

Late Fall • 1957

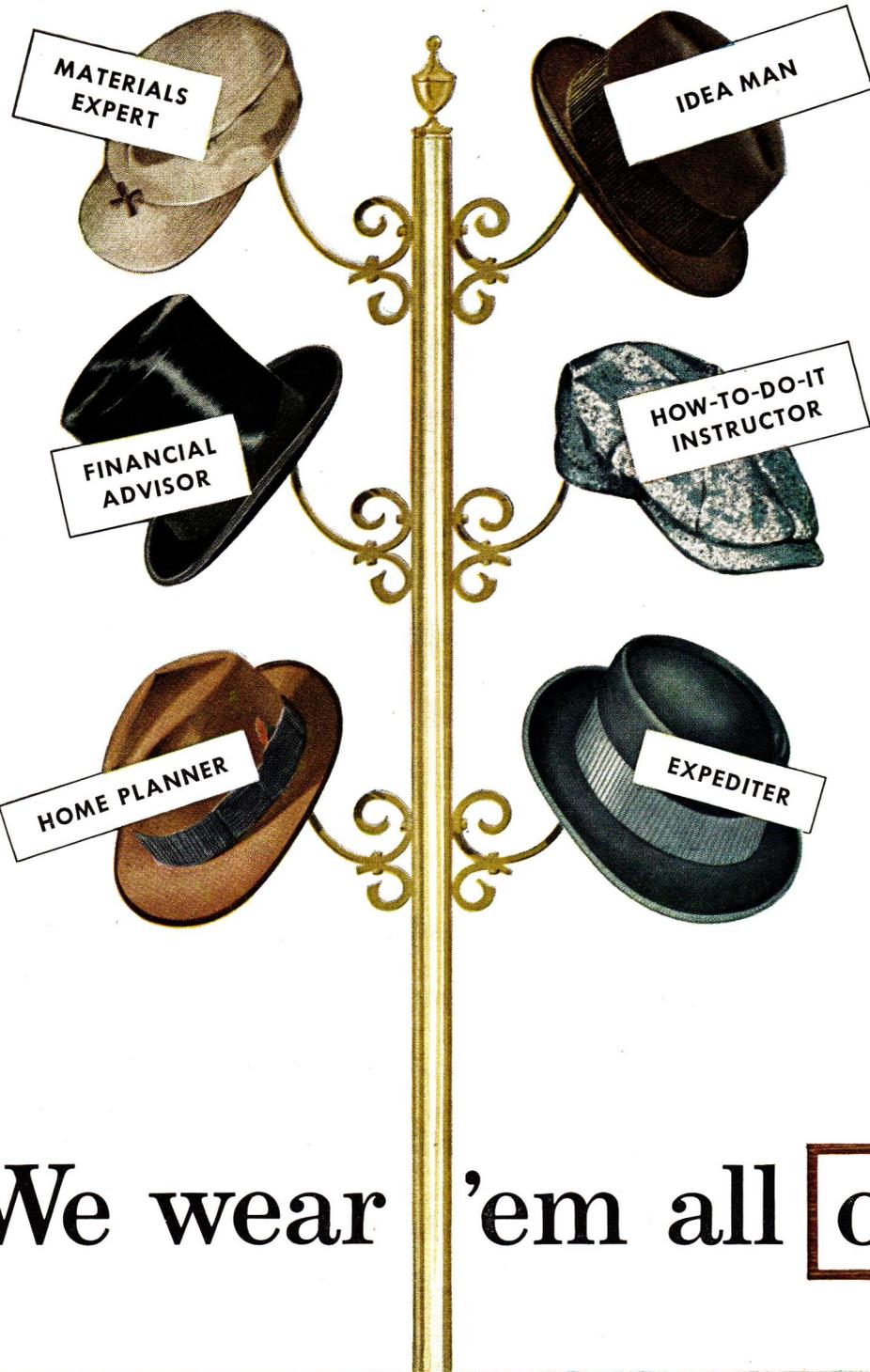
# Popular Home

Your How-to-do-it Magazine



- Ideas by the kitchenful
- SPECIAL: a planning lesson on home improvement

**Chula Vista  
Lumber Co.**



**This fancy assortment** of hats indicates only a few of the many different ways we can help you on any type of home-improvement or building project.

Naturally, we can advise you on building materials and how to use them; and we carry complete stocks of new, easy-to-use materials specially designed for the "do-it-yourself" homeowner. We can help you with ideas, too—ideas for securing more living space . . . for adding convenience features . . . for modernizing your home to protect your investment. And out of our many years of experience we can offer sound advice on planning your projects . . . on selection of a contractor, if you'd like one . . . on financing.

So, whatever your home-improvement or building project may be—come in.

We'll be glad to put on one of our "hats" and talk it over with you!



**We wear 'em all on *our* job!**



- 1 Glass-top coffee table
- 2 Folding patio table
- 3 Folding snack table
- 4 Tray table
- 5 Tile-top tea table
- 6 Tot's flip-top table
- 7 Dining table from a door

## start with a table . . .

AT THIS time of year home improvement can take many forms. It can be repair of storm windows or late fall seeding of a lawn, or adding insulation or weatherstripping to cut fuel bills. It can be kitchen improvement (page 9), a short-term project (page 14), improving existing space (page 4), planning a new house (page 12) or replanning an old one (page 7). Or building a simple table or two.

In these activities your POPULAR HOME dealer stands ready to assist you in many ways. Take these seven tables as an example. Your lumber dealer has how-to-build plans at his Home Improvement Headquarters; just ask for free Handyman Plan No. 377—Seven Tables. He can supply the materials. He can suggest the right wood, and even help with pre-cutting.

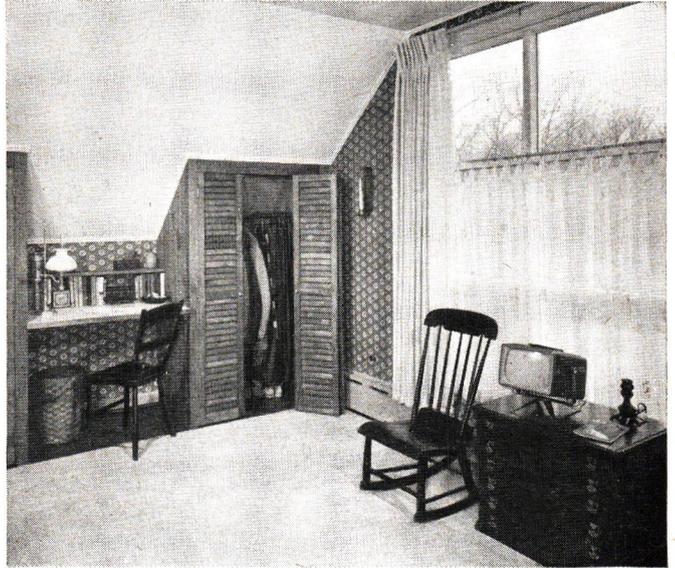
The fun of building the tables—each so simply designed it can be built without power tools—is yours. With Handyman Plan, materials and tools on hand, you take over.



