently closed by a sliding panel whenever desired

View of the living room from entry shows chimney-wall that extends into patio as a brick plant-box. Note floor-to-ceiling windows. Those are vertical blinds on window at end of room





THE TRICK about planning a patio is to make it fit (at least in good weather) into living space. Its concept should be that of an additional room rather than that of a back yard.

The house shown here is built around its patio like a doughnut with a bite out of it. Various devices emphasize this propinquity, making the outdoor area an inescapable part of the floor plan. There's the unifying effect of a chimney-wall, for instance — it forms one end of the living room, then continues into the patio. Floor-to-ceiling windows also help blend indoors and out. So does the widely overhanging roof with its exposed beams visible on both sides of glass walls.

Among the things we especially

like about this home are the dining area and the galley-type kitchen. The dining nook is at one end of the long living room. It's separated from the kitchen only by a pass-through counter and a handsome wooden screen. A horizontal sliding panel entirely shuts off the pass-through when desired.

Among many other space-saving features, the kitchen boasts cabinets that slope outward at the top. Besides being clever inch-gainers, these offer the added convenience of top shelves that are easier to reach because they project over lower ones. Sliding doors, another feature suggesting a ship's galley, don't demand air rights when they're opened. Cabinets of this type make work surface easier to use too.



Kitchen is compact, colorful, and super-convenient. Sloping cabinets give extra space on upper shelves. Sliding doors save space too



Here's a young-man-of-the-family room that offers several practical suggestions. Couches are covered with dirt-proof brown, rug is dirt-color. Rifle shot awards furnish wall decorations. Corner table arrangement is both handy and practical, holds a good light for readers-in-bed



Fine bone china and the onion pattern Meissen ware deck the walls of the charming living room and kitchen above

FINE old china like other good art never goes out of fashion. If you are hoarding several prize pieces on a top cupboard shelf, for goodness' sake dust them off and get them up on your walls right away. Several plates grouped over a modern chest will give your dining room a touch of the grand manner. Cups and saucers lined up on polished mahogany shelves endow a living room with to-be-envied graciousness. A pink and white tea set could be displayed in the bedroom and we know of one bathroom that houses a collection of shaving mugs. Even if your cupboards are innocent of bone china or fine porcelain, weep not, because today's glassware and gay china have a wily way with the most modest wall.



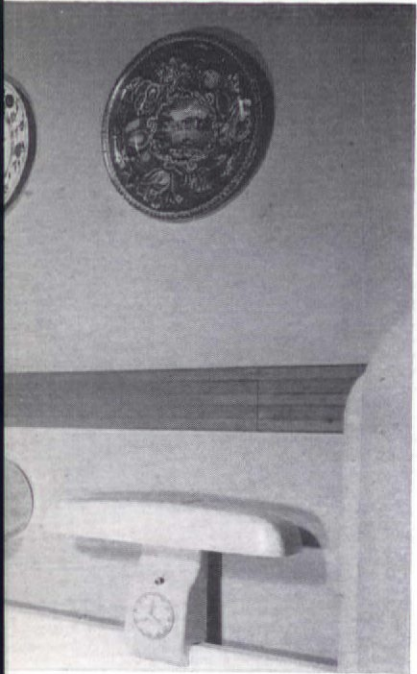
There are fine reproductions of old milk glass that beg to be used decoratively. Here they show to advantage above a pine chest



put
your best *China* China



More milk glass on a dark painted wall. The mirrored pine shadow box holds pair of roosters and two luster pitcher



