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AUGUST, 1958
A WINE BUYING GUIDE FOR AMATEURS

By James A. Beard

During the years that I have been consultant to one of the fine wine shops in New York, I have watched many people who first wandered into the shop out of mild curiosity gradually turn into skillful wine buyers and even astute collectors. The promising beginner is easily identified. He starts by asking help of the wine salesman; he inspects labels and asks questions about them. (As I pointed out in July's issue of H&G, wine labels are much more revealing than the titles of books: they tell you more about what's inside.) The beginner buys a bottle or two and soon he's back to try others. Eventually he becomes a regular browser, wandering up and down the rows of wine bins, reading the labels on the newly arrived shipments, comparing prices, adding to his knowledge. Before long he becomes one of those people who have the enviable talent of being able to recognize "finds"—rare or odd wines that are sometimes surprisingly inexpensive.

You become a good wine buyer mainly through experience. Books and articles offer only general guidance; vintage charts can be misleading. You must buy and taste, then buy and taste again. The wise wine buyer is not constant to a few wines. He is the most picky of shoppers, sampling each new wine that seems promising. Of course he keeps an accurate record of the wines he has tasted: the name of the wine, the year, the producer and shipper, the price, and just how the wine tasted. Such brief notes jotted down in a pocket diary eventually turn into a valuable reference book. When he finds a wine he enjoys especially, the wise buyer purchases two or three bottles for future use and so begins to establish a wine cellar. Nor does his interest stop with selecting and tasting the wine itself, but includes choosing foods that go well with his discoveries.

Does all this sound like a complicated undertaking? Among the thousands of different wines produced in France alone, scores are now available in our larger wine shops. But wine buying is never a chore: rather it's a sort of adventure that may lead to surprises and unexpected delights.

Becoming a good wine buyer is one of the few kinds of learning that can be turned into a pleasant social event. Among my friends are several groups of three or four couples who have banded together to taste wines. They decide on a list of wines they wish to sample. They may confine themselves to the wines of a particular region, like the Loire or the Rhone valley. Or they may wish to taste an assortment from a new shipment of wines. Then they gather for a Sunday brunch or an evening dinner party. The group shares the expense of the wines, but each couple takes its turn supplying the food and acting as host. At a typical tasting, they will start off with a fresh young white wine as an aperitif. Then they'll taste three or four more wines during the meal, comparing and discussing as they sip. Half the joy of wine tasting is in comparing reactions with other wine lovers.

The wise wine buyer soon finds that it is folly to stop by the wine shop, grab a bottle of wine, juggle it home and then open it to drink that evening. Wine can never be at its best until it has rested: this is especially true of European wines. The most modest wine will be better for several days of rest and a truly great one may need weeks. Plan ahead; buy well in advance. No, your "wine cellar" need not be a built-in section of the basement or sub-basement with expensive controls. (Of course, if you plan to buy wines in large amounts and lay them away to mature over a period of years, that is another matter.) The average wine lover can easily store a case or two for use in the near future in his house or apartment. Lay the wine bottles on their sides in a dark corner or closet. Wine does not like light, it's sensitive to cool blasts from air conditioners, to heat from radiators and pipes, and above all, it abhors sudden changes in temperature. If by chance you find an exceptional buy that you may not be able to

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House & Garden

A Guide to the Arts of Living  Vol. 114 No. 2
AUGUST, 1958

On the cover:
This kitchen, by Los Angeles Dept. of Water & Power, has a dramatic, handy work island that links three areas: a barbecue center for father, general and electronic cooking for mother, a teenage snack bar. More pictures and plan p. 92.

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QUESTIONS

This bronze crest, mounted on badly weather-beaten redwood, is 18" x 28", and was acquired in Florida about six years ago. What can you tell me about it? B.S.—Providence, R. I.

These, the royal arms of Spain, show the union of the houses of Léon and Aragon, and display the Order of the Golden Fleece, the Grandmastership of which was transferred to Spain through the Hapsburgs in the 16th century. The center oval would not have been present before 1701, when that part of the arms was first occupied by the insignia of Savoy (in this case left blank because of the small scale). If the bronze shows signs of weathering also, it may have been used over an outer portal to designate some official connection on the part of the owner.

Would you kindly give me some information on the vase pictured? The name Zsolnay is on the mark and it is gold over white and rose porcelain. H.A.S.—Providence, R. I.

This exuberantly decorated Persian bottle form was made by the Zsolnay factory at Pécs in Hungary, in a style popular in Europe in the 1860s.

This object marked “Reed & Barton” stands about 11” high and is about 4” in diameter. Do you have any idea of the purpose for which it was intended? B.D.—Chicago, III.

It is a Victorian tablepiece and may have been used for sweetmeats or even for butter or pickles. A catalogue of this famous American firm for 1885 shows similar decorative motifs.
I would appreciate knowing whether this wooden figure of the Hindu goddess "Green Tara" is Tibetan or Nepalese.

G.T.R.—Karachi, Pakistan

Your interesting figure comes from Nepal and is of the 17th century type.

The top, front and two sides of this black dressing table are inlaid with brass and mother-of-pearl. "Tahan Paris" is carved on the inside lock. Can you tell me anything about it?