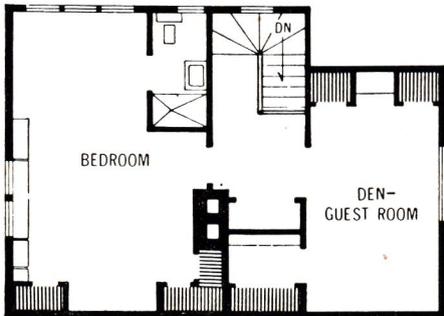


BEFORE

AFTER



Twice as much window means twice as much view, and the sloping ceiling, now white and light-reflective, seems much higher. Closets and desk (above) fill out the old knee wall (left) to standing height. Louvered doors, the outside pairs double-hinged, permit closet ventilation even when doors are closed.



Plan shows relationship between den-guest room (pictured above) and the Moores' bedroom below.

## How to open up

WITHOUT moving walls, is it possible to revamp an uncomfortably small area into a pleasant room?

The answer is "yes," and though the rooms shown here are under the eaves of the Robert Moore house in Highland Park, Ill., the same ideas will work in tiny rooms anywhere.

The solution has four parts:

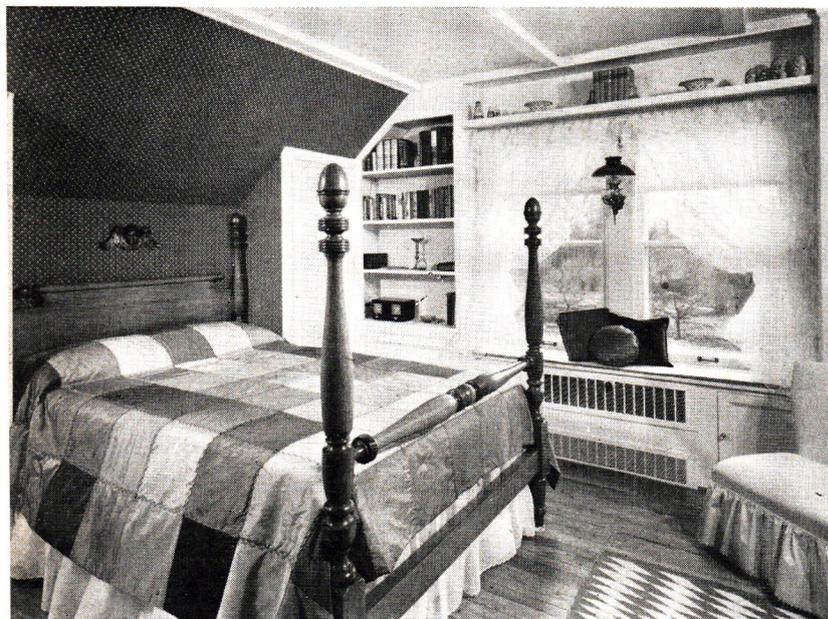
1. Bigger windows. The more you can see out of a room the larger that room seems. Clear glass is not a visual boundary.

2. Light, cheerful colors. The emotional exhilaration of your favorite bright colors can overcome the emotional let-down of cramped quarters.

3. Broken surfaces — walls interrupted by built-ins and jogs.

4. Small scale furniture and accessories.

Phoebe and Bob Moore are not only practical do-it-yourselfers, but artists with the professional's ability to visualize a result and obtain it. Yet in their remodeling they asked for and received help from architect, lumber dealer and builder. Study what they have done. Their achievements may inspire you to enjoy the rewards of remodeling.

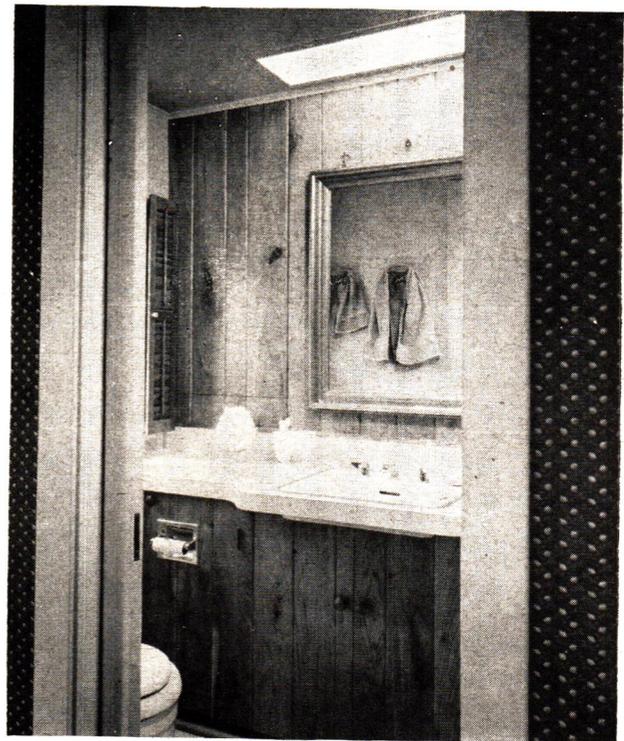


The effect of color is apparent even in this black-and-white photograph. Ceilings of SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard (with false beams covering butted joints) are painted with TEXOLITE DURAVAL Gardenia White to make them recede visually. Because room is narrow, end wall and trim are white to aid proportions. Wallpaper and fabrics are gay in color but not bright.



Little nooks and corners add interest to small rooms; a room you can scan in a glance is a dull room. By building in sofa and end tables, the Moores gained maximum unobstructed floor space. Wood used for cabinets, doors and trim is butternut; newly laid floors are pegged oak planks. What's hidden around the corner to the right? Bookshelves.

## Small Rooms



There's always room for more, even if it's rooms you're talking about. To give enough head room to upstairs floor space, the Moores added a dormer on the rear of the house (see next page). The dormer provided enough space for a bathroom (above) with built-in lavatory, and a sitting-sewing alcove (left) off their bedroom. Tiny-figured wallpaper, small pictures, low furniture help a small area seem larger.

*More on the next page*



AFTER



BEFORE

## To open up small attic rooms add a shed dormer

A SHED DORMER—a dormer wide enough to require a shed roof—added to a 1½-story house is probably the most economical and practical answer to space problems.

Here are the reasons why:

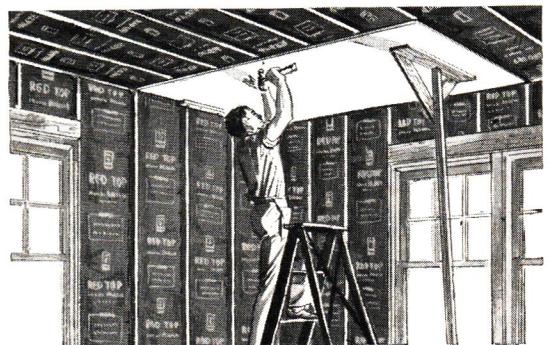
- You can greatly increase floor space. By expanding a narrow dormer, the Moores added 190 square feet of area with full head room.
- You vastly improve light and ventilation. Windows only at gable ends can't do an adequate job, particularly when interior partitions interfere.
- You increase usable wall space for storage, decoration, and built-ins.
- You overcome the closed-in feeling that sloping ceilings bring.

