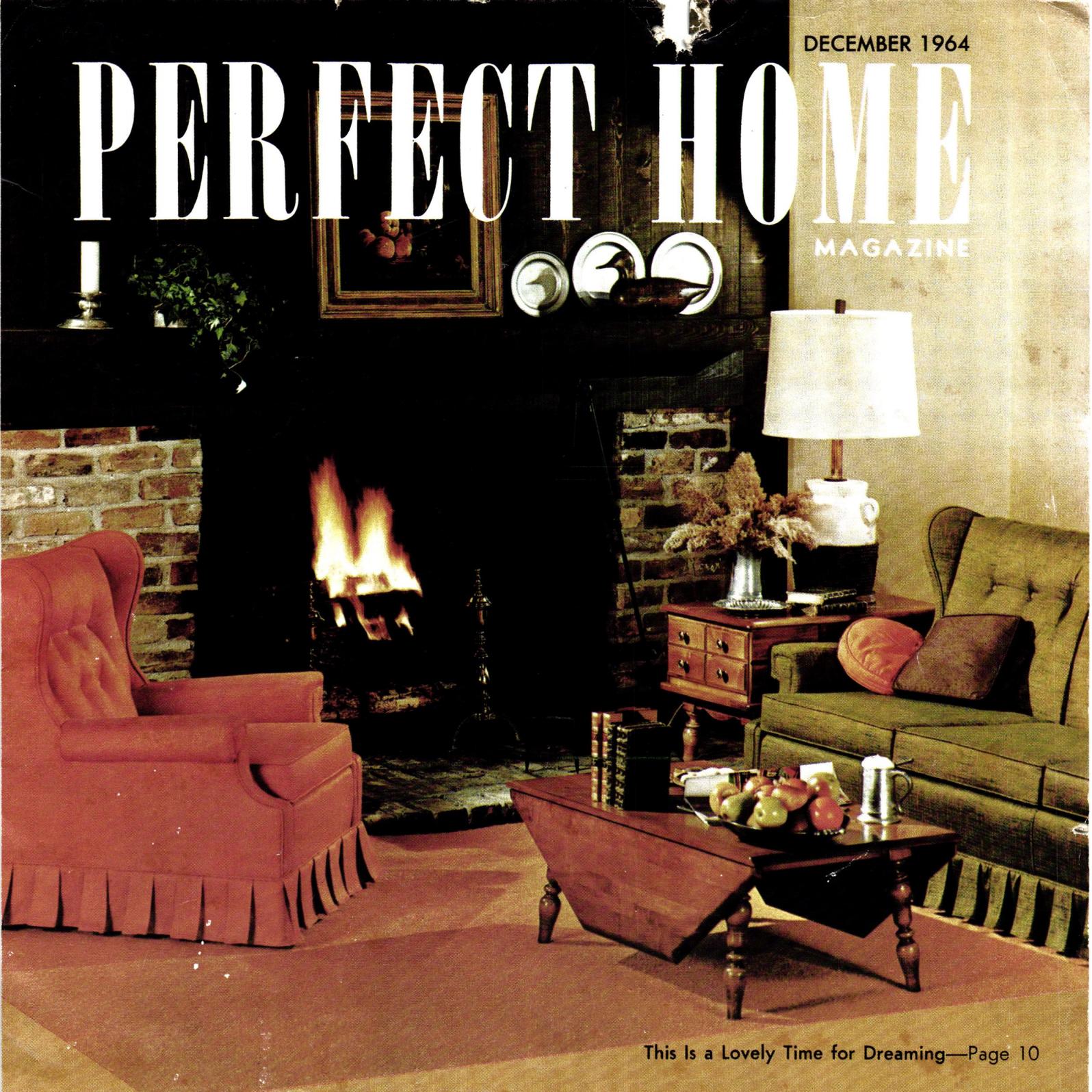


DECEMBER 1964

# PERFECT HOME

MAGAZINE



This Is a Lovely Time for Dreaming—Page 10

Published Monthly For Your Reading Pleasure By



DAVID  
SCHENANDOAH  
*builder*

*"Custom Styled Home Construction"*

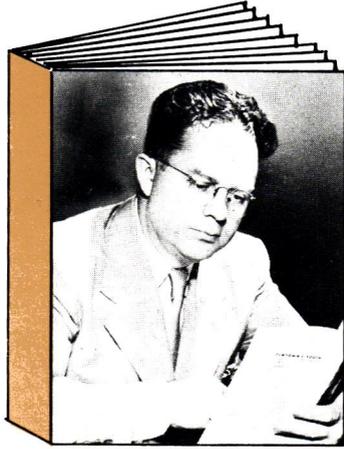
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## Our Home in an Enchanted Valley



*Sterling North*

Many of us have been introduced to living history in the books of Sterling North. The color, the vitality, the excitement of other days is vividly recorded in his "Abe Lincoln, Log Cabin to White House," "Young Thomas Edison," "George Washington," "Captured by the Mohawks" and others. More of us saw Disney's delightful movie of his "So Dear To My Heart." In this editorial he takes you on a short visit to the Valley of Primrose Brook.

AFTER twenty years, our home, in the valley of Primrose Brook, is so much a part of us it almost defies description.

In the spring it is the return of wild geese and ducks, stopping over for a day or two on their way to the arctic. It is the blossoming of millions of violets and anemones along our bluestone paths which criss-cross 27 acres of ancient forest land, crystal streams, and mountain side. Later it is the snowy explosion of 2000 dogwood trees.

In the summer it is the shy appearance of the dappled fawns coming down to our little lake with their protective mothers, the first puffballs of baby wood ducks in flotillas, the flash of trout leaping our two waterfalls, the astringent chill of the pool we swim in below the larger waterfall.

During our long, pleasant autumn it is the gorgeous but subtle sweep of color changing from day to day — crimson of the watermaples, pale gold of the great beeches, pastel shades of sassafras and dogwoods, and the enduring morocco and leather-brown of two-hundred-year-old oaks.

In winter it is mostly life in the big house we designed to shelter two bright children and a library of 10,000 books. Fires blaze in the fireplaces, the half-frozen waterfall gives us a new music. And the sound of the typewriter is heard from my study, (which like all the other many rooms on many levels has vast picture windows overlooking lake and waterfall.)

Home to us is all of this and more. It is where the children grew up. It is the place where visiting grandchildren play in the pool and feed the ducks, wild foxes and raccoons. It is the place where now we will grow old — but gracefully we hope. And if we are spared as long as my father was (he died at a bright and cheerful 99) we have nearly another half century of this ahead of us.

Twenty-eight books, including RASCAL, have come from my busy typewriter. I live with the girl I fell in love with at 15 and married at 20. Who could ask for more?

*By Sterling North*

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**FIRE** is a treasure belonging exclusively to man. No other animal can produce it, though many do enjoy it. The cat curls contentedly within the circle of its warmth. The dog draws close to its enchantment, but only man can shape a flame to his own needs, his own felicity. Only man has placed fire on his own hearth as a symbol of security, of family and home.

*The view from the open front door is unexpected and dramatic. Instead of a view into another room or a blank wall you face an open-air scene complete with a serene lily pool, surrounded by a circular stone coping and by low-growing greenery.*



## The House With a Hole in Its Head

THE CENTRAL ATRIUM may not have been invented by the Romans, but it was certainly enjoyed by them. In early Roman days city building lots were almost as hard to come by as they are in Manhattan, and counting all of those slaves and visiting centurions locked within the walls of the city each night, things had a habit of getting unpleasantly chummy at times.

So one of the more imaginative Romans cut a hole in the center of his roof, turned his house inside out and built an interior courtyard to take advantage of the sun and rain. He named this private enclosed garden an atrium. Other Latin copy-cats rapidly latched onto the idea, insuring family privacy and increasing the occupation density of land a whopping percentage.

Atrium living is once again emerging as an answer to the complexities of too-close neighbors. As with this house, you can present a blank face to the street yet enjoy the sight of growing plants and natural light. You can control your degree of privacy with precision and you can strictly limit the amount of landscaping you choose to do in this interior garden.

In this plan the dining area adjoins the atrium. There are few times when the out-of-doors can be enjoyed more completely and leisurely than at mealtime.

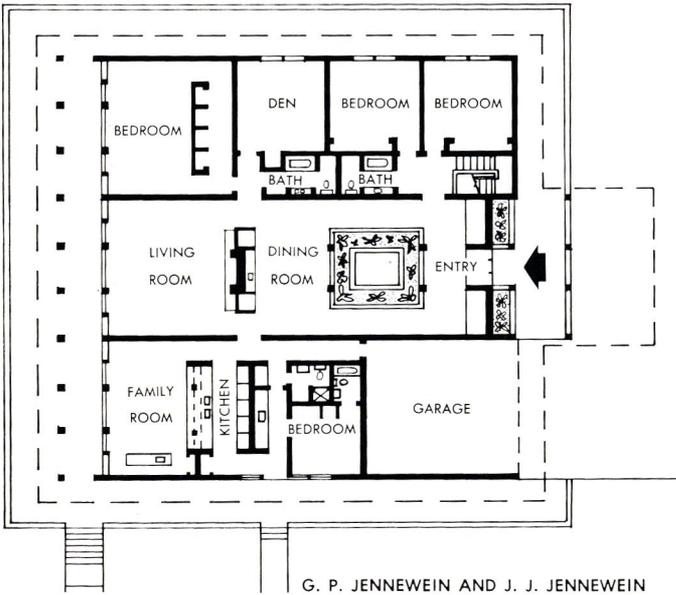
*Another detail reminiscent of ancient Roman architecture is the white marble floor used through the central portion of the house. Behind the wide fireplace wall are the dining room and atrium.*



The house, in the classic Italian style is set on a stone platform. Also in the classic manner is the formal balance with light brick panel corresponding in size with the light garage doors. Matching planters are recessed into black slate floor of the roofed portico.



The only view is to the rear of the lot with the family room, living room and master bedroom suite all having full glass walls that carry the eye to and beyond the lot's end

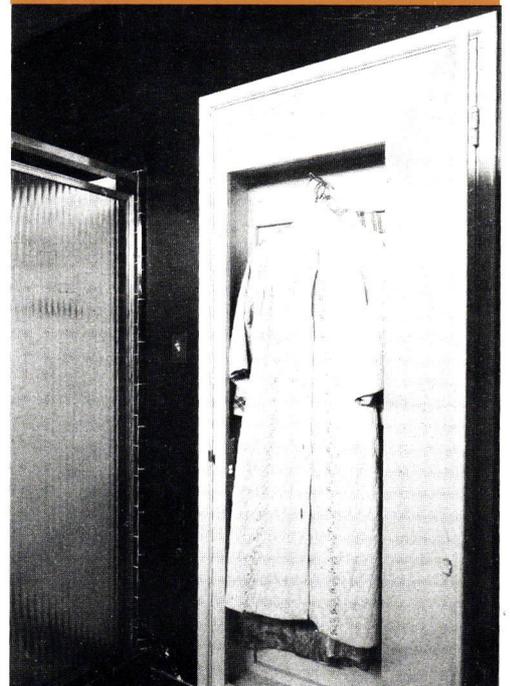
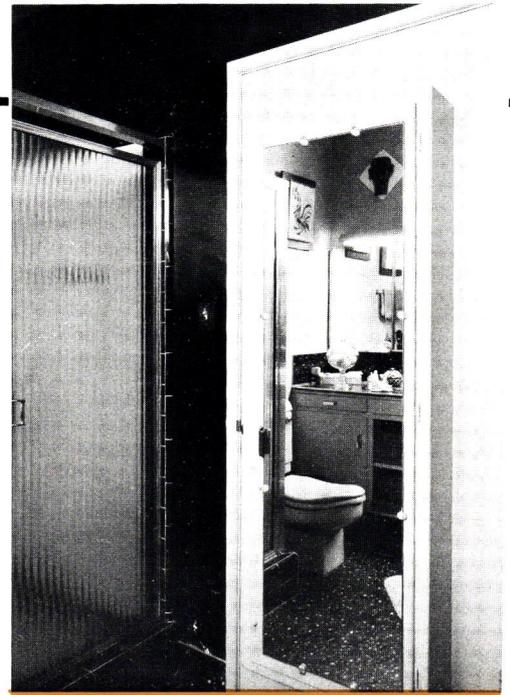
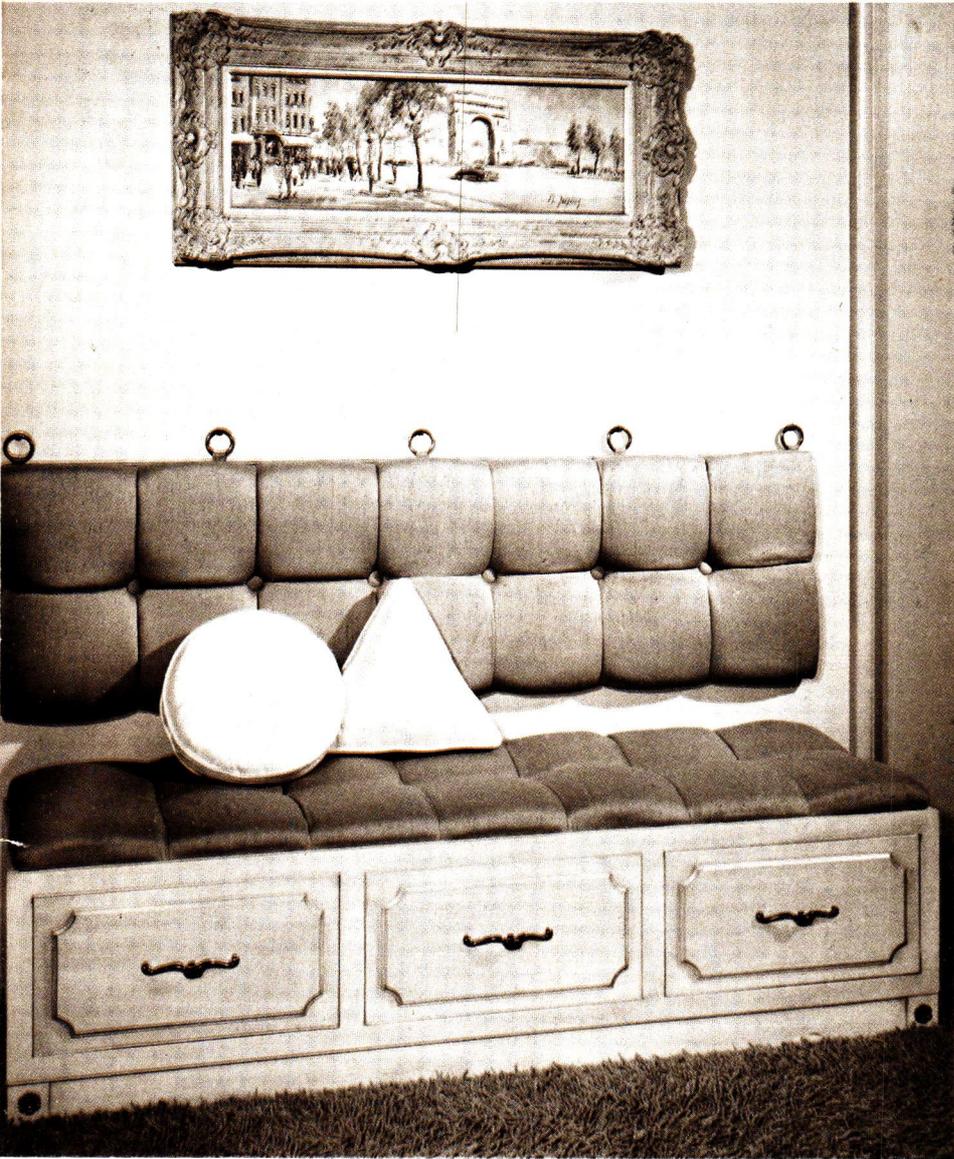


B Y R U T H C O R E L L



The family room looks out onto the wide back terrace. The heavy roof beams are exposed in some areas and concealed by drop ceilings in others. Interior walls are either white plaster or walnut.

# FOUND



**S**TOP WAILING and start looking . . . That's our advice to all of you who repeatedly bemoan the fact that you can never seem to find quite enough places to put all of the things you accumulate. A visit to the galley of a ship would convince you that you could do a far more efficient job of managing your space than you do now.

To get you started on your search we are showing several ideas you may have overlooked. One more small bit of advice: "To find unemployed space, stop looking in obvious places."

**1** This provincial seat for an entrance hall is actually a boot locker. The padded back? A board hung directly on the wall on gleaming brass rings.

**2** A mirror-faced cabinet on the inside of your bathroom door can give you at least five cubic

# Lost Space

BY DONNA NICHOLAS HAHN



MC INTIRE, TATCH, WARD, GAYNOR

feet more good storage space  
Only one foot wide but this  
drop-down snack bar can  
serve three for breakfast or  
between meal lunches. Spices  
fit shelves between the studs  
An inconveniently shaped cup-

board is engineered to make  
the most of every available  
inch with contoured shelves  
which let you reach shelf backs  
**5** Slide-out shelves hold more  
and in better order. Notches  
on shelves bring kitchen equip-  
ment effortlessly into view



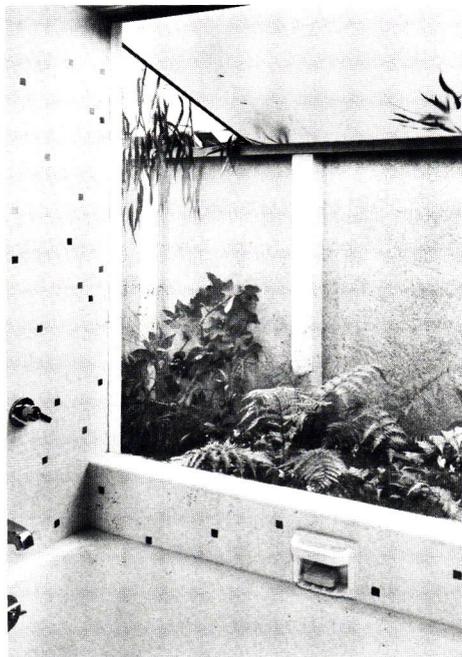
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5

Lush vines outline the tall fence shielding this sunbathing place just outside the sliding door of the bathroom. The color scheme can be changed at will by use of potted flowers

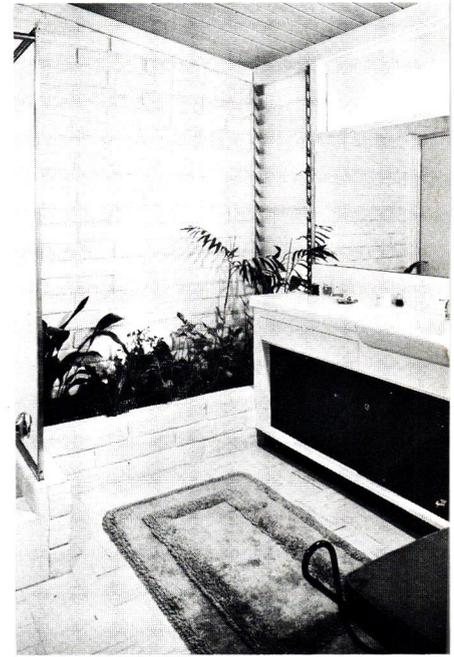
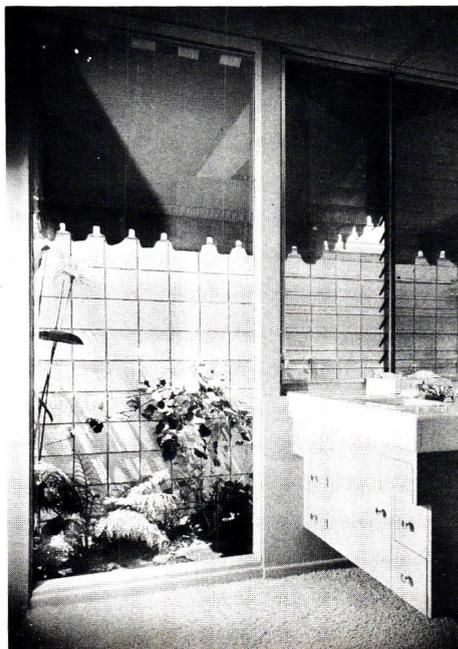
Brick floor of sunbathing patio drains quickly after rain and does not reflect the glare or heat of the sun. Trees and plants are set in gravel pockets which mulch and warm roots



Many plants which would otherwise not be winter hardy will thrive the year round in a window garden when it is sheltered by a ceiling of removable plastic panels

Lights concealed in this bathroom planter supplement the limited natural light to insure good health for the flowers that grow in the raised painted adobe planter

Access for plant care, if not through the bathroom, must be planned through another room or from outside. However, most plants grow lushly thus protected



RADA, DAVIS, HARTLEY, CLEVELAND, SIMMONDS

Tall plastic panels reinforce the natural privacy of the setting. Night lighting extends possible enjoyment of sheltered garden.



*A very small patio provides all the privacy you could want for tanning or lounging. The tall concrete block wall effectively traps the sun and keeps out wind and any chill breezes*

## **Does your bath have a garden view?**



**N**O ONE who has ever lazed in an open swimming hole can ever forget the wonderful sense of isolation produced by the greenery fringing the water and the blaze of the sun made comfortable by filtering leaves. A portion of this same serenity can be recaptured by a small private garden adjacent to and viewed from your bathroom.

You won't need much space. You won't even need costly landscaping. You will need to be able to open your wall to the exterior and to completely bar the view

from outside with fences, walls or planted screens.

Naturally, the bathroom garden does not hold appeal for everyone, but so many of them are being planned that you might like to consider one for your home.

Some of these gardens are completely outdoors. Some may be opened to the bath with sliding glass walls while others are planted areas within the bathroom. But all of these vignettes heighten your awareness of nature and are planned for quiet contemplation and for enjoyment.

**S**UBTRACTION can often accomplish more than addition in remodeling the houses of the romantic Spanish era. Along with sideburns and ruffled skirts the fad left behind it a spate of arches and rough plaster. This house was typical of the period. Fortunately the Latin influence was not as overpowering inside as it was where the effect was more public.

In updating this house the little-used front porch was enclosed, the tortured roofline was simplified and the arched brow was removed. The newly squared arch over the driveway was filled with tall gates with impressively large handles. The strong cornice, neat finials, fresh paint, larger windows and new entrance completely changed the style from Castilian to classic.

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## FROM CASTILIAN TO CLASSIC

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### This is a lovely time for dreaming

**I**T'S SAFE to bet that quite a few of your dreams concern ways to make home more inviting, more comfortable. Perhaps one of these suggestions can play a part in making these dreams pay off.

□

Have you ever wished that you could have a more important looking bed? You can with a few extra yards of your bedspread fabric. Hang a panel of fabric on the wall above your bed. It should be just the width of your bed and extend to the ceiling. Cover the edges with wood molding, wide moss fringe or decorative tape. This will make your bed the focal point of your room.

□

We know of a homemaker who has yearned for years for a Bristol glass lamp to match the pair of

Bristol blue cache pots she inherited. She would probably have gone on merely wishing, but one desperate day she seized a paintbrush and gave her white pottery lamp a lovely coat of blue paint. She ignored all warnings that the paint wouldn't hold. Perhaps it may not for a hundred years but for now, at least, she has her longed-for lamp. You can use the same trick to blend your china, glass or pottery accessories into your decorating. Just make certain the surface is free of soil or grease.

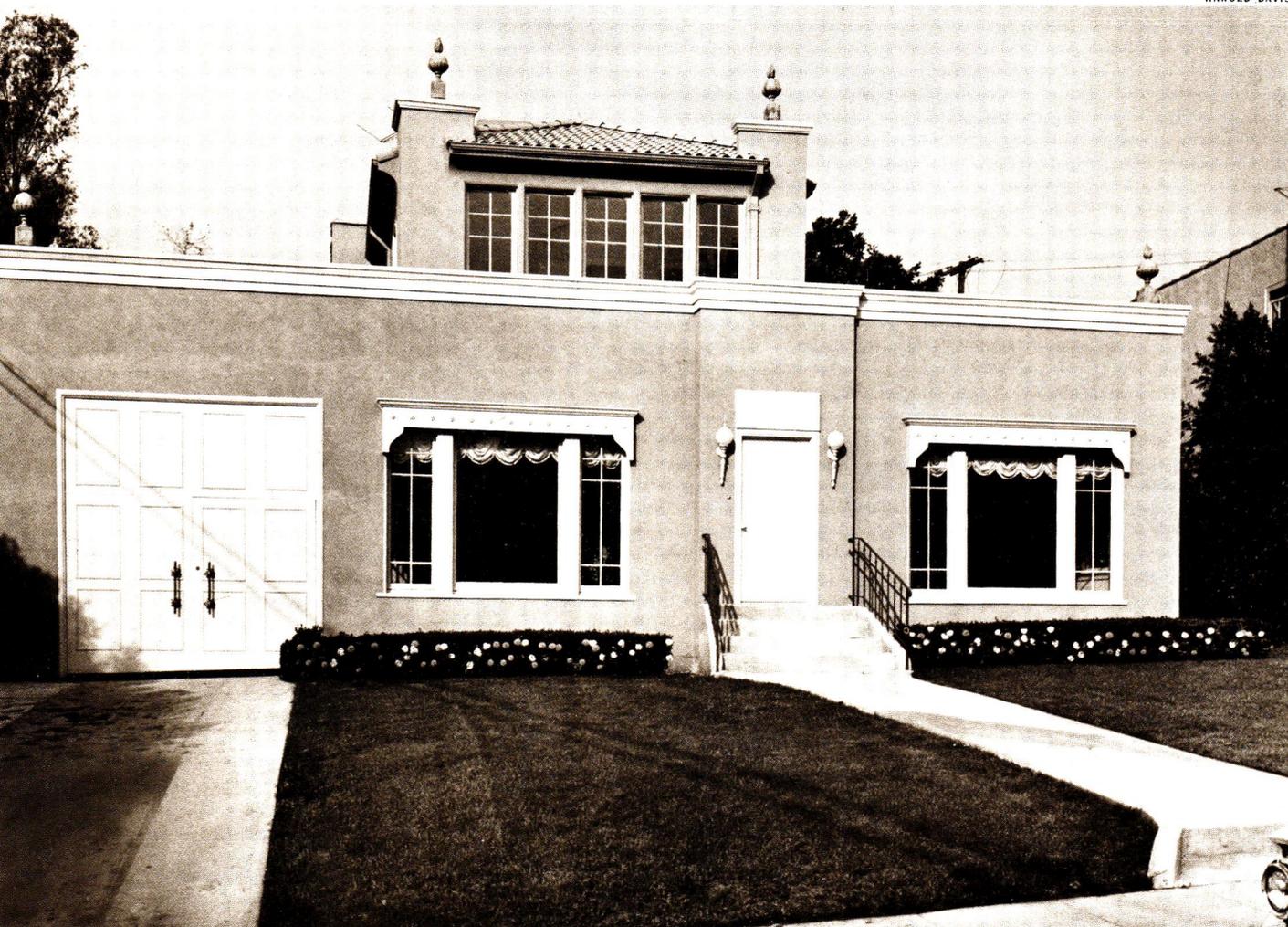
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Would you love to have a new bedspread but hesitate to buy one because your old one is still in excellent condition? Wouldn't it salve your conscience if you could make some excellent use of the spread

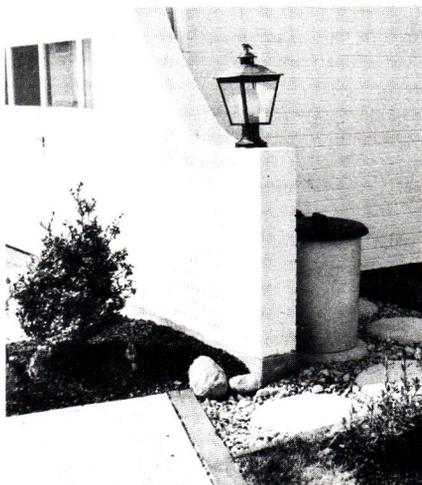
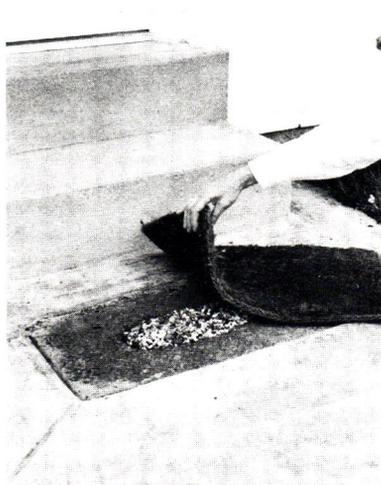
you plan to replace? Consider using it as a table cloth. Most ready-made spreads can be converted with little or no sewing.

□

You would like so much to be able to use the boldly striped fabric left over from your slipcovers for draperies but you have barely half enough for conventional pleat-topped draperies. Who needs pleats? . . . Do not gather or pleat your fabric. Cut the longest lengths possible with your yardage. Make each panel reach just to the inside side panels of your window frame after it has been hemmed on the sides. At the bottoms, cut sections of the stripes in a crenelated pattern. Hem the long ends to hold a brass bottom rod. The weight of this heavy rod should hold the shades taut.



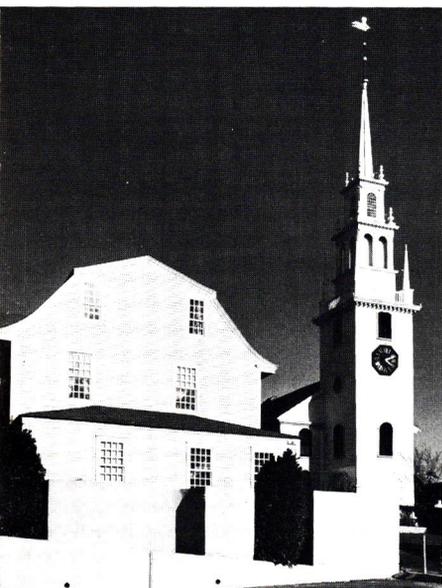
*Not Evident at a Glance*



Order is seldom as evident as disorder. Order is particularly difficult to discern when the elements which have created it are as skillfully designed as the pebble filled depression which catches moisture and soil from the door mat or the curved white brick wall which hides the trash cans at left.

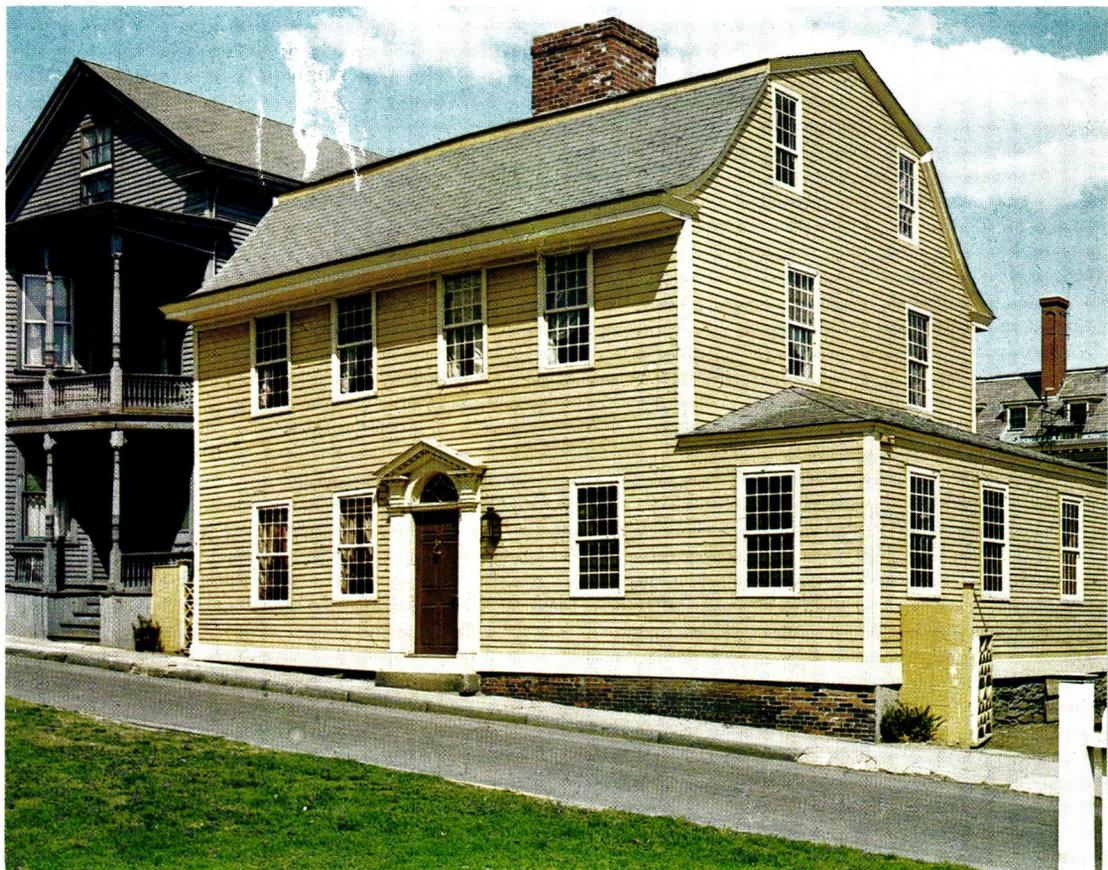


The walls of the gray-blue guest room overlook Trinity Churchyard. Windows and bed are draped in red-and-white toile de jouy print and the English Chippendale poster bed is true-to-type of the fabrics used in early Newport homes. The dressing stand is similar to one used at Mount Vernon



The spire of Trinity Church and the roof of the Pagoda House are both familiar silhouettes against the blue New England sky

## The Pagoda House in Newport, Rhode Island is a treasure



A full year of work was required to effect this charming restoration. The *new* exterior is now yellow buff with slightly lighter trim as was a popular eighteenth century practice

**T**HE REVEREND Mr. Honeyman of Trinity Church sold the land to the Pease family who built this home about 1755. Honeyman and Pease are now only names, but the church and the Pagoda House on Church Street are both a prominent part of today's Newport. Rhode Island itself was still relatively young when the elegant doorway was added in 1786. In 1822 a ten foot wide addition was tacked on to enlarge the living room and add a larder.

Though the plan is typical (central chimney with a room on either side and three rooms across the back) of the New England mid-eighteenth century, the gambrel roof is completely unique, suggesting a Dutch builder.

Luckily the house was acquired by someone with the vision and good taste to accomplish the major restoration with all of the charm of the original

coupled with the convenience and the exceptional durability that only today's equipment and materials could produce.

Such a project, though arduous, is often also an adventure. When the clapboard siding at either side of the front door was being checked, it was discovered that the "insulation" of the day had been seaweed which had been packed solidly between the joists. The original 20-foot deep well was unearthed beneath the floor of the kitchen ell by a carpenter who narrowly escaped tumbling into it.

The Preservation Society of Newport County is active in promoting the conservation of such outstanding examples of early New England architecture. With such a choice example of the practicality and the wisdom of selective restoration, it is hoped that many admirers of such charming traditional styling will be guided by this excellent precedent.

# TRUE TRADITIONAL DETAIL



JOHN HOPF

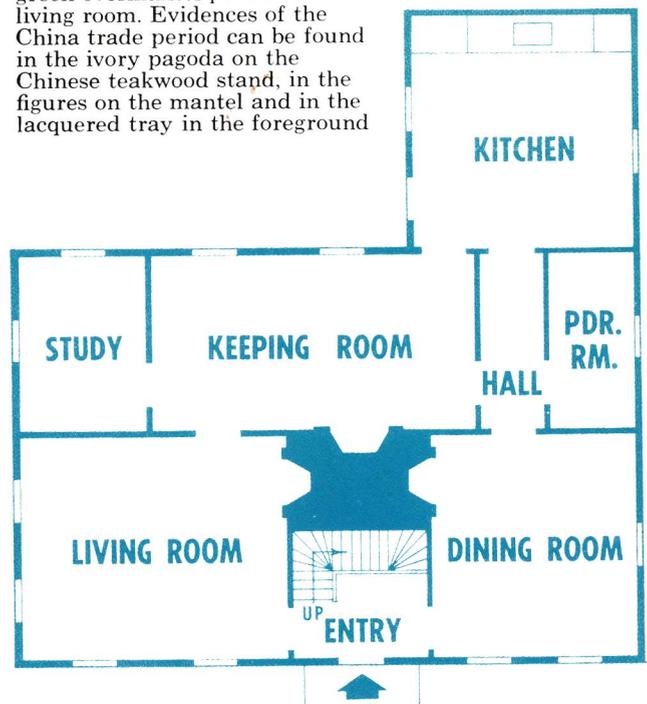
For well over a century all meals were prepared on the square bricks on the hearth in this kitchen or keeping-room and in steaming kettles suspended from the swinging spit which hung over the heat. The rare Delft plate on the mantel is flanked by a fine pair of early seventeenth century, columnar brass candlesticks



A ho-ho bird tops the Chippendale gilt mirror above the olive-green overmantel panel in the living room. Evidences of the China trade period can be found in the ivory pagoda on the Chinese teakwood stand, in the figures on the mantel and in the lacquered tray in the foreground



The shelf above the original panels of the chimney breast was added in 1776. The manganese Delft tiles are a recent addition. The gray wallpaper with its pink roses and bright green leaves is a copy of one at General Lafayette's chateau in France

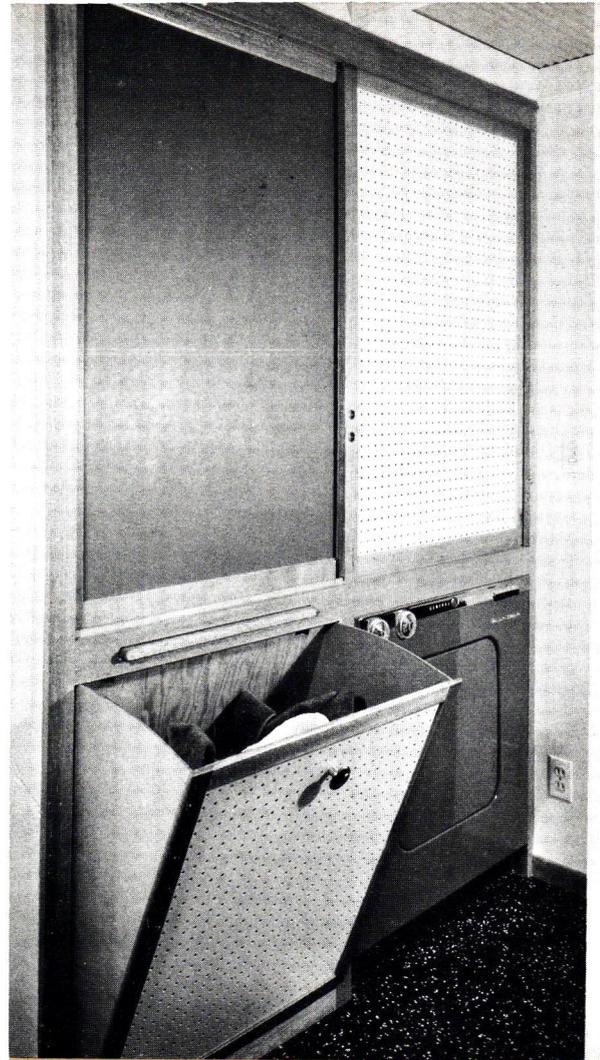


# *What ever happened to the laundry room?*

A combination washer-dryer is built in  
beneath cupboards in bedroom hallway

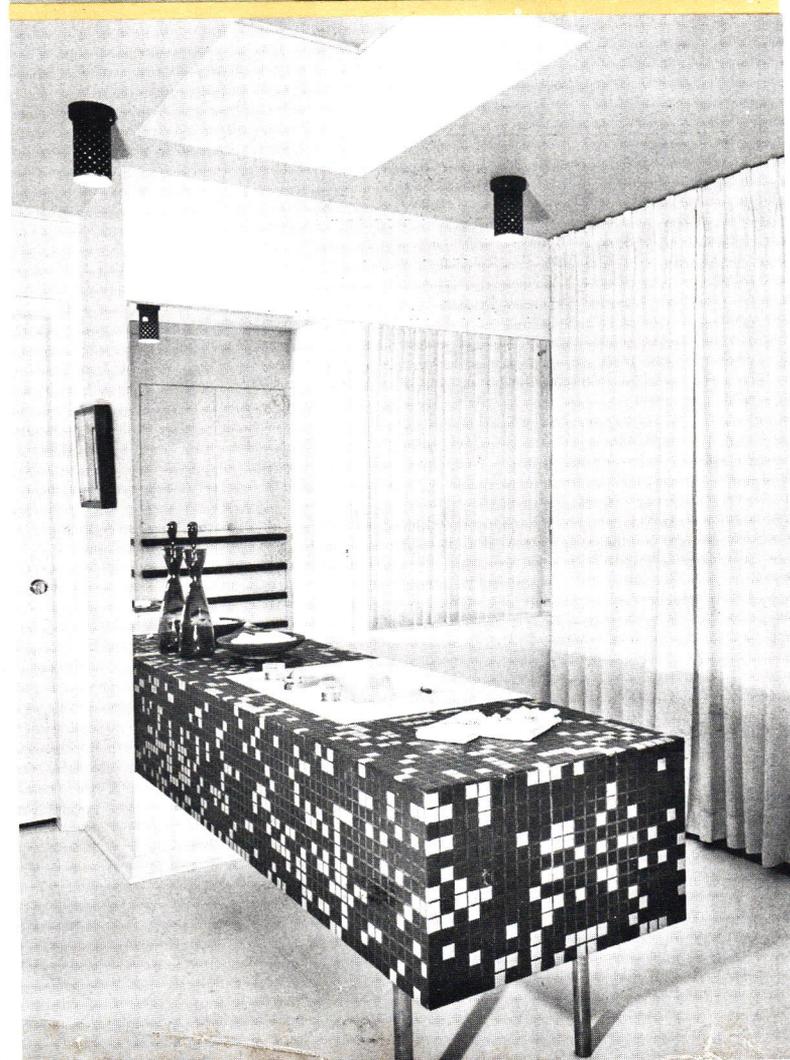
Far Right  
Laundry appliances are out of sight be-  
hind traverse curtains in this master bath

Counter top is higher than appliances  
placed next to the kitchen's service door



SIMMONDS, GAYNOR





YOU CAN inspect quite a few new homes without even finding a laundry room. In fact, even the familiar utility room is missing from many of them. Open the door to one compact closet and you'll see the furnace and water heater. Open another and there are the washer and dryer. You can find them just about anywhere in the house.

Since the entire job of presoaking, bleaching, washing and drying can be completed in these two units, there is no need for all the tubs, clotheslines, pins, etc. that used to make the separate laundry room almost a necessity. Today's washer and dryer are certainly nothing to hide. They are attractively styled, come in many more than six delicious colors and are handsome enough to stand beside your other household appliances.

Convenience is now about the only valid factor for determining the location of your laundry equipment. A laundry area in or near the kitchen is in high favor with many homemakers. This can be a corner of the kitchen itself or an adjoining hallway, but most women seem to prefer to have it set off from the rest of the kitchen by a service counter or snack bar, thus keeping soiled clothing separated from food preparation, but permitting the housewife to keep an eye on both areas simultaneously.

Many families prefer a location nearer the source of most items in the wash . . . the bathroom or a hall adjacent to the bedrooms. Having your laundry center in this part of the house eliminates countless steps in gathering and distributing clothing and linens. It also eliminates the need for laundry chutes.

The family room, the breezeway or even the garage (in temperate locations) have advantages not to be overlooked when planning your laundry area. The three settings on these pages show how easy it is to move your laundry to its most convenient location.

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*I think we should not hesitate to spend what money we can on our homes — not pretentiously, but to make them right for us, and a place to which our friends will like to come. — SUSAN GLASPELL*