

# POPULAR HOMIE

THE HOMEOWNERS' HOW-TO-DO-IT MAGAZINE

Late Fall, 1953



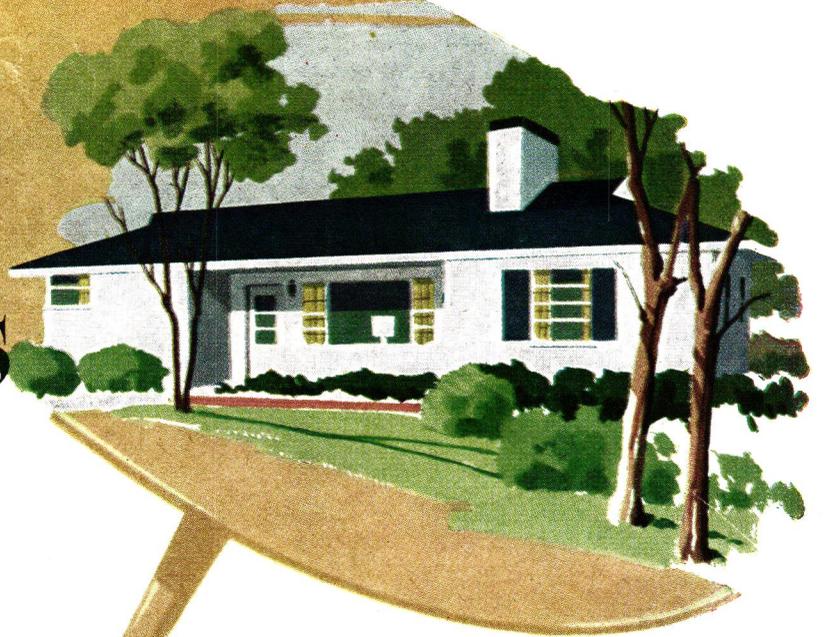
Give Dad a Room of his own

page 3

Wardwell Lumber Co.  
Bristol, R.I.

let's get down to

# BRASS TACKS



about that home of yours

Nail down those plans!

Let's turn that *idea* for better living into actual better living. There are so many ways we can help you get down to brass tacks on home improvement that we *urge* you to...  
*come in now!*

COME IN SOON  
SEE OUR NAME AND ADDRESS  
ON THE COVER

We are sending you this magazine throughout the year as a part of our helpful service to home-loving families.

## POPULAR HOME

LATE FALL • ISSUE 7 • 1953

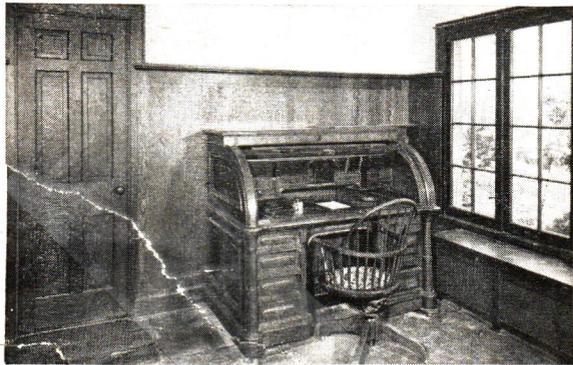
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# head man's hideout

*In your house, Father deserves something for himself: a room where he can retreat from the noisy living room, and where he can keep his prized possessions*

PHOTOGRAPHY: HEDRICH-BLESSING



**F**ATHER LEADS A HECTIC LIFE, if he's like most men. In his hours at home he's entitled to his own study—or "den", if you prefer. Busy caring for his family, he's probably never realized how easily he could have that private corner of his own.

But, as in the case illustrated above, here's plenty of hope. Father can do much of the work himself to revamp an unused room, enclose the porch, convert the garage, or even to build a structural addition. In the 12x14-foot room above, the trick was to cover the battle-scarred walls with Planked Walnut gypsum wallboard, the ceiling with fiber acoustical tile. Opposite end of room started in old-fashioned way (*left, top*), but wound up (*left, below*) as you see it on the cover—with tall side compartments for fishing and hunting equipment, desk in center with egg-crate lighting overhead. *The cost?* For the whole room, barely \$200 for materials, \$200 for labor if father did *none* of it. Isn't he worth the price?

*(Continued on Next Page)*

*If Not a Room For Dad,*

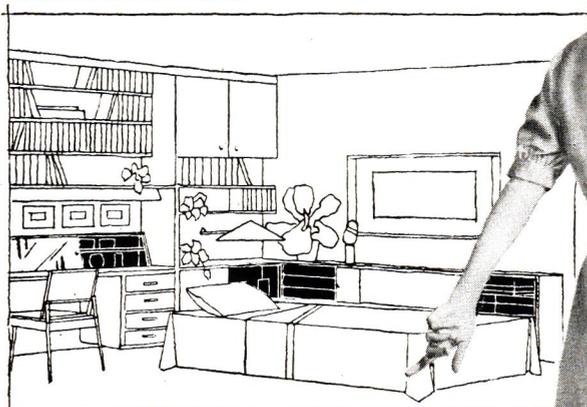
# how about a corner?

**Y**OU MAY HAVE A GOOD REASON why father can't have a private sanctum of his own. Don't let that stop you, for it's a good bet that he'll settle for a well-equipped corner in a room he shares with the rest of the family. This can easily be a room that must also serve for television, to accommodate guests, as a sewing center for mother, or even as the dining room.

Illustrated here is one way to outfit that corner for father's fondest desires, and also to provide seating or an extra bed when it's needed. A man who's handy with tools can build the entire desk-cabinet wall and the couch frame at a material cost of about \$100. Plywood, stock lumber, hardboard, and a kitchen cabinet unit are the chief ingredients—and you can vary the sizes and parts to suit your needs. Just get your requirements down on paper, and make your first stop at the local firm whose name appears on the covers.



LERNER-BRENDIECK DESIGNERS



**Here's how it works**—couch slides out from frame for full-width use, door panel at head slides to left to form pillow rest. Note bedding storage provided in upper part of couch frame behind bolsters. Above desk top are two more sliding doors, with mirror mounted to one at right for use as vanity table. Other features are fluorescent lighting fixture behind cove above desk recess, and wardrobe closet (left, above) with full-length mirror on inside of door.

Whether It's a Room or Corner,  
**here's the way to get it done**



**Do your "homework" thoroughly**—measure accurately and draw a simple plan to scale ( $\frac{1}{4}$  inch = 1 foot) of the room to be remodeled. Calculate roughly the materials needed, and go over it all with your lumber dealer. While you're there, ask about a convenient financing plan to suit your project and budget.



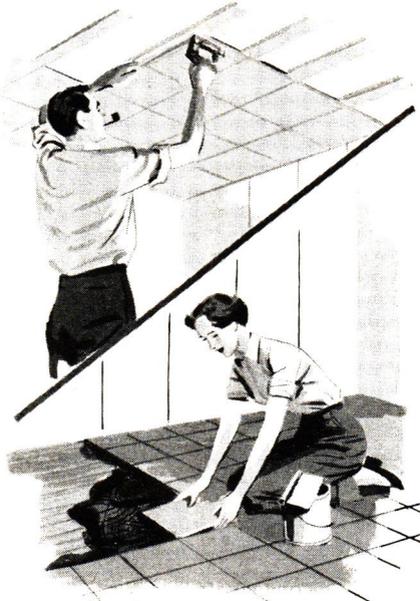
**Use the good advice** your dealer offers on the important subject of building materials. He's an expert and will help you make certain of quality, beauty and durability. When you buy, have your list complete, order in stock sizes if possible. See your dealer for special cabinet work, names of qualified contractors.



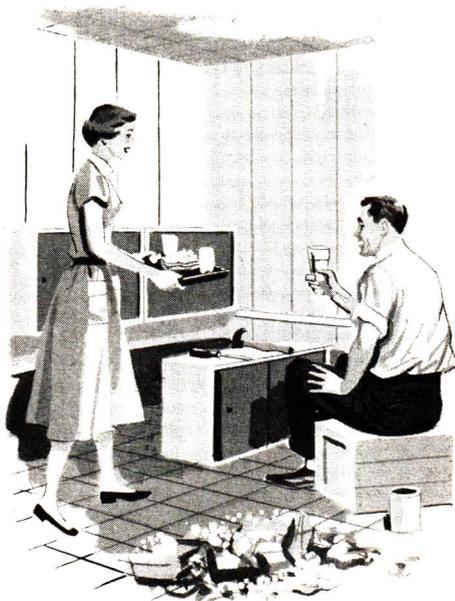
**Now, go to work.** Let everyone help in clearing the room for action. Plan your work in stages—walls first, then ceiling, then floor. Follow directions in getting the surfaces ready—make a family project of washing ceilings, removing wallpaper, sanding floors. Put your tools in one corner of room, clean up as you progress.



**Here's how to make time** on the walls—use an easy-to-apply material such as new Panel SHEETROCK Wallboard. Just apply cement to back with special spreader, and adhere the 16-inch-wide panels to old wall. Other choices: wallboard in 4x8-foot sheets, gypsum lath and plaster, or insulating plank.



**Stay in high gear** with time-saving use of insulating or acoustical fiber tile for ceiling, resilient tile for floor. Best bet for ceiling is USG Insulating Twin-Tile stapled to 1x3-inch furring strips spaced 12 inches apart, or single tiles applied to old ceiling surface with adhesive. See manufacturer's directions on flooring.



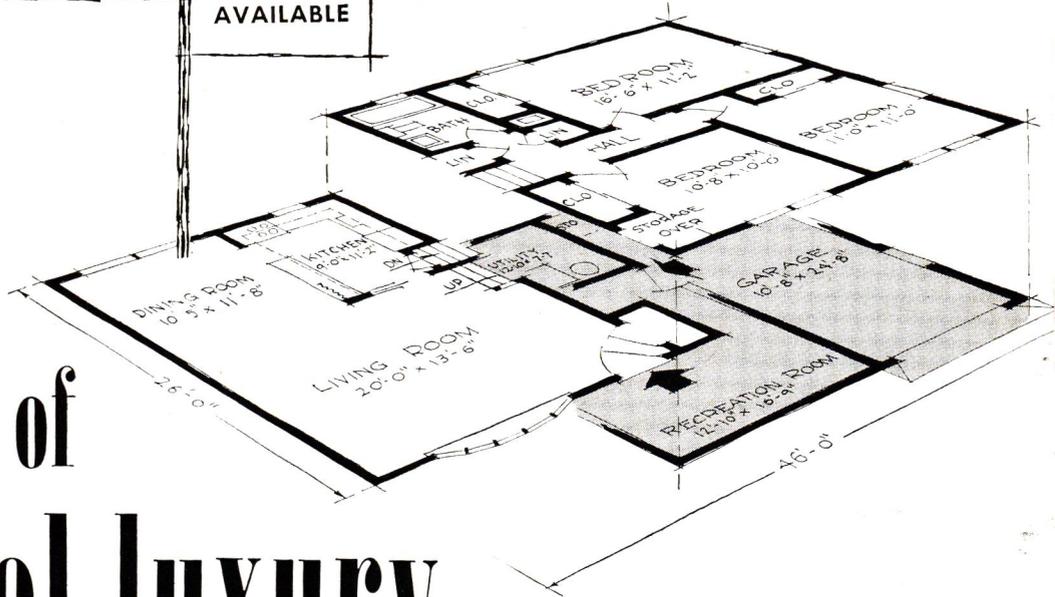
**Don't be surprised** how quickly the work goes—you'll want to admire the job even before you're finished. Develop your own combination of shelving and stock cabinet units, which come in variety of sizes and styles. Mount on wall with temporary 1x2 supports under cabinets, and screw into studs or use wall anchors.

ASK FOR  
PHOTO PLAN

BLUEPRINTS  
AVAILABLE

POPULAR HOME'S

# 3 house of 3-level luxury



*There's More for your Money*

*In this Split-Level Design with*

*3 Bedrooms and Recreation Room*

**W**ELCOME NEWS IN HOME DESIGN is the skyrocketing popularity of the split-level house in many sections of the country. They're being built by the thousands as home-seekers discover the economy of extra space and the convenience of separate-level living without having long flights of stairs to climb.

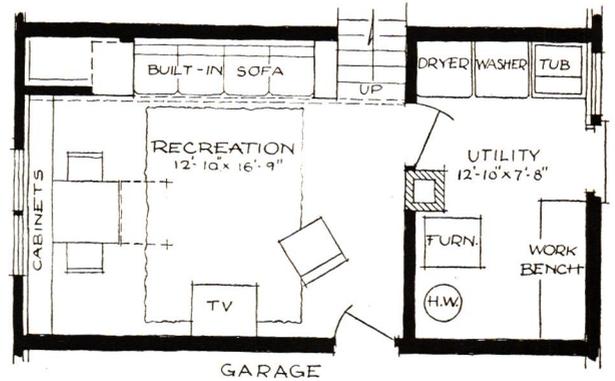
One of the best examples of this recent space-use development is POPULAR HOME'S House of 3-Level Luxury, adapted from the design of Architect George G. Ripa for the Fairview development of Levin-Sagner Homes at Livingston, N. J. There, under a roof that would cover about 1,115 sq. ft. in the usual one-story ranch-type residence, home-buyers are getting a 55 percent bonus in floor space made possible by the split-level design.

What this means is a large L-shaped living-dining area, three bedrooms, a garage and utility room, and a ground-level recreation room that would be an expensive luxury in any other type of architecture. The house is in the moderate cost class, and fits comfortably on a 60-foot lot that can easily be given a sloping grade. And *you* can build it! First, get all the details in Photo Plan 53-7, at your local firm named on the covers. Then, ask them to order complete building blueprints (No. PH 10-7), also available with reversed floor plan, and you're ready to go!





**Family favorite** in House of 3-Level Luxury is 12x16-ft. recreation room next to garage—and here's the way to fit it out. Start with wall surface of Knotty Pine PANEL SHEETROCK Wallboard, in new 16-in. wide panels, and ceiling of sound-softening QUIETONE fiber acoustical tile. Cabinets under windows add storage space, drop-leaf table serves many needs. Couch is built to fit 8-ft. recess, has lighting overhead behind ceiling cove strip. Stairs lead to kitchen, and another six steps connect living room with bedroom level (see floor plan).

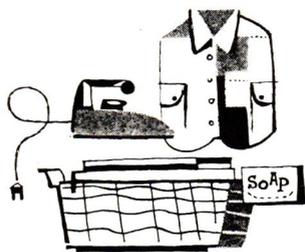


PHOTOGRAPHY: RICHARD AVERILL SMITH

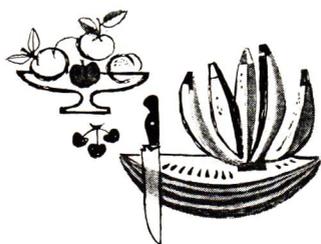
**Spread out as you like** in this spacious house, with large living room and handsome bow window facing street. Exterior (above, opposite page) gains charm and dignity from contrast of crisp white trim with darker siding. USG Thick Butt asphalt shingle roofing and insulating sheathing add long-term protection.

**Mealtime's a breeze** for mother, with dining area separated from kitchen by serving counter that doubles as breakfast bar, has space for stools on kitchen side. Sliding screen closes off counter, under two-way cabinets serving both rooms. Size of house: 1,323 sq. ft. (living area and recreation room); 403 sq. ft. (garage and utility room); total, 16,000 cu. ft.





**Center of operations** in Mitchell kitchen is sink unit with deep bowl and dishwasher, located under window that keeps children in view outdoors. Mixing center to left includes pull-out cutting board, is just a step from range. Both corner base cabinets are equipped with rotating circular trays to accommodate fruits and vegetables, pots and pans.



How to make your kitchen a "Service Center"

# planning pays a profit

**I**F YOU BELIEVE that "a woman's work is never done", you haven't done right by the kitchen. The lady in your house knows what wonderful time-saving appliances have been developed in recent years, but it's little comfort if she hasn't the place to put them or the space arrangement to make them convenient.

It's a matter of careful, intelligent planning—planning that puts everything in the right places. Take a close look at your kitchen, and stack it up against the kitchen-laundry-utility area of Dr. and Mrs. Edward Mitchell at La Jolla, Calif., illustrated on these pages. In a rectangular area of just 22x14 feet, Designer Armin Richter proved for the Mitchells that efficiency and convenience require neither a king's ransom nor a Hollywood mansion.

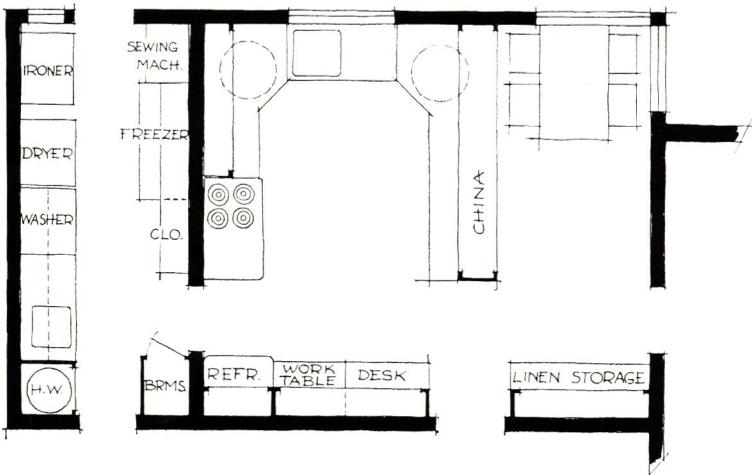
You can put many of these ideas to work either in the new house you're planning, or by remodeling or enlarging the present kitchen. It's an improvement that is easily financed—see your building materials dealer soon!



**Result of planning** is clear passageway from eating area to laundry-utility room, where Mrs. Mitchell here uses auxiliary sink. In floor plan, note lineup of equipment to save motions in handling laundry. Opposite wall accommodates freezer, sewing machine, and utility closets. Laundry room sink is clean-up spot for youngsters, proves convenient for arranging flowers and cleaning garden vegetables.



Toward the right in floor plan is this step-saving feature—pass-through counter for serving table, allowing mother to continue her work while the children eat. Upper cabinets have sliding glass doors on both sides. Upper and base cabinets similar to these are standard items with many lumber dealers. Note the shallow drawers that make things easy to find.



DATA: LOUISE PRICE BELL

PHOTOGRAPHY: MORLEY BAER



Every kitchen needs a planning desk like this, located so Mrs. Mitchell has view through three doorways. Here are recipe files, memos, reference books, household records, telephone and radio. To right is counter for loading and unloading refrigerator; to left of doorway is drawer-cabinet unit for china, linen, silverware and small appliances used in adjoining dining room. Serving there is easier, too!

Edited By C. Eugene Pfister  
national authority on horticulture

## Plant Spring-flowering Bulbs in the Fall

By R. M. Carleton

**B**ULBS are easiest of all garden flowers to grow. The time to plant them is as soon as you can get the bulbs in fall. You can plant as late as you can dig the soil, but late-planted bulbs bloom later and for a shorter period. Early planted bulbs seldom need a mulch, but late plantings should be covered with loose material such as clean marsh hay or reeds.

### What to Plant.

Tops among spring-flowering bulbs are Tulips. The Early Single and Early Double Tulips are short-stemmed, stand wind and rain. They are at their best as solid beds, along a walk or in solid masses in the flower border. The old-time variety, Keizerkroon, vivid scarlet and yellow, is among the best.

Among the Early Doubles, Schoonoord is a favorite. Big white balls of double flowers are striking against the dark green of evergreens. The Darwin, Breeder and Cottage types can all be called Large-Flowered Tall Late Tulips.

One of the brightest tulips in the whole world is Grenadier, a light orange-scarlet that can be seen for hundreds of feet across a garden. Even more sensational is Charles Needham, a brilliant scarlet flower on two-foot stems. Big yellow tulips are now available in Golden Age, Yellow Giant, Golden Harvest and Mrs. John Scheepers. Glacier is a perfect large white.

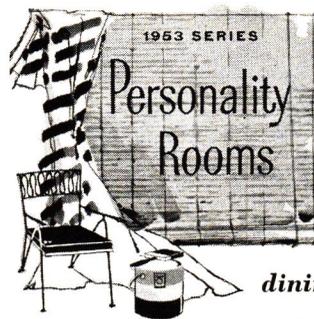
Even the smallest garden should have a few Narcissi, which some people call Daffodils or Jonquils. They are the earliest of the large flowers of spring, and add white and yellow to the gloomy days of late March and early April.

The so-called minor bulbs should not be overlooked. The earliest of all, the Winter Aconite, may even flower during thaws in late January or February. Yellow crocuses, white snowdrops, blue grape hyacinths and blue squills are always attractive, cost little, and can be tucked into any corner.

Lilies should be considered for fall planting. The majestic regal lily, the orchid-like *Lilium speciosum*, the tall orange spires of *Lilium canadense* and *superbum* are easy to grow if given a little attention. Planting depths are important.

### How to Plant.

In good garden soils, tulips should be planted with 6" of soil over the top of the bulb, which means that the base is nearly 8" down. In light sandy soils, they can even go 2" deeper. Narcissi need 5" of soil over the tops. The minor bulbs are planted at various depths: better get a chart from your dealer before planting these. Most bulbs should not be fertilized at all. They can grow very well on what is left to them by previous crops. In light sandy soil, feeding with one pound of a good mixed chemical fertilizer to 50 square feet should be enough. Avoid organic fertilizers and manures; they cause disease. If planted deeply in soils not too rich, most of these bulbs will thrive for years. A sowing of shallow rooted annuals like petunias over them will provide shade later on, to protect the bulbs from excessive heat. Although all spring-flowering bulbs will thrive under trees, they do not do well in full shade, such as on the north side of walls or under evergreens.



Double the charm of your dining room in time for the holiday season ahead. Make it both pretty and practical when you

## decorate for dining

By Cynthia Montgomery

**I**s space in your dining room wasted because of infrequent use? Does bulky furniture occupy too much space for the service it gives? Before you decorate, give a thought to revamping your dining room. Perhaps minor modernizing will turn it into an ideal dining room which will serve your needs as well as your meals. Your dining room should be:

- **large enough** to avoid crowding. Comfort and digestion go hand-in-hand.
- **convenient.** Close to kitchen and arranged so that table or chairs are not in passageway. Sometimes a pass-through (an opening into kitchen through the wall) can be added to make serving easier.
- **equipped with storage** space located for easy use. Built-ins make the maximum use of space. Include drawers, cabinets and shelves sized to hold items without stacking, crowding or wasting space. If you like to show off your treasures, include open shelves.
- **flexible** enough to use for study, sewing, writing, family confabs, hobbies, television viewing. Discarding "old-hat" ideas for improvements will pay dividends.
- **well lighted.** Consider adding a large window for sunshine and fresh air. Night lighting must be efficient, well distributed, easy on the eyes, pleasant for relaxation. Add electrical outlets for appliances.
- **easy to clean.** Adopt a realistic attitude in choosing floor covering and fabrics. Avoid fragile surfaces. The room need not suffer in style or refinement.
- **cheerful.** Color goes a long way, costs little. Shown opposite are 3 color schemes for your inspiration, created to use with American made dinnerware.





**The cheerful color scheme** of this room with its atmosphere of hospitality was based on the favorite colors of owners Mr. and Mrs. Vernon K. Evans. Modernizing gave the room a new bay window. Daughter Susan waters plants in planting box, a part of new radiator cover.

**Colors good enough to eat.** Dishes with cocoa brown border and a touch of shrimp coral, dark brown mats with a frosty look are just right against Russet Beige painted walls, flowered curtains the color of sun-ripened apricots. Add silver accessories.

PHOTOGRAPH: HEDRICH-BLESSING

**Let your color scheme take its cue from your favorite dishes:**



**Modern with a sunny cast** is what you'll achieve if you combine sun, tree and sky colors. With plaid plates in golden yellow, brown and white on straw mats, add copper individual casseroles, yellow wire holders, blue candles. With colorful curtains, paint walls Canyon Gold.

**Keyed to happy colors** is this informal yet sophisticated scheme. Enhance your dishes of white, pink and deep green with green mats, a giant pepper mill, antique copper and brass cups. Paint walls Sprite Green, hang checker-board chintz curtains in shocking pink and white.



DINING ROOM COLOR SCHEMES, INSPIRED BY THREE BEAUTIFUL PATTERNS OF AMERICAN MADE DINNERWARE, BY DEE BLUMQUIST AND HARRIET BECKMAN  
WALL COLORS: TEXOLITE DURAVAL PAINT

PHOTOGRAPHS: WESLEY BOWMAN STUDIO

# You can have a powder room



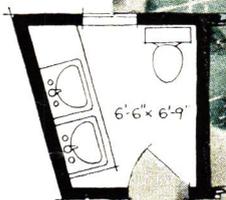
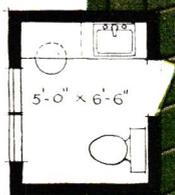
*There are Many Ways to Lower the Cost,  
Once You've Found the Spot for It*

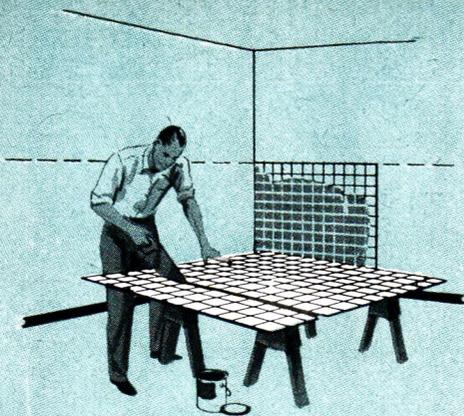
**F**EW IMPROVEMENTS IN A HOME mean more to family convenience than a powder room, or lavatory. Where to put it is usually the big question, and the answer is worth a careful search.

The possibilities include an oversized entrance hall, space under the stairway, a large closet or pantry, or enclosing part of the rear porch. Most desirable is a location near an outside entrance, and one that needs only a short extension of existing piping. The location needn't be on an outside wall if mechanical ventilation is provided. The minimum space required is 2½x5 feet, or you can gain more conveniences with a slightly larger plan such as those at the right.

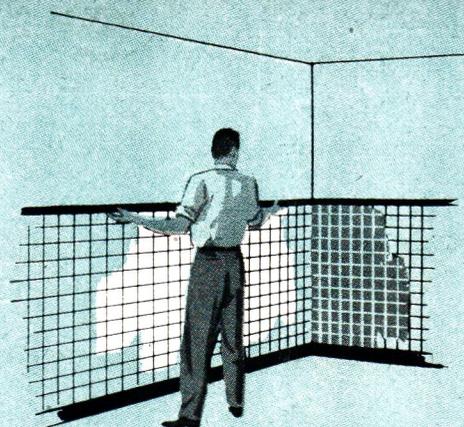
It's easy to plan the decorative treatment in your powder room, with the variety of excellent materials that are available. For walls, these include ceramic, plastic or metal tile, tileboard, linoleum, paint or wall-paper; for floors, ceramic, asphalt, rubber or linoleum tile; for counters, linoleum or plastic laminates. Your building materials dealer offers a wide selection. You can add a splash of color with the curtains, bath mat, shower curtain, or even the toilet seat cover.

The cost? The Plumbing and Heating Industries Bureau estimates the average at well under \$1,000, or an addition of \$5 per month to mortgage payments. It's even less if you do part of the work yourself!

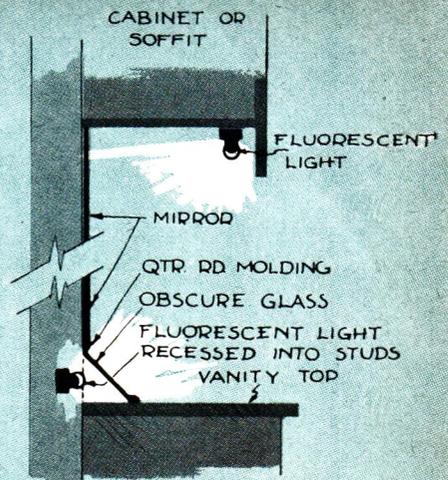




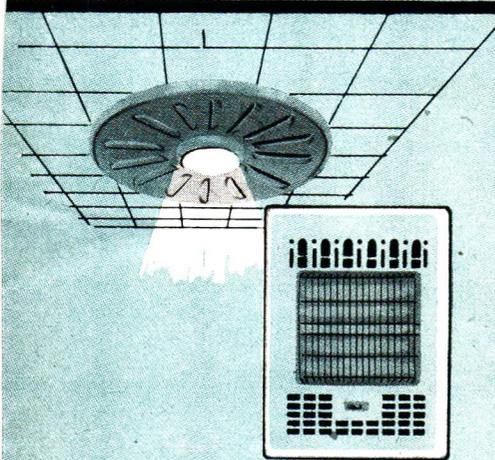
**Secrets of success** in powder room at left are vanity counter with storage beneath, sliding mirror doors on medicine chest, overhead light and wall heater, and colorful tileboard wainscot. Application of low-cost tileboard (above) begins with base molding, bottom edge of which is planed to fit contour of uneven floor.



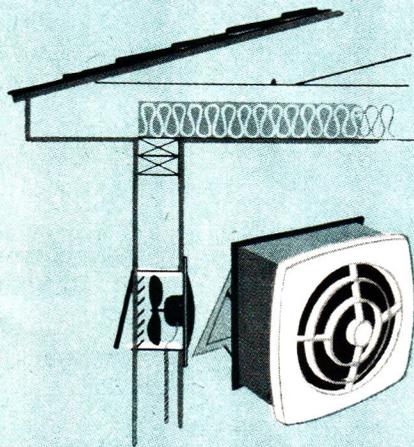
**With wall marked** at desired height, next step is to cut tileboard to fit, using fine-tooth hand saw. Make sure old wall is sound—remove all covering materials or score wall with knife if painted. Spread adhesive on back of board, then apply to wall. Cover top edge with wood or metal moldings available from your dealer.



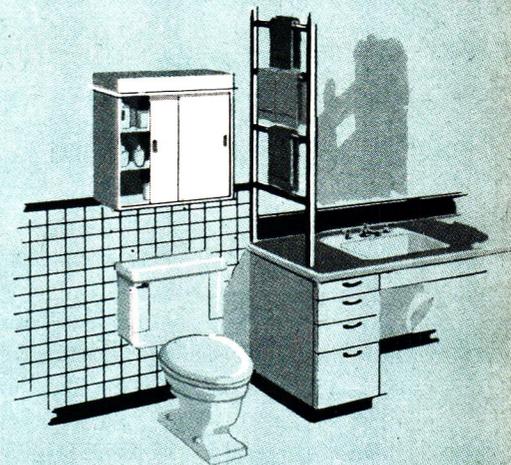
**Build in lighting** above or below mirror—quick-start fluorescent units with daylight-rated bulbs are recommended. Fasten cornice board 12 to 18 inches from wall beneath cabinets or soffit to conceal top fixture. For counter-top installation, recess fluorescent tube into stud wall, cover with obscure glass held by moldings.



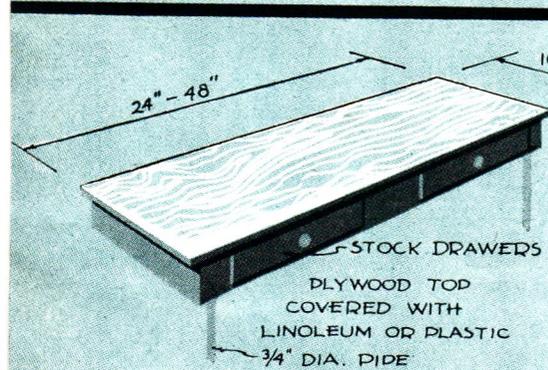
**Make it more** than a powder room if you have space like this odd-shaped corner (left). Double basins with ceramic top, cabinet base make washup spot for youngsters, relieve bathroom traffic. Useful accessories (above) are combination ceiling light-heater and electric wall heater, which avoid extending house heating system.



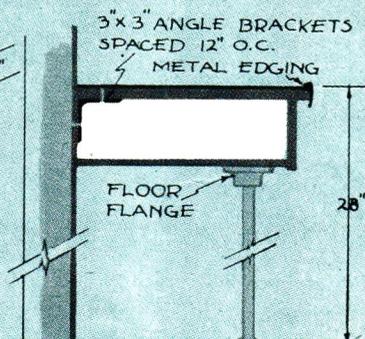
**Here's how to ventilate** your powder room—or bathroom. Electric fan unit fits outside wall, or can be installed in ceiling to vent into attic. Unit is designed to fit between studs or joists, has outside baffle which opens automatically when fan is operating. It has advantages over a window, and can substitute for one.



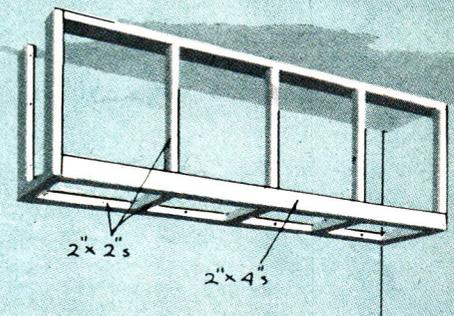
**Make space count** even in smallest room with these ideas. Simple cabinet unit is easy to make from stock lumber and 1/8-inch DURON hardboard for sliding doors—hang with angle brackets screwed into studs. Towel rack from counter top to ceiling is made from 2x2-inch lumber for end posts, drilled to receive 1-inch dowel rods.



**Pamper mother** and her guests with separate vanity counter which needs little extra space (left). You can build it to fit stock drawers which many lumber dealers handle. Construction (above) starts with assembly of four sides, with front cut out to receive drawers. Top and bottom, of 3/4-inch plywood, are screwed to sides.



**Supporting the counter** are pipe legs screwed into standard floor flanges which fasten to bottom of table. Drill holes in floor and insert dowel rods projecting about 1 inch above floor. Pipe legs then fit down over dowels. Fasten counter to wall with 3x3-inch angle brackets screwed to underside of top and into wall.



**For best appearance**, soffit should be built above overhead cabinets such as stock kitchen units used at left. Frame of 2x2's and 2x4's above is fastened to wall studs and ceiling joists with nails, or with plaster anchors. Make frame same depth as cabinets, cover with SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard or hardboard.

# get a start on

# Christmas...

**Surprise Mom and the Youngsters**

**With these Make-it-Easy Gifts—**

**Build 'em from a Free Handyman Plan**

**G**IFT IDEAS WON'T STUMP YOU, this Christmas, if you put a few evenings' work into POPULAR HOME'S latest Handyman items. You'll have something you couldn't buy anywhere, something your family will enjoy all year 'round. How you'll glow when they say, "Oh, Dad made that for me!"

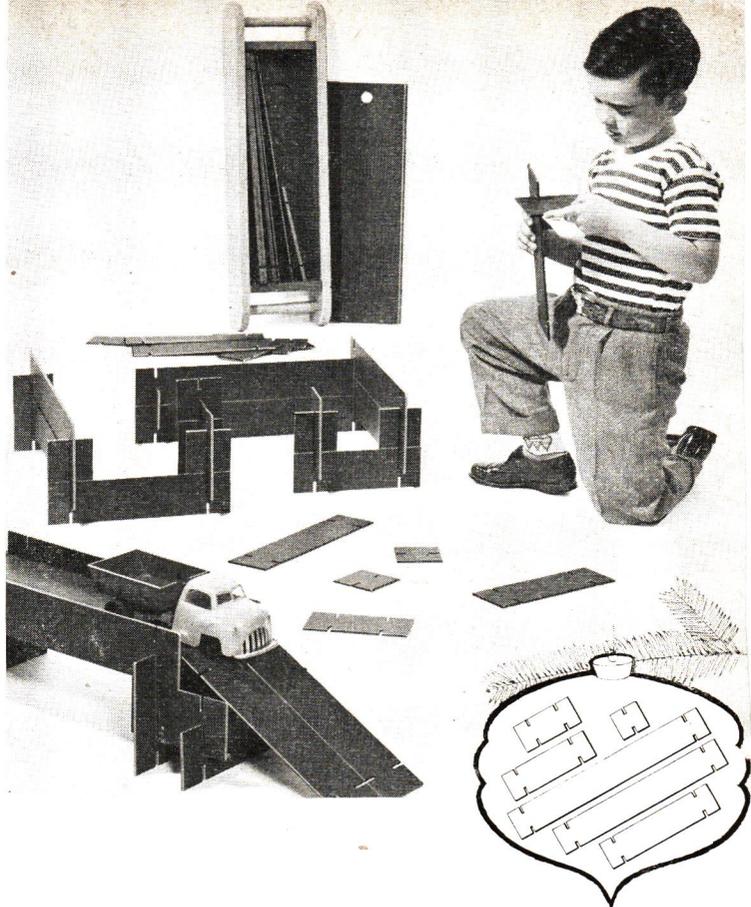
For the young ones from 4 to 9, there's the amazing *Kiddies' Build-Kit*, consisting of 100 interlocking pieces and a handy wheel-around storage case. You make it of rigid, durable hardboard available from your lumber dealer. Just cut the pieces to a pattern, and let the youngsters turn their imaginations loose. Cost of materials should be less than \$4, and you've never seen anything so complete.

Mother's prize is the wonder-working *3-in-1 Table*, a combination table-cart that will do yeoman duty in the kitchen, serving guests in the living room, or for the card game on the porch. Here's a table you can make at a material cost of less than \$10. It's mounted on casters, has drop leaves that form a square surface, has an extension shelf that pulls out for sit-down kitchen chores, and carries a removable tray for serving.

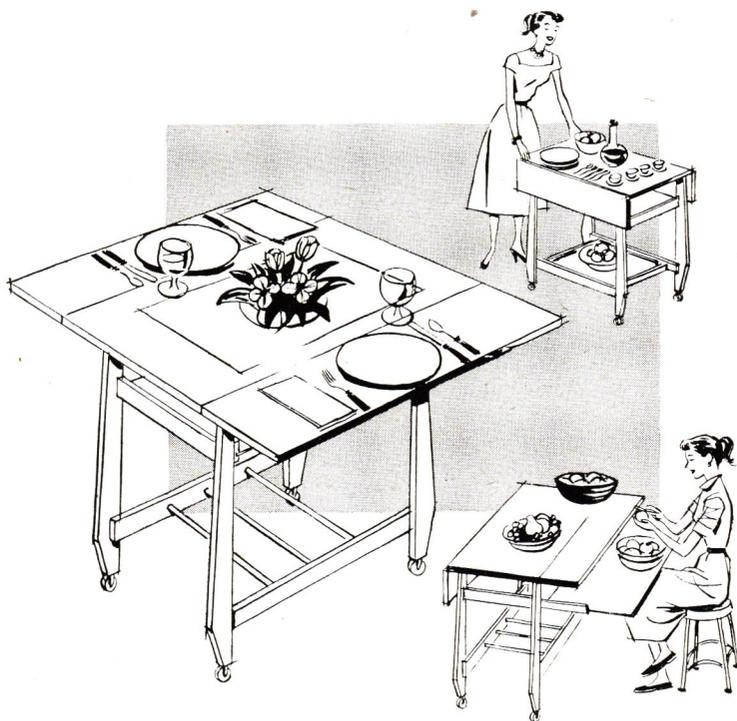
You can build 'em both from directions in a new Free Handyman Plan! Visit your POPULAR HOME sponsor to pick up your copy—and get acquainted while you're there. Get a start on Christmas!

**Mother won't stop** using the all-purpose 3-in-1 Table—for meals; (at right) with extension shelf out as extra work surface, or to wheel in and serve snacks for party time. Table has 19x33-inch top with 7-inch drop leaves that form a 33-inch square top for meals. Stands 30 inches high, easily glides through doorways. You make it of stock lumber and hardboard, with simple hand tools. Ask for your plan!

DESIGNS BY D. E. NUGENT, ASSOCIATE EDITOR



**What's the limit** to your child's ingenuity with this? Buildings, bridges, rocket ships, airplanes, doll houses, cradles, party tables—all with a Build-Kit that won't break up and wear out. You buy three 2x4-foot "shorts" of DURON Hardboard, cut and notch pieces with a power saw, put together the storage case from scrap lumber.

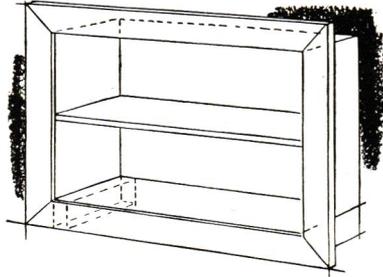
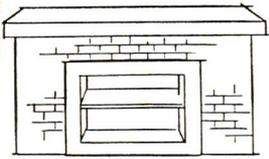


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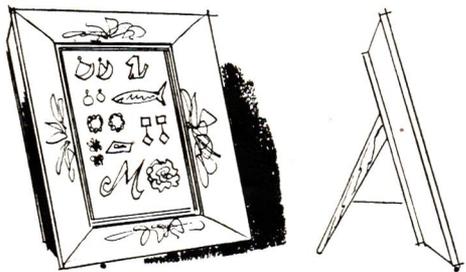


THE HOUSEHOLDER'S  
**Pride and Joy**  
 COLUMN



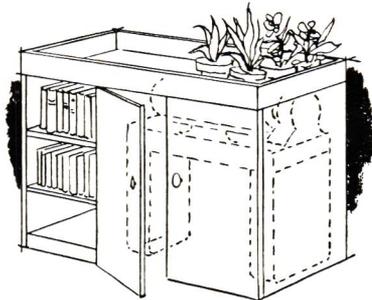
**Never use the fireplace?** Try this decorative shadow-box set into opening. Build box one inch smaller than opening, use 1x12-inch lumber for sides, top, bottom and shelf, and hardboard for back. Use 3-inch wide picture molding to frame face and cover rough opening. Nail wood cleats to bottom for solid footing on hearth, and your one-evening project is complete.

*Alfred V. Canetti, Kenmore, N. Y.*



**Picture-pretty way** to display and store lapel and scatter pin jewelry is trick of California reader, using old picture frame with glass removed. She first glues two layers of flannel, cotton batting or felt to cardboard insert, then covers it with velvet, gluing edges to back. Insert then goes back into frame.

*Mrs. H. P. Grade, Los Angeles, Calif.*

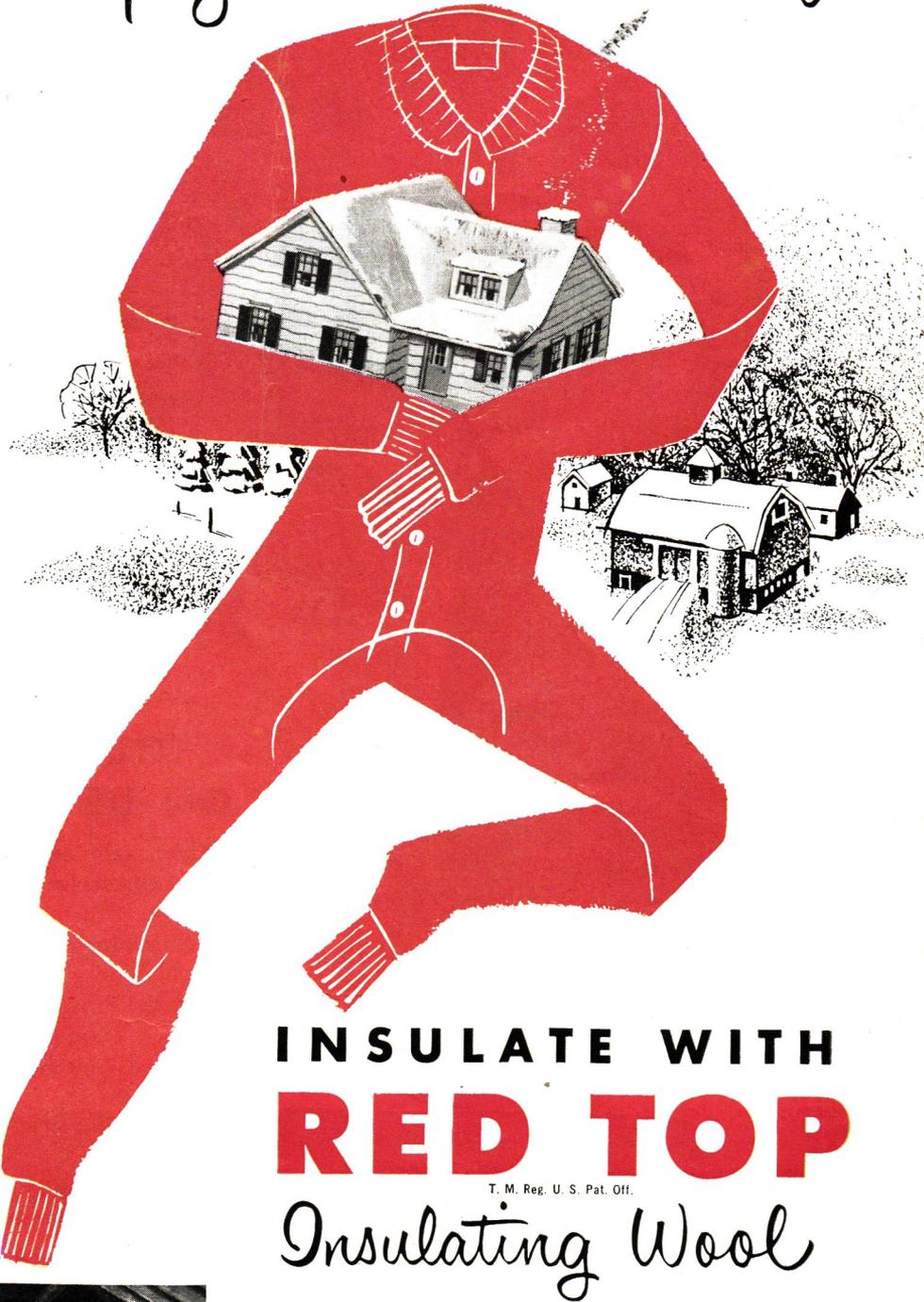


**Four jobs at once** give this home-built cabinet unit a place in any home. Serves as living-dining room divider, houses books and an automatic ironer, and displays plants on top. You build it about 4½ ft. long, 2 ft. deep, 3½ ft. high. Use ¾-inch plywood for construction, line planter with galvanized sheet metal.

*Mrs. George R. Brown, Boscobel, Wis.*

**\$20 Each for Contributions** published in this column! Enclose sketch or snapshot, address **Pride & Joy Column, POPULAR HOME Magazine, 300 W. Adams St., Chicago 6, Ill.**

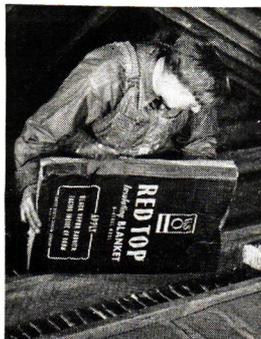
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