Though amateurs have successfully added dormers, you will be wiser to hire a reputable builder to cut through the roof, and do all the framing, sheathing and exterior finishing. Interior finishing—insulating, applying wallboard, taping, painting, laying flooring, and applying trim—you can do yourself. The best time to start is right now while the weather is still good, then complete interior finishing during the winter.

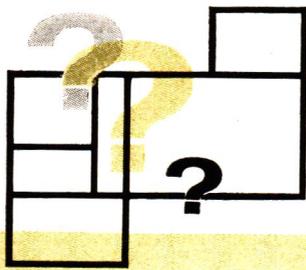
### Enjoy POPULAR HOME?

Then be sure to let your dealer know (he's named on the cover). He is revising and expanding his list of home-loving families who wish to receive POPULAR HOME. Pay him a visit.

Before dormer-building, usable width of this room was only 10 feet. Dotted lines show points at which the roof was cut.



During interior finishing, the expanded area of the bedroom looked like this. With the exterior rain-tight, Bob Moore applied RED TOP insulating wool between studs and between joists. Here SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard is nailed across ceiling joists; the 4x8-foot sheets are held temporarily with a cleat at one end and with a home-made T-brace at the other.



When you plan that home improvement,

# Where would you put it?

**H**ABIT is a dangerous thing. Little irritations—such as a door that swings into another door—bother us for a while, but soon we become accustomed to them, and put up with them through habit. Yet as often as not, it takes very little effort to remove the cause of the annoyance.

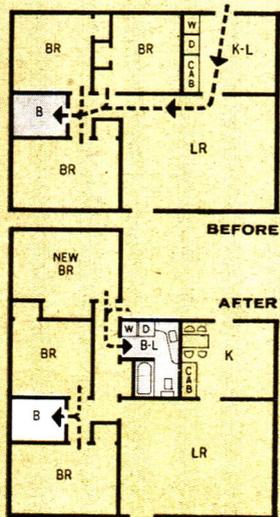
Here and on the next page are six frequent sources of irritation. When building a new house or restyling your present home, how would you handle these situations?

## a second bath



It's economical to put a second bathroom close to the first one; you can use the same plumbing. But it may be as economical as buying a bicycle when you need a car.

Since a second bathroom is primarily for convenience, place it where it will be most convenient for most of the family most of the time. Cost is secondary; the difference between cost of running plumbing to one location or another is only a few dollars anyway.



Consider these locations first:

1. Off your own bedroom. A private bathroom reached only from your bedroom is a luxury you won't regret.

2. Close to the kitchen. Many small houses have a bedroom next to the kitchen. You can convert that bedroom into a large bath (see plans), and add a new bedroom for little more than the cost of adding a bathroom. Move laundry equipment from kitchen into bath, and use the kitchen space you gain for informal dining.



## porches

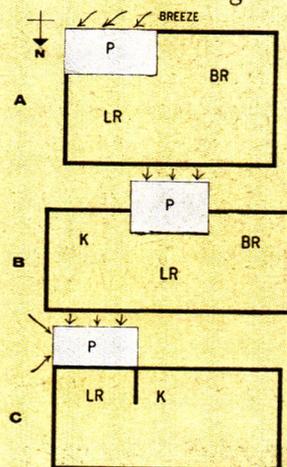
Years ago the porch was as much a social room as the front parlor. But the noise of traffic and the smell of exhaust changed all that. The screened porch is still popular, but today it is a private porch away from the street.

When you add a porch, what are the limitations?

- It must be conveniently located. A porch for family use should be available to the main living area and the kitchen. But don't overlook the advantages of a small porch off your bedroom for summer lounging and hot-weather sleeping.
- It must not seriously reduce the amount of light entering major rooms. You'll dislike a porch that darkens a living room or kitchen. Loss of light in a bedroom or dining room isn't as serious.

- It must be sheltered from the sun but open to the prevailing breeze.
- It should be shielded from the street.

Where you place the porch depends much on the plan of your house. A porch may fit nicely in the encompassing arms of the main house and a wing (Fig. A), where it is sheltered on two sides, and open to the breeze on two others. It may fit between two wings (Fig. B), where it is close to kitchen, living room and bedroom, and catches a breeze through the house. Or it may jut from the house (Fig. C), where it's completely breeze-cooled, and you control privacy with louvers or slat blinds.



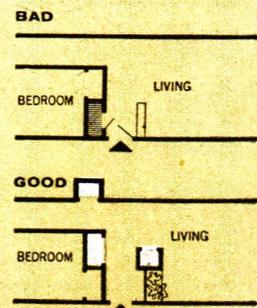
## the guest closet

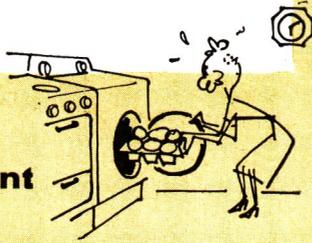


Have you ever been trapped by a guest closet? It happens often if that closet is near the front door—the most congested spot in the house when you entertain. Remember the last time you had a party on a stormy night?

If you need a guest closet—perhaps because the present one is filled with card tables, games, the vacuum cleaner, and family coats—look for a spot as far as plan permits from the front door (see plans below). This distance gives guests a chance to get out of the weather, and gives you a chance as host to store coats graciously.

Can you interchange your guest closet with a bedroom closet, build a closet and decorative planter out from a wall, or steal a few square feet from an adjoining room? Each solution will break the blockade around the front door.





## laundry equipment

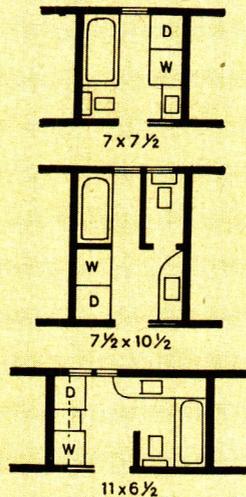
Ever since laundry equipment became automatic, homemakers have automatically put the washer in the kitchen.

Laundry equipment belongs not in the kitchen, not in the basement, but in the bedroom wing—either in a bathroom or in a small room by itself. Why? Because the bulk of laundry accumulates in bedrooms and is stored in them.

Install a washer in the bathroom, perhaps below the linen closet. Start the washer as you start work in the bedrooms; by the time beds are made, clothes are ready for dryer or clothes line.

The reasons for putting laundry equipment in kitchen or basement no longer exist. Today's washers don't need to be bolted to the floor; all they need is floor space and plumbing connections available in any bathroom. The newest dryers don't need venting; lint and moisture are washed away through the same plumbing that serves the washer. Neither appliance needs attention from the time it starts until its cycle is completed.

If you live in an old house with a large bathroom, you'll find maximum convenience in an upstairs laundry—a saving in steps and a saving in stairs. In a one-story house, look into the possibility of adding a second bathroom with laundry equipment planned into it.



