

Autumn • 1957

Popular Home

Your How-to-do-it Magazine



9 PAGES OF
IDEAS FOR REMODELING
ON A BUDGET



see something
you like?

that's the time

to see us—

our name is on

the cover

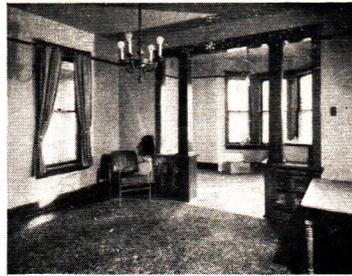
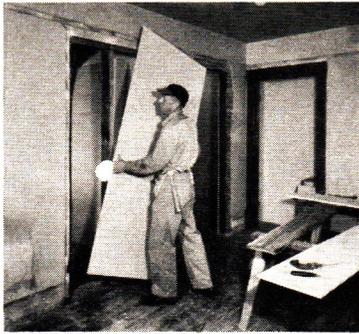
We've all the necessary know-how for carrying out the interesting ideas you'll find in this magazine we send you. We're ready to help with the right materials, time-and money-saving suggestions, good advice on doing the job yourself or selecting a dependable contractor.

So, when you see something you like in this or any issue of POPULAR HOME, come in and see us. See how easily you can bring that better-living idea right into your home—*right away!*

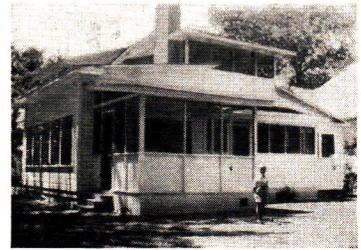
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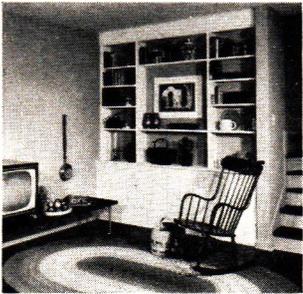


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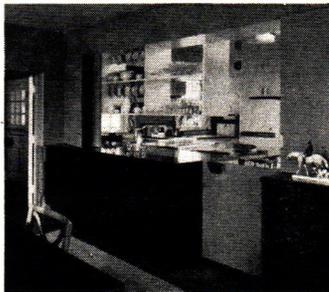


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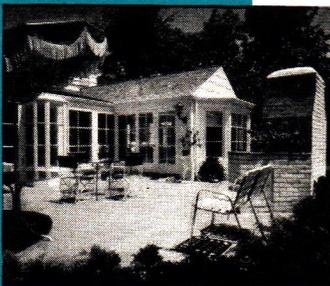
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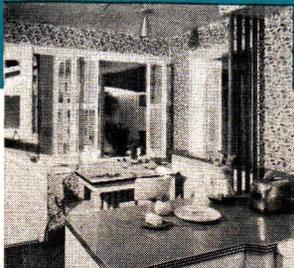
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Where do you start?

REMODELING

Where do you stop?

YOU HEAR as many different stories about remodeling as you hear predictions on tomorrow's weather. And most of them are not as accurate.

Too many people have been scared away from remodeling by loose talk. So let's get some facts straight. Remodeling can be fun. It can be economical. It can give you greater satisfaction than anything else you've ever accomplished. And it can be done without vast knowledge of construction.

The way to begin is with a budget and a clear idea of why you want to remodel:

1. To get more living space.
2. To get more storage space.
3. To get more use out of the space you have.
4. To modernize.

Then let your imagination run. Dream and scheme as if money were no object, as if nothing were impossible. Plan to reverse a stairway, relocate radiators, move plumbing, remove bearing walls—if doing so will fill your needs. These changes aren't impossible. Though they can be expensive, they may yet be the least expensive solution for you.

Get all your ideas on paper, no matter how rough the form. You may discover a way to solve your problem at half the cost you had originally figured. Or you may find that \$200 spent in each of five places will do more for you than a thousand spent in one spot.

While you dream, search for ideas everywhere. The next eight pages are full of them—some that cost \$1000, some that cost \$100, some that cost \$10. Each has a place in remodeling.

When you've finished dreaming, return to reality—the budget. Work with an architect or local contractor to bring dream and budget together. And for advice, information, and materials, drop in at Home Improvement Headquarters—your local lumber dealer.

MORE HELP AND IDEAS ON THE NEXT 8 PAGES

1 THE NEED: A recreation room

THE POSSIBILITIES: limited. A narrow lot that sloped to the rear spoiled any chance for an addition on either side or at the rear. The only available existing space was in the basement—an awkwardly shaped area (10x28 feet) with a soil pipe right in the middle of it.

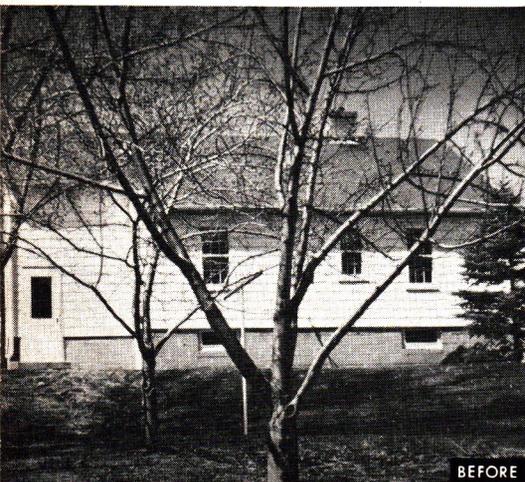
THE ACHIEVEMENT: a fine recreation room in that basement space. Insulating tile on the ceiling, SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard nailed to furring strips on foundation walls, and asphalt tile on the floor hide completely all traces of a cavern-like basement. And that soil pipe, which could not be moved economically, is now a feature of the room.

