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PERFECT HOME

MAGAZINE



LOOK TWICE IDEAS — Page 14

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THE CHARM OF TRADITIONAL STYLING is as dependable as the years themselves. The first flush of each new season finds this home with a perennial datelessness that defies less time-tested choices. For more than a century and one half such homes have offered enduring values. This graciousness and sense of security will certainly win as strong support from future generations.

By PEARL BUCK



Pearl Buck, Nobel prize winner, lived in China for 40 years. Still at home with her at their Pennsylvania farm, Green Hills, are her three youngest adopted daughters. All three are half-Japanese, half-American. Mrs. Buck says, "We enjoy home life immensely."

"HOME is a place to live with rectitude and active love . . ."

I HAVE always loved the simple, every day things of life. In China, home was a place of joy, fellowship, fun and love of wonderful parents. We lived on a hill overlooking the Yangtze River and from our verandah you could see the valleys, green as jade, the white geese and farm houses nestling beneath the willow trees; children played and peasants tilled the soil in their blue cotton garb.

Our house was a big, white-washed bungalow with deep arched verandahs; and under them I had my haunts in the cool, dry earth where I spent wonderful hours at play, unsupervised by adults. There I kept my pet pheasants and learned to smoke my first cornsilk cigarettes.

In the sunny part of the verandah, I read and reread our set of Charles Dickens, refreshing myself with oranges and peanuts. Our home was simple. People of all nationalities came to visit us. I grew up knowing no racial barriers. My friends and I played in the pampas grasses outside our gate. Here we played housekeeping or pretended we were in the jungles.

Our home was tidy and religious. My father got up at five o'clock in the morning for an hour of prayer before breakfast; he expected the family to attend on time and always said grace, thanking God and blessing the food to the nourishment of our bodies that we might do God's will. It saddened me greatly when at the age of eight, we had to leave our bungalow because of the Boxer Rebellion in 1900.

Today I still like the simple things . . . seasonable dishes such as sweet corn in August, strawberries in July, turkey at Christmas and Thanksgiving. I arise early, as is my habit, and look from the window at the land, to see the hills and fields at dawn and dark and in all kinds of weather. The joy of living!

I find the joy of children in a home is to see them develop into good people through love. And I believe in discipline. Home is a place for prayer, work, and music and where I strive to achieve the best of which I am capable since I am enchanted by excellence.

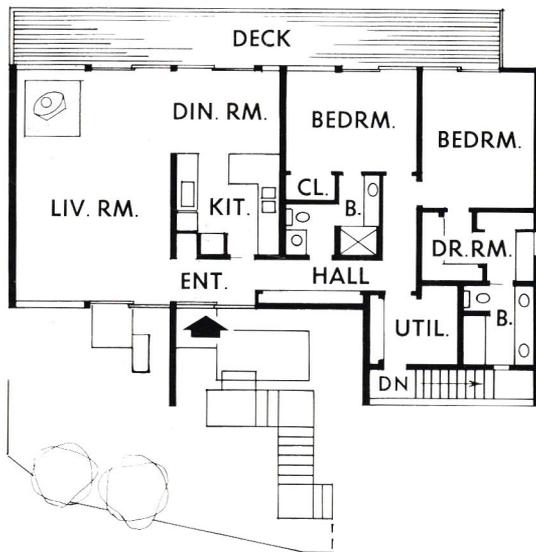
I believe no matter where I am, at home or abroad, that I am guided by a Central Intelligence because when in doubt as to what to do, I wait for directions which usually come in compelling decisions.

My home is a place to live with rectitude and active love . . . to do my best physically and spiritually. Today my home life on the farm holds the same charm for me as in those early days in China.



DOUGLAS SIMMONDS

ARCHITECT: HOMER DELAWIE A.I.A.



THE PLAN shows the unusual degree of privacy made possible by the unique garage-over-house layout. A stairway leads from street level down to the secluded entryway. The only windows facing the street are here and in the living room

With a view of vast areas of sky, glare could have been a serious problem which was prevented by tinted glass in all fixed panels. It does not extensively alter natural colors viewed through it but does temper the too-brilliant sunlight

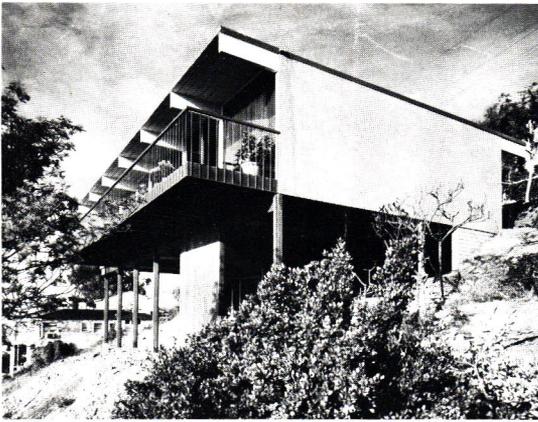
Both bedrooms and the dining and living area open onto the deck making each one appear to be larger than actual dimensions. The huge boxed beams extend outward through the glass adding even more to the visual stratagem



A long view seems to

ADD SPACE TO A SMALL HOME

Steel columns in deep concrete pads suspend the house above the slope of the hill. The deck extends the full length of the house and is used not only for view-watching and relaxation but also for many family meals



The living room with walls of glass at either end looks out on the view and at the landscaped front garden seen here. The wall at left of pre-stained, grooved cedar paneling extends outside to insure privacy between entry and garden

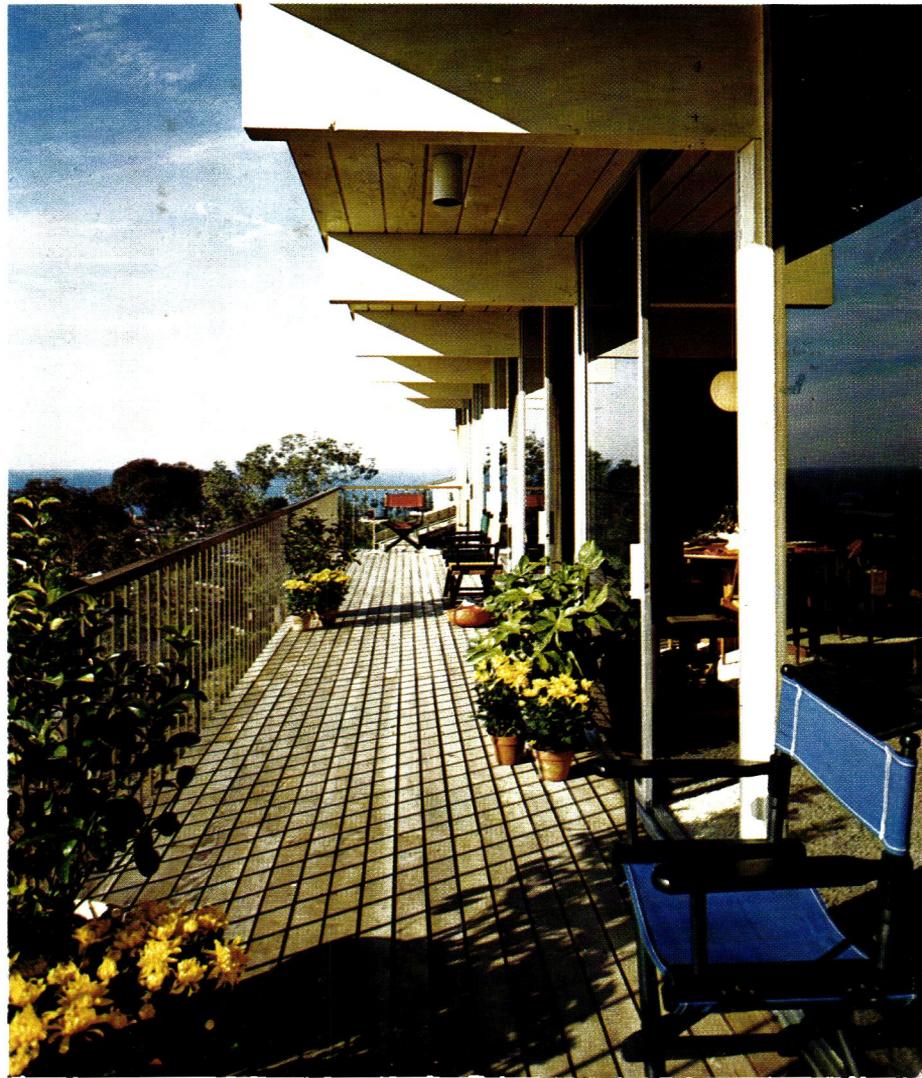
The deck provides an extra 280 square feet of living space. Plan provides for future expansion of the lower level. The deck will then shelter the large windows of that addition

HIGH AT THE top of a hill with a breathtaking view above the town's roof tops to the distant ocean, this small home appears larger than it is. The secret is in designing it to take full advantage of *distance* to add a feeling of spaciousness in the principal rooms of the house.

The living room, the dining area, and the bedrooms all face this panoramic landscape, each of them with sliding glass doors that lead to an open deck that seems to make the outdoors a part of the house.

Service and utility areas such as bathrooms, laundry, and closets are located at the rear. Because the house extends part way down the hill, it was convenient to place the garage atop the rear, at street level.

To further give an air of spaciousness the designer stipulated furnishings that are light in scale, and colors with enough uniformity to make the rooms seem to flow together as continuous space.



Q: We don't have a headboard and would like to find some not-too-costly way to give us a temporary focal point above the bed. We have seen pictures of iron gates, screens, fabric panels and other ideas. Can you perhaps suggest something more exciting?

A: How is this for a line up? . . . Buy a stock, eight-pane window panel. Paint or varnish it and place a colorful flower print in each opening . . . For a rustic effect join weathered greyed barn lumber together with a collection of black hinges found when old buildings are being demolished . . . Hang three bath-size terry towels on one of the enchanting new patterns on a brass rod above the bed . . . Old brass beds are getting hard to find but either a headboard or footboard polished or painted can be backed with fabric stretched over a half-inch layer of latex foam for a quilted effect.

Q: Even though we have a formal dining room, occasionally we like to eat in the study where our TV is located. However we do not like TV trays or snack tables. We would prefer a good size table. There is not space enough to accommodate seating units, a lounge, desk and table. How about a fold-away table?

A: A fold-away table is fine if you have storage space for it and if you have floor space enough to hold it when it is open. As an alternate suggestion, did you know that many handsome table-desks are just dining height, are sturdy and need only to have their tops cleared before use? You might even add a drop leaf to the back side of your desk to add two more places.

Q: Our dining room is very small, so small in fact that eight chairs and the table create an impossible jumble. I have recently inherited a lovely rectangular, drop-leaf table and a matching American maple chest, but my old chairs must be replaced. How can I reduce the look of disorder?

A: Since you mentioned eight chairs, we imagine you occasionally have eight for meals. In place of your chairs get two deacon's benches. These can rest close to the table and though they require almost as much floor space the benches will look far less busy than six chairs. Now, don't you have two more chairs or benches that may be brought in from the living room or bedrooms when needed?

Q: Blueprints of my parents' big old house have been gathering dust in their attic. Recently I saw similar prints mounted along a stairway like wallpaper. Why can't I use our prints to cover the fireplace wall of our new house? What could I use as a color scheme with them?

A: Why not a red, white and blue room? Regimental red for the carpet and a chair or two, white for all woodwork and for your lamps and blueprint blue for the remaining walls. A white dado and white glass curtains should crisp up the setting.

Our Readers Ask Us

Q: I have always envied people with room enough for a home gym, or even enough for an exerciser. In our tiny house I can hardly find room to stretch my arms out let alone set up any equipment. Are there any units compact enough to fit into a small corner?

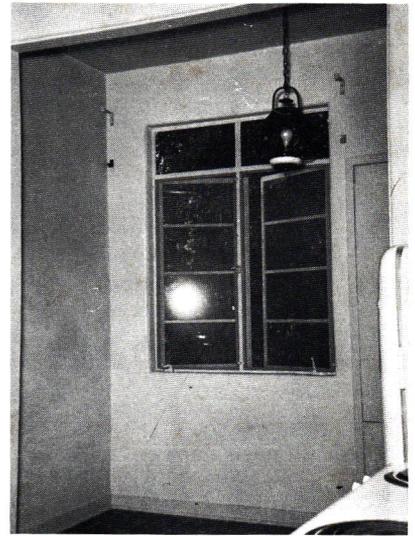
A: Even better . . . your exercising equipment can be installed in a closet, with plenty of room left over for your clothing. Bars, pulleys, scales, your tilt-board and weights can be attached to the back of your closet wall. They require so little depth that your clothing can usually hang in front of them on the garment rod and can be pushed aside when you use your home gym.

An alcove becomes a busy breakfast room



AFTER

BEFORE



WILLIAM R. HOLZ

Remodeling activated this alcove. The difference between usefulness and uselessness in this instance consisted of a generous helping of imagination plus a new floor, brick-patterned paper, striped ceiling and cornice, a good light, shutters and furniture. The new glass-topped table is also used for food preparation, for sewing or for study. And, of course, most family meals are served here. Quite understandably, this inviting corner is frequently the setting for neighborhood coffee klatches.

... BOYS

Even in the very small room, boys like to feel that some part of the shared area is all their very own. With severely limited space, splitting of this room might have seemed impractical but the pole divider bisects without making the room seem any less spacious.

With the bright royal blue of the plaid spread and curtains and the white walls, red was the natural accent color. It appears in the floor tiles, the frames of the headboards and as "mats" for the antique fire engine prints which are framed in narrow ten-cent-store frames. Red and blue alternate on poles of the divider and shelves above beds are blue.

Where there



are two...

... GIRLS "Practicality, easy-care and sturdy" are terms bound to catch the attention of any mother decorating for her daughters. Her girls, however, will probably be far more appreciative of a room they consider "real cool, way-out and neat".

The sturdy fabric used so lavishly in this room for two sisters, will appeal both to mothers and to daughters. The spreads are ready-mades but the shutters and cafes are fashioned of matching fabric that may be purchased by the yard. The shutter frames and the edges of the shelves pick up the blue-green of the spreads. Shelves are surprisingly capacious and avoid the cost of separate headboards.



The ribbon of windows high in the walls at either side of the huge glass panel lights the two second floor bedrooms. The huge stone chimney seems to anchor the house to hillside



A PLAN THAT PLAYS SQUARE WITH YOUR BUDGET

Glass wall of the living room stretches wall to wall and floor to ceiling. The light is tempered by semi-sheer curtains

IT'S NICE to know that a classic cube plan with no projections or recesses will give you the most house for your money, but unfortunately, it will probably give you very little charm. Better to change the shape only slightly to form a rectangle. This will not substantially raise costs but it will add greatly to the visual interest.

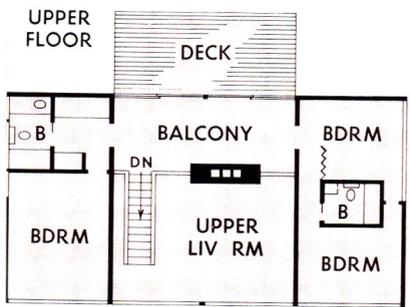
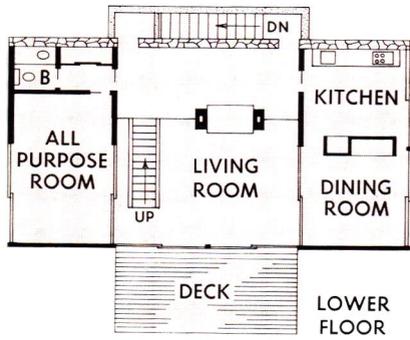
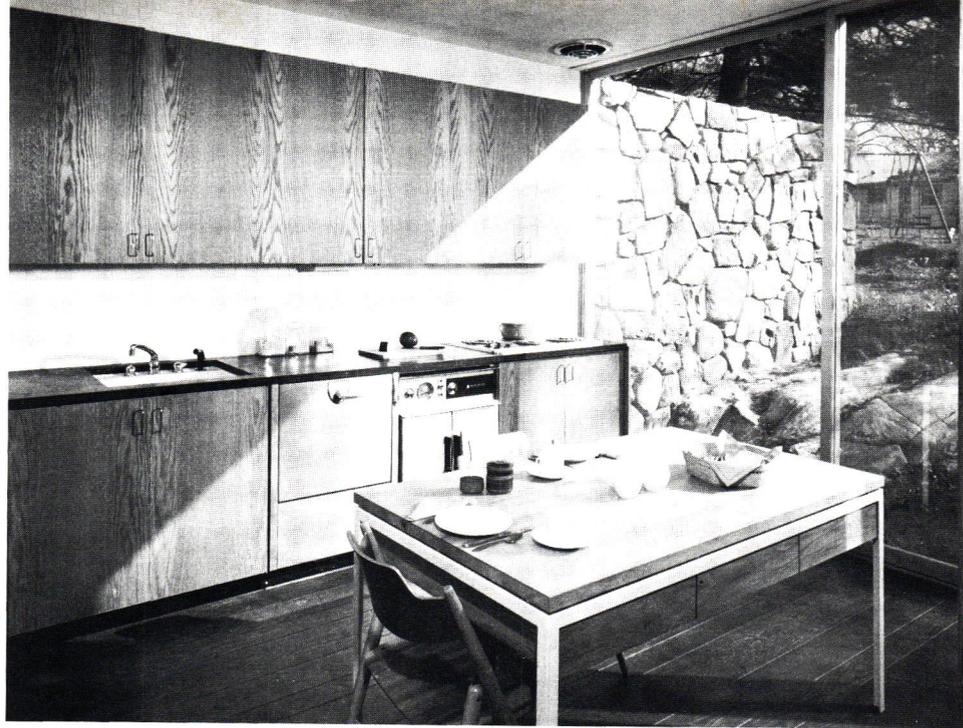
A look at this rectangular plan will reveal its complete simplicity of outline. It will also show the direct relationship of interior spaces. In spite of the complete absence of frills or excess details this is not a stark house. Savings made possible by the straight-line plan have been absorbed, to a degree, by the impressive stonework of the walls and chimney, by the handsome wood floors and the vast expanses of glass.

The rich interplay of materials adds its own excitement. The two-story windows provide a sense of luxury seldom equalled in a moderate cost home. Yes! This is very much a house planned with a fine concern for the dollar.



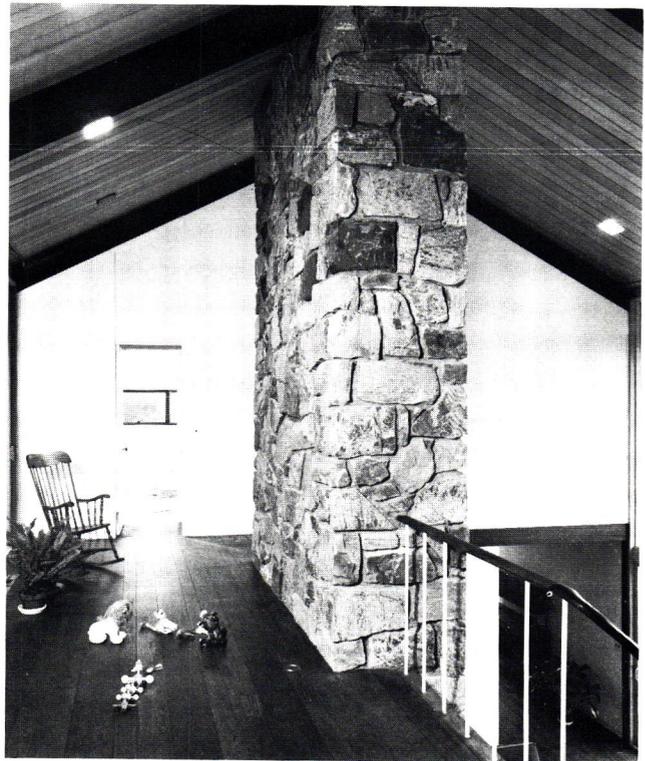
BY RUTH CORELL

Though a formal dining room adjoins the kitchen many meals are eaten on this chopping block table with its view of the field stone wall and the boulder strewn setting beyond

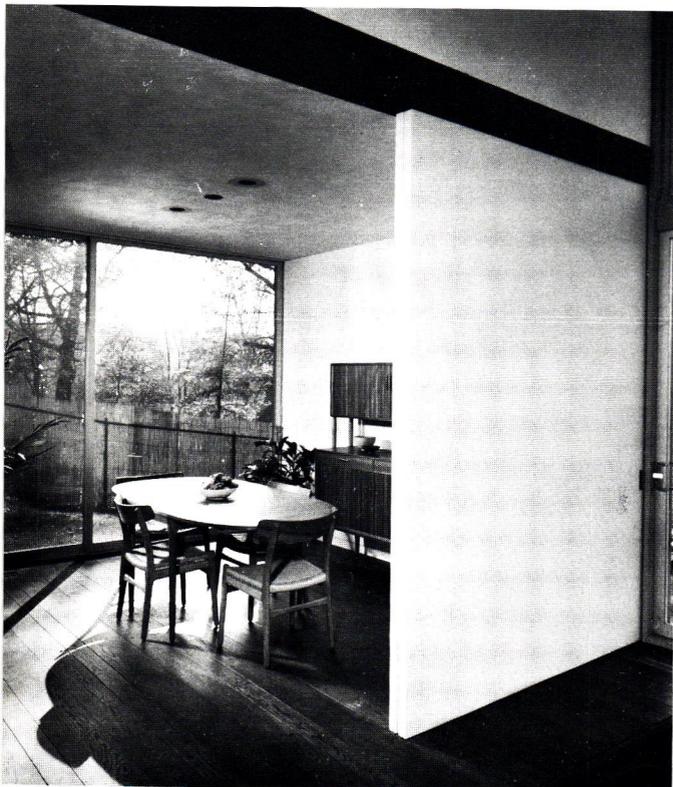


THE PLAN . . . not revealed by the photographs is the fact that the second floor is level with the hillside in back and a deck and sliding doors give direct access to exterior

ARCHITECT: GEORGE NEMENY A.I.A.



Lights mounted flush with the cathedral ceiling avoid the dark which seems to fill some such rooms. The spacious balcony serves as a play area



Large ceiling-high sliding panels can shut off the dining room at one end of the living room or the large room at the opposite end, which may serve as either a bed or a study-guest room

ABOUT FACE



Blue birds against leafy green panels flank the white wall opposite the white sofa. The mood is quiet, serene

YOU CAN afford to use blithe colors and imaginative accessories if you know you won't have to live with them constantly. The decorator of this setting, a designer of decorative fabrics, planned his home so that he could make frequent changes of themes and schemes with a minimum of confusion. From the parquet floor up, the entire background is white, the gentle aged white which provides the perfect foil for color, either glowing or restrained. At each window he hung two shades, one matching the walls, the other bright cranberry red. Both may be concealed behind deep valances.

At each side of the fireplace are two pairs of roll-down wall panels. One is white; the other is patterned with green and blue birds and leaves. The sofa is upholstered in white.

The room is decorated in a quiet mood with the fireplace concealed by an accordion-folded screen. Both colored and white screens are out-of-sight. The windows are covered by the sheer white curtains.

In less than a quarter of an hour the mood can be completely changed. The red shades are rolled down. Several of the sofa cushions are popped into fresh red slip covers. The round chairs are replaced by lacquered bentwood chairs from the dining area and a pair of low coffee tables centers the new grouping. The green wall panels roll up to reveal the white organdy panel. Last detail in the transformation is the brilliantly colored painting which is hung over the fireplace . . . less than fifteen minutes to do a redecorating job it would take most of us days to accomplish!



ALEXANDRE GEORGES

The gay Mexican cotton window shades repeat the sharp red of the Moroccan rug and lacquered chairs

By AVA LOUIS

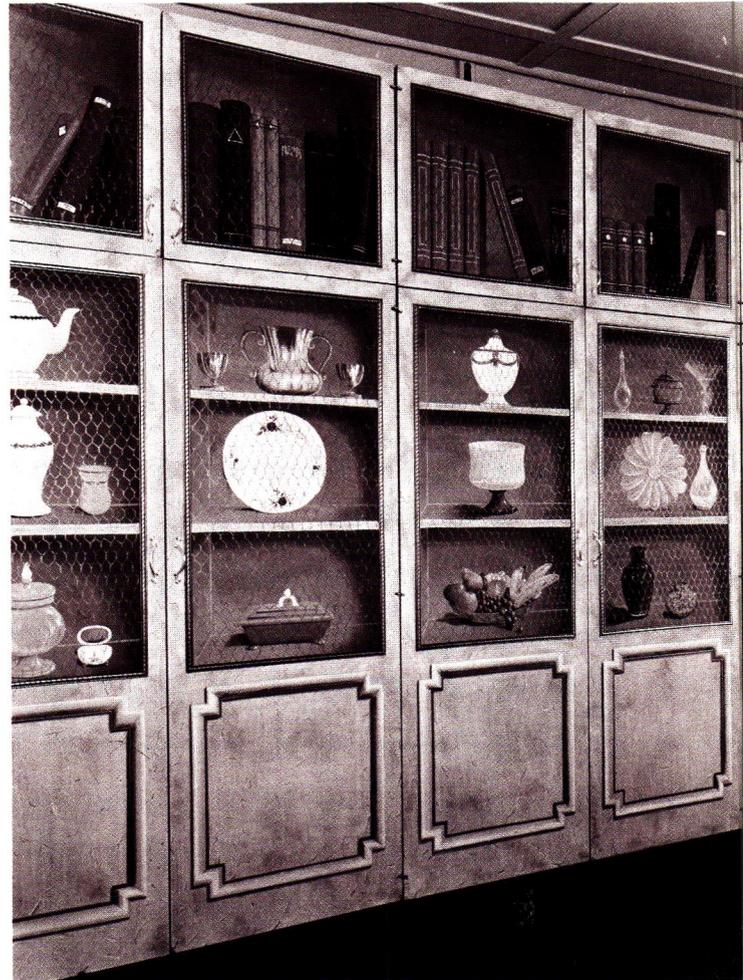
“LOOK-TWICE”



PHIL FEIN

RX FOR ONE OUTDATED MEDICINE CABINET

The old cabinet was spacious but inconveniently located and poorly lighted so it was replaced by a new recessed unit which had its own light fixtures. This left an unsightly hole in the wall. One-by-two lumber and a couple of sturdy dowel rods and gay paint transformed it into the perfect rack for small hand and guest towels.



HAROLD DAVIS

CONVENIENCE WITHOUT CLUTTER

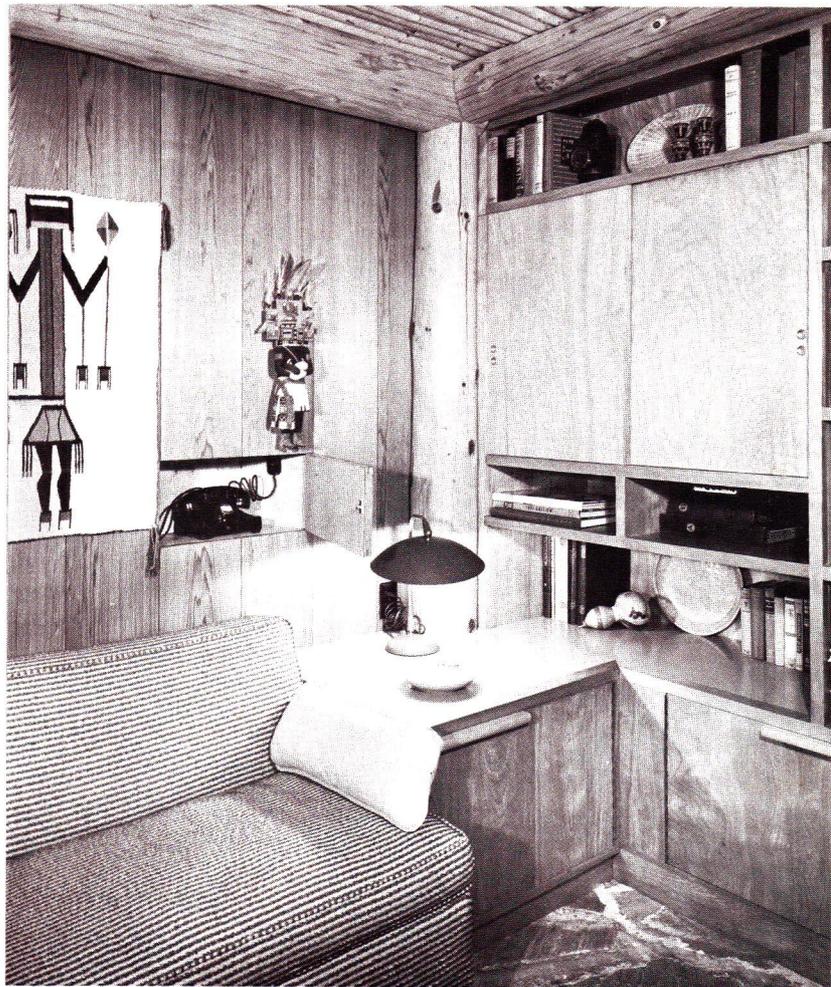
Are your cupboard shelves always cleaning-day neat and orderly, with never a mote of dust or an item out of place? They can be if shelves as well as contents are painted on the doors. This spectacular art is called trompe l'oeil (fool the eye) and has long been practiced for both its decorative and amusing effects.



KIND OF IDEAS



HAROLD DAVIS



DOUGLAS SIMMONDS



HAVE A LOOK

The eerie effect of a door knob suspended in midair is your first hint that this doorway does not open into an adjoining bedroom. The door actually conceals the bathroom and serves as a full length dressing mirror. The doorway has been framed with marble. It's a treatment much more effective and useful than the conventional wood door.



HAVE YOU HEARD?

Radios, record players and telephones are blessings but seldom add much to the good looks of a setting. So why not keep them concealed unless you are using them? Here cupboards keep these units safe and out of sight behind doors. The record player sits on a quarter circle shelf which swings out with the cupboard door.

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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