## the picture window



The purpose of a picture window is to give a room a picture-like view of outdoors. What many people forget is that picture windows also expose the indoors to public view. And they are often in that view.

If you have a fine view—even as limited as a tiny, flower-lined and shaded patio—by all means build or remodel to bring that view into your home. But remember that a picture window has these drawbacks:

It cannot give good light and privacy at the same time.

It can insulate against cold, but can't insulate entirely against heat.

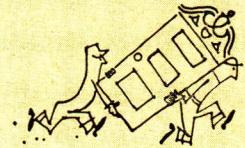
It can let in excellent light and an unbroken view, but it can't let in a breeze.

For these reasons a picture window should be on the private side of the house so draping for privacy is unneces-

sary in the daytime and, if possible, unnecessary at night. It can be logically located on the east, north or south side of the house, but on the west only if shaded. And it should be flanked by ventilating sash.

Before adding a picture window in an old house, spend a few minutes with a local architect. Small windows and small panes complement the shape and scale of the pre-war house. Too large an expanse of glass can turn a venerable Victorian into a mixed-period monstrosity.

## the front door

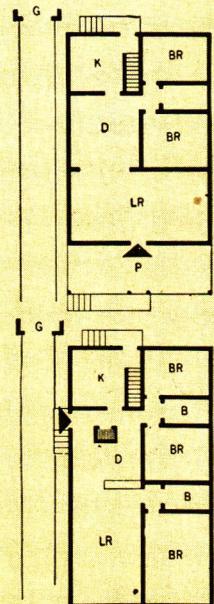


On the surface, it sounds silly to talk about front door location, doesn't it? But more families could solve their traffic problems by moving the front door than by any other remodeling change.

Though the front door doesn't have to be on the street side of the house, its location should be apparent from the street. It should open as close to the center of the house as possible—to cut down hall space and floor wear, and keep rooms free from needless traffic. And in this automobile age of ours, the front door should be close to the driveway, and placed so people will not habitually enter the back door.

The plan at the right is a good example. It represents a typical city bungalow of thirty years ago—front porch, center entrance directly into the living room, detached garage. The living room is a passageway to the rest of the house.

But look what happens when you move the front door! The living room is rid of cross traffic, is much easier to arrange. An entrance hall has been created and a coat closet added. And the door opens into the core of the house—close to kitchen, bedrooms, bathroom and stairway up. New steps and a gay color on the door clearly mark the entrance from the street. If more space is needed, remodel that porch into a third bedroom—impossible before moving the entrance. It pays to remodel.



Seventh of a series.

In the next issue:

Color, texture and tone.



**The glamorous kitchen on the cover** is in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Kent, Glenview, Ill., designed by Arnold Schaffner. There's no shortage of cabinet space or color here!

EDITORIAL SOURCE: JESSIE WALKER



**BEFORE**

No light, no wall space, only a pantry for storage—these were problems (above) plaguing the George Greggs of Oak Park, Ill. Today (below) good light comes through fixed windows (a fan provides ventilation) slanted to provide deeper work space around sink. What was kept in pantry is now stored in new cabinets, and the pantry made into lavatory.

**AFTER**

A COAT of paint and new appliances will help make an old kitchen more pleasant. But the way you use a kitchen is so different from the way your mother did that reorganization of kitchen space is the only sure way of creating a time- and work-saving place for meal preparation.

Reorganizing costs money, though less perhaps than you might expect. To start you thinking—and possibly remodeling—here is a portfolio of photographs that show what six families did to bring their kitchens from the ice-box to the push-button age.

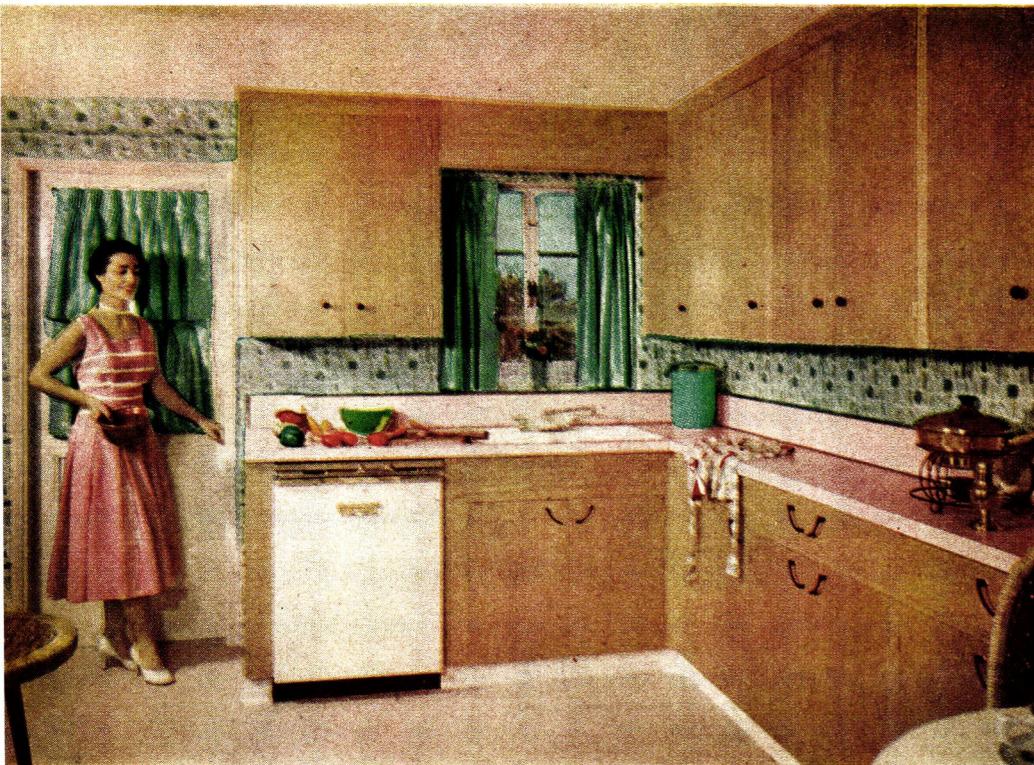
*More on next page*

## Hopeless old kitchen? Never!

PHOTOGRAPHY: HEDRICH-BLESSING



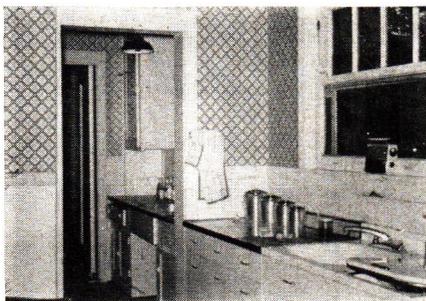
**Kitchen ideas** (continued)



**Color and continuous counter** mark remodeling efforts of Dr. & Mrs. John Brooks of Tucson, Ariz. A porch only 4½ feet wide was added to kitchen space, and new service door and casement window installed (left). Work counter is only as deep as cabinets, fills jog in wall. Cabinets are grouped around work area, and cover the once unused end wall (below). Range and snack bar separate traffic lane from work area (right). Walls and ceiling are refinished with RED TOP plaster.