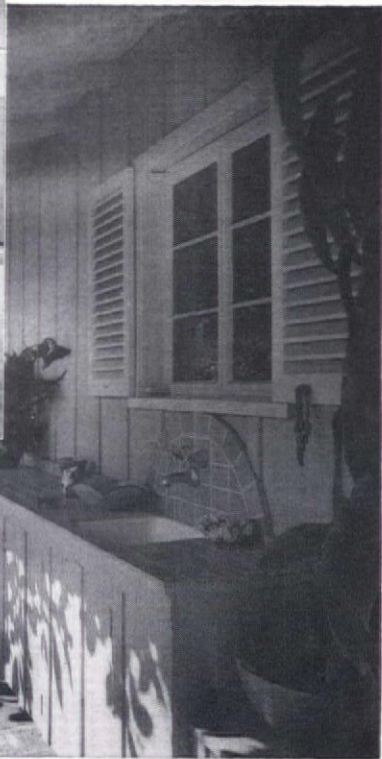
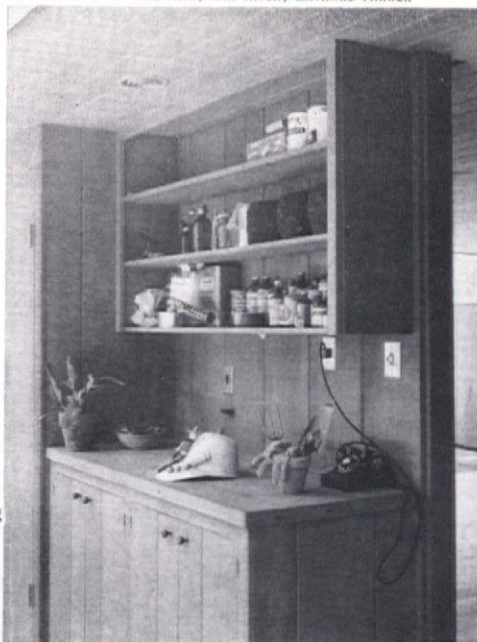
ina is never too nice to use. If you treasure it too much to use it on your table let it grace your walls

Forward

BY RUTH CORELL



ophies of the China trade are grouped on shelves above. The color scheme of the room is based on the colors in the porcelain



Potters Rights

ALMOST EVERY HOME has a corner of garage, porch, terrace, or breezeway that can be filled as functionally as those shown here. And if you've a way with a daisy or a turnip, what could be handier than a gardener's nook?

The cabinet combination (top) is primarily a potting bench, a wish-come-true for the homemaker with lots of indoor plant boxes. Plant food, sprays and such are kept on the shelves, where labels can be easily read. Tools, pots, and potting soil are stored beneath the sink. A closet to the left holds garden tools. For a final convenient touch, there's even a telephone at the potter's elbow.