J.B.—Umatilla, Fla.

Tahan may be the name of the locksmith. Your poudreuse (powder or toilet table) is an example of Louis Philippe or Napoleon III Revival furniture in France, which echoed the Louis XV style of the 18th century, and became popular in the late 19th century.

Can you identify this pitcher, which has the marks "E Walley, Colbridge" on the bottom?

L.R.F.—Sarasota, Fla.


Can you tell me anything about this oak cabinet? It is handmade and quite old.

J.W.P.—Baltimore, Md.

Your continental piece, called an encoignure à deux corps, is a rarely seen type executed in Louis XV style. It apparently dates from the 19th century.

This teakwood chair is an heirloom in our family. What can you tell us about it?

A.W.L.—St. Peter, Minn.

Your beautifully made chair came from China and may date from the 18th century.
You may order all merchandise shown in Shopping Around (editorially and in advertisements) by writing directly to the shops. Enclose check or money orders for orders placed with them.

Display a tray
You can keep serving trays at arm's reach and show them off as well with this wrought iron, wall-hanging tray holder. Measuring 11½" across by 9" high, it will keep a 12" or longer tray out of the way, yet visible and at hand. Ideal for apartments, or where storage space is limited. $1.25 pfd. King's Forge, 580 Hathaway Rd., New Bedford, Mass.

For bath or bar
Easy-to-care-for stool has chrome-finished rubber-tipped steel legs and washable plastic seat. Handy for a kitchen or bathroom, it's available in a bar size (30" high) as well as two other heights. The plastic seat comes in pink, white or red. 18" size, $5.95; 24" size, $8.95; 30" size, $9.95. Add $1 post. ea. Tip Top Bar Co., 222 Bowery, New York.

For home planners
Homes for Living, a collection of beautiful, well designed houses, belongs on the bookshelf of anyone planning to build. Included in the book are floor plans of all types and sizes and complete construction blueprints of houses shown are available at a modest cost. The book is $1 ppd. Nationwide Book, P. O. Box 404 Northridge 18, Calif.

For display only
Shower a bride with a pair (or more) of solid mahogany plate holders to show off her wedding china. Copied from an old English rack, it is perfectly balanced, and the rich mahogany color complements delicate porcelain tones. Nice choice for a collector, too! $2.50 a pr. $6 for six, ppd. Lee & Martha Snyder, Box 85, Cincinnati 30, Ohio.
ROUND with Ann McLaughlin

order, as few of them handle c.o.d.'s. You may return for refund any item not personalized if you return it promptly by insured mail and in an unused condition.

Kitchen round-up
Spruce up a kitchen and keep utensils handy at the same time with an ox-yoke utensil rack. Made of knotty pine, it has black wrought iron nails for hanging five utensils. This useful and good looking rack, 16" w. x 7" h., is $2.95, ppd. (not including utensils). Makes a welcome shower gift. Wilco, 35 So. Park Ave., Rockville Centre, N. Y.

A good catch
True sportsmen will cast their votes for this handsome set of cuff links, set with real fishing flies. Made of gold-filled metal, they have expansible links (can be inserted before putting shirt on) so sleeves roll up without removing them. From England. $8.50 plus tax, postpaid. Sonic Associates, 1626 St. Nicholas Ave., New York, N. Y.

Collector's item
Covered compote, reproduced in the finest detail from an authentic antique mold, is made of opaque blue milk glass. The enticing antique mold is made of the finest detail from an authentic, altor's studio. New York, N. Y. Associates, 1626 St. Nicholas Ave., $5.50 plus tax, postpaid. Sonic Associates.

Plastic picniceware
Unbreakable and re-usable, these plastic cups are ideal for picnic use or casual outdoor entertaining at home. Cup handles flip up so that the cups may be stacked. With a comfortable rim to drink from, they take the place of the usual paper cups. In natural color. Carton of twenty-five, $1.50 ppd. Marlborough House, Box 1303, Milwaukee, Wisc.

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Trim topper
For single or double beds the tailored coverlet made of antique satin is a good choice. Rose, gold, aqua, brown, blue, nutmeg, green or white. Send for prices. (Swatches: 10c.) Draperies: $7.95 for 63" length; $9.95 for 81". Knife-pleated dust ruffles in twin or double size, $16.95 and $17.95. Add 90c postage. Colton's, 1351 Beacon, Brookline, Mass.

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It has been known for years that women's lower production of sex hormones after menstruation helps wrinkles. But only now—with the discovery of the strange casting power of Oriental Spirano Dil—do we learn how to get rid of them.

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*"Change Styles In Seconds"*

Worth waiting for are these wonderful Interchangeable Ear Clips that make a pair of earrings out of any shank button! Raid the button box, keep an eye open while shopping, and soon you have a change of earrings for every costume—and at a very small cost. Clips come on a card with four sets of attractive buttons. Every card is different. Makes a wonderful gift!

$1 postpaid. 3 sets for $2.75.