TOTAL COST, including \$100 worth of stone for yard grading: \$600.

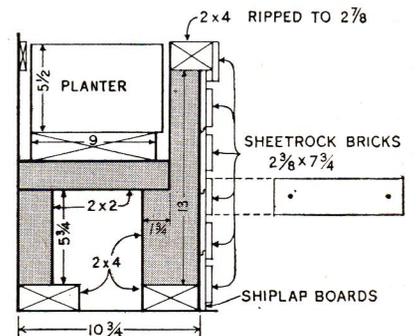
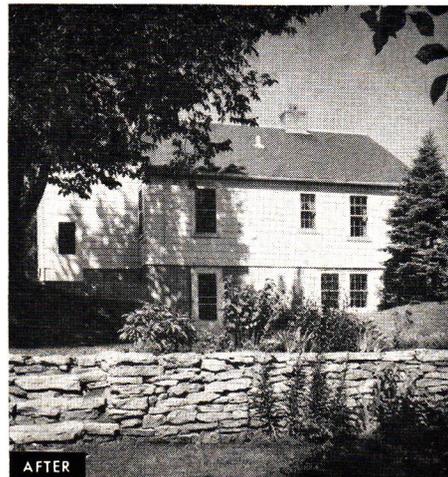
Make a feature of a fault if there's no way to hide it. That's what happened to the soil pipe (below), now wrapped in burlap and tipped with palm leaves (right). Murals painted by the owners make a long narrow room seem wider and more spacious. For the less artistic, a similar effect can be achieved with photographic wallpapers.



HOME OF MR. & MRS. NORRIS LOKENSGARD,
ST. LOUIS PARK, MINN.
EDITORIAL SOURCE: ANNE HELLICKSON
PHOTOGRAPHY: INFINITY, INC.



Work on a room may begin outdoors. Grade was first lowered to accommodate outside door and taller windows. Foundation wall was waterproofed on both sides.



Brick planter wall in front of mural is actually made of scraps of SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard. "Bricks" were cut to size, and each applied with two shingle nails to backing of scrap lumber (above). Nail dimples were filled with PERFA-TAPE cement.



BEFORE
AFTER

Old screened porch (left) was used only for storage in winter. Yet screens—too large to store easily and too cumbersome to remove easily—stayed up, darkening rooms.

2 THE NEED:

Year-round living space

THE POSSIBILITIES: A screened porch that was used four or at most five months of the year in northern Illinois. Located on the south, the porch was bright and sunny, but kept winter sun from brightening the living areas.

THE ACHIEVEMENT: A glassed-in family room that is bright and pleasant 12 months of the year. Windows line three sides, enough of them screened so the room functions as a porch in warm weather, but enough of them unscreened so the garden view is uninterrupted, and more light penetrates to other living areas. Radiant heating is incorporated in a new concrete floor that brought porch floor level up to house level. A patio outside takes the place of the porch during the day. When insects are bad, the family room serves admirably as a porch.



PHOTOGRAPHY: HEDRICH-BLESSING • EDITORIAL SOURCE: JESSIE WALKER • DESIGNED BY JONES & DUNCAN



The effect of a porch is still there, but use of the room has tripled. Patio (top photo) is popular for summer meals and entertaining, is protected from raw winds in spring and fall by a pair of projecting wings. Bay beyond umbrella is an aviary. The other bay is a planter at end of new wing added to former porch (bottom). Ceiling of RED TOP plaster with a sand-float finish is slightly domed for comfort, since wall height is little more than 7 feet.

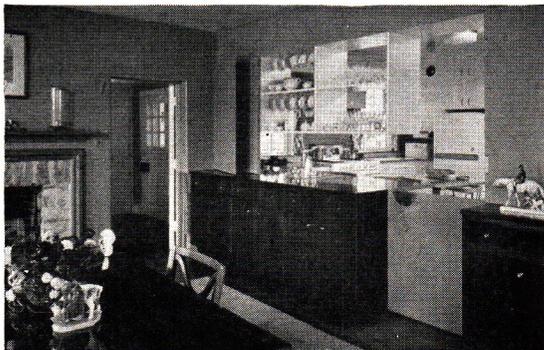
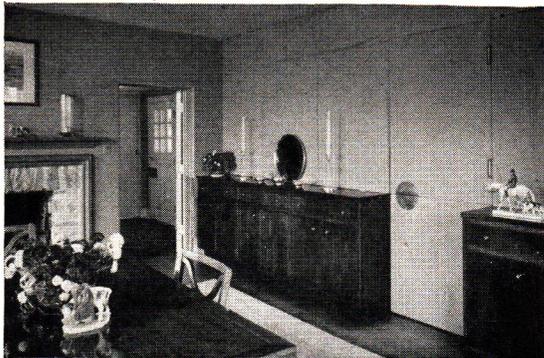
TO MOVE a wall costs more than to build a new one. So if you need more room for storing things, look for ways to build that storage through a wall or out from a wall.