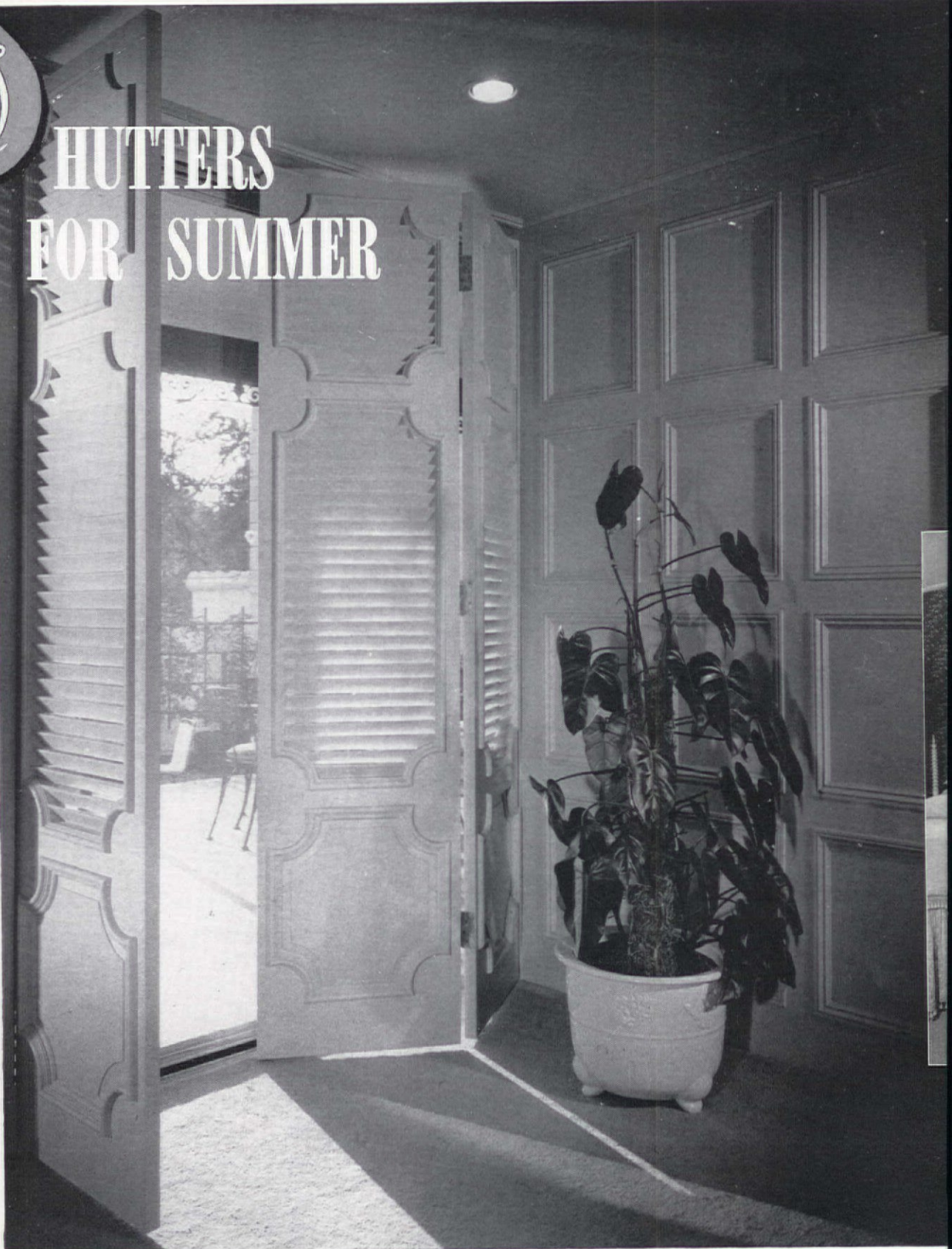
What better way to put porch space to work than to fill it with sink, counter and cabinets (right)? The kitchen is on the other side of the wall; so plumbing connections are simple and comparatively inexpensive.

The brick-and-tile sink (bottom) saves steps and also keeps green-thumb-marks off the kitchen woodwork. Provided with running water, shelves for vases, and a light, it's ideal for making flower arrangements. Dad uses it, too — to wash the vegetables he proudly brings from his part of the back yard.

Summer, fickle dame that she is, loves a golden day, but sun-flavored light needs control. With a tilt of the louvers, you get just the degree of brightness and airiness you desire.

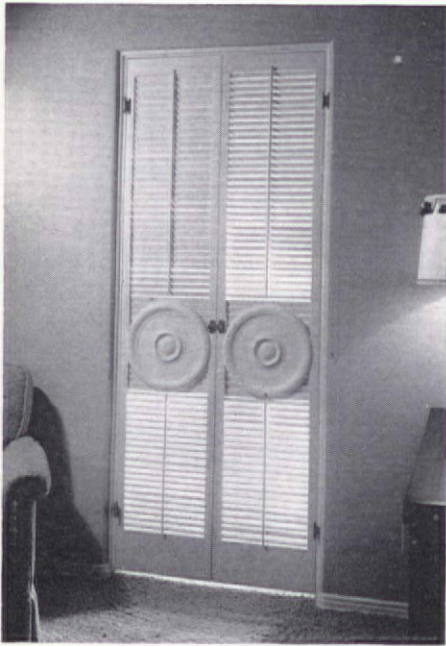
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HUTTERS FOR SUMMER