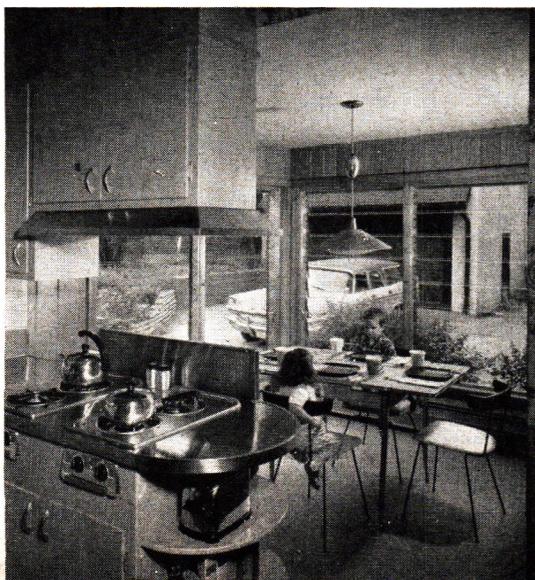
EDITORIAL SOURCE: LOUISE PRICE BELL • DECORATOR: LUCY BOTKIN • PHOTOGRAPHY: FRANK GAYNOR

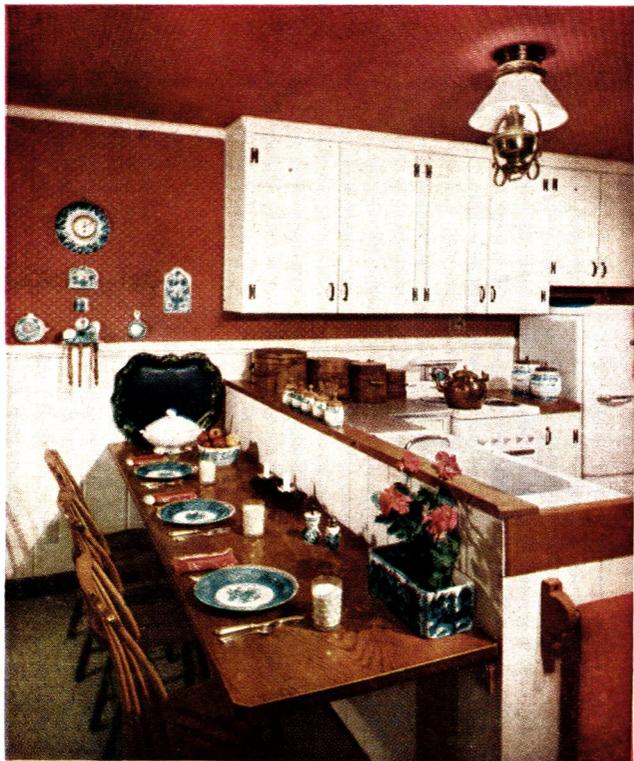


**Without a structural change** a butler's pantry and a kitchen with four doors and no cabinets became a family kitchen. Wide old windows (above) were narrowed to provide wall space for cabinets, and pantry became part of room. Oven and barbecue (right) fit against existing chimney. Dining area (below) was added where back stoop was, and rear door moved to keep kitchen work area traffic-free. Windows are glass jalousies.



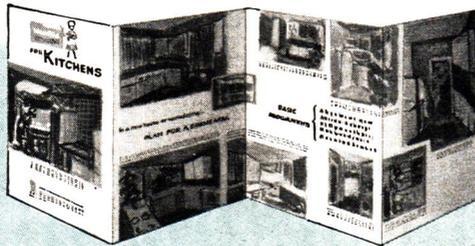
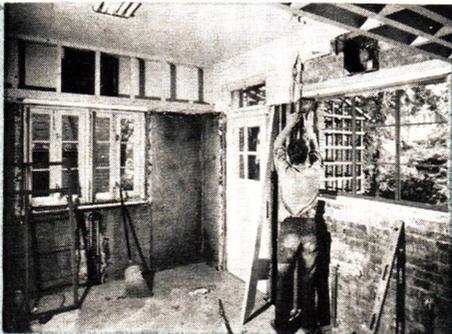
DESIGNER: KARL KNOBEL • EDITORIAL SOURCE: JESSIE WALKER





**Need better eating space?** In Portland, Ore., the Earl Linds had ample floor space, so built a peninsula (above) in their large family kitchen, and projected an oak slab from it. If your kitchen is small, use wall space instead of floor space: build a table that folds out of way against a wall.

EDITORIAL SOURCE: CYNTHIA EYRE

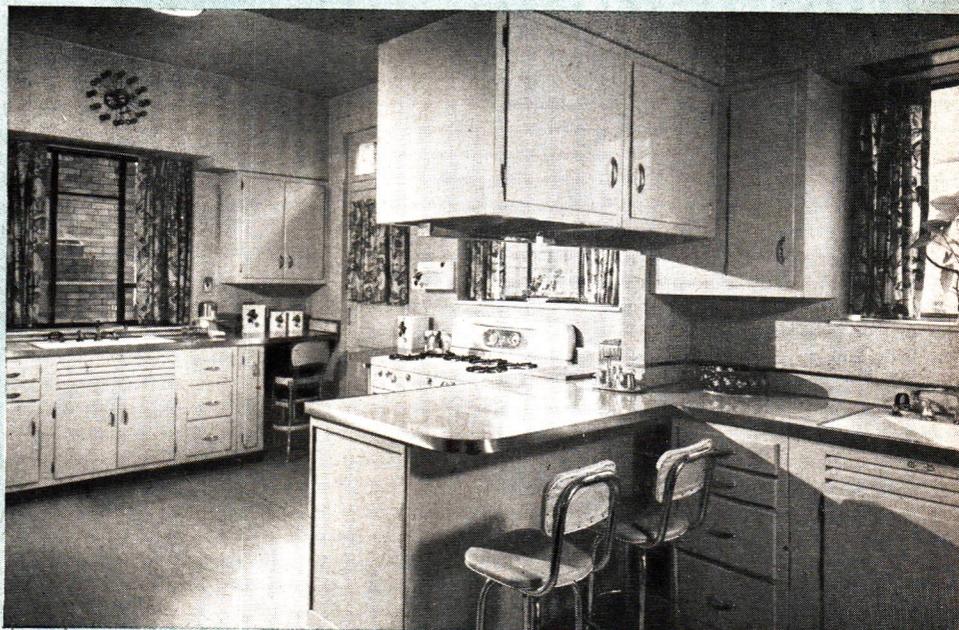


**Idea file** If you're searching for ideas on how to improve *your* kitchen, visit the lumber dealer named on the covers of this issue. Ask him for the full-color Kitchen Idea File. It's brand new, helpful, and free.

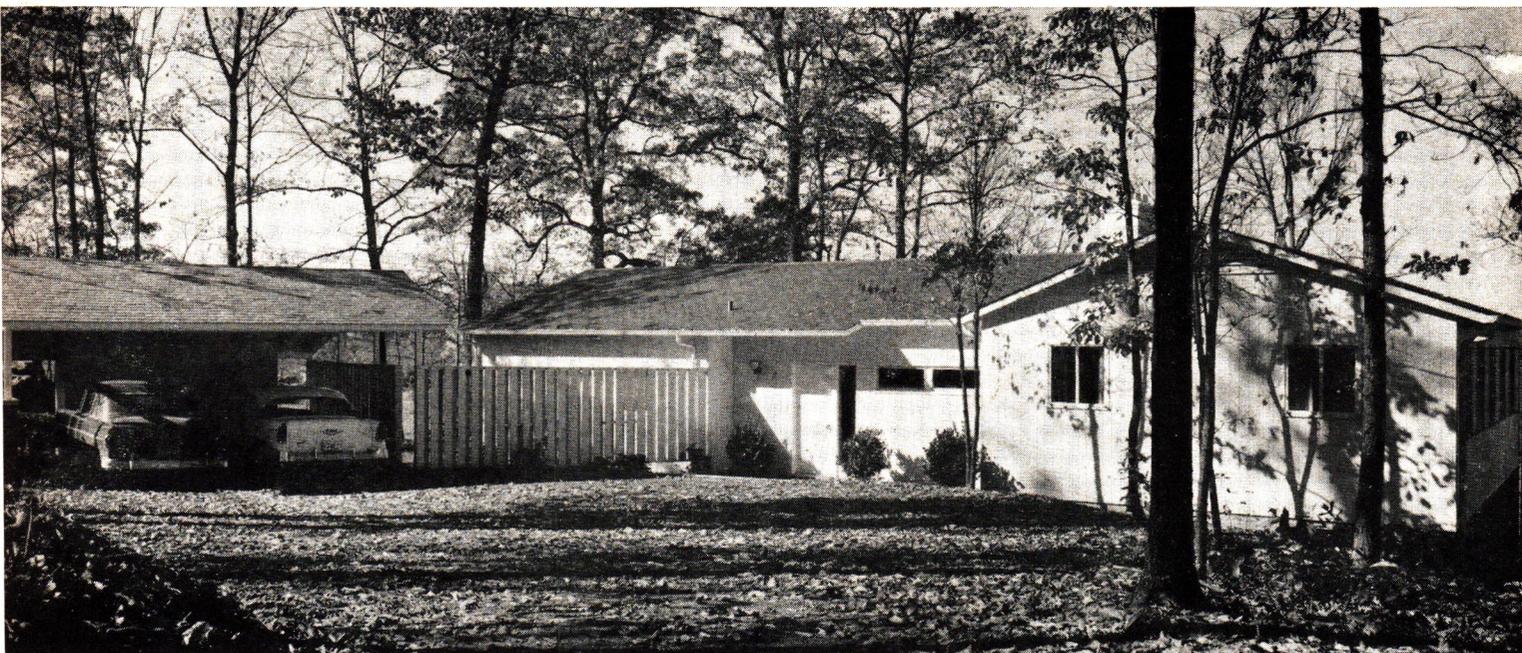


**A fresh start** is sometimes the best answer. The old kitchen here had enough floor space, but walls were broken up by doors and windows, and you walked forever preparing a meal.

First (top), walls were stripped to bare brick and new windows installed. Then USG metal lath was stapled to furring strips as a plaster base. Application of plaster, including a base coat of STRUCTO-LITE (above), completed kitchen ready for cabinets, appliances and wall finish.



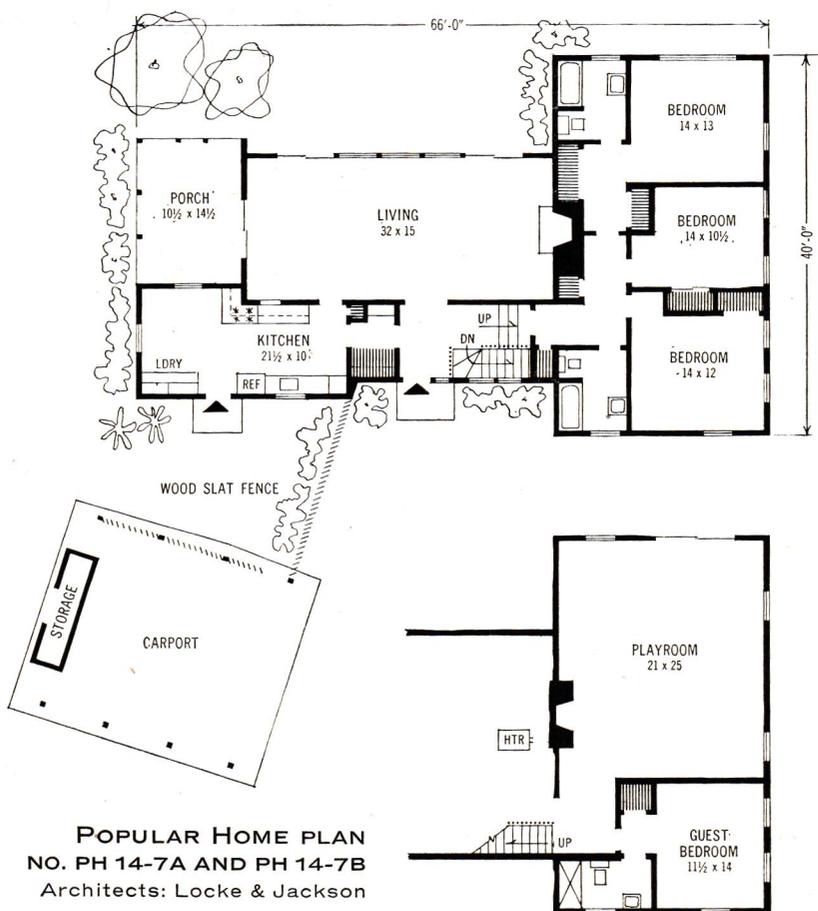
INTERIOR DESIGNER: MARIAN QUINLAN, A.I.D.



Oriented to its site, house has "front" entrance at the rear. Staggered-board fence shields view of kitchen door area, and ties carport to house.

Vertical wood siding, fixed glass beside door, and bedroom windows give pleasing up-and-down contrast to the horizontal lines of the house.

## POPULAR HOME'S **House of Hospitality**

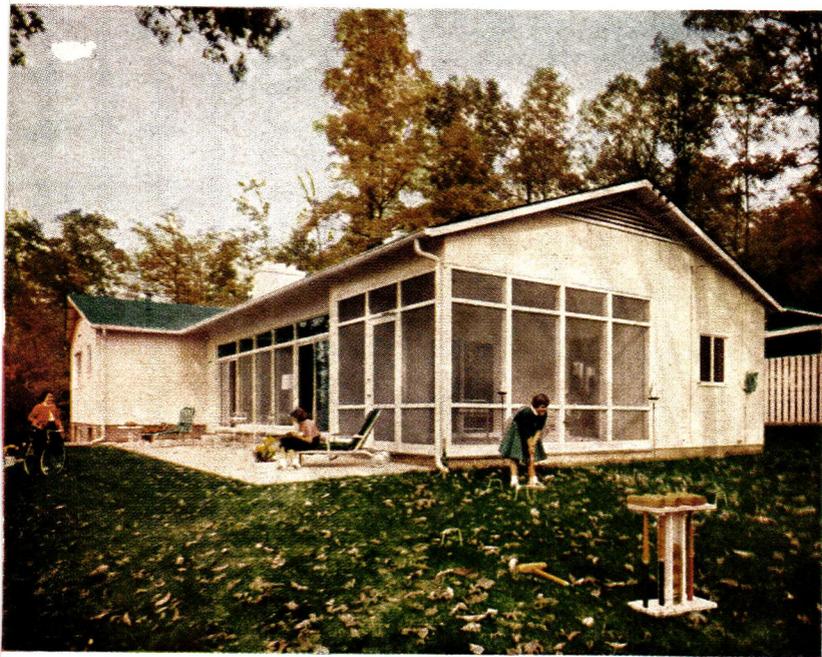


PEOPLE in Baltimore do a lot of home entertaining, and the Milton S. Schiller family has a home that spells "welcome" to guests (whether of the junior or senior variety). Four areas of the house are devoted to entertainment — and they serve large groups as well as the family circle. There's the big living-dining area with a formal mood, an open terrace accessible through sliding-glass doors, a screened-in porch opening off kitchen and dining area, and best of all, a ground-level playroom.

Guests enter a generous hall that serves admirably as the house's circulation center. At left is a coat room, directly ahead the living room, and at right stairs down to the playroom (which has an adjoining guest bedroom and bath). No skimping on kitchen space here . . . there's even enough room in the "table area" for a large home freezer. Notice in the plan that the main sleeping area is sensibly "off to itself."

Here's a real home for a family that does things. If you've been yearning for space to circulate in, see your POPULAR HOME sponsor and ask him to order low-cost building blueprints—Plan No. PH 14-7A (without basement) or PH 14-7B (with basement). He'll be glad to oblige.

**POPULAR HOME PLAN  
NO. PH 14-7A AND PH 14-7B**  
Architects: Locke & Jackson  
SIZE OF HOUSE: 1,927 SQ. FT.  
35,322 CU. FT. (EXCLUDING CARPORT)



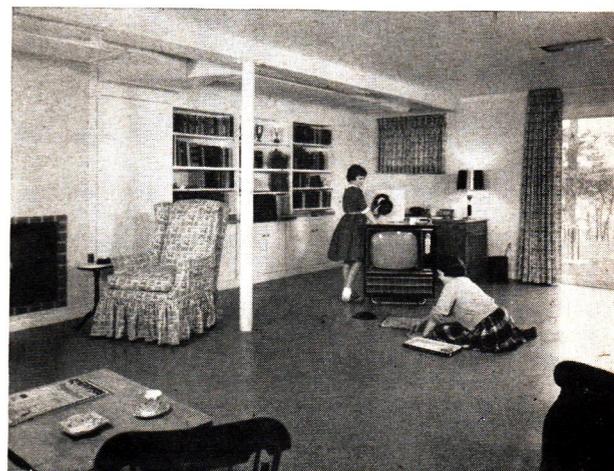
**When insects come**, just move into the screened-in porch. It has double doors to dining area and a direct door to kitchen for quick serving of snacks or supper. Terrace is concrete poured between strips of redwood. Roof of Pastel Gray USG Thick Butt asphalt shingles contrasts pleasantly with the yellow-painted siding.

BY ROBERT H. DOUGHERTY

**All this and view, too!** Low-key impact is provided by Japanese Blue color scheme, paneled fireplace wall tempered with white plaster ceiling. Sliding-glass double doors, same size as fixed panels, give picture-perfect symmetry to framed view. Draperies glide on long traverse rods, and successfully transform a panoramic room into a cozy setting on cool fall evenings.



**Homemaker's delight** is this well-designed kitchen. Wood cabinets and walls of RED TOP plaster are painted the palest of yellows. Floor is vinyl-asbestos tile. At left of telephone is door to dining area and a drop-down pass-through for easy serving. Door at rear hides expertly-outfitted broom and storage closet.



**Bonus factor** is the family playroom on lower level. Let the phonograph blast—it won't disturb Mom because the ceiling is covered with QUIETONE acoustical tile in smart, new random pattern. Concrete block walls are painted a Granada Buff of TEXOLITE CEMENTICO masonry paint. Exposed heating ducts and upright steel support are minimized with coat of flat white paint to match built-in storage wall. Sliding-glass doors lead to the terrace outside.



PHOTOGRAPHY: CORTLANDT HUBBARD

**There are more**

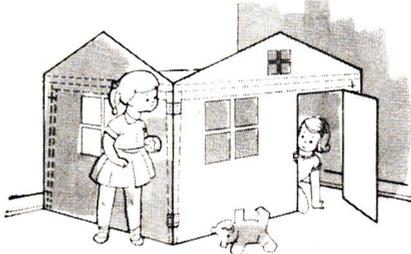
fine houses in the Family-Tested Homes Plan Book—larger, smaller, two-story, one-story, split level. Study a copy at Home Improvement Headquarters named on the covers of this issue. You're always welcome there.

# short-term projects

Do you feel the urge to build something useful around the house? Here is a group of short-term projects that will turn that itch into a glow of satisfaction. They will take you from a couple of hours to a couple of days to complete, depending on your talents and tools. You'll have fun, and please your family, too. Ready? Let's take a look.

## Portable playhouse

Searching for a way to keep his four small children busy on rainy days, John E. Ahern of Glastonbury, Conn., built a playhouse. He



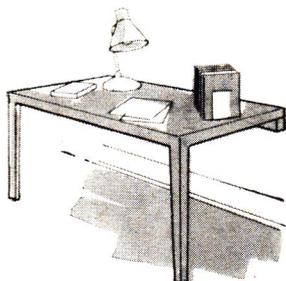
pushed an old table with corner legs into a corner of the room. Walls of the room form two sides of the playhouse, and the table top is the roof. The other two sides are cut from 3/16-in. DURON Hardboard—complete with windows and a hinged door.

To attach hardboard to table, drill holes in legs and tie hardboard sides to legs with nylon clothesline. Hinge sides together for easy storing. This method of attachment holds sides securely, but they are still flexible.

Apply felt pads to the under side of the table to prevent bruised heads, and paint playhouse both inside and out in bright enamel colors.

## Wall desk

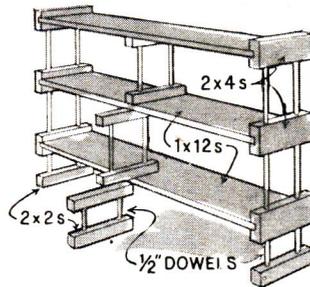
Speaking of tables, Phyllis Lightle of Dubuque, Iowa, gets double use from her old one. Her



family outgrew a small dinette table, so she cut it in half. Now she has two sturdy plastic-topped desks, one for each of two boys. Each desk is screwed to a cleat nailed into studs at proper height.