**Hal Tour C.O.D.**

**Audio-Craft, Inc., Dept. HG-8**

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Down you go

Spanish prayer chair with a seat 12" from the floor lends itself to the dressing room (as a slipper chair), to a cozy fireside or to the new fad of dining in Japanese style. Frame is beachwood finished in walnut or black lacquer. Hand-woven rush seat (15" x 16") is beige. $27.50 each; $49.50 a pair. Exp. coll. Jennifer House, Great Barrington, Mass.

Play it safe

Any woman who has a collection of orphan earrings will welcome the addition of this clever guard. A metal link chain fastens to an Nara lantern which burns candles or vigil lights. Gast iron is hand forged. $44.00 direct from manufacturer.

Oriental accent

Nice addition to garden, terrace or patio is this 12" x 16" x 36" high lantern on a tripod base or hangs resistant black. The lantern or vigil lights. Gas iron is hand forged. $44.00 direct from manufacturer.

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"Weathered brown spots on the surface of your hands and face tell the world you're getting old—perhaps before you really are. Fade them away with new ESOTERICA, that medicated cream that breaks up masses of pigment on the skin, makes hands look white and young again. Equally effective on the face, neck and arms. Not a cover-up, acts in the skin—not on it. Fragrant, greaseless base for soothing, lubricating skin as it clears up those blemishes."

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As exquisitely created as a delicate carving, these wood-like moulded 4" figures are hand-finished, hand-decorated and mounted on wooden base. A cultural decorative accent for the music minded, the figures can be used singly or grouped. They will appeal to the Hi-Fi devotee who appreciates both art and music as well as the serious music student. Collection includes 6 composers: Brahms, Beethoven, Chopin, Persson, Wagner, Mozart. For 

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**Living Wall**

Bring the outdoors in with a shoji screen. Made in Japan with grasses, flowers, butterflies, ferns and leaves pressed between rice paper, laminated in clear plastic, panels are framed in wood finished in ebony or brown. 4' 8" wide x 5' 8" high. $59.50 express collect from Shopping International, HG8, 65 Court Street, White Plains, New York.

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Excellent reproductions of works of art processed on canvas are now available at reasonable cost. Brush strokes and highlights are added by trained artists. Choose from the modern or classic schools, from Van Gogh, from Rembrandt. Each comes in an appropriate frame. Send 50c for catalogue. Van Dyke, HG8, 165 East 46 St., New York.
Compatible color by Briggs Beautyware

... Plus the Ultramodern, Wide-Shelf Lavatory

Simplicity that spells personal luxury ... contemporary textures that delight ... accented by the compatible color of handsome Briggs Beautyware in such harmonizing tones as Coral, shown above, Autumn Yellow, Sea Green, Sky Blue, Pearl Gray and Sandstone. Here's a bathroom filled with translatable ideas for your own home, including the enviable luxury of Briggs' new, wide-shelf lavatory—more resting space than ever for cosmetics, shaving equipment. For a striking color accent, easy cleaning surface, and long-lived beauty, insist on lovely Briggs Beautyware—America's smartest plumbing fixtures.

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BRIGGS BEAUTYWARE
Mirrors with Continental charm and elegance

by JUNE CABOT, Home Stylist

What a wonderful mood you create with mirrors like these!
You sense it in the delicate artistry of their design... in the rich warmth of their finishes... in the crystal-clear reflections that seem to double the beauty of their surroundings.
It's a gracious mood of Continental charm and elegance, charm that's yours simply for the hanging.

See these lovely mirrors at your furniture or department store soon. If you would like our free idea book, How to make your home more beautiful with mirrors, or if you want the name of the manufacturer of the mirrors shown, write Dept. 2088, Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Co., Toledo 3, Ohio.
A dramatic shadow box with soft grey mirror wings and chamfered inside edges gives special emphasis to the beauty of this mirror. It heightens the effect of any decorating scheme. About $68.

(right) A brand-new idea in mirrors — 1” wide chamfered-edge mirror gives the appearance of an expensive shadow-box mirror at very little more cost than a standard unframed mirror. A modern mirror that will fit into every home.

About $34.

(left) An authentic Florentine pattern, hand laid in delicate gold-colored metal leaf. Its fine Italian flavor captures the spirit of this colorful setting.

About $100.

(right) The Continental flair of this mirror’s flowing frame follows the soft contour of the divan. And the mirror doubles the beauty of the fireplace grouping.

About $40.

A Truly Beautiful Mirror

must be made of the finest plate glass available because a mirror is only as good as the reflection it gives. The tag shown here is your buying guide. It is your assurance that the mirror is made of L.O.F Parallel-O-Plate® Glass, twin ground for more perfect reflections and more freedom from distortion. There is no finer! Parallel-O-Plate has earned the Good Housekeeping Guaranty Seal.

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SHOPPING AROUND

Off the hook
For coats and hats and other family raiment this is the decorative hook to use. Copied from an antique, it is made of cast iron finished in black. Three scrolled points give support to the heaviest greatcoat, to umbrellas, to hats. 6” high, it extends 5½” from wall. $2.50 the set of two. Southern Showcase, HG8, Box 547, Memphis, Tennessee.