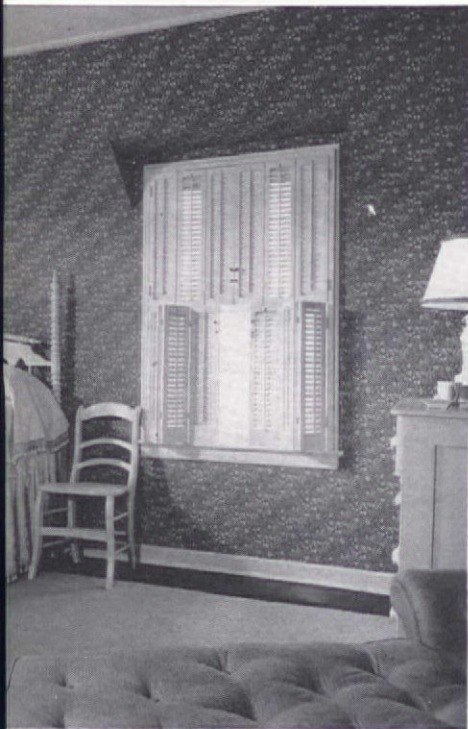


PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT CLEVELAND AND FRANK GAYNOR

BY DONNA NICHOLAS

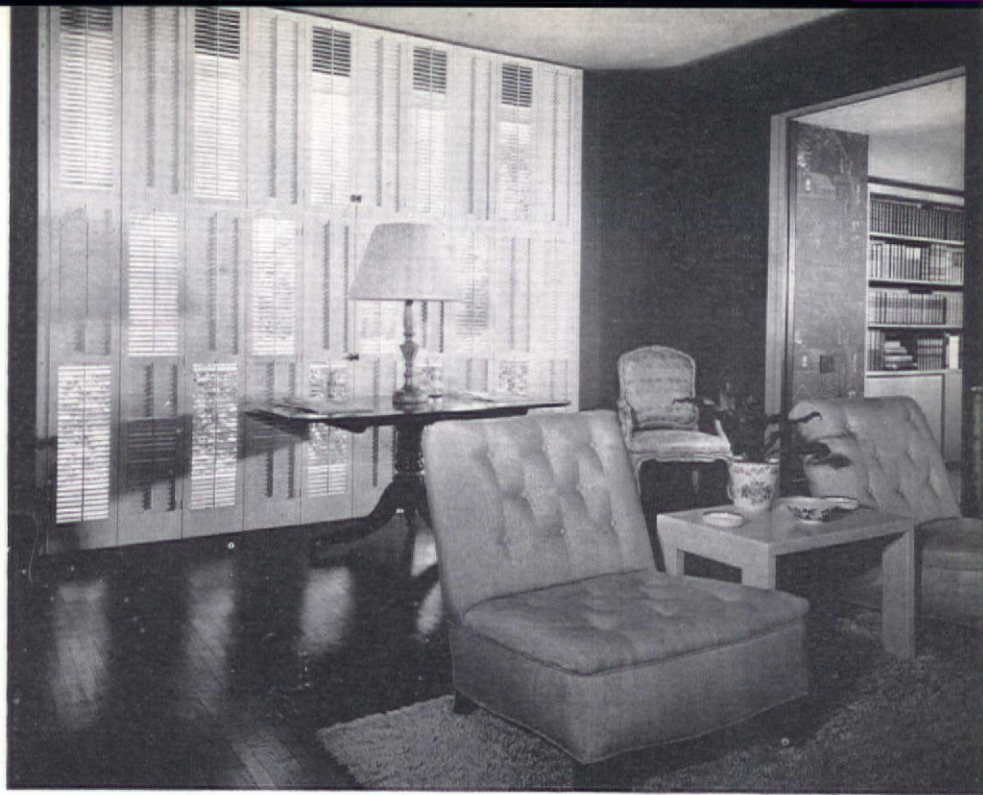


We usually think of shutters as being quaintly provincial, but as these doors show they may also display the formality of classical style



Shutters have fine pattern of their own. They're dramatic in bold light and shadow effects, yet blend easily with provincial, traditional or modern design

The French who used fixed slats called them persiennes. But shutters or jalousies — whichever you see — both make delightful room-dividers or doors