## Bookshelves

Adaptable, expandable, demountable and sturdy are the words James B. Miller of San Diego used to describe his short-term project. To build his bookshelves, you need only 2x4s, 1x12s and 1/2-in. dowels. Cut 2x4s into lengths



that match depth of shelf boards; then cut a slot about 3/4 in. wide and deep (try for a snug fit). Next drill holes for 1/2-in. dowels (but not in the tops of the two top blocks). Round edges of the 2x4s. Cut dowels to desired length, and assemble. Neither nails nor glue is required.

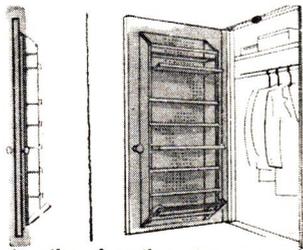
For heavy books, make center supports of dowels and 2x2s.

## Closet door

### sewing cabinet

Where a bedroom must double as a sewing room, build a sewing cabinet on a closet door. That's what Robert T. Gidley of Dallas did. Cut a sheet of USG Perforated Hardboard 6 in. narrower and 6 in. shorter than the door. Cut four lengths of 1x1 to form a frame. From 1x4 stock cut sides as shown, and from 1/2-in. plywood cut 3-inch-wide shelves.

Nail frame together, and drill for screws which will attach frame to door. Attach 1x4 sides outside frame, and set perforated hardboard in place. Using 2-in. flat head wood screws, secure unit to door. Add shelves, and

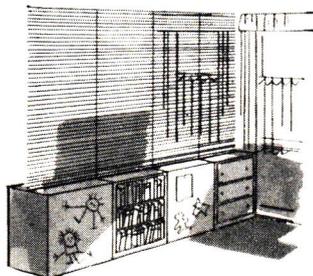


trim with lengths of parting stop so sewing items won't slide off shelves.

At the bottom, too low for sewing supplies, add a sloping shoe rack made entirely of 1/2-in. material, and anchored to 1x4s with screws.

## Room divider

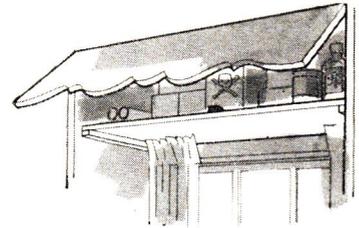
When two children can't logically share one room but must still share space, a room di-



vider is the economical answer. Mrs. I. H. Light of Bloomington, Ill., designed this practical divider. She built a low wall of unpainted chests and bookshelves, centered under a pair of windows. Backs of the units are fitted with pin-up boards or chalkboards. Above the chests hangs a large basswood shade as wide as the combined widths of the divider.

## Poison cabinet

In a family with small children, storage of poisons, strong medicines, bleaches and other potentially dangerous potions is a problem.

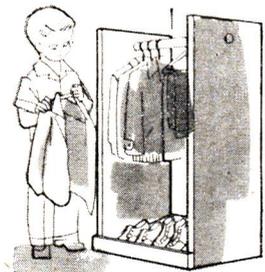


But in West Fort Ann, N. Y., the George Gagnons solved it by storing these items on a shelf that fills empty space above the kitchen window.

The shelf is anchored to cleats attached to cabinets flanking the window, and is hidden behind a scalloped valance. The valance swings up on concealed butt hinges, and a magnetic catch keeps the valance-door closed tight. Camouflage is complete, and the poisons are safe from little hands.

## Toddler's closet

L. D. Cable of Tucson, Ariz., revamped an ordinary 24-by-42-in. closet for use by a small



child. He made a pair of clothes-shoe racks, using boards 1x12x32 for the ends, 1x12x18 for the sloping base, an 18-in. length of 3/4-in. dowel, and a strip 1x2x18 across the front of the base. Child-size coat hangers fit on the rod, and shoes stay on the slanted base.

There is a rack on each side of the closet door—one for dress-up clothes, the other for everyday wear. A toy cobbler's bench set between the racks with a small mirror above makes a handy vanity.

Have you completed any short-term projects lately that you're proud of? We'd like to see them. Send snapshots and/or drawings and how-to-build-it data to Short-Term Projects, POPULAR HOME Magazine, 300 W. Adams St., Chicago 6, Ill. We will pay \$20 for each idea used. Contributions cannot be returned.

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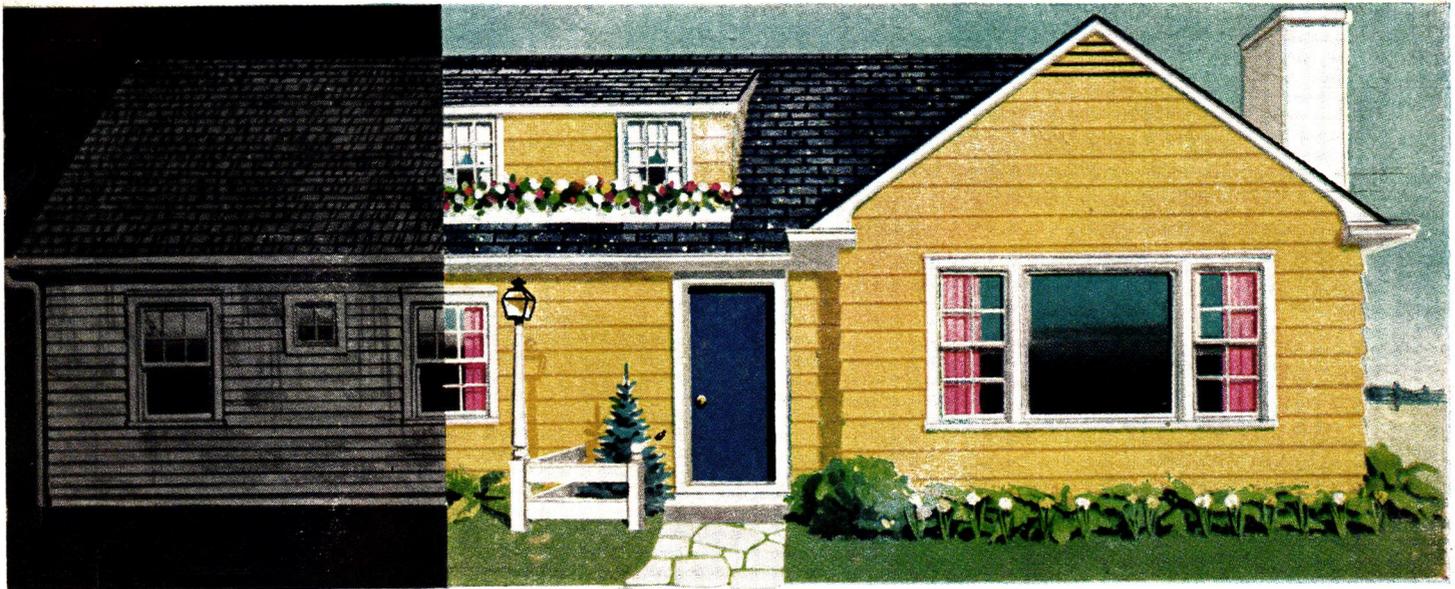
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