Before remodeling in this Maryland house, the wall between dining room and kitchen was solid, broken only by a swinging door. Today that wall can appear solid (top right) or can open to a view of the kitchen beyond (center).

Part of the wall between rooms was removed, and the broad opening reframed. Storage space to a height of 36 in. opens on the dining room side. On the kitchen side (lower right) a 4-foot-wide top acts as serving counter and snack bar for youngsters. Hanging above the counter and open to both rooms are a pair of shelves.

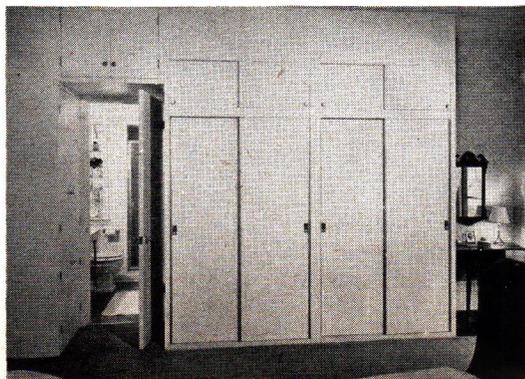
Closing the opening above the counter are five panels of 1-in. plywood. The two end panels are fixed; the other three are hinged and lock in place when closed. A swinging gate keeps children in the kitchen—or out of it.

DESIGNED FOR HIS OWN HOME BY
ARCHITECT R. N. JACKSON, UPPERCO, MD.
PHOTOGRAPHY: CORTLANDT HUBBARD



3

Storage space where there was none



WALLS and partitions of very old houses can be full of surprises—some of them pleasant, some of them costly. Usually the most economical way to add closets to bedrooms in old houses is to build them out from the walls.

Most of these bedrooms are large enough so the 2½-foot strip of floor space required won't be missed. That was the case in this Victorian house. The bedroom at left had windows in three walls plus a walk-in closet that was too awkward (4x4½-ft.) for adequate storage.

Now (lower left) the bedroom has windows in only two walls, but 30 square feet of versatile storage for clothes and linens. The paneled door was refaced with DURON hardboard (see page 8) to match the smooth surface of stock sliding closet doors. And, best of all, the old closet was just big enough to hold a bathroom complete with shower.

HOME OF MR. & MRS. O. J. CONRAD, JR., KIRKWOOD, MO.
ARCHITECT: ERWIN KNOESEL, A.I.A.
EDITORIAL SOURCE: LOIS REA
PHOTOGRAPHY: KRANZTEN

Ways to get more from the space you have

HOME OF MR. & MRS. ED NICHOLSON, GARY, IND.
PHOTOGRAPHY: EMILIE D. NICHOLSON



BEFORE

AFTER

4

More on next page

LET'S face it. When a house reaches the ripe old age of 40, it just isn't as efficient as it was in more youthful days. Features that once were a selling point are now drawbacks.

To modernize any old house, the kitchen is the place to start. Odds are good that some plumbing must be replaced, appliances added, counter space built, storage space revamped, and the whole room reorganized. You can't modernize an old dress by changing the hem line; neither will a superficial touch-up help a kitchen.

Since so much has to be done, consider relocating the kitchen. Will it solve a traffic problem, improve utility of other rooms, give you a brighter, better-shaped kitchen? The little extra cost may more than pay for itself in convenience elsewhere.

It worked that way here. The front door opened into a parlor (left) next to a bay-windowed study. Both rooms were large and little used. Half their space plus a porch outside were combined into a comfortable living room. The other half (below) forms an efficient corridor kitchen and a glamorous dining alcove.

Quick-change improvements included replacing the antiquated bay with a smaller and more graceful window; closing part of opening between kitchen and dining alcove; building a new kitchen from scratch; lowering ceilings; refacing walls and ceilings with SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard; and glamorizing with TEXOLITE DURAVAL paints.

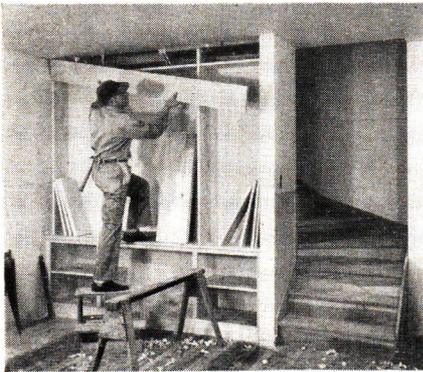




Wanted: wall space wasted by stairs and doors.

YEARS ago when labor and materials were cheap, space was not expensive, and stairways took up a lot of it. Today, when grandeur and building budgets don't mix easily, it's wise to use that wasted space. And you can often use it best by shifting a stairway.

A change in kitchen location (see page 7) made a change in the Nicholsons' stairway imperative here. But it was worthwhile anyway; the photographs show why.



Signs of progress are clear. Stairway starts in same direction, but turns between new walls. Partitions and lowered ceiling have been faced with SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard, are ready for finishing with PERF-A-TAPE joint system.



Out-of-style doors are easy to convert to flush doors. Remove glass, fit large glass openings with cross pieces for strength, face with DURON hardboard, trim edges, and paint. Doors now look new (right).