Federal eagle
Quick pick-up for almost any room could be a pair of two light sconces made of cast aluminum. Each eagle is 10” wide and comes finished in jet black or antique gold. Over-all height is 10”. Try them flanking a fireplace or a mirror. $2.95 ea., $.50 a pr. Seth & Jed, Dept. HG8, New Marlborough Stage, Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

On the shelf
For country kitchen or paneled bathroom you will keep constantly used supplies on the shelf of this hanging pine fixture. Put linen guest towels (or a roll of paper ones) on the bar and rack up eight tooth brushes (or dish towels and pot holders) in the convenient slots. 18” x 12” x 5”. $4.95 plus 35c. Order from Laurie, HG8, Huntington, New York.

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Time saving and tidy, “Chop-O-Matic” will mince three onions at a time. Vegetables, eggs, meat, even ice can be chopped in short order. Six stainless steel blades in a plastic dome fit over a bowl or onto a board and go to work when you tap the coil spring handle. Just rinse to clean. $1.98 ppd.

Black on white
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The base is heavily cut lead crystal.

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For a queen

Marked with your initial, this five piece Celanese satin place mat set will add a special grace to your dinner table. Washable and easy to iron, each mat is 18" x 12". Runner is 36" x 14". Blue, white, pink, gold, black or red marked with contrasting thread. $5.95 each. Additional postage: $1 each. Scintilla, 5718 N. Kenna more Ave., Chicago.

Two for the money

Centerpiece for a pretty table will display a dual arrangement of fruit and flowers. Used separately, the shallow classic bowl could hold floating flowers, a mound of nuts or candy. Fluted vase fits into base. Each piece is clear Lucite. Over-all height: 6". $2.50 postpaid. Cortley Gifts, Department HG-8, 453 East 88th Street, New York, N. Y.

Good measure

For convivial gatherings you need this giant size old-fashioned coffee pot. Whether you make delicious boiled coffee, or serve your own special brew, it will hold three qts. White porcelain background is decorated with a gay sampler design. 8 1/2" high. $9 ppd. HG-8, Order from Thomas-Young, 30 West Lockwood, Webster Groves, Missouri.

Child's symphony

Encourage youngsters to understand music with this enchanting coloring book, Symphony for Simple Simon. Clever drawings of musical instruments, an original score and charming verses combine to make this delightful entertainment for the entire family. $1.25 postpaid. Austin Symphony Society, HG-8, 311 Perry-Brooks Building, Austin, Texas.

Call to arms

Pre-Revolutionary symbols enhance this handsome 36" high lamp. Gold-leaf eagle (2 1/2" wide) is mounted on an antique pine base. Drum shade is handmade of fine cotton printed in color with old weapons and a call to arms. Binding and pleating are brown. $150. Exp. coll. The Lennox Shop, HG-8, 1127 Broadway, Hewlett, New York.
Swing and sway
Serve your guests with this tray and you will never spill a drop of their favorite potion. It is designed, too, for one-hand carrying, which leaves the other free for serving. The frame is black, handle is brass-finished, center is cork which can be replaced when worn. 12" in diameter. $4.95 ppd. Order from Ward Phillips, Carpentersville, Illinois.

Bright idea
Add a touch of elegance to your coffee table or your television set with Empire cast metal legs. Finish is antique brass which brings order from Elizabeth McCaffrey, with Empire cast metal legs. Finish coffee table or your television set.

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Don't discard your old fur coat because it seems hopelessly out of fashion. Instead send it away with pride year round. The cost of this remodeling is very small. Write for brochure. I. R. Fox, Dept. HG8, Northport, New York.

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For special messages (love letters, perhaps) Schiaparelli's white paper marked with up to three-letter monogram is a good choice. Each sheet folds, is self-sealing, eliminating the need for envelopes. Twenty come in chartreuse silk purse lined in black. $2.25 ppd with 3 initials. Ziff & Sprague, Inc., New York, N. Y.

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PIECE

MEMO PAD

Hand-crafted in virgin, medium-toned tone of Antique Pine and cloisonné with a gleaming brass ring. Hand is inlaid in a design of American shoulders as a hinge in the kitchen or near a side plant. Comes complete with "TWO 1,000" rolls of adding machine tape for briefs. Measures approximately 7 x 5 x 2, with smooth finish inlaid with three legs. Split at bottom, joins paper neatly. 15", High, 9" wide. ONLY $5.00 postpaid.

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Citrus on Trellis Plate, 2 each, $5.00 - Green on Trellis Plate, 2 each, $6.00, also 12 each.

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SHOPPING

Mirror, mirror
For quick priming in the kitchen or the powder room this mirror is a good solution. Frame and shelf are hardwood finished in nutmeg. Stencil decorations are multicolor. Shell will hold grooming aids, and two pegs hold rings and wrist watch. 9½" x 8½" wide. $3.95 ppd. Order from Copeland House, Dept. HG6, Box 678, Lake Forest, Illinois.

Jewel tone glass
Perk up appetites with eye appeal as well as delicious fare. These European sherbet dishes with matching saucers are made of sparkling glass in tones of amethyst, aquamarine, amber and ruby. Both the sherbet and the underplate are 6" in diameter. $3.50 for four in assorted colors; $6.75 for eight. Ppd. Added Touch, HG8, Wynnewood, Pa.

Beauty in the bath
Any bride on your gift list will welcome a Celanese taffeta shower curtain (6' x 6') marked with a king-size initial. Curtain comes in pink, gray, black, peach, maize, rose, blue, white, light or dark green, aqua, brown or champagne, 14" initial in any color you choose. $7.95 plus 50c postage. May Schaffer, HG8, Box 7102, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania.

Light look
Use spanning white terry cloth place mats to give your breakfast table and informal tray meals an alert look. Laminated to foam rubber backs these take happily to the washing machine. Printed with a run-proof multicolor design, each mat is bound in cherry red. $1.15 each, postpaid. Susan Smith, Department HG8, Cat- pentersville, Illinois.

Perfect service
To rejuvenate your expensive alligator shoes or handbag be sure to select an expert craftsman. Century Shoe Repair Factory is staffed by men who know their trade. Reptile shoes are groomed to look like new, handbags re-framed and polished to a high luster. Send for catalogue. Century Shoe Repair Factory, 211 Park, Baltimore, Maryland.
Fur fun
A very young miss will spend many happy hours playing dress-up with this “almost real” mink stole. Rayon-satin lined, convincing in color (silver gray or steal), it is 142” x 9”. With mother’s high heel shoes and her own doll she will feel quite grown up. Stole, $2.98 ppd. Lord George, Dept. HG8, 1270 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

Perfect circle
To wear singly or by twos and threes the pearl guard ring is an excellent choice. Tiny lustrous fake pearls set in sterling silver flatter the hand and complement most costumes. For the same price it can be ordered with a gold-plated setting. $2.95 each; 85 for two. postpaid. tax included. Old Pueblo Traders, Box 4035, HG8, Tucson, Arizona.

Take the chair
As a side chair or one of a set for dining this Regency model is a good choice. Hardwood frame finished in mahogany has slip seat padded with cellulose and covered with rayon and cotton. Wine or green stripes against a gray background. 32½” high. $10.95 each; $19.95 for two. Express collect. Jeff Elliot, Dept. HG8, Statesville, N. C.

Serene accent
Thrift house plants will show to advantage in these attractive containers of natural woven rattan. Fitted with bronze color plastic liners which are removable for filling and fusing, they come in three excellent sizes: 3” x 5” x 5” ($1); 5” x 5” x 8½” ($1.75); 3” x 5” x 16½” ($3.25). Ppd. Miles Kimball, 100 Bond Street, Oakkosh, Wisconsin.

Perfect service
If your silver needs replating, send it to the Simmons Company. This firm makes a specialty of putting sterling, Sheffield or plated silver into first class condition. Both flatware and hollow ware will be beautifully reconditioned at reasonable cost. Send for brochure. Simmons Plating Company, 219 Pryor Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia.

AUGUST, 1958
duplicate in the future and wish to put by two or three cases of the wine, your wine dealer might be willing to store it for you. Some wine shops offer this service.

Your purse permitting, you may wish to keep on hand a few bottles of outstanding wines, but for the most part your selection should consist of good, honest wines suitable for unostentatious occasions, for entertaining friends at casual dinners, and for everyday drinking.

Here are some basic suggestions: Watch for good French wines from the Beaujolais region—a Brouilly, Juliénas, Fleurie or Morgon. These light reds from the southernmost section of the Burgundy area are particularly good buys. The price has gone up slightly this year because of small yields in more recent vintages, but a good Beaujolais is still a bargain. The French themselves consume great quantities of it. Drink it "young"—preferably not more than three years old. From nearby Pouilly-Fuisse comes an excellent and reasonable white wine, sharp, dry and refreshing.

The wines of the Rhone valley, both reds and whites, have long been favorites with wine wine buyers. (Note that one good Côtes du Rhône, selected by one of the top importers, sells for around a dollar a bottle.)

From the Loire valley come fine white wines, like Muscadet and Pouilly-sur-Loire, well worth trying. Until recently Muscadet was almost unknown in this country, but now it's in demand, perhaps because Americans touring abroad found it so delightful.

If you browse through a fine wine shop, you can often pick up unusually good bargains from Bordeaux—wines from lesser known châteaux. Examples are Château Ripeau and Château Gaufières-Naudes. You can even find bargains in the wines of the great châteaux if you search out those produced in off-years (poor vintage ratings). The prices on wines of a region go down when the vintage is reported as poor, yet a bottling from a particularly fine château may be wonderful.

Recently Frank Schoonmaker began selecting for several importers some new finds from Spain—a group of red and white table wines. After several days of drinking them I found that they held up well. They are pleasant to the tongue and palate and have a good "nose." Look for the wines of the Rioja district.

In your trying and tasting don't overlook Italian wines. These are less refined perhaps than most French imports, but they have a hearty, joyous quality that lends itself to informal occasions. Most of them are rather light, excellent for picnics, buffet suppers and luncheons. Some of the well known varieties are Valpolicella, Bardolino, Barolo, and among the whites, Orvieto. The popular Chianti (which can be excellent or poor, depending on the shipper) comes both white and red. I feel that the Italian reds are better buys than the whites.

As you shop for wine, be sure to investigate the good wines of this country. The best California wines are labeled with the names of grape varieties, such as Riesling, Cabernet, Sauvignon, Pinot Noir, Pinot Blanc, Zinfandel, etc. Martini and Amadèn both put out a list of these types that are reasonable in price and excellent for regular drinking. Other fine California wine firms producing interesting wines are Beaujolais, Wente, Cresta Blanca, Sauterain and Krug. There are still more good California producers that I shall mention in a coming article on California wines.

New York State and Ohio wine producers are making some unusual wines from our "native" American grapes, as distinct from the European grape varieties used in California. These "native" grape wines have a "foxy" or "wild" flavor that you should experience in the process of learning about wines. For the best New York and Ohio wines look for those labeled with the name of the grape variety, such as Elvira, Delaware, Catawba, Diana, etc.

Here are a few simple rules for wise wine buying:

1. Choose a reputable wine dealer and ask his guidance.
2. Keep a record of the wines you enjoy, making careful note of the information on the labels.
3. Try your own taste buds. The more you try wine the more discriminating your taste will become. And your joy in wine buying and wine drinking will grow with your knowledge.
COLORADO

The most elevated state in our nation, with 1,000 peaks over the 10,000-foot mark, makes a specialty of being nearly all things to all tourists. Name your vacation pleasure and Colorado likely has it—beautiful lakes, good fishing, challenging mountain trails and ranches where fiery or phlegmatic steeds are available to guests. Rodeos are in full swing in August. Aspen is continuing its Musical Festival and Perry Mansfield Theatre Festival presents productions at Steamboat Springs. Estes Park has good accommodations for those interested in staying at Rocky Mountain National Park in urban comfort, but there are also attractive camping sites in the park for robust types. Before leaving this homeland endowed state, it is worth your while to visit the Mesa Verde National Park in the southwestern corner of Colorado, where the real forerunner of our modern apartments—the pueblo ruins—remind us of a great civilization living here 1,000 years ago.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION
All prices approximate. Include Federal tax.

Kitchens

Cover page to page 92
Electronic oven, top, oven and griddle: Tappan.
Dishwasher: Frigidaire.
Refrigerator-freezer and freezer: GE.
Washer and dryer: Westinghouse.

Dispensers: Westing.
Cabinets: Kitchen Maid.
Mix-blenders and ventilating fan (in hood): Nu-Tone.

Cabinets: Stainless steel sinks and plater: Zeiger-Harris.

Countertops: Pacific Tile & Porcelain.
Vinyl flooring: Armstrong.
Air conditioner: Westinghouse.
Barbecue: Stanthony.
Television: Packard-Bell.

Electric cooking appliances: Sunbeam.
Infrared food warmer: Chadick.
Electric cooking appliances: Sunbeam.

Page 29
Page 30 to page 35:

Electric oven and range: stainless steel top: Thermador.
Refrigerator: Frigidaire.
Dishwasher, washer, dryer: Hotpoint.

Ventilator: Westing.
Micarta countertops: Westinghouse.

Vinyl flooring: Robbins.

Pages 34 to 35:
Refrigerator: GE.
Ovens and burners: Thermador.
Dishwasher: Kitchen Aid.
Washer and dryer: Westinghouse.

Countertops: Formica.

Sink: Waste King.
Vinyl flooring: Robbins.
Barbecue: Rotir.

Windows: Thermopane.

Pages 36:
Hardware: steel cabinets: Geneva.
Range: Chambers.
Cabinets: St. Charles.
Vinyl tile flooring: Robbins.
Fan under hood: Pyrene.

Pages 37:
Refrigerator and freezer: Reeco.
Ovens: Hotpoint.
Burners: Thermador.
Cabinets: St. Charles.

Dishwasher: Kitchen Aid.
Ventilating fan: Trade-Wind.
Air conditioning: GE.

Countertops: Formica.

Pages 39, top left:
Gas range: Roper.
Steel cabinets: Geneva.

Chopping block countertops: Quality Maple Products.

Flooring, "Corlon": Armstrong.
Oak paneling, "Crafwall" pre-finished, vinyl coated: Riddle Plywood.

Wood and fan: Trade Wind.

Polyplastic slanted ceiling panels: Pan Laminates.

Top, right:
Steel cabinets: Youngstown.
Refrigerator and freezer: Reeco.

Television: Zenith.

Dishwasher and disposal: Youngstown.
Built-in range and oven: Thermador.

Ventilating hood and fan: Nu-Tone.

Bottom, right:
Open range: Hotpoint.

Refrigerator: Frigidaire.

Washer and dryer: Westinghouse.

Sink: Waste King.
Vinyl flooring: Armstrong.

Disposer and dishwasher: Waste King.

Ventilating fan: Pyrene.

Countertops and table top: Formica.

Living centerpiece

Page 41, right:
Black iron urns, $12 each. Soupón.

203 E. 61st St., N. Y.
Goldet, wine glass, "Diadem" blown lead crystal, $35.00 each.

Page 42, top, left:
Dolphin container, black tole and wire, $25. Soupón, 203 E. 61st St., N. Y. Goldet, "Vintag" blown milk glass, $22.50; 8" plate, $2.50. Formoria.

Bottom, left:
Tea container, dark antique green, $34.50. Soupón, 203 E. 61st St., N. Y.
Flatware, "Empress" dessert spoon, $3.40; salad fork, $2.90. Dirilyte.

Top, right:
Tiered container, dark antique green tole, $33. Soupón.
"Kensington" goblet, $4.50; wine glass, $4.50; both Double X lead crystal. Formoria.

Flatware, "Empress" dinner knife, $4.20; dinner fork, $3.60; salad fork, $2.90. Dirilyte.

Page 43, bottom, left:
"Daisy and Button", $8.50. Sandwich glass: "Two Panels" wine glass, $3.75; "Flute" egg cup, $4.50. Julia E. Kutter,
228 E. 51st St., New York.
Top, right:
Boume figure, Italian, $250. Riviera Top, right:

Top, left:
"Daisy and Button", $8.50. Sandwich glass: "Two Panels" wine glass, $3.75; "Flute" egg cup, $4.50. Julia E. Kutter, 228 E. 51st St., New York.

Bottom, right:
Bronze figure, Italian, $250. Riviera Top, right:

Top, left:
"Daisy and Button", $8.50. Sandwich glass: "Two Panels" wine glass, $3.75; "Flute" egg cup, $4.50. Julia E. Kutter, 228 E. 51st St., New York.

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What’s in store for your home: new products, ideas and trends

• This fall, shoppers for furniture will probably take a second look at what’s holding it up. Giving furniture bases new importance, designers have propped chairs on white metal cradles, sleigh frames, floated sofas on brass pedestals. Simmons is experimenting with a whole new concept of seating in which a big semicircular platform that swings around on casters supports lounge chairs, sofa sections and an occasional table.

A brand new material being loomed for curtains and shades consists of sculptured aluminum reeds (in a flock of House and Garden colors) woven with yarns and metallic thread. The enameled metal reeds, flexible as fabric, make curtains that traverse, roll up and down, collect compactly when drawn back. Hung from ceiling to floor, the shade works as a room divider. Hunter Douglas Aluminum Corp., 405 Lexington Ave., N. Y. C.

• There’s a new aluminum trellis on the market that will expand and contract to any size up to eight feet. Its white finish never needs repainting. Flex-O-Trell, 3340 Secor Rd., Toledo, Ohio.

Dialing in the dark is possible now with a telephone designed by Automatic Electric of Northlake, Illinois. The number plate incorporates a Panelescent panel. Sylvania’s bulb-less lamp that glows by the activation of phosphors in an electric field.

• A pharmaceutical firm, Pitman-Moore Co., has come out with a new type of margarine made of nonhydrogenated corn oil for people on low fat diets. The cholesterol-controlling margarine, called Emdee, is sold at drug store counters.

• New way to go camping: with an aluminum case 5 feet long and 10 inches deep that opens into a tent. The folding home is carried on top of the car, rolls off its tracks to stand on the ground as one side of the tent. Stowed inside are a vinyl plastic covering and metal supports, folding cots and folding chairs for four. A drop-down aluminum counter is fitted with a stove and wash basin that uses running water from a tank filled at gas stations. Off-season, the case and cargo take up no more space than a bookcase in the garage. Cost: $695 plus shipping, through Sky Camp Stores, 9237 Long Beach Blvd., South Gate, California.

• A sink that’s a complete kitchen center has been designed by Youngstown Kitchens. All this equipment is integrated in one unit: appliance outlets and timer, single lever water control, storage bins, cabinets and drawers, dispensers for detergent and hand lotion. An optional extra: food waste disposer.

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Continued on next page
now—
101 ways
to a brighter kitchen!

STAINLESS
SINKette* and Mira RIM*
join the line that last a house-time

It's love at first sight when you see these stainless steel newcomers. SINKette is a wondrous combination of full-capacity sink bowl (single or double) and self-draining apron (on either side, or both) in a single "drop in" unit. Its indestructible apron serves so well . . . is perfect for thawing frozen foods, rinsing dishes and parking sizzling pans that blister countertops. You can enjoy SINKette right now — and without the cost of remodeling — because SINKettes in many sizes fit openings used by most standard size, old fashioned sinks.

New Mira RIM wears its integrated rim in stylish, flowing elegance . . . and because it needs no separate frame, there are no cracks to invite dirt, breed germs. Moreover, Mira RIM stays watertight — always. Be sure to look at SINKette and Mira RIM — and any of the 99 other sink bowl sizes by Elkay that are styled to fit every requirement for your new or remodeled kitchen, patio, bar or family room. Write for free colorful literature on Elkay's complete line of stainless steel sinks — or see your Plumber or Kitchen Dealer, today.

ELKAY MANUFACTURING CO., 1880 S. 54th Ave., Chicago 50, Ill. America's first and foremost maker of quality sinks of stainless steel . . . established 1921.

*Trademark of Elkay
*MiraRIM pat. pend.

H&G's Newsletter
continued from page 25

- A new paper that behaves like cloth is being used to make tablecloths, barbecue aprons and baby bibs. The nubby paper, called Dura-weve by makers Scott Paper Co., is reinforced with rayon, won't shred or mat when wet. Printed or plain, the cloth-like products are so inexpensive they can be thrown away after repeated use. Allendale Inc., 1350 Broadway, New York, N. Y.

- The vinyl placemats at the left are backed with a foamy material that protects tabletops and keeps the mats in place (soon on an outdoor terrace). An extra convenience: they fold in thirds for compact storage. Made in several patterns by Gaymar Industries of Tonawanda, New York.

From now on, Tiffany's special brand of silver polish will be made available to housewives around the country by B. T. Babbitt, who will distribute the creamy cleaner to local stores.

- The home seamstress can turn out cafe curtains in a hurry with a new self-pleating buckram heading called Wonderfold. As it's slipped through the top hem, folds fall into place (pull it out again for laundering). Kirsch Co., Sturgis, Michigan.

- A chair designed for cramped quarters is here. It is Danish modern, made of walnut with a spring mechanism under the seat to convert the chair from an upright position for dining to a pitched position for lounging. The legs cross in an X to change the sitting angle. Murphy Bed and Kitchen Co., 3 East 44 St., New York, N. Y.

The future of round-the-clock vending machine service for supermarkets looks bigger and brighter with the introduction of a machine that makes change of a dollar bill. The electronic device accepts the paper money, checks it, and in three seconds returns two quarters, three dimes and four nickels.

- Separate screen television has been developed by Philco Corp., who are featuring in their 1959 TV line a new shortened picture tube (below right) that can be placed anywhere within 25 feet of the control cabinet (left) for more flexible viewing.

For further information, direct inquiries to the manufacturer.

For further information, direct inquiries to the manufacturer.
Wherever you live, whoever you be...

- This issue is yours alone. You have a kitchen. You want it to be your helping right hand, ingenious and merry. Read the next dozen pages right in your kitchen and see if it couldn’t be better and prettier. The hair shirt approach to meal getting is as dated as yesterday’s TV show.

- You made up your mind long ago what kind of architecture is for you. Perhaps too long? Make a thoroughgoing reappraisal right now, on the basis of three representative houses (page 44) and cast a vote.

- However your ballot reads, even a traditional house will be better for plastics. They’ve come of age for their matchless performance in building (page 56) and their handsome performance on tables (page 71).

- Handsome, too, the centerpieces you can grow in as little as a week for a lilt and lift on your table (page 41).

- There never was a house without its own little problems, an alcove a-wasted, a lost corner, a scrap of wall. To these—and others as nagging—you’ll find 28 agreeable solutions beginning on page 60.

- August, an altogether outdoor month, is a better time than most to mend your fences or build new ones to make your land as livable as your house (page 75).

- Finally, on page 79 is a cookbook of desserts as far ranging and adventurous as your own particular mood.
12 New idea kitchens

Ideas are always exciting. But a good idea for a kitchen is more than exciting. It can make the hours between breakfast orange juice and after-dinner coffee a delight instead of drudgery. It can mean companionship while you work (see all the ways to link your kitchen with neighbor rooms). It can mean pretty surroundings (see how clear color lights up these kitchens and paintings brighten the walls). The glowing coals of the indoor barbecue bring you the age-old warmth of the family hearth. Skylights give you sun, and its electrical equivalent pinpoints precision jobs. Nor are all good ideas new. The old central kitchen table is back once more, but improved beyond recognition: you can still sit at it but it has capacious storage arrangements to boot. The pantry, sometimes complete, sometimes simply a table setting department, frees the central kitchen for cooking. The old wood cutting board becomes a countertop, properly low for best use. The big kitchen clock is as essential as ever, even though you have a welter of timers. Its hands say dinnertime is near. Your kitchen may be pocket handkerchief size or farmhouse big—it can still hold ideas. Ideas harvest space thriftily and suggest vistas. Some of these kitchens speak of serious remodeling, but in all of them are points you can make just by using your native ingenuity and giving in to your instinct to reorganize. Think of your kitchen the way you think of your living room—as a room worth changing as your living changes. Change it joyfully; you will make it better.

TAKE WHAT YOU HAVE AND

MAKE IT EVEN BETTER

Hub kitchen once had an outsize post that was an immovable problem. The post was converted to an asset, became the core of the kitchen, right. Now it is surrounded with canned goods storage cabinets, built-in ovens, perforated hardboard walls for condiment storage cabinets, and a painting, a planning counter and snack bar. Carts, stored under the snack bar, roll out for quick, easy serving. Other essential units, left, line the kitchen perimeter. Here are sinks, burners, refrigerator, freezer, dishwasher, storage cabinets and generous counter space. Work centers and storage units combine to circle the kitchen with a departamentalized wall that serves the living area, also encloses a bar with curved walnut tambour doors that conceal it from the living room. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Korshak, Chicago; designer: Myrtle Todes. For manufacturers of equipment see page 24.
BUILD THE OUT-OF-DOORS RIGHT INTO YOUR KITCHEN

A charcