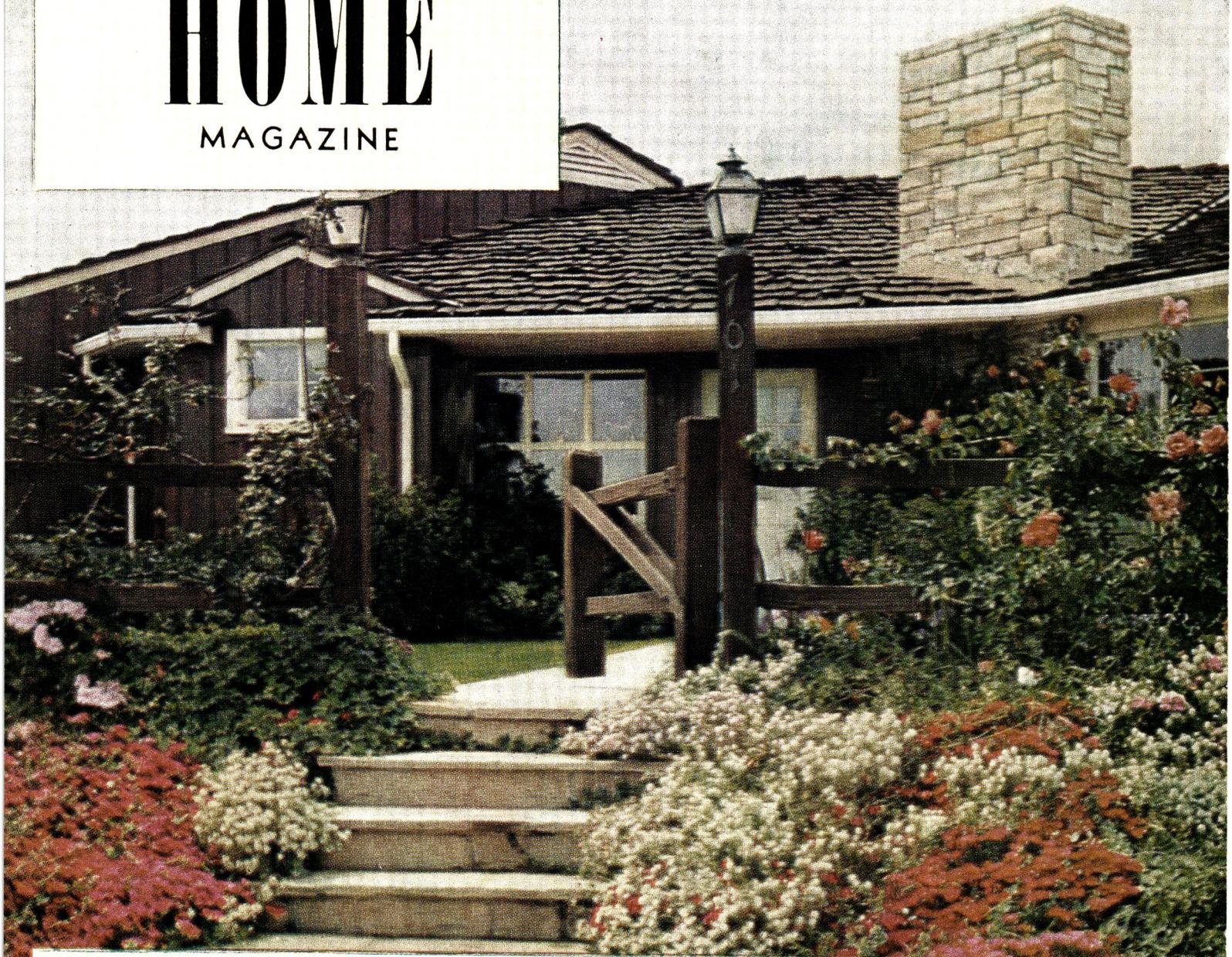


# PERFECT HOME

MAGAZINE

JULY 1955



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# I'd Like a Home With Big Rooms



WHAT does my home mean to me? It means a great deal — perhaps more than to the average man. Although I traveled 75,000 miles last year, an average of 1500 miles a week, I guess I'm home more than anybody except a shut-in. You see — I work at home.

My Beautiful Wife and Gorgeous Mother-in-Law who have worked so hard to make our apartment into a lovely home, have graciously allowed me to have a maid's room off the kitchen for my office.

It has definite attributes, for it means I can be at my office five minutes after I'm out of bed. I just walk through the kitchen, pick up coffee and tomato juice enroute and am at my desk instantly.

You would think my Beautiful Wife would get tired of having me underfoot and you're right, she does. She must often wish she had a normal husband who goes away for ten to twelve hours every day and leaves her alone.

My little office is in the back of the building and the window overlooks some garbage cans. Since we put in our air conditioner we can't even see the garbage cans — not that I really enjoy looking at them anyway.

This view of the outdoors thus being cut off, I never know whether we're having a blizzard or a heat wave unless some rumor reaches me from the outside world. All this makes me wish more than once that I could own a house like those pictured in PERFECT HOME MAGAZINE.

I'd like a house with big rooms, so that my Beautiful Wife could fill it with the lovely things she has a knack of finding while out window-

shopping for hours at a time. These rooms would have large windows which would enable me to look out on a growing garden and see all I want of it without having to go out and work in it.

Right now, a house in the suburbs isn't practical because of my work. And so, I have to remain satisfied with the apartment which the homemaking talents of my Beautiful Wife have made into a reflection of her charming personality.

And I will have to continue to work in the maid's room with only a view of the garbage cans and the building while Cookie our Schautzer, owner of the sharpest bark in the world, stands sentry over the door of the kitchen. Her efforts in guarding me are so zealous that some days all my Beautiful Wife hears out of me is "Make that blasted dog stop barking."

Let me tell you something about our lovely apartment. It has an enormous living room. And in our dining room, we have a glass topped dining room table with lights in the top.

Somebody claims that once I woke Rosemary up in the middle of the night and said "You forgot to turn off the dining room table."

Anyway, nobody can say that with me, home is just a place to hang my hat, because I don't wear any.

Long and enthusiastic readers of Earl Wilson's star-studded columns, and awed by his casual manner with the news-makers, were somewhat surprised to discover that home, to him, means about the same thing it means to each one of us

Don't you agree with us that the terrace on our cover is the perfect spot for days like this? Max Tatch photographed it as well as the entrance shown on the opposite page



French Provincial in theme, the gentle curves and fine scaling of the pieces add spaciousness to already generously sized rooms. Gold glints in accessories



We were impressed by the fine proportions of the narrow porch and columns and pediment of the entrance

# Black and white

THIS house reminds us of the first riddle we ever heard. "What's black and white and red all over" You remember the answer . . . "a newspaper." Just change the word red to gold and you have the amazingly effective color trio of each room.

It's a house for those most comfortable in rooms that bear a slightly formal touch . . . where fine fabrics, quiet backgrounds, and restraint in the use of pattern and color endow settings with graciousness.

We were particularly enchanted with the kitchen . . . not because of any gadget appeal, but because it looks like the kind of place where we would like to spend a lot of time. We were impressed by the lack of bright tones . . . the strong hues of foods themselves do so much to enrich the setting. The off-white walls, the paper which reproduces the texture of whitepainted brick (also used in the adjoining den), the soft toast color of the wood cabinets, the white linen-textured plastic counter tops are livened by black and gold in the over-the-stove recess.

If you want charm and to spare this is your formula. If you want space and to spare this is your plan. If you want hominess and to spare this is your home.



All three of the bedrooms have black, white and gold paper on the walls. The one also has a luxurious white carpet. Curtains and lamps are touched with gold



The den adjoining the kitchen is a room of many uses. Here it is furnished as a sitting and sewing room. It could be a guest room



The French Provincial feeling has been carried out in the design on the doors of the wood cupboards. Floor is spattered in color

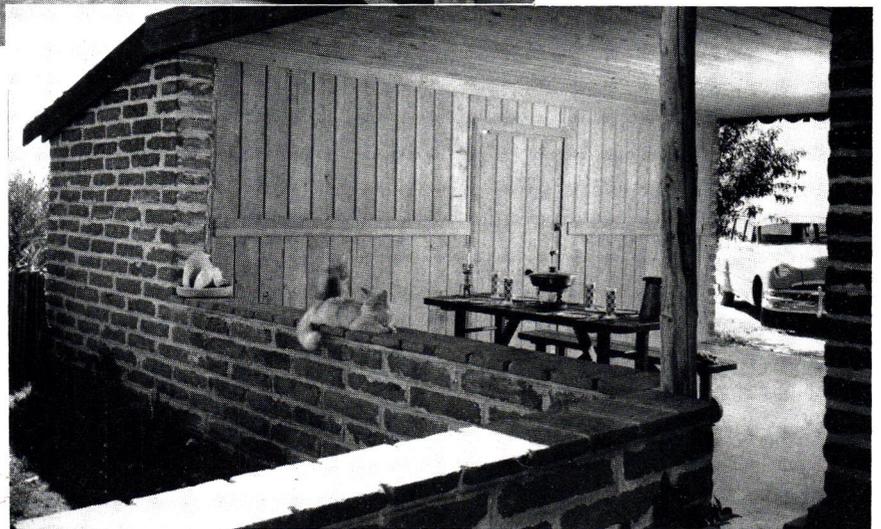
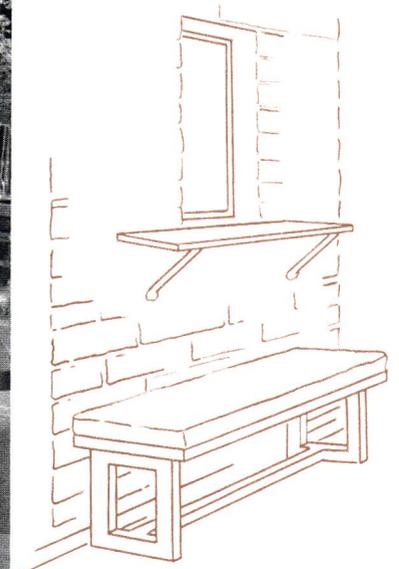
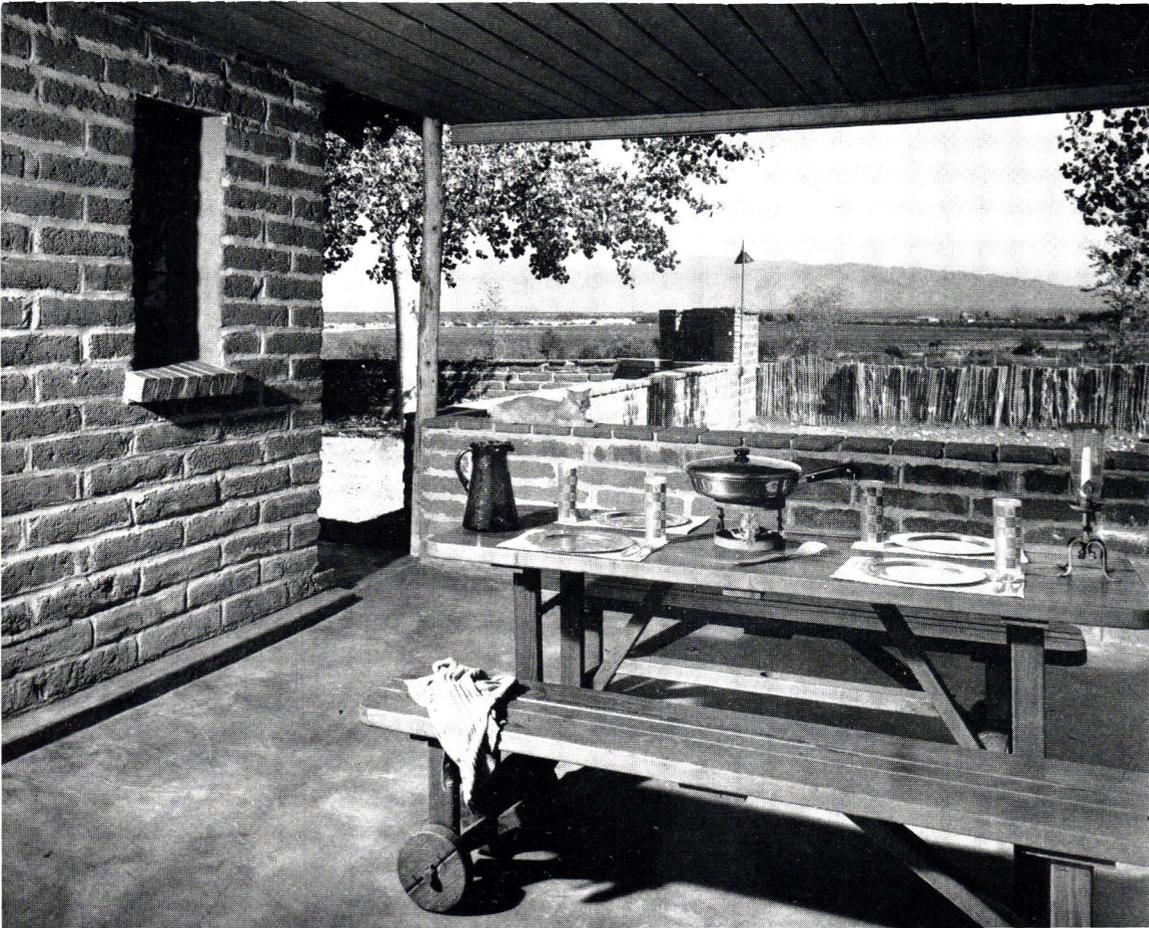
and gold all over