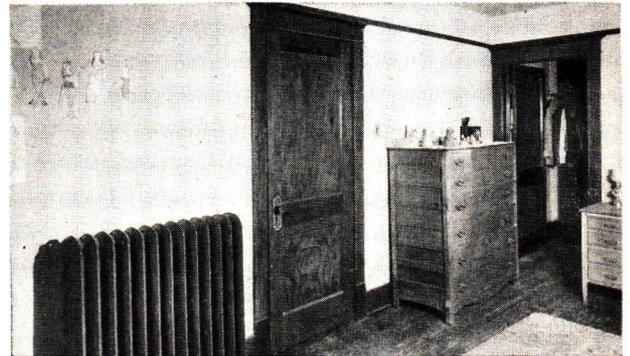
the space you have (continued)

How important is convenience? It was worth about \$25 in the Nicholsons' bedroom at right, because the change left four feet free at the end of the bedroom hall for badly needed closets.

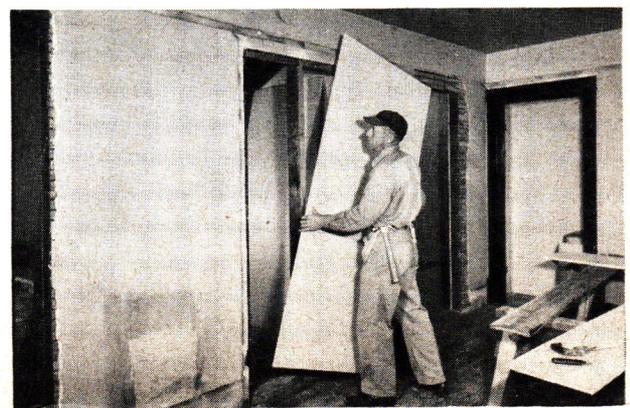
As you contemplate the little things you would like to do to your house, remember these points:

- The older a house, the more wasted space available.
- It costs less to make all changes at one time than to remodel in stages.
- Cost is no guide to work. The least expensive solution to a remodeling problem may be the best one. But it can also be a waste of money.
- Study your *entire* problem before you act. The story on page 10 explains why.

What's wrong here? A radiator uses up wall space needed for chests. Door at right swings into the closet, so closet has to be twice as deep as necessary. The trim is heavy and antiquated.



To correct faults, old trim was carefully removed and saved. Radiator was disconnected, new door openings cut to new closet (left) and hall, and the old door opening covered with SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard. By scoring plaster carefully around an opening, you can get a tight joint easily concealed with PERF-A-TAPE joint system.

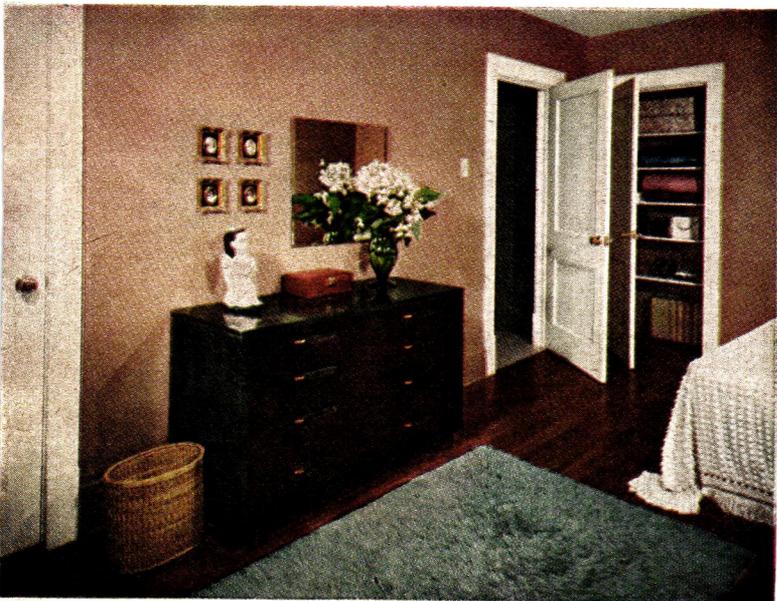




Storage space and a solid wall in a corner of the remodeled living room are the direct results of turning the stairway. Now

the room has a focal point and wall space for furniture. Stairway rises over relocated stairway between kitchen and basement.

6



Look what simplifying can do! Ornate trim over doors and picture molding was discarded, plain old trim used and painted white like doors. Base molding is painted TEXOLITE DURAVAL Java Brown to blend with walls. Shallow closet at right is used primarily for dead storage; for active storage a sliding door would have been better. Radiator was moved under window.

Deep jogs are worthless, so cut them down. Save enough depth so furniture is out of the way, put excess space to work in some other room. (In bedroom below, 3 feet cut off a jog made room for a bathtub behind yellow wall.) Paint walls in quiet colors, accent with bright spots such as blue on seat cover and pin-up board of USG Perforated Hardboard.



idea file

Looking for ideas to make your children's rooms sparkling and sprightly? Your lumber dealer (named on the covers of this issue) can help. Ask him for the new, full-color Children's Rooms Idea File. It's free.



7

Short on wall space? Then create it. End of the old living room (left) was broken by broad doorway, an open stairway, and cross traffic. In its place now is a colorful corner, developed by closing two doorways and enclosing stairway with SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard. Moving the little-used stairway was not practical.