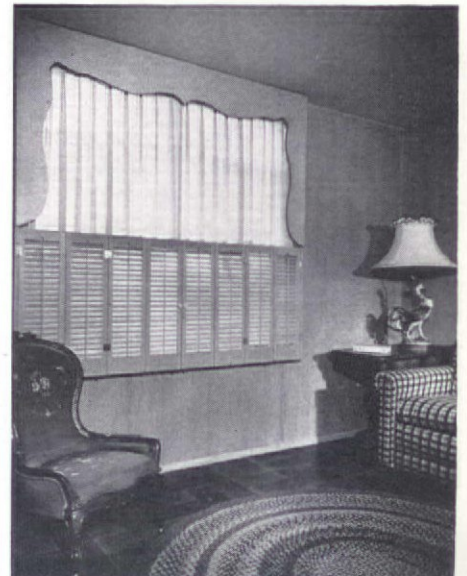
It has been said that the cosmetic value of shutters outweighs their utilitarian value. We think they rate high on both scores. The thirty uniform white panels that cover this window may be adjusted to give precisely the desired amount of light

THERE are many times when we must spar with nature. Even the spirit of a summer day may be as variable as the temper of a teenager. It can range from sunny to cloudy, from fair to blustery within the hour. But shutters, versatile shutters can match each fickle mood.

Cool morning sunlight, golden as dandelions, may cascade through them at will, but the burning brassy lances of noontime are turned away by the angle of the louvers. Wily breezes are eased into the room but prying eyes find it impossible to intrude. The sight of a pleasant day may be enjoyed to the full while the dark face of a sudden storm may be barred as effectively as though by a solid wall.



Shutters are easily adjustable. Each louver is linked to a dowel that may be raised or lowered to determine the amount of light or air to be admitted



Sunlight with its shifting overtones is one of the treats of a summer day but it must be enjoyed in controlled doses. These natural wood shutters blend with wood paneled wall

EVER wonder how a sparkling white dishwasher or a stainless steel oven might look in a homespun kitchen . . . how the appliances that are today's contribution to smooth operation might combine with the rich character of the past? We'll admit that we used to do quite a bit of wondering about it. The idea of a wonderful, big, sweet smelling old kitchen has a nostalgic allure even for many of us who must admit we have never seen the inside of one.

We can close our eyes and smell the rich, brown smell of loaves growing crusty in the dark recesses of the oven . . . see flames on the hearth multiplying in the shining curves of copper kettles, hear the brittle voice of logs in an endless duet with the flames. But up until now we've found it hard to imagine all of this charm working hand in hand with a sleek home freezer, a white porcelain stove or laundry equipment.

Yes! We'll admit that this combination of past and present seemed somewhat incongruous, but now we have pictures that actually prove all of these elements can and have been combined in a manner that makes the most of the old color and the new convenience.

When we see the way the wall oven and broiler snuggle up beside the pine-faced fireplace we lose all of our doubts. And that counter-type stove? You hardly notice it there in the thick maple counter top. Even the white sink and dishwasher seem to have been made for their spot under the flower-filled window. Yes, this kitchen proves that the warm, folksy spirit of the past can blend happily with all of today's conveniences.



Old-fashioned Charm for Today's Kitchen





This antique pine wall shelf and the triple mirror provide a handy primping place for the small hall



Its depth, just ten inches, makes this chest particularly suitable for the tiny hallway. The matching antique pine light shelf is flanked by scoop wall sconces also of pine.

Small hall

In the old days doormats bore the word "Welcome," but today most of us depend on the entrance hall and its furnishings to extend the same warm greeting to our friends and to our family

YOUR hall opens into other rooms, will be viewed from them, so color and furnishings should be related to these areas to avoid a chopped up, confused appearance. Continuing wall-to-wall carpeting from living room to hall gives a surprisingly spacious air.

You can also decorate with wallpaper . . . a medium that consumes none of the precious space yet adds color, pattern and proof that hospitality is here.

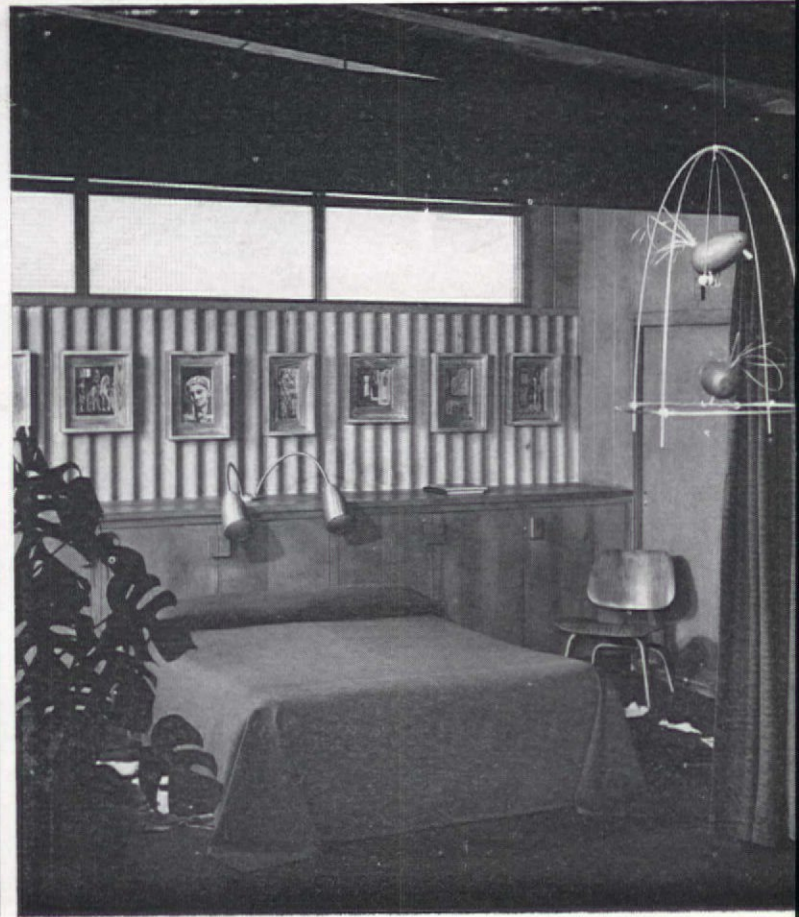
Large patterns are for large rooms and a bold paper could be disastrous in a small hall. The one exception . . . a scenic wallpaper that has perspective could push walls into the distance. A miniature provincial print will suit most halls.

Your hallway deserves and amply repays a little extra attention, for it strikes a keynote for the rest of the house. It indicates the charm and the hospitality to be encountered there. What about your entrance hall? Is its greeting as cordial as your hand clasp or your words of welcome?

We've just finished redecorating our own entrance hall and we've learned a lot about this important space. Here are some of the things we have discovered. They may help add a friendly spirit to your home's greeting.

There should be ample room for receiving guests, and since the area is almost always limited, hall furnishings should be selected to contribute to a sense of serenity and spaciousness. We selected "hall-size" pieces because we could not afford to be profligate with our footage. There must be somewhere to lay a pair of gloves, the mail or a hat. The very small hall may have room for only a console table or even a single chair but the walls may be "dressed" with hanging shelves or a recessed niche.

Everyone likes a full-length view before leaving the house. A large mirror will, of course, make the room seem doubly large. If you can't spare the wall space for one you might place your mirror on a sliding or swinging closet door or even hang it on the inside face of hall closet door.





Walls...

what they are wearing

Inseparable from your
decorating is your selection
of wall materials

TODAY'S concept of wall coverings goes far beyond paper-paint-plaster thinking. Rooms like these show that there are many other equally suitable, practical and good-looking materials with which you might experiment.

