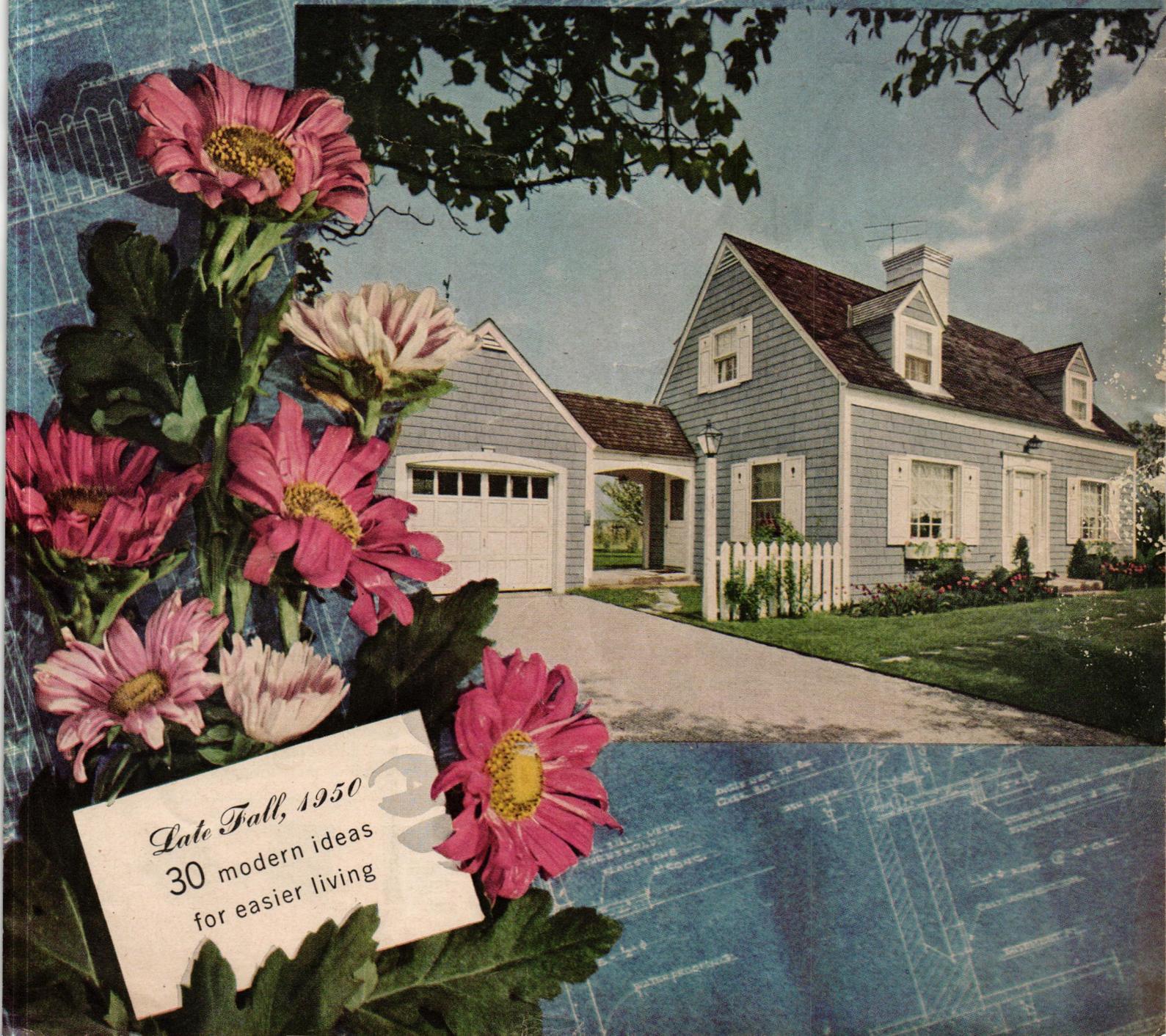


POPULAR HOME

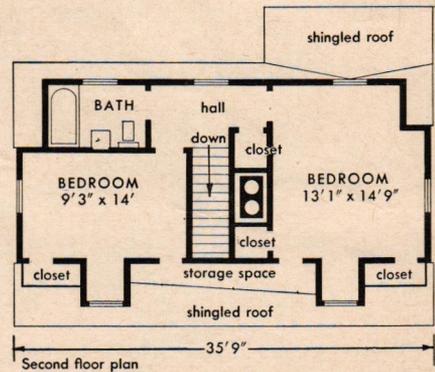
MAGAZINE



Late Fall, 1950
30 modern ideas
for easier living



Restful downstairs study is product of open bookshelves and cupboards of antiqued pine combined with forest green walls, white woodwork, and natural oak floors. Large double-hung windows are curtained in white criss-cross ruffled organdy. Pine table and tavern chairs form window group, remodeled cobbler's bench in foreground is used as unique coffee table.



In master bedroom of Middleton house, maple Colonial furniture, yellow floral chintz, and white for accent are set off against Pilgrim Blue walls and Gardenia White ceiling. Pilgrim Blue is a TEXOLITE Custom Color, can be mixed by using proportions shown in the TEXOLITE Color Harmonizer, a booklet with ready-mixed and special colors you may obtain from your local dealer.

PHOTOGRAPHS: SUTER, HEDRICH-BLESSING

Imperial TEXOLITE

2 1/2 qts. Pottery blue	1/2 pt. deep blue	1 pt. turquoise	1/8 pt. black	= Pilgrim Blue

CAPE COD CHARM HOUSE

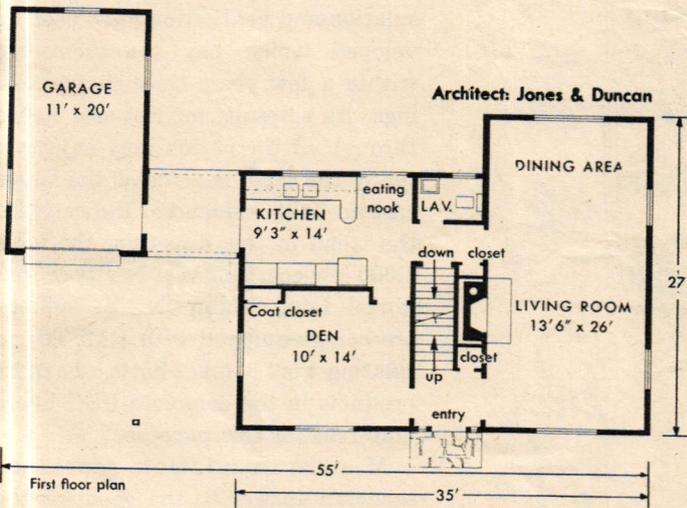


White-trimmed gray shingle exterior and natural cedar shingle roofing of Middleton house could be replaced, in other models using this plan, by PLATEX asbestos cement siding, available in three colors, and by USG Thick Butt asphalt roofing shingles in various color harmonies. House, excluding garage, breezeway and basement, contains 1,390 sq. ft., 12,520 cu. ft.

■ THE ENDURING popularity of Cape Cod architecture is apparent in all parts of the country, and long since has spread from the New England region from which it derives its name. The unique charm and graciousness of this style express an American way of life that promises to easily hold its own against the recent trend to the informality and functionalism of modern and so-called "ranch-house" architecture.

Fine examples of pure Cape Cod design abound from coast to coast. Among them is the new home of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Middleton, Jr. in Highland

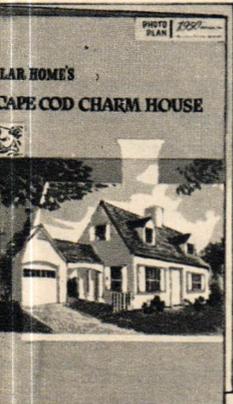
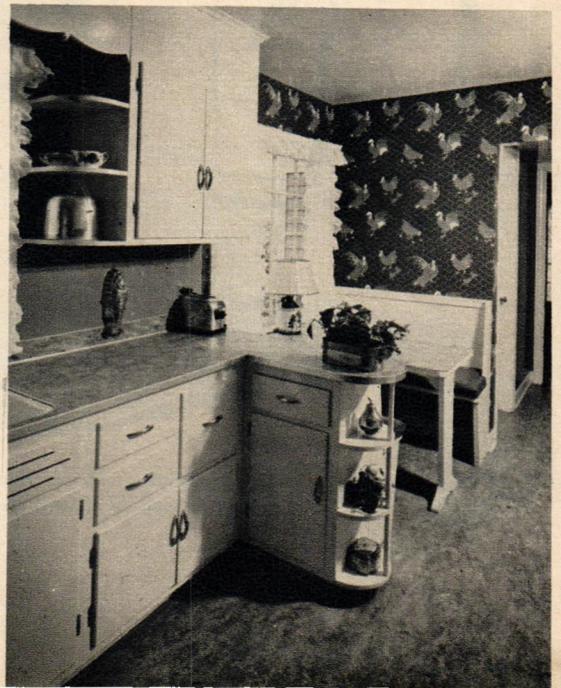
Park, Ill., a modest-cost dwelling of compact and complete plan with a full basement. One of the house's most practical virtues is its adaptability to a narrow lot, since the garage can be located in the rear or omitted entirely if cost considerations so dictate. Likewise, the privacy of second-floor bedrooms is obtainable in no other manner—but as a temporary economy measure, the second floor of this house can be left unfinished as in many small homes of this type built in recent years. How to finish a typical second-floor area is outlined on Page 12 with step-by-step suggestions.



Upper right. In the living room, elephant gray walls with matching twist-weave rug and white woodwork form background for traditional furnishings. Rose chintz of sofa is repeated on fire-side chairs, while plaster lamps on tables echo green of chintz.

Right. Kitchen-dinette area is formed by cabinet sink flanked by white wood cabinets, on outer wall, with right-angle work unit at end serving as partition for built-in wooden benches and table. Counters and floor are covered in mottled blue linoleum.

For more technical information on the Middleton house, including elevation drawings, ask the local company named on the back cover of this magazine for POPULAR HOME Photo Plan 50-7, "Cape Cod Charm House." How to obtain low-cost blueprints for building this house also is explained. If you're interested in improving your present home, get the Photo Plan for its Handyman Section—how-to-build directions for an open-shelf partition, a hidden hatrack and a storage-shelf wall. They'll do wonders for you. Price 10 cents.



WINTER COMFORT IS



Slight temperature variance, absence of drafts are results of effective insulation.

Either in Building or Remodeling, Here's One Way to Bring Your Home up to the Modern Level of Living

■ **BABY'S HEALTH** at floor level and father's comfort at six feet from the floor have been given two trustworthy guardians by modern building materials research. One is ventilation; the other, adequate insulation.

Winter and summer comfort in the home not many years ago was an expensive luxury. Today, methods of insulation and ventilation have been developed which pay for themselves within a few years through fuel savings. As a result, modest-cost houses throughout the nation may enjoy virtually the same benefits as the largest custom-built residences. Indicative of the trend in this direction, the latest 4,000 low-cost homes of Levitt & Sons, famed Long Island, N. Y. builders, are being equipped with RED TOP insulating wool blanket batts, one of the products in the complete USG line of materials for this purpose.

Modern insulation represents science's answer to the need for controlling heat transmission through the structural shell of a building. In winter, it's a matter of heat loss; in summer, heat gain. Thus, in the southern states, where mild winters reduce the need for fuel-saving, insulation still is a necessity because of its value in keeping out summer heat.

In the average two-story house, the distribution of heat loss in winter has been calculated as follows: through window glass and doors, 26%; walls 32%; roof, 15%; floor, 9%; infiltration through cracks, 18%. This means that the use of insulation in side walls, ceilings and floors can effect saving or

NO LUXURY

substantial part of a calculated 56% of the total heat loss that passes through the building.

On this part of the loss the homeowner can begin counting his fuel savings immediately—in dollars and cents—while basking in the comfort of more even temperatures and banished drafts.

There are five groups of USG products, nationally accepted and time-proven, designed to meet insulation problems in the home:

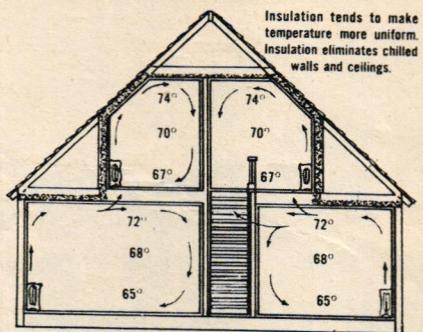
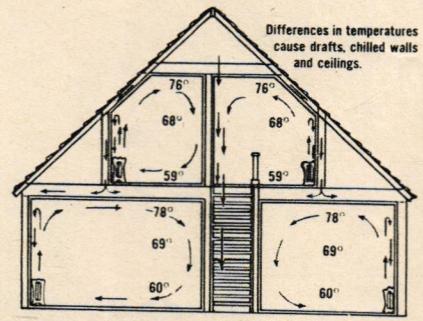
RED TOP Insulating Wool blanket batts, available in approximately 2-inch and 3-inch thicknesses, containing an efficient asphalt coated vapor barrier. Blankets are fully enclosed, have triple strength nailing flanges, are sized to fit snugly between 16-inch studs and joists. Batts are rigid enough to simplify handling, flexible enough to fit irregular surfaces, around pipes and conduits.

Insulating ROCKLATH plaster base, a foil-backed fireproof gypsum lath. One of the least expensive types of insulation because the insulation is installed with the plaster base at no added installation cost. Retards high percentage of condensation that occurs on exterior walls during low winter temperatures; also effective in floors, ceilings.

Insulating SHEETROCK foil-backed fire-retarding gypsum wallboard, for strong smooth interior surfaces plus vapor condensation control—all in a single installation. Available in $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch thicknesses, with standard width of 4 feet and lengths of 6 to 12 feet, three edge types.

WEATHERWOOD Panel-Tile and plank, decorative insulation for interior walls, available in a wide variety of sizes for selection of pleasing designs. Colors are HILITE (light ivory) and BLENDTEX (a blend of four tan tones). Both have tongue and grooved edges.

WEATHERWOOD insulating plaster base, asphalt-coated sheathing, and building board. These products combine structural advantages with high thermal insulation. Insulating sheathing, $\frac{25}{32}$ -inch thick, is equal in insulation value to 2 inches of brick, 11 inches of concrete, or 29 inches of concrete. Panel sizes are 2x4 and 2x8 feet.



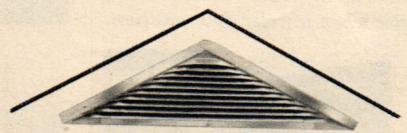
Blanket batt of RED TOP insulating wool is stapled through nailing flange into face of stud. Black vapor barrier side of blanket always faces inside. Batts come in 15x96, 15x48 and 15x24-inch sizes, in medium and thick (2 to 3-inch) thicknesses.



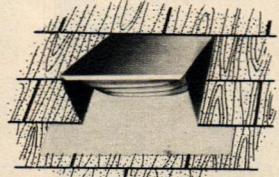
Insulating ROCKLATH plaster base fits snugly in installation, 16x48-inch panels bring joints squarely to center of studs spaced 16 inches apart. Aluminum foil vapor barrier faces outer wall, requires air space of only $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch when used with solid masonry.

Ventilation goes hand-in-hand with insulation to combat the condensation that brings paint-peeling, warped siding, water-spotted walls and rotted framing to unprotected houses. In modern "tight" construction good insulation is one of the best safeguards against excessive condensation. In old houses moisture control is most effective only when insulation is combined with weatherstripping, caulking, and storm sash, especially in the North.

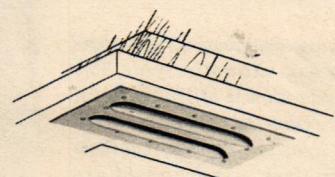
The correct use of vapor barriers, as in USG insulating products, minimizes the penetration of water vapor through walls and ceilings and eliminates wall condensation. In addition, excessive humidities are reduced most effectively by ventilating the attic, and in basementless houses, the crawl space beneath the floor. This is accomplished by louvers, vents and attic fans. Three outstanding USG products for this purpose appear at right.



New USG multi-pitch aluminum louver adjusts to practically any gable angle, is fitted to accelerate removal of hot air through highest point in gable.



Storm-proof pitched roof louver permits maximum air circulation, keeps out rain and snow. Adaptable to any pitch roof, is made of heavy sheet aluminum.



Cornice ventilator is designed for under-the-eaves ventilation, can be installed with either pitched roof or gable-type louvers, has built-in insect screen.



our home is what you make it

PHOTOGRAPHY: BILL HEDRICH, HEDRICH-BLESSING

Karin, six, the family artist, and two-year-old Peter enjoy almost unlimited freedom in their playroom-nursery with its semi-partition of storage cabinets. The toy chest under window, designed by father Henry Glass, has four sections which swing outward. Walls are of SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard; high windows on one wall give privacy, serve to increase usable wall space.



Snack counter in living room is ready for service when wheeled into position.



Snack counter occupies little floor space when it disappears into built-in unit.

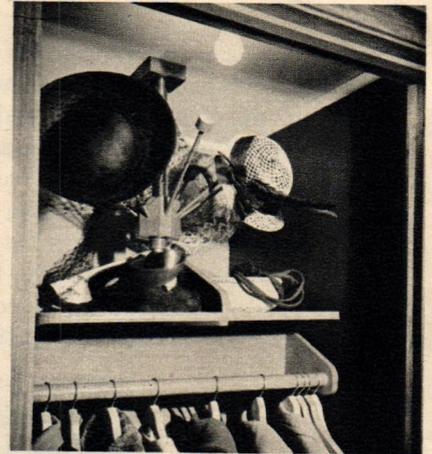
The dual-purpose unit, shown at right, combines utility with decorative value. The back of the partition is of SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard covered with dark green plastic. Shelves, cabinets and built-in desk compartment are natural redwood. The perforated panel is the radio-phonograph loud speaker. Above desk is permanent movie screen.



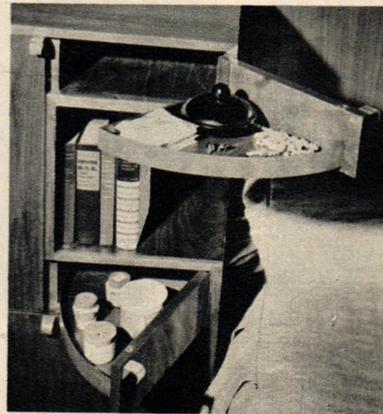
Your house may be new or old. Its decorating may have been done by a famous artist, or by your own good talent. Regardless of age or style, your living conveniences can be brought up to the modern level. Here are ideas, four pages of them, gathered from outstanding examples of improved ways of living. Each idea has distinctive merit.



■ INCLUDED in this collection of ideas for making living more pleasant are pictures from the home of Henry Glass, well known young designer who heads his own studio-of industrial design. A native of Vienna, Austria, he holds two degrees in architecture from top Viennese schools and has worked with leading designers both here and abroad. His designs have been published in leading trade magazines. Currently, he is teaching industrial design at the Chicago Art Institute. He and his charming Viennese wife and two children live in a small-house-that-seems-large because of the many space-saving, work-saving, fun-having ideas, many of which could be adapted to the home you and your family have been planning to build or remodel.



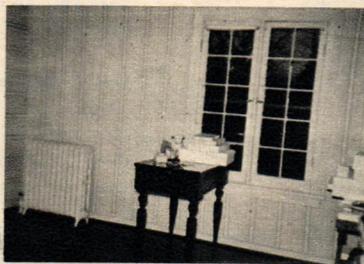
Above. For the family guest closet, Henry Glass designed a revolving hat-rack, purse-and-glove-holder. How-to-make instructions are in "Cape Cod Charm House" Photo Plan, No. 50-7.



Far left. Two chests and a dressing table with a lift-top concealing a fluorescent light, form the bed footboard. SHEETROCK walls are covered with burlap, also used for draperies and spread.

Left. In the master bedroom, a miracle of compact arrangement, the bed has a walnut headboard with swinging drawer cabinets at each side for storage and night-table use.

From another house



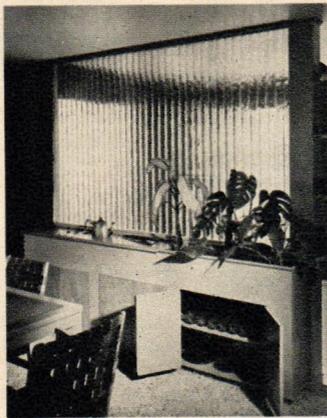
Before

comes another good idea. The arrival of a new baby inspired the owners to make better use of space with little expense by lining one wall with cabinets, drawers and open shelves. The radiator cover leaves air space below for heat circulation, has an expanded metal front. POPULAR HOME Photo Plan 50-7 tells how to build a Shelf-Storage Wall like this, how to enclose the upper shelf if desired, how to build a pull-out shelf (small child's desk) from under the window seat . . . available now from the local company named on back cover for only 10 cents.



*Your home
is what
you make it* (continued)

■ GOOD IDEAS, space-saving features and excellent design need not be confined to new houses like this. If you have an old house in need of rejuvenation, borrow the ideas in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Willis T. Frank of Denver, Colo. Partitions, solid or free standing, are used to give privacy and storage space. Decorating ideas have merit. The floor plan, lower right, shows the living-dining-entrance hall-kitchen area of this new house and the location of its double-duty partitions.



Dining area side of glass-topped partition between dining-hall serves as storage unit, serving table and plant container. Built-ins like this give great service, but require little space.

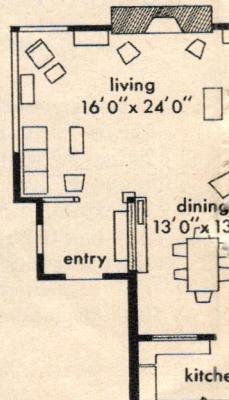


Above. An open-shelfed partition is adaptable to any decorative and useful separation is desired. Here an Open-Shelf-Partition is shown in the Works Popular Home Photo Plan No. 50-7 called "Cottage House." The glass-topped partition between dining area shields table from front door, allows light through. Plaster walls are painted citron. Corners are curtained in two fabrics, ingenious way of using former house with minimum new fabric.

Left. A glass-enclosed opening in wall between dining and kitchen adds interest with decorative shelves. Striped fabric was applied as an undersurface to give interesting effect. Deep green paint. Vertical match-stick bamboo cover the window wall to porch, combine privacy and light.



On the kitchen side, the wall opening provides more shelf space. Note the useful counter-desk adjacent to range.





The age of a house has little bearing on the potential for livable interiors. The owners of the house at right are forward-looking in their desire to create comfortable, convenient work-saving interiors for their active family. An example is this study, formerly the "back parlor." Improvements, planned by Humphrey & Hardenbergh, Inc., of Minneapolis, Minn., included a remodeled fireplace wall with bookshelves and cabinets, and a cornice board used as frame for the unusual valance treatment.



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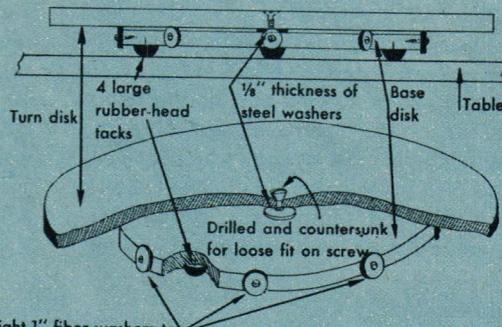
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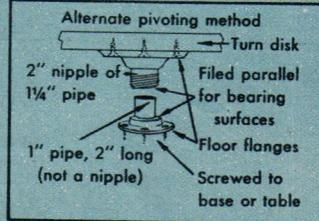
"Pass the salt" is never heard in a family with a Lazy Susan (revolving tray of the type shown on table above). How-to-Make a Lazy Susan for your breakfast room, game room or garden table, is shown in diagram at right.

In the home of Mr. & Mrs. Norman Harper of Kansas City, Mo., this breakfast room-study was achieved by removing the partition between two tiny rooms formerly used for catch-all. H and L hinges on knotty pine cabinets are in harmony with room's character. For resurfacing old walls and ceilings for a smooth, unblemished look, SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard offers the best of results.

HOW TO MAKE A LAZY SUSAN FOR USE ON ANY TABLE



Eight 1" fiber washers to turn easily on round-head screws; washers extend 1/8" above base. Both disks are cut from 3/4" plywood (7-ply). Base disk should be two-thirds diameter of turn disk.



Only a few hand tools are needed: yardstick or steel tape measure, notched trowel for spreading cement, sharp awl or ice pick, linoleum knife, cord and chalk.

IT'S EASY TO LAY FLOOR TILE

There's a choice of linoleum, asphalt, rubber and plastic; in plain, marbleized or textured effects and in lively or subdued colors—just as you prefer.

■ AS CHARACTERISTICS of different types of floor tiles vary, manufacturers' recommendations should be followed explicitly. For instance, linoleum is not advised directly on concrete floors below grade—asphalt or rubber tile is recommended here. Similarly, asphalt tile always requires a very rigid base.

Floor Preparation: A perfectly smooth floor is essential. After taking off base-board shoes, remove all traces of previous coverings. Wooden floors are nailed down securely to avoid springiness. If the boards are "cupped" use a sanding machine. Sand the boards lengthwise, not across. On smooth double floors having boards 3 in. wide or less, tile may be cemented on directly but it is better to use a layer of felt first. Rough, single wooden floors should be covered with DURON tempered hard-board or waterproof plywood. Nail or cement the covering, spacing nails about 6 in. apart and sinking heads flush. Use a small block plane on butting edges. Clean floor of all grease, wax, or oil.

Cut strips of asphalt-saturated felt to fit across the floor, doubling them back so you can apply cement. Press felt down firmly with roller. Butt the edges of the felt together—do not overlap.

Measure accurately: Now snap chalk lines at right angles and in the exact center of the room. To get lines at right angles, use triangles having 3, 4, and 5-ft. sides as in Fig. 1. Next, lay a row of tiles temporarily across the room, starting on lines at intersection.

If the space left between the last tiles and the walls is less than half the width of a tile, Fig. 2, remove one tile and slide the row down half a tile to position shown in Fig. 3. Then snap a new chalk line at this point, Fig. 4. Repeat this procedure for other wall margins. Remove tiles and spread cement over chalk lines, Fig. 5, without covering original points from which chalk lines were snapped. Reproduce same lines over the cement as soon as it becomes tacky. Then spread cement over half the floor as in Fig. 6.

Laying the Tile: Wait until the cement becomes tacky before laying tiles. Then place each tile so edges are exactly on chalk lines, starting at intersection, to form a pyramid, Figs. 7 and 9. Don't slide the tiles into place. Marbleized tiles should be placed with grain of alternate pieces at right angles. The border is fitted piece by piece. To do this, lay loose tiles directly over tiles nearest wall and use another tile for scribing, Fig. 8. Linoleum tile can be cut with knife or shears. Asphalt tile can be scored deeply with the grain and waste portion snapped off by hand, starting at one end—not at the center. When cutting across grain, first soften asphalt tile over the flame of a gas stove or a blow torch, Fig. 10, before cutting it. Heat-softening is advised when cutting irregular shapes like door casings or corners, as shown in Fig. 1. After finishing half the floor, follow the same method for the other half.

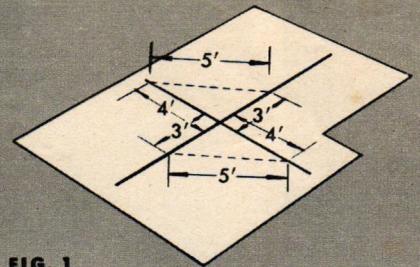


FIG. 1

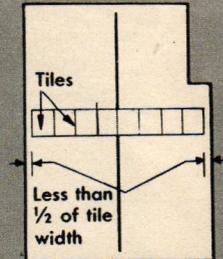


FIG. 2

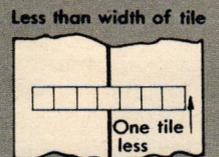


FIG. 3

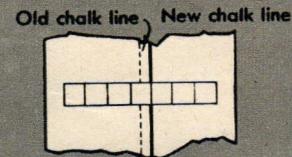


FIG. 4

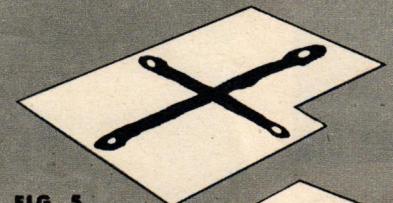


FIG. 5

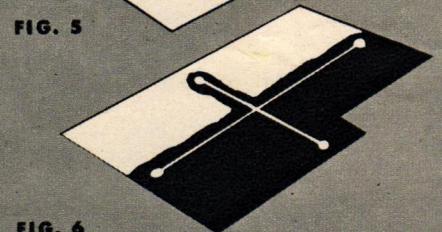


FIG. 6

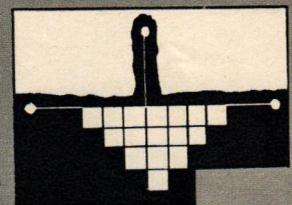


FIG. 7

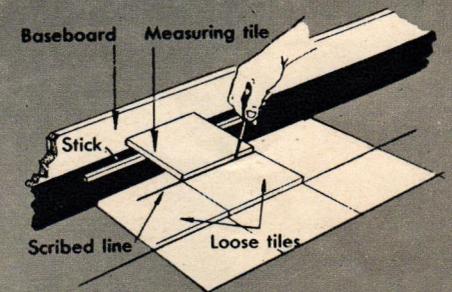


FIG. 8



this Christmas GIVE A LOT FOR A LITTLE!

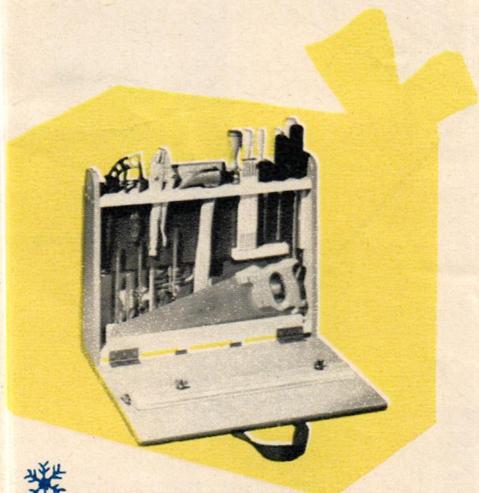
**For holiday economy,
assemble these gifts
from Knockdown Kits**



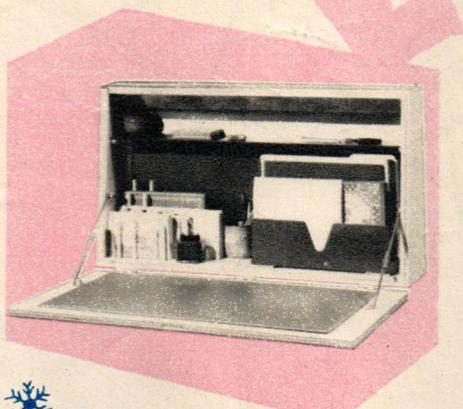
HERE ARE NEW, different gift ideas your Christmas budget will welcome with open arms. Gifts so practical, so beautiful they'll carol Christmas and *you* the whole year through. Materials in each kit are pre-cut of high-grade hardwood, ready to assemble. No special tools or skill required. Just a little of your time (even less money) is all it takes to thrill everyone on your gift list. Order several kits, assemble between now and Christmas and start the holiday fun early. Hardware and instructions are included.



POPULAR HOME HI-LO Table and Chairs. Table shown above "in high"—30 inches high for games, light serving, study. Shown at left "in low", 18 inches from floor, adjusted simply to either height. Matching chairs are available in separate kits. Ideal in every home as dining chairs, alone as a desk chair, or in other rooms.



POPULAR HOME Tool Kit. There's surely a handyman-around-the-house on your list. This is exactly what he'll go for. Holds a full set of household tools, not furnished. A portable "work shop" with a clamp on one cover that serves as a vise, and a convenient 45° mitre guide on other.



POPULAR HOME Utility Desk. Wonderfully convenient, and attractive enough for living room or kitchen. Designed to take care of the papers, correspondence and business of running a house. Small drawers across top, stationery file, pegs for mail, etc. Folds out of way when not in use.



POPULAR HOME Coffee Table. Matches the Chair and Table above so the three are complementary and look well in any room. Just the thing for afternoon snacks, after-dinner cordials. Strong and durable, makes fine youngsters' play table. Top is 18 inches from floor, is 20 x 32 inches.

Here's how to get your Gift Kits!



The back cover of this magazine names the local company where you can buy these POPULAR HOME Ready-to-Assemble Furniture Kits. If the ones you want are out of stock, place your order right away so you can assemble kits in plenty of time for Christmas giving.

Build-it-yourself plans are available for these same items if you want to save even more and build them completely yourself. Ask the company named on the back cover for plans—price 10 cents.

NOW'S THE TIME TO *finish the upstairs*

■ THE APPROACHING winter months are important ones for home-improvement, with labor and materials generally more plentiful than at any other time of year.

Many 1½ and two-story houses like the Middletons' (pages 2 and 3) have unfinished attics and second floors that can be converted into attractive and useful bedrooms, recreation rooms and bathrooms. The other rooms shown below are examples of what can be done—more easily and inexpensively than you might believe.

These are the major steps that will make it possible to extend your modern living to the upstairs:

- (1) **Insulating walls and ceiling** with RED TOP Insulating Wool blanket batts, Insulating SHEETROCK or WEATHERWOOD Panel-Tile or Plank. Each offers built-in protection.
- (2) **Applying SHEETROCK** fireproof gypsum wallboard, for fin-

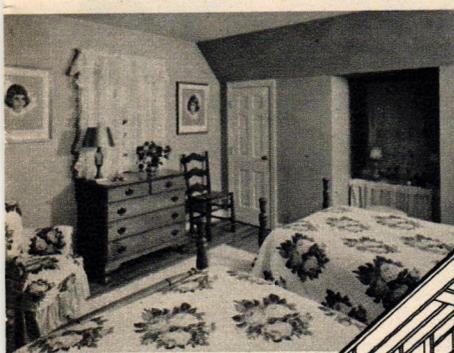
ished walls and ceilings, if insulating wool is used. Another ideal method is the use of Woodgrained SHEETROCK paneling in Knotty Pine, Walnut or Bleached Mahogany finishes.

(3) **Concealing SHEETROCK joints** with PERF-A-TAPE system.

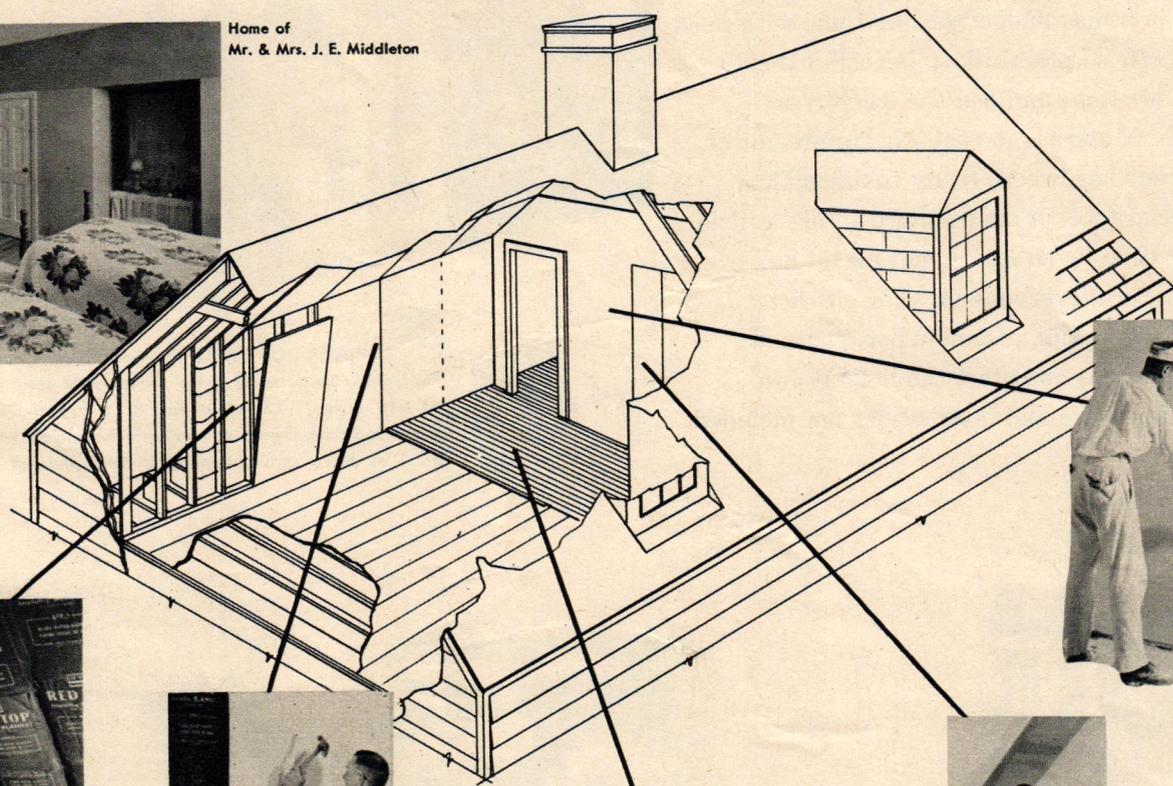
(4) **Putting down finished flooring** if only the subfloor is in place. Factory-finished hardwood strips or mosaic blocks will do the trick—or rubber, asphalt, cork or linoleum tile may be used over an underlay of 1/8-inch WEATHERWOOD DURON Hardboard, ideal for a rigid, smooth surface.

(5) **Decorating.** This is not necessary if Woodgrained SHEETROCK is used. Otherwise, surface can be prepared with TEXOLITE Sealer or Primer, TEXTONE or USG Texture Paint, and finished with TEXOLITE Semi-Gloss paint.

Consult your local POPULAR HOME sponsor named on the back cover—and you'll find you're ready to go!



Home of Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Middleton



Insulation



Wallboard



Flooring



Painting

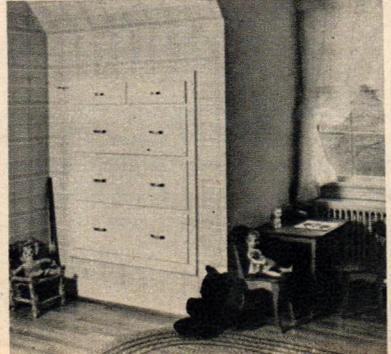


Joint finishing

Home of Mr. & Mrs. Philip D. West



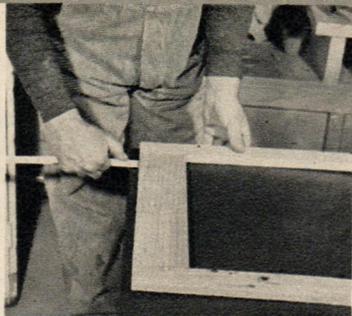
Home of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Olson



Home of Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Lehmpuhl



HOW TO MAKE LIP-TYPE CABINET DOORS



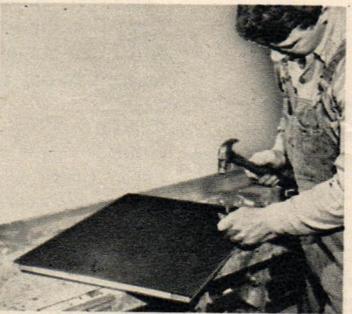
1 First, check frame for fit in cabinet. Plane if necessary to obtain $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. clearance at each edge.

2 Measure hardboard and mark a fine line extending beyond frame $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. on each side to form the lip.



3 Use a fine-tooth crosscut saw. Cut carefully so that the line is barely visible on the cutout portion.

4 If frame is to be covered on back, use it as a pattern for marking the hardboard to the same size.



5 Spread adhesive over the frame with a spatula, then press hardboard in position for nailing.

6 Drive $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. brads through panel about 4 to 6 in. apart. Sink the heads below surface with nail set.



7 If a back panel is used, put it on before the front panel. Plane edges flush with frame.

8 Start rounding the lip edges with a plane. Then sandpaper edge to smooth, uniform curvature.

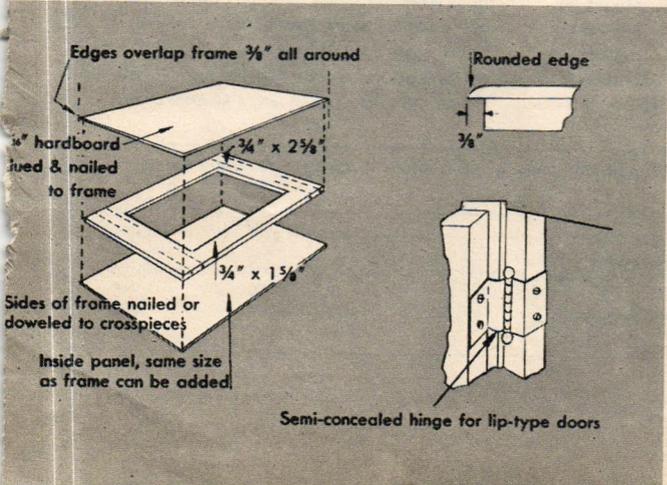
No handles are necessary on this lip-type door because of $\frac{3}{8}$ " overlap around all except hinge edge, which allows finger space for opening door.



How to build new CABINET DOORS

Make your own lip-type cabinet doors by attaching hardboard to simple wooden frames. Get a few lengths of $\frac{3}{4}$ in. white pine for framing and $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. treated DURON hardboard to cover it. See drawing for sizes. Be sure to cut each piece perfectly square. Assemble frame with 10d. finishing nails or $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. dowels glued in holes. The hardboard is cemented and bradded to the frame. Use linoleum cement or other suitable adhesive. Inside of the door can be covered with $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. hardboard. Nail holes in panels are filled with TEXOLITE spackling putty, sanded flush when dry. If you are replacing flush cabinet doors, use the old doors for frames. Sand them smooth before applying the hardboard. Finished doors are primed, then painted two coats, allowing each to dry before applying the next. Pictures below give step-by-step procedure.

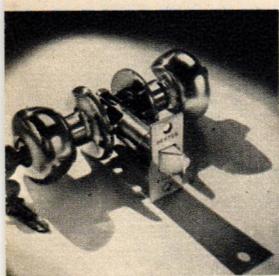
Another method of dressing up old cabinet doors. Use the existing door as the base for applying a piece of $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. DURON hardboard, leaving a narrow margin of door around the edge. Glass, unsightly gouges and recessed panels can be covered with a smooth surface of hardboard, attached to the old door with adhesive.



HOME OWNERS IDEA CENTER



An indoor assembly project with lots of pleasure as the reward is provided by the **Sea Shell all-purpose boat**, 8 feet long, and furnished in one package of pre-cut plywood and lumber, screws, oarlocks, seam compound, wooden assembly form, layout plan and instructions. Sail conversion kit and oars are available separately. Weighing only 65 pounds, **Sea Shell** is assembled with simplest hand tools, says manufacturer, Hagerty, Cohasset, Mass.



A new **Dexter lock** is on the market in a tie bolt design said to be ideal for hollow doors. Having no set screws, knobs can never become loose, according to the maker, National Brass Co. of Grand Rapids, Mich. Encasing tumbler assembly are layers of cold rolled steel, solid brass. Knob attaches permanently to trim; set is independent of wood screws.



WEATHERWOOD Insulating Panel-Tile (ceiling) and Plank (walls) made this a cheerful attic bedroom. Both are available in ivory white and tan-tone colors, and provide excellent insulation while reducing noise within the room. **WEATHERWOOD** tile is made in square and rectangular patterns, plank in 8 to 16 inch widths and 8 to 12 ft. lengths.

Both tile and plank are products manufactured by the United States Gypsum Co.



Submitted by:
Willa S. Ahern, Tokyo, Japan.
Who receives **POPULAR HOME** from:
Kuhlman Builders' Supply & Brick Co.
Toledo, Ohio.

■ **FROM AMERICA** where loans may be had at five per cent interest, I had come half way round the world to save money for a house. Small wonder I felt a tinge of envy when Ryuichi phoned to ask me to take a simple meal with him and Umiko and a few friends in their new home.



This young couple, with nothing but courage, a plot of ground, and Ryuichi's income, *equivalent to about forty dollars a month*, had accomplished what seemed to me the impossible. Through the influence of Umiko's father, they had been able to borrow 230,000 yen at 9.8% interest, make a down payment of 100,000 yen, and another payment of 100,000 yen when the skeleton of the house was erected. They still owed the contractor 100,000 yen. This second mortgage was costing them 25% interest. At such rates, they could never hope to pay the principal, though the total cost of the house was only one thousand dollars.

It was a small suburban house, one-half hour by jeep from Tokyo. A tile roof jutted out above the natural wood exterior, and the little frosted panes of the sliding doors provided the only contrast to the interior of unfinished wood against white plaster.

One large western style room served as combination living and bedroom. "Sometime we will build another room," Ryuichi apologized. Then he proudly displayed the tiny kitchen with its built-in cup-

boards. Adjoining was a small store-room housing the well with automatic pump as well as a little wood platform on which squatted the typical Japanese bathtub. Next, we were shown to a small room boasting tatami (straw matting). This was to be both maid's room and nursery. Tonight it temporarily served as a dining room. We took our places on the futon (cushions) around the low table.

Although the hibachi (charcoal brazier) barely brought the room's temperature to sixty degrees, our host was enthusiastic about the vents built into the ceiling, explaining just how often the air would automatically be changed.

"I think it is wonderful," one of his guests remarked, "but how can you ever hope to pay for it?"

Ryuichi smiled. "I hear the government is going to pass a housing bill soon and I can borrow at six or eight per cent interest to pay off my mortgages."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Ahern reports that Ryuichi was selected to represent the Japanese Board of Trade on a visit to the United States. Her \$100 **POPULAR HOME** check for a winning contribution to this column, she said, "will make it possible for me to add something to the small expense account Ryuichi will be expected to live on when he comes to America."

HOUSE PHOTO PLANS



Extra copies available—Photo Plans carrying details on three houses featured in past issues of **POPULAR HOME**. Ask the company named on back cover for Photo Plans on "House for the Life of Today", "House that's Handy to Live In", or "House that's Handsome and Home-Like"—or, if out of stock, send 10 cents for each to **POPULAR HOME**, 300 W. Adams St., Chicago 6, Ill.

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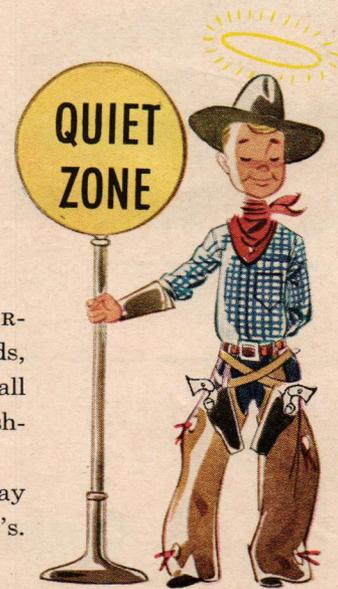
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