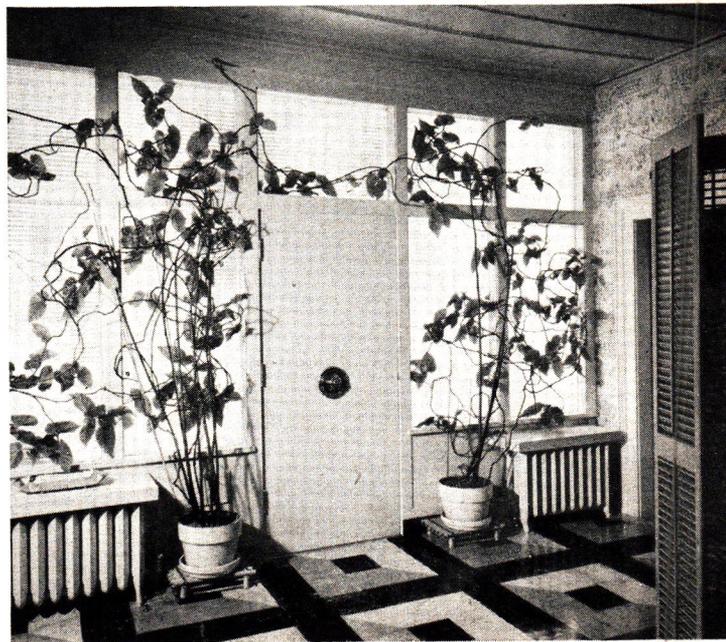


Make a little remodeling



Move the front door? Certainly, if it helps. Getting entrance door off a busy street and out of the living room was more important than sprucing up a very plain exterior (left). But solving one problem solved the other. Entrance is now on a quiet side street (house is on a corner). Gray paint with white trim and the attractive entrance draw eyes away from the house's original faults.

Rooms too big? Then cut them down to useful size. The old dining room was 20x14—practically a banquet hall. The room's still there, and still a dining room, but it's only 14 feet square now. The rest is entrance hall, and a folding screen of shutters shields view of arriving guests.



THE HOUSE ON THE COVER

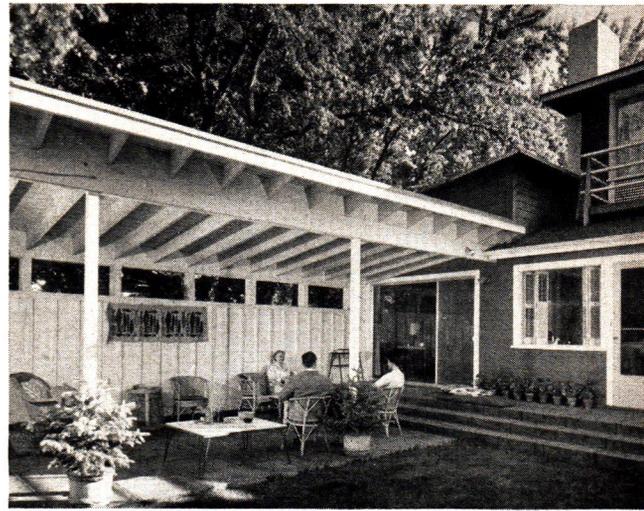
8

FOR THE price you would pay for 1500 square feet of floor space in a new house, you can get about 2500 square feet in a well-kept house 25 to 35 years old. In houses older than that, bargains are even greater, but maintenance costs often eat up the saving.

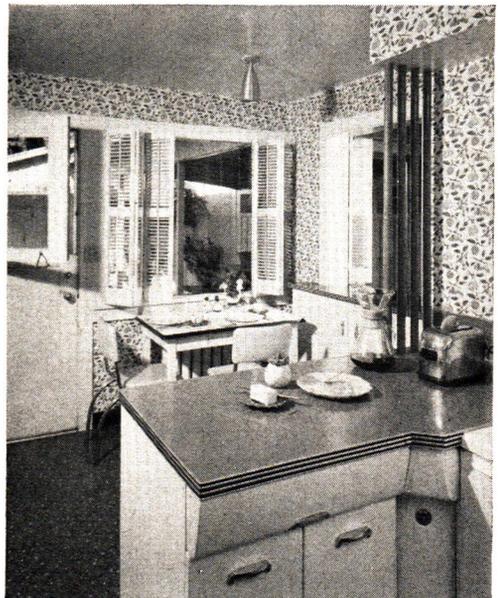
To get your money's worth out of any house, regardless of age, study its faults before you remodel. Oversized and under-used dining rooms, narrow open porches, wall-wasting stairways, awkward closets, and poor circulation are expensive defects to put up with. And it doesn't necessarily cost a fortune to get rid of them.

For the amount of improvement, costs were minimum on the remodeling you see here. No entire wall was removed, only parts of three. You pay for tearing out as well as building up. No plumbing was moved; some was added. Part of one wall was removed because it was the logical solution. Almost all expense was constructive.

Can you improve your home with minor changes like these? We bet you can!