The wall print copies the pattern of drawn-work. The painted provincial furniture set off by a pink quilted bed spread, lacquered tin and porcelain lamp bases



The mural in the dining room pictures a bucolic countryside in colors of rose, brown and green — both muted and pleasing



# Room for a Porch in Your Carport?

SOMETIMES it hardly seems fair that the family automobile rates more space in your home than any human member. It's particularly trying on those days when the out-of-doors is exploiting all of its charms to lure you, but you've neither terrace nor porch where you may enjoy its bounty.

That was the situation that started this painless conversion from car-port to comfort without the wielding of hammer or saw. The car was moved outside for a few months and the picnic table was moved in from the now too-sunny lawn. That was the total labor involved in the transformation,

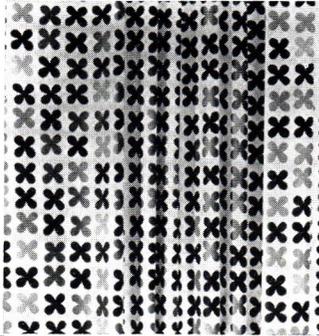
but oh, the additional enjoyment it has meant for the family!

It hasn't taken them long to start generating ideas to add to the convenience and attractiveness of their new porch. The Board of Directors is presently considering ideas like a service table under the kitchen window, a couple of drop-down lights for games or eating, a new, bright coat of paint and a reed rug for the floor, and a few cushion-topped benches to accommodate a crowd. The table would fold against the wall. The lights could be moved to safety above the car top and the carpet and benches be put in the storage compartment.

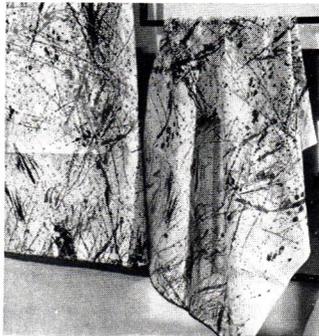
# F ABRICS

**Fine and Fancy**

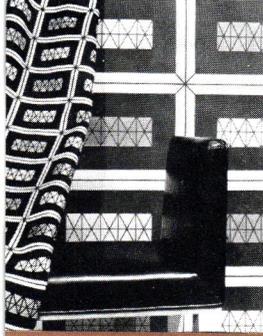
NEW fabrics are easy to look at, exciting to touch and wonderful to live with. We played a word game trying to find just the one we thought applied to most patterns and we came up with *precise*. There appears to be a strong sense of order behind many of them that is particularly pleasing in contemporary settings. Whether they take their themes from architectural subjects such as quatrefoil motif, stained glass windows, the strong arch pattern of old Spanish ruins . . . from the native crafts of Scandinavian lands or the Orient . . . from calligraphic exercises, or the familiar old harlequin pattern, their colors and moods are wide enough in scope to fill the most exacting assignment. Many of them combine the warmth and grace of tradition with a smartly simple contemporary approach. There are also many, many purely textural effects that give either a printed or a woven dimensional depth that is certain to be welcome in almost any interior.



**QUATREFOIL CHINTZ**



**CHINTZ AND SHEER**



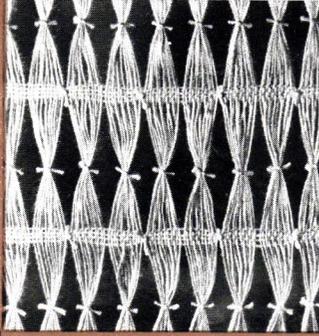
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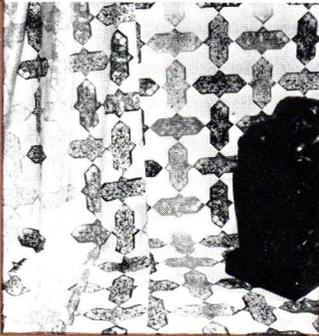
**RATTAN AND LANTERNS**



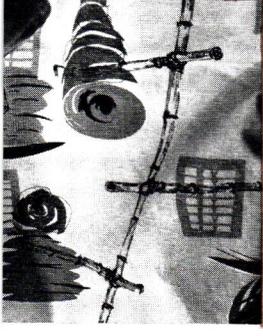
**BULLS AND BRICKS**



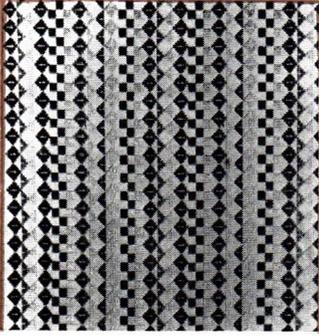
**MODERN BROCADE**



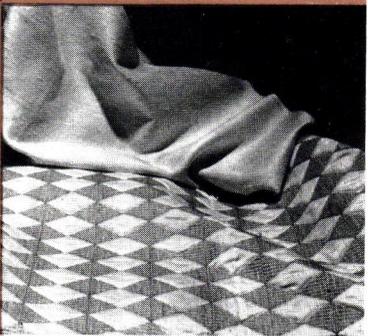
**TEXTURED SATIN**

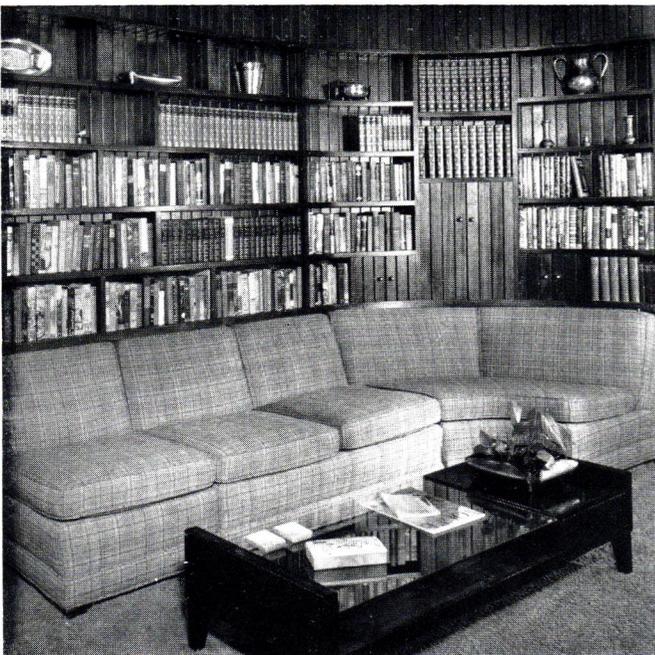


**NATURAL JUTE**



**SPANISH STONEMWORK**



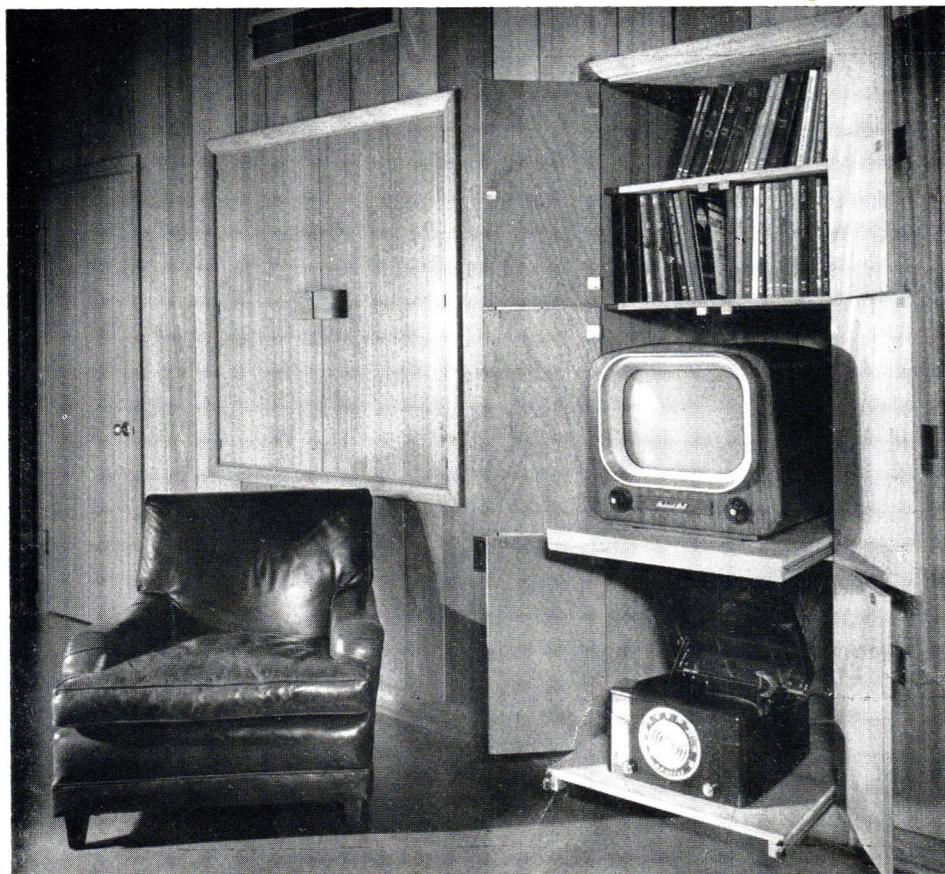


A built-in entertainment center has become almost standard equipment in American homes. Grouped behind this sofa you can find the radio, television screen, record albums and the pull-out record player

BY RUTH CORELL



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GAY



The paneled storage wall hides pull-out shelves for TV set and record player. Both are low so the children can reach them. Better records are kept on the shelves above. That's a pass-through behind doors at left



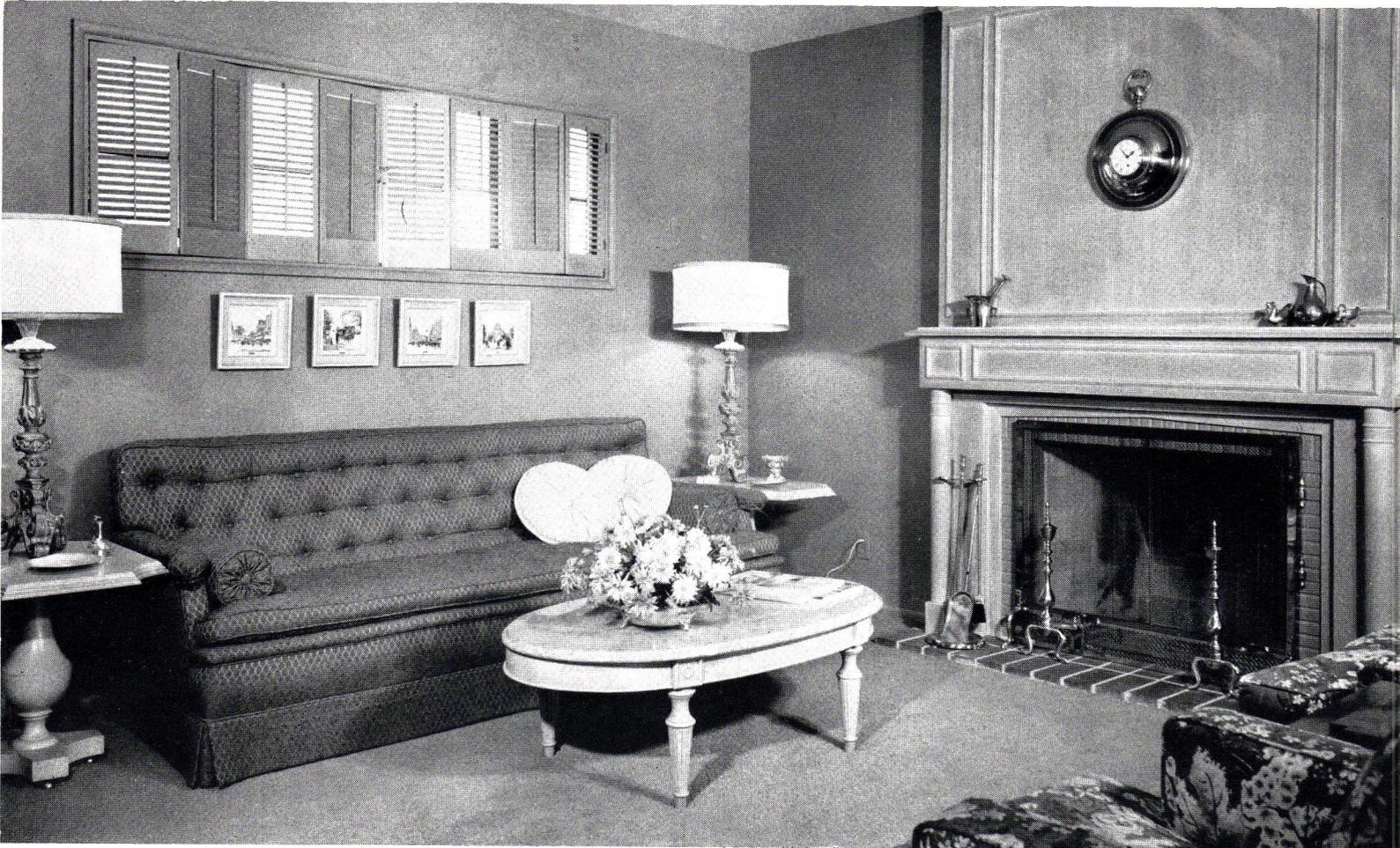
The brightly colored oriental mural slides aside to reveal the television set in this formal living room. The mural has been framed on sheets of hardboard hung on rails. The frame has been antiqued to blend in with the grass-cloth wall and there is but little to reveal its presence when the set is not being used



## Disappearance act

WHEN we are not reveling in the facts and fantasies of TV many of us want to put it completely out of our sight. This may be because of the necessity of saving the floor space a standard set would require. It may be because of our unconscious resentment of the demands television makes on our time, our emotions, our social hours. It could be, too, that like radio in its adolescence, TV styling (until very recent days) was garish and ill at ease in well decorated rooms. Perhaps we can explain our desire to hide it by a realization that designers are offering changes that put each past year's set in the class with last year's calendar.

The antidote to our fevers, whatever their origin, is to hide the Cyclops eye when there are no spectators. The extra thought that we have had to apply to the problem has in many instances produced most attractive and satisfying solutions. The disappearing, recessed-into-the-wall sets that we picture here are unobtrusive additions to these three rooms with varying viewpoints.



Walls of the room are soft turquoise. The fireplace in a slightly deeper tone has been antiqued in white to bring it up to approximately the same scale. The carpet is an intense shade of the same color. The sofa wears a brown textured weave and two side chairs add turquoise, green and white to its brown background. Brown was used to antique wood of the tables and lamps

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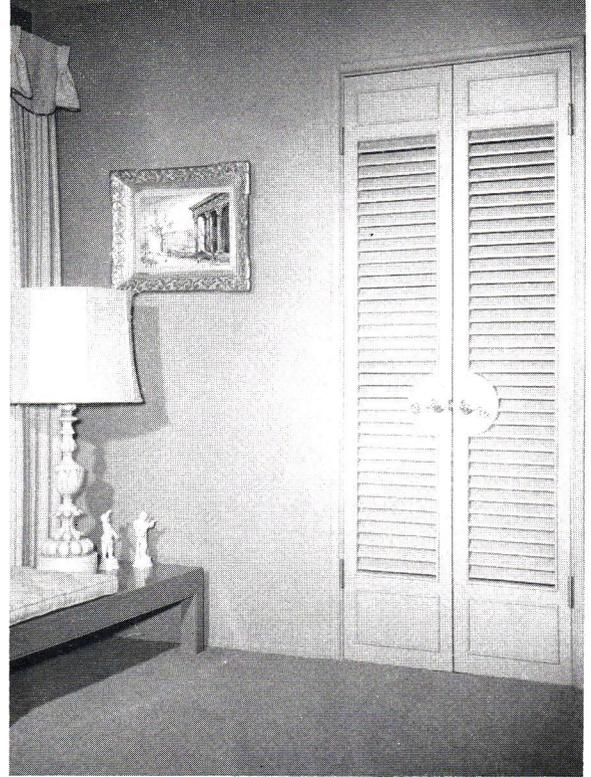
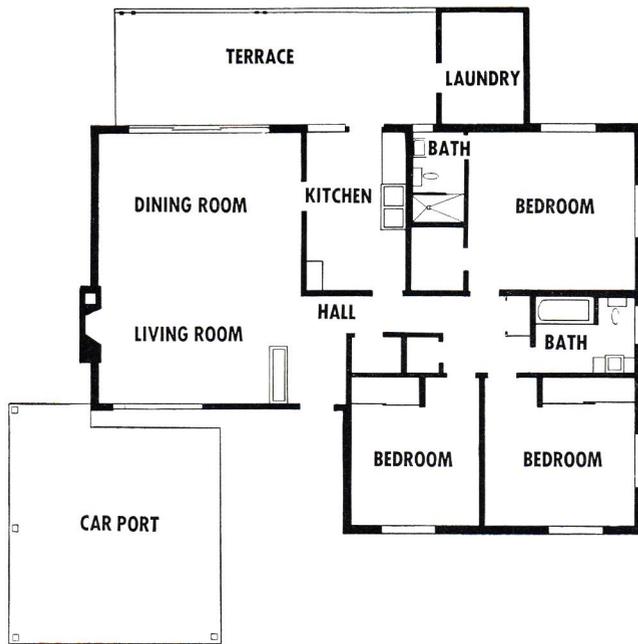
*Home*

BY DONNA NICHOLAS HAHN



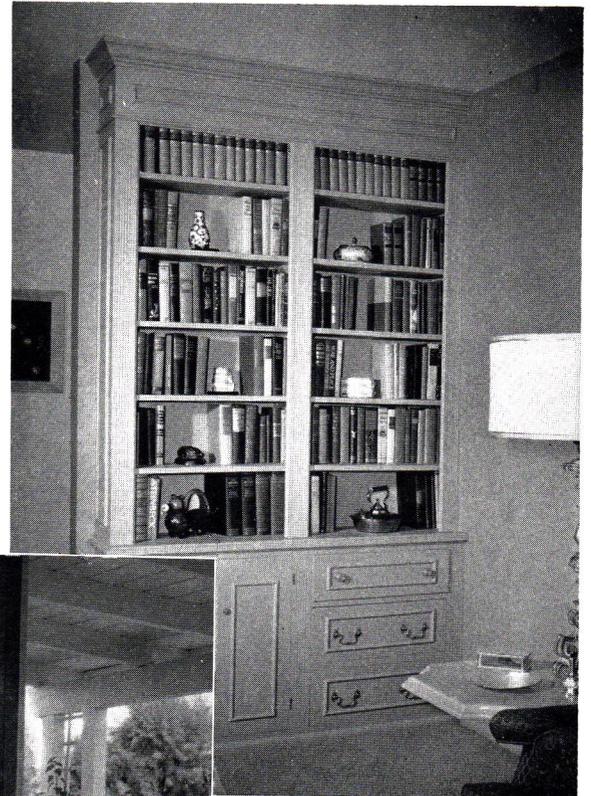
Above the dining table (refinished in bone white and antiqued in brown) hangs an oriental casein painting on gold tea-box paper. It repeats all major decorating color

The floor of the terrace (added to the plan) is made of so pink, light weight cement wafers. The woven redwood fence makes a completely private retreat of the back yard garden

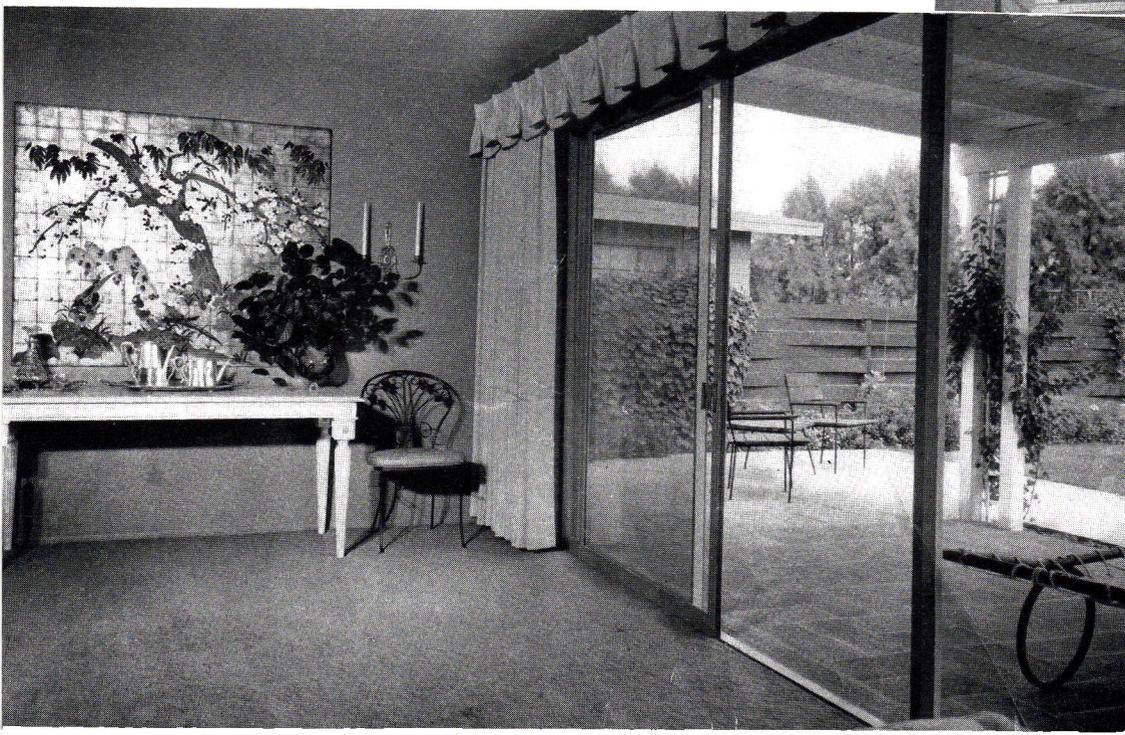


**T**HE moderate price house with fine detail can look richer than the more expensive house with standard architectural trim and mediocre hardware. Here is a house that looks and lives richer than most houses in its price class because its owner knew what she wanted in a house, knew too what she wanted to spend on decorating and was uncompromising in her stand. It meant that she had to cut corners in many places. The house is certainly not over-furnished and there are no trick gadgets. Most of the small luxury touches that you see in the photographs were added to the basic plan and cost surprisingly little more because there was no duplication of time or material.

The doors between the living room and kitchen are just one example. The louvered panels and graceful hardware are decoratively important. They were used instead of the plain flush door and standard hardware originally specified. The bookcases are another example. Mouldings were added to the plain doors and drawers. Reeding formalizes design and metal pulls were used in place of the usual wood knobs. The lovely fireplace was added to basic plan.



This bookcase is distinguished from scores of less attractive ones by half-round moulding, reeding, and by handsome brass hardware



The doorway at the top of this page was scheduled for a flush door. Now flush doors can be very handsome but these louvered panels sustain quiet note of luxury

# Twice the

# Comfort

**O**BVIOUSLY the old chant, "If one is good, two are twice as good," doesn't always apply. At least when you're considering helpings of lemon meringue pie or decorations on a dress. But in the case of the new dual-purpose sofas, no truer words were spoken.

Ever since the "spare room" became almost a thing of the past, the studio couch which doubles as a bed has taken over as guest room in many homes. At first it was a stiff affair which was anything but comfortable to sleep on; recently, the studio couch has become a beautiful and comfortable piece of furniture with bedsprings and rubber mattresses concealed by smart upholstery, slip-covers, soft back rests and pillows. Two such sofas not only provide twice the seating and sleeping room, but—in an L-arrangement—save precious inches for the small room. For they can share one night table, one lamp and one bedside table.

Pictured are five attractively dressed sofas which are designed for service . . . all around the clock.