At the top left, opposite page, you'll see a *patterned mirror*. With ordinary care it will last the life of your house, is the most simple of materials to keep sparkling and one of the most luxurious. Directly below is a wall of *glass*. Yes! Windows must be included for their practical and esthetic merits, particularly when, as here, they are used for an entire wall. Next in order across the top of the page: *wood* forms a durable easy-to-care-for finish, *bricks*

with their wide range of colors and texture can be suave or rustic as in this kitchen built with used brick, *ceramic tile* is durable as it is handsome. Nothing can hurt it . . . not even red-hot cooking utensils, and it wipes spotlessly clean. Bottom row, a wall panel that insulates and decorates with a photographically reproduced pattern of *knotty-pine*.

The unusual wall behind the bed pictured left is a most common material but one we seldom see used inside. It is corrugated *asbestos board*. The textured pattern you see framing this type is imported *grass cloth*. It is a wall material suitable either to a modern or to a traditional background.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES LAWRENCE AND HOWELL WARD

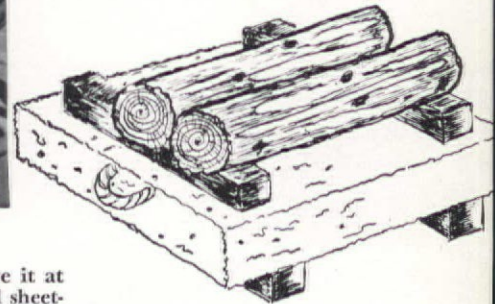


We love barbecues so much we feel rather like crusaders with a burning desire to convert the world to fireplaces like these beauties

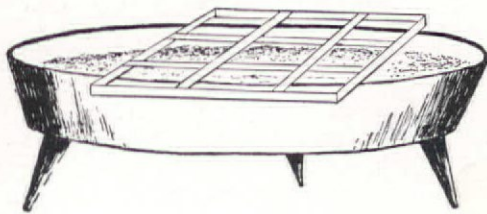
Fire Flights

Keen appetites, gloriously tangy air and the lure of a barbecue . . .

Eden right in your own back yard



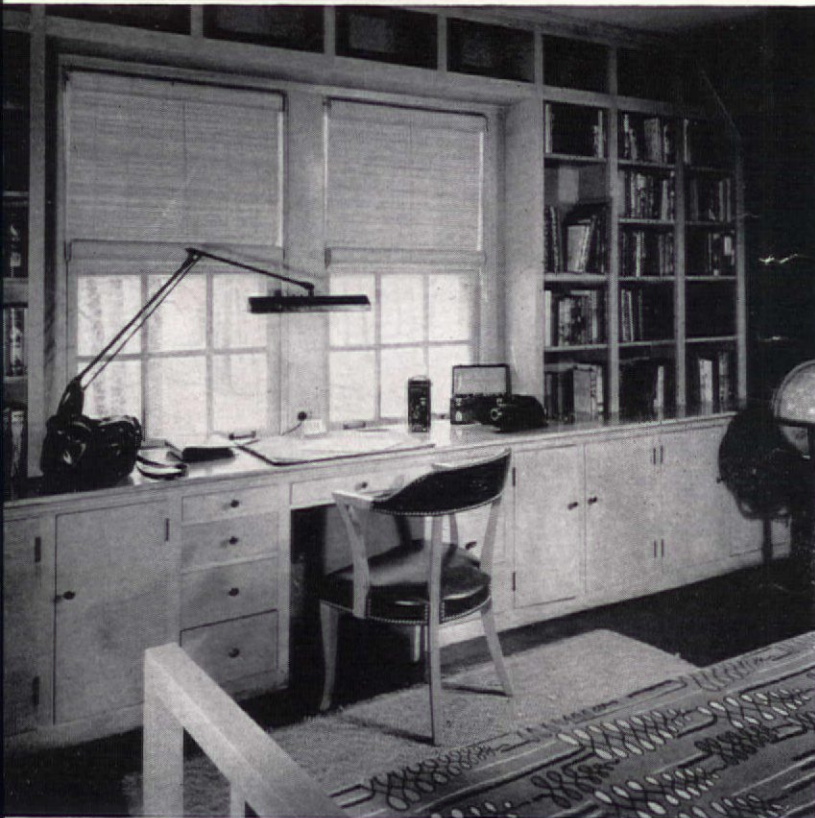
Pick up your fireplace and move it at will. You can if it is a sand-filled sheet-iron bowl like the one left, or if it is a cement slab with brick firedogs. Brick legs cool cement and protect the lawn



EVER since Eve, sun-minded critters have relished the idea of munching their victuals under a leafy canopy. Of course, since that capricious female hadn't yet discovered that she could warm things up by lighting two old apple twigs, she had no use for a fireplace.

We've learned a lot since Eve and we know that, come summer, an open fire and plenty of rib-sticking food just naturally seems to keep steady company. With one of these open-air cooking centers, "Cook" can forget about rigid housekeeping routine and spend every minute out of doors where entertaining is burdenless, and where she can relax and have as much fun as the guests.





Shelving that encircles this window is eight inches deep. Storage compartments below are fourteen inches wide but this one unit fills the storage and office requirements for one-third of the entire house

Ring around a window

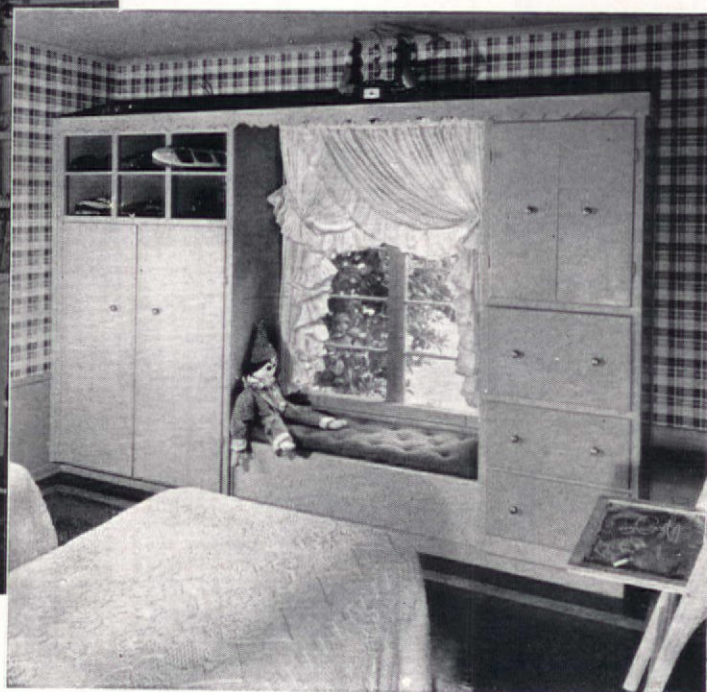
What happened to these rooms can happen to yours if you will frame your windows with shelves for stand-in storage

IS STORAGE your great grief? If you feel that blasting is the only possible solution to your own snarled storage situation, perk up. We've an idea that may be able to add 20 to 30 cubic feet of storage to your house. And every inch of this space is usable.

These pictures show you how this may be accomplished. Ring around a window with shelves and small cupboards. Borrow only eight or ten inches from the length or width of your room and win as much space as you will find in the average small closet, shelving may be built in, or as in the child's room below, it may be composed of sections joined by base and top boards. Your carpenter can plan several variations to meet your special requirements.



Try this window idea in any room in your home. Here a wide bedroom window is filled by a nap-size seat flanked by open shelves and low, closed cupboards



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CONSIDER THE ICEBERG

We can't think of a more refreshing theme for a summertime message than that suggested by an iceberg. Aside from being icy, an iceberg exists mostly under water. Only a small fraction of it is visible. . . And so it is with money you put into your home. Most of what you spend goes into things that don't show on the surface — such vital things as foundation, insulation, heating

plant, the coil in your hot-water heater, the motor in your refrigerator. By and large, it is the quality of these don't-show things that determines the comfort of your home — and its value.

Whether you are building, repairing, or adding improvements, the one way to get top quality for your money is to deal with firms of established local reputation, such as those listed below.

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