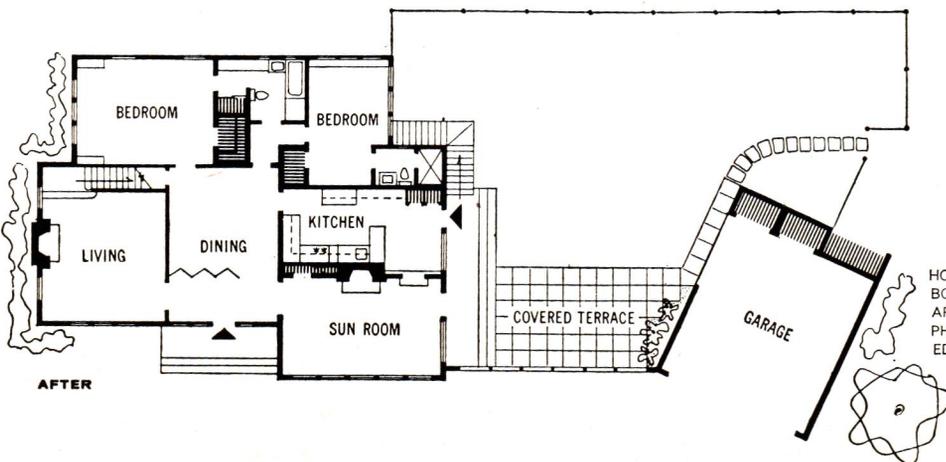
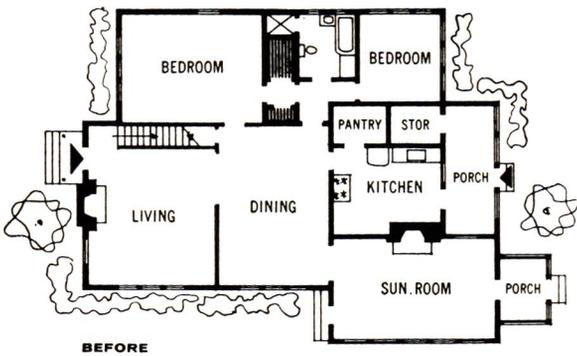


No privacy? Then screen yourself from view. Three old screened porches on the back of the house didn't suffice. But addition of a covered terrace between the house and garage created privacy on a corner lot (see plans). Outdoor area is equally convenient to family room and kitchen.



No kitchen eating space? Perhaps you can borrow space from another area. Here a screened back porch was enclosed and insulated. Ceiling of kitchen was furred down to height of porch ceiling, and covered with SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard. Dining area overlooks new terrace. Window at right opens into family room.

go a long way



All plan changes—in bedrooms, kitchen, living room, and dining room—were made with one purpose: to make fullest use of little used space.

HOME OF MR. & MRS. W. H. LANGROISE,
BOISE, IDAHO
ARCHITECTS: HUMMEL, HUMMEL & JONES
PHOTOGRAPHY: HEDRICH-BLESSING
EDITORIAL SOURCE: DOROTHY SORTOR FOOTH

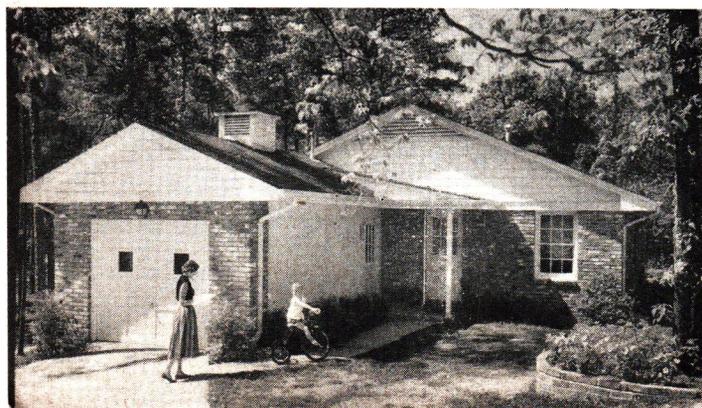


▲ **This open porch** says "come join us." Tongue-and-groove siding around porch, at gable ends, and on rear wall of garage softens mottled effect of brick, complements good proportions.

PHOTOGRAPHY: MORGAN • EDITORIAL SOURCE: SUSAN JONES MEDLOCK



▼ **For outdoor play** or a future addition, the area bounded by garage and main house (below) is ideal. It is away from the street, in full view from the kitchen, and protected from wind. And if you ever want a family room, this is the logical place for it.



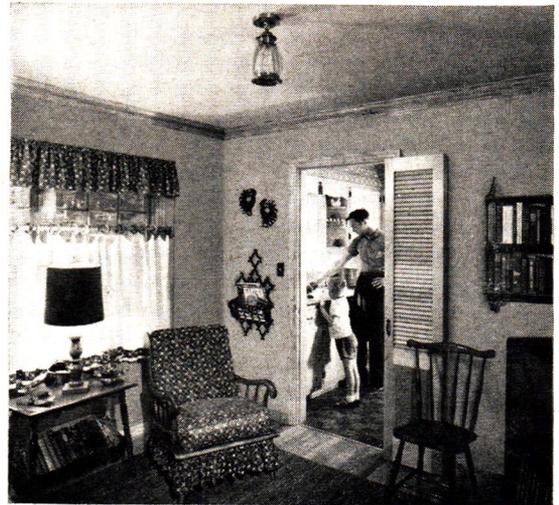
Traditional feeling of the exterior is continued inside with use of vertical panels on one wall of the living room and as wainscoting on other walls. The beauty of this wall is created by use of contrasting material (SHEET-ROCK gypsum wallboard) and color on the other walls and the ceiling.



IN a well-planned house of 1400 sq. ft., you might expect to find three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and two dining places combined with a kitchen and living room. Being well-planned, this house from East Point, Ga., has them all.

But POPULAR HOME's House with a Room to Spare also has an unexpected area that measures 11x10 feet. And a flexible area it is. It can be a television room, sound-proofed from the living room but handy to the kitchen. Omit the door to the kitchen, and it is a quiet office with lots of wall space for bookshelves. It can be a utility room for washing, canning, working with flowers. It can be a fourth bedroom. Leave out the wall between it and the living room, and you increase living space and give it light from opposite sides.

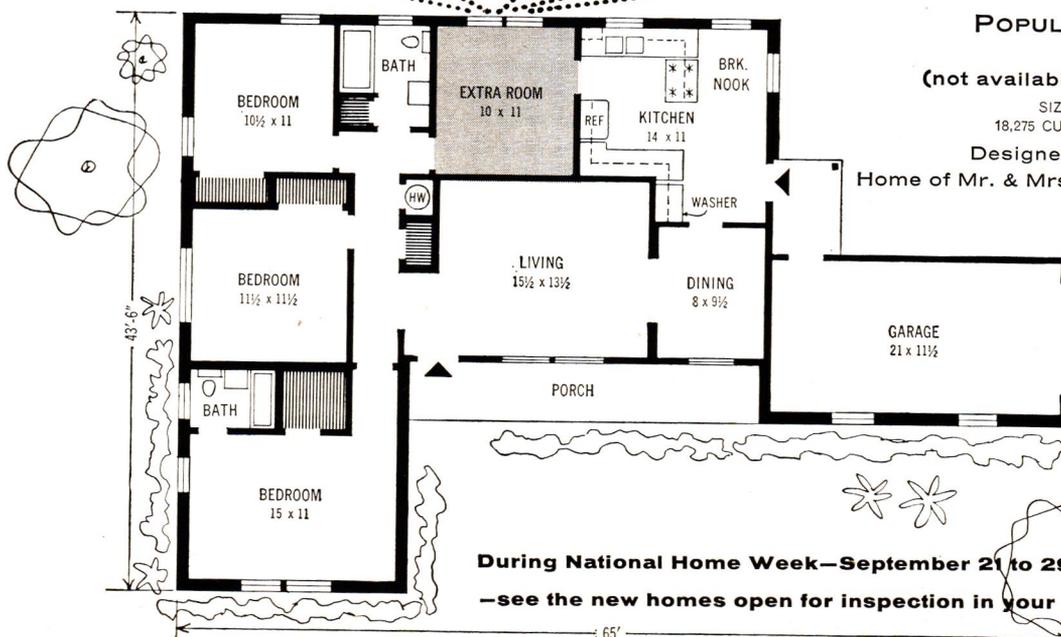
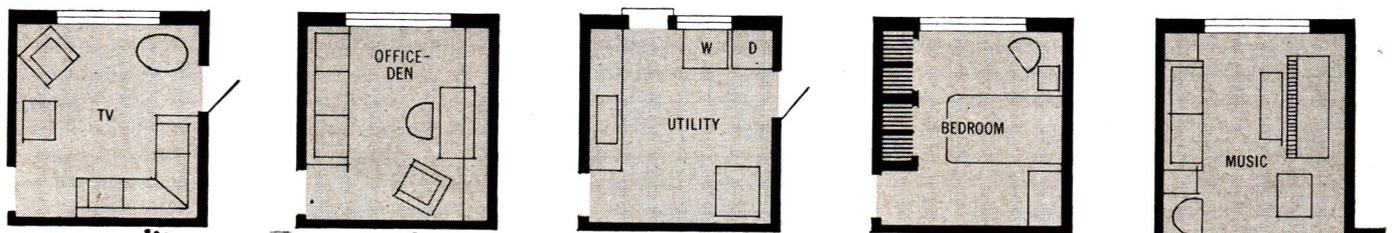
The biggest advantage of this house is that you can adapt it to your family's changing needs merely by closing up or cutting through a doorway. Your lumber dealer will be happy to order low-cost building blueprints for you. Just ask for Plan No. PH 14-6C (not available with basement), and spend next Christmas in a new house.



Versatile spare room is a cozy spot for reading or television as the house is planned. But located as it is in the middle of the house, you can logically use the space for almost any purpose you have in mind. The plans below offer several suggestions.

Traditional in looks but modern in plan,

here's a **House with a room to spare**



**POPULAR HOME PLAN
NO. PH 14-6C
(not available with basement)**

SIZE OF HOUSE: 1,462 SQ. FT.,
18,275 CU. FT. (EXCLUDING GARAGE)

Designer: Tom Rosenberg
Home of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph H. Moss

**During National Home Week—September 21 to 29
—see the new homes open for inspection in your community.**

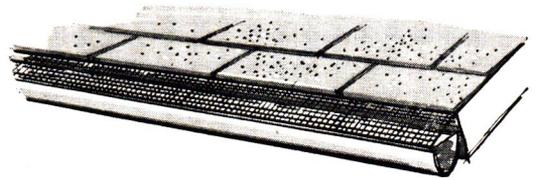
EVERY fall you make sure your car is ready to withstand whatever weather winter may bring. You do so to protect your investment and avoid costly repair bills.