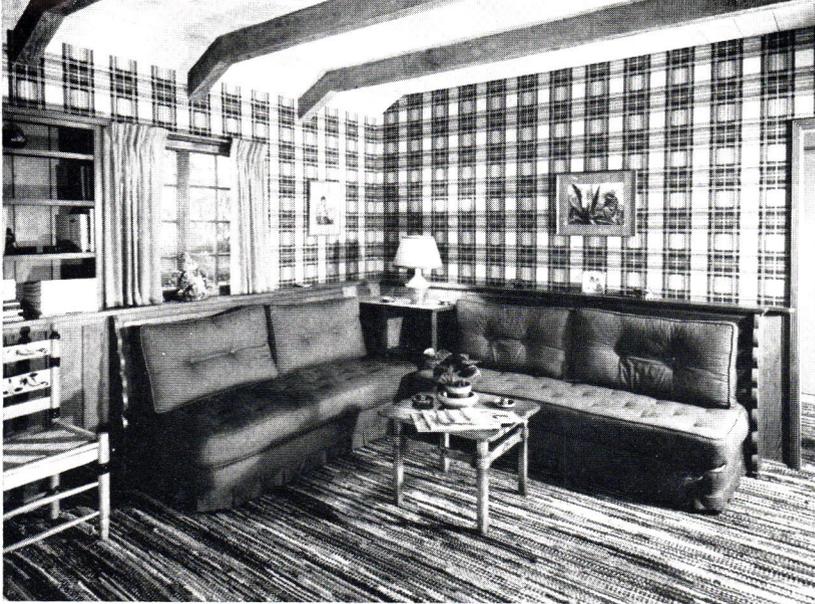
1. Armless sofa-beds arranged around corner are dressed up by day with pillows which match chair

2. Desk and tables with lamps double as night stands. Sturdy twill slip covers hide bedding under sofa

3. Gayly colored plaid paper, tweed rug, built-in bookcases in this decor form friendly background for sofas. Lucky guests enjoy privacy, comfort

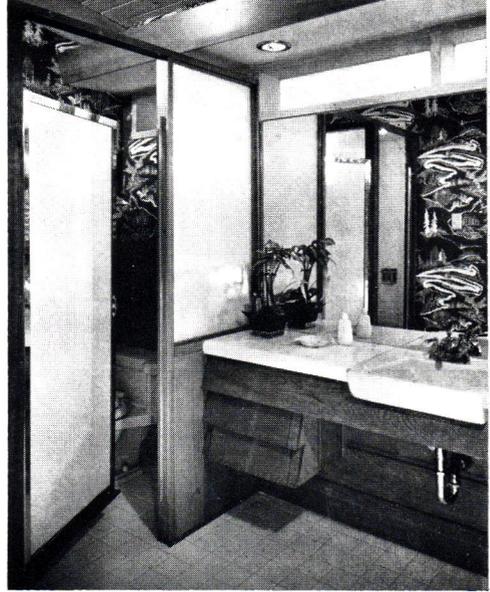
4. Rows of buttons decorate these all-white living room couches. Luxurious array of pillows add comfort

5. Against a scenic mural background twin beds are placed end to end to fashion a long sofa by day



3

PHOTOS: TATCH, BURDEN, PARKER, CLEVELAND



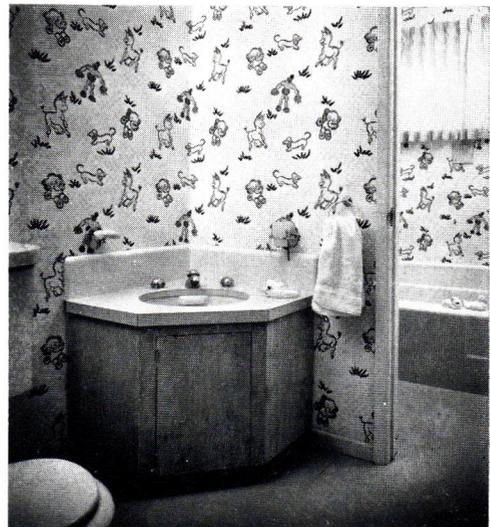
PHOTOGRAPH BY JULIUS SHULMAN

### Plastic for Privacy

THRIFTY and practical are these translucent panels separating areas needing light and privacy. Dramatically different, they contrast vividly with the deep terra cotta redwood. Boldly patterned wallpaper accents the sweep of solid colors throughout, while bright counter tops and floor counterbalance and subdue the deep tone wood. Softly filtered light comes from windows above the mirror. Sleekly modern, it is yet sparkling and gay, warm and unique.



4



PHOTOGRAPH BY JULIUS SHULMAN

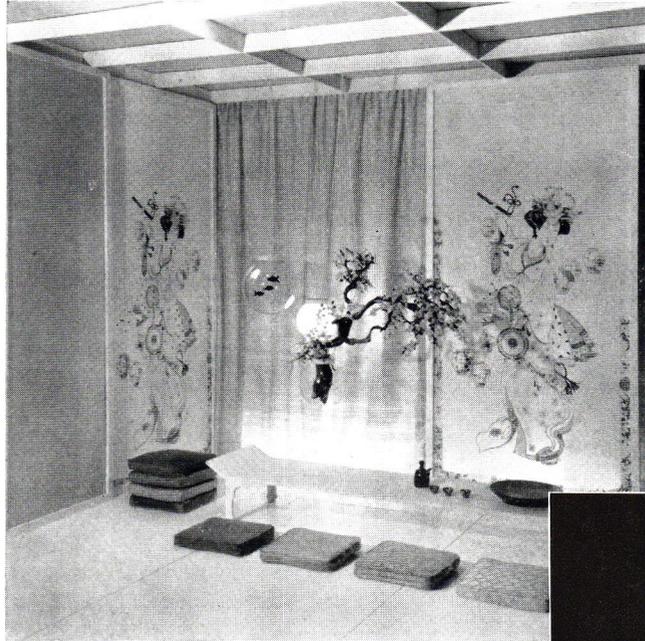
### Corner for Shorties

THIS amusingly decorated corner has a low, compact unit designed especially for children. Soap and toothbrush are handy; there is adequate counter space to put down toys. No excuse for dirty hands — no stools underfoot to stumble over. What a convenience in a family with growing children! Later, the whole unit could be raised easily to a more conventional height.



5

# Picture walls of paint and paper



If you've ever visited a small French kitchen garden, you have had first-hand testimony as to the charm of wall hugging espaliered fruit trees. The painted trees, right, with their greens, yellows, and white set room's theme

Neither paint nor paper, the tree, left, probably should not be included but the mood is the same since it too skillfully lures nature indoors. A shapely bough, painted with bright blossoms is displayed against Japanese panels

Below; Almost like looking out from the shady depths of a cool porch or an open pavilion when you see the gnarled wild-plumb branch with its hundreds of tiny deep rose blossoms. Very much in the oriental tradition, it forms the perfect background for a slightly formal living room

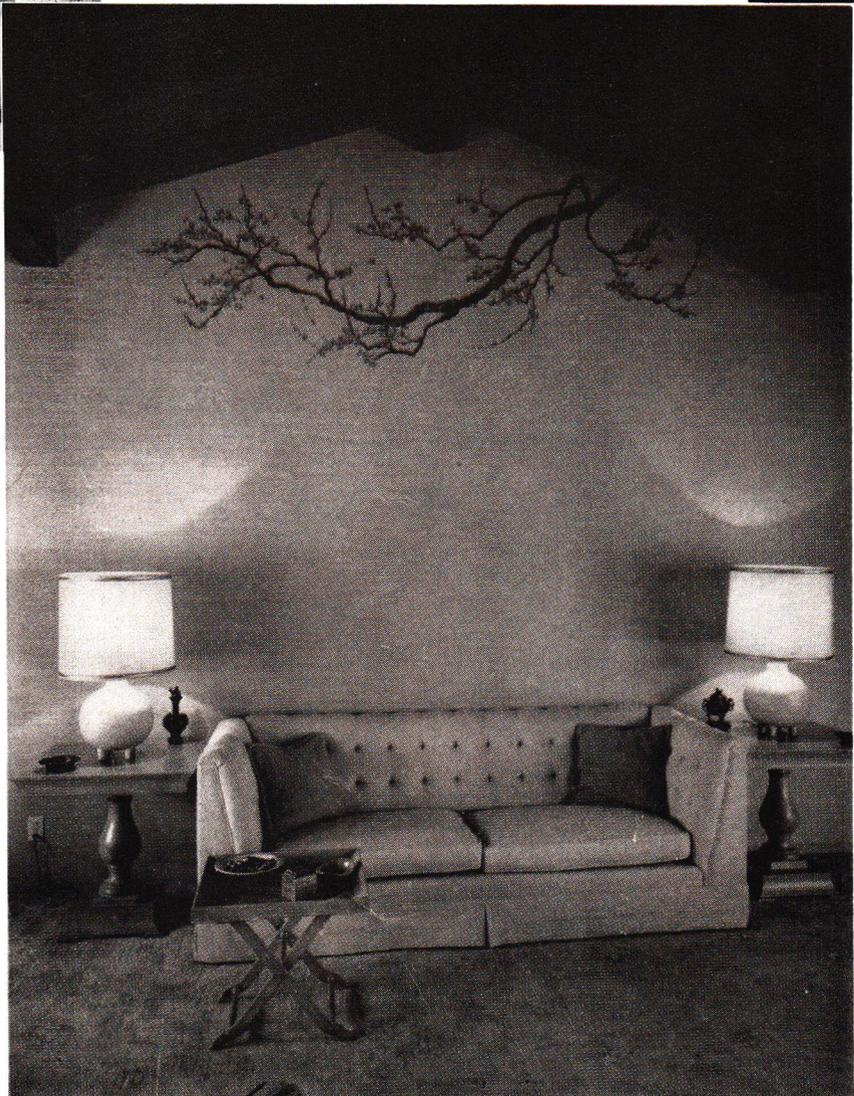


PRACTICALLY everyone finds delight in the unstudied grace of a blossom-laden bough . . . in the formal pattern of an espaliered fruit tree . . . in the ageless rhythm of oriental arrangements. So it's quite natural that we like to carry the ephemeral beauty of trees indoors for our more constant enjoyment.

One of the easiest yet one of the most effective means of accomplishing this is with scenic wallpapers or hand painted walls like those we show here.

Use of either must be restrained and artfully combined with the setting. You'll find wallpaper trees of known and unknown varieties, in nature's own tones and in colors strange to flora or fauna, and if the choice is still not broad enough, it's a simple matter to paint, or have your decorator paint a few leafy limbs directly on your wall. Strange — but you do not have to be an accomplished artist to produce completely charming results. Most paper or paint decorations are created with a sketchy technique far more effective than a more labored, more precise rendering.

We think that when you see these artfully "landscaped rooms" you may want to paper or paint your own sylvan setting.





The verdant growth below could appear to be very informal or slightly formal depending on the character of its surroundings. Here, used in a New England Colonial home, it hints at elegance. It is the kind of treatment that could easily be painted on a somewhat irregularly shaped wall



# Questions and answers

**QUESTION:** Bedrooms in our new house are very small and we should like to make them look as spacious as possible. Specifications call for painted walls, varnished woodwork and floor tiles. What colors can we use that will make these rooms look larger?

**ANSWER:** Match your walls and woodwork. This one thing will do more to add spaciousness than the color itself. If you can, keep the colors on the light side and select light floor tiles too. Blues, greens and colors of the airy cool class usually make any room look larger.

**QUESTION:** We are considering a hillside house plan that has two bedrooms in the basement. Several times we have seen advice against placing bedrooms in basements because of humidity. Would such a plan ever be practical?

**ANSWER:** If the architect has included specifications for damp-proofing the area, and since most such hillside houses have plenty of windows in these below-grade rooms, and since there is probably more than the usual basement heating and ventilation provided, your plan would probably be safe. However, since you are in one of those areas which combines intense summer heat with high humidity we would suggest extra care in damp-proofing the exterior of your foundation, in insulating inside walls, and in routing surface water away from the base of your house.

**QUESTION:** I dropped a bottle of salad oil on the concrete porch floor. Can the stain be removed?

**ANSWER:** Food and grease stains are always a problem on porch floors. On new stains immediately clean the area with gasoline then scrub with strong, hot soap and water solution. If the stain remains, scrub again with a 10 percent muriatic acid solution or strong washing soda. We have a trick of our own that we use on our dining porch. First, just because we expect such emergencies, we have coated the floor with a clear seal. Then we keep a small bag of dry cement powder on a shelf in the garage. Sprinkled on the grease it acts as a blotter which absorbs most of it in short time. A few dustings with the powder and most spots are gone. If not then, we proceed with the washing process.

**QUESTION:** The white asbestos shingles on my house are losing the fresh whiteness they had when new. Can this original color be restored?

**ANSWER:** Why not have one of the commercial wall washing companies clean them for you. They will scrub the walls with one of the new household detergent powders in water. They will work up from the bottom just as they would in cleaning interior walls. If the stain is too deep, which is not probable, you may want to paint the siding with rubber paint.

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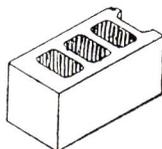
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