But do you winterize your house? True, you put up storm windows and doors, weatherstrip against air leaks that bring immediate discomfort. But that's protecting *you*, not your investment.

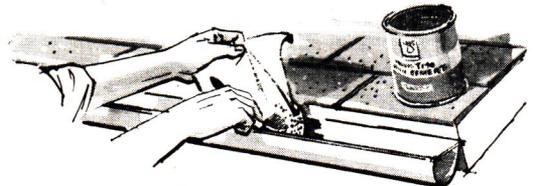
While the weather is still warm, get out a ladder and check your eaves. Most roof problems in winter start right there, and you can end them yourself. If you have a problem, you'll find the answer in the sketches below. For complete information on keeping your house in trim, ask your POPULAR HOME sponsor for a new free Handyman Plan—No. 374 on Exterior Maintenance.

Ready your roof for winter

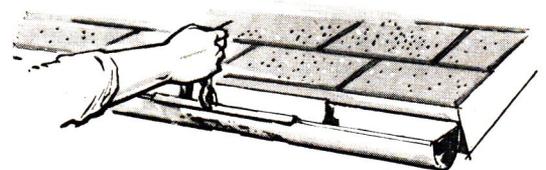
Clean gutters of all debris, and look for rust and holes in the metal. Paint inside of gutters with lead-base paint. To keep out leaves and twigs, cover gutters with strips of ½-in. mesh hardware cloth tucked 4 to 6 in. under shingles.



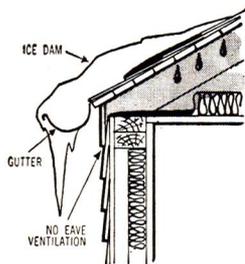
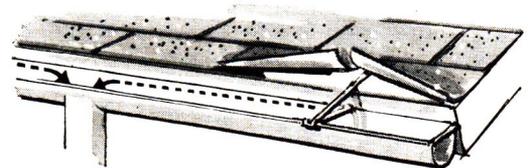
Seal small holes by coating the area with SUPER-TITE roofing cement, pressing either a piece of burlap or aluminum foil firmly into cement, then brushing on a second coat.



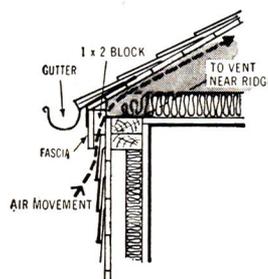
Patch with new gutter if area is riddled with small holes. Cut length of gutter, flare edges, coat damaged gutter with SUPER-TITE roofing cement, press patch in place firmly, and crimp edges over lip of old gutter. Calk edges with a good coat of roofing cement.



Adjust hangers so water flows toward downspouts. If gutters sag, replace hangers and set them for correct water flow. Standing water is the cause of rusting, and water that forms ice dams in gutters can cause severe problems.



Ice dams form when melting snow freezes in gutters. If warm air leaking from the house reaches this ice, the ice melts, backs up under shingles, and drips on ceiling and walls below. Result is discolored wallpaper, stained plaster, and blistered paint.



Eliminate trouble by insulation and ventilation. Use RED TOP insulating wool batts or nodulated wool to fill *all* gaps where heat can rise. Then install USG Cornice Vents in under sides of eaves. If eaves are too closely boxed, block fascia out from wall with 1x2s to let air circulate. Air movement will keep snow from melting and causing trouble.

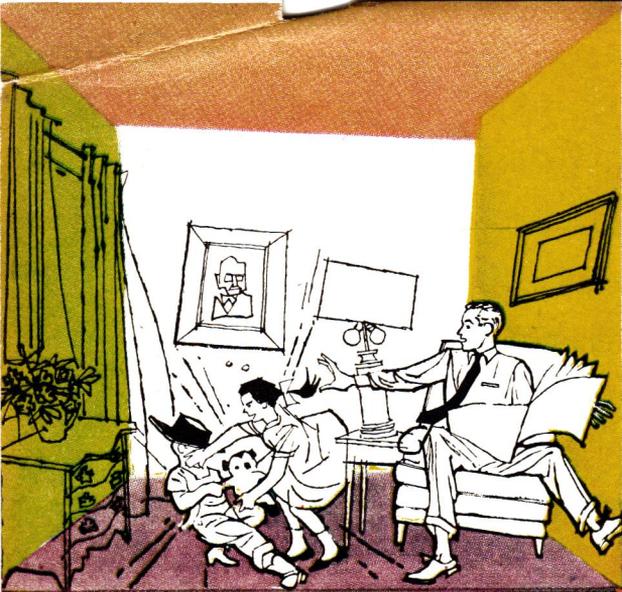
Now's the time to prepare your yard for more use next summer. The air is cool, the sky is clear, the ground is dry. Improve that driveway, wall up that eroded bank, add the all-weather walks you need. Handyman Plan No. 376—Walks, Walls and Driveways—not only tells you how to do it, but tells you how to solve those problems that have kept you from doing it sooner. Your dealer at Home Improvement Headquarters has this Handyman Plan—and many more. Ask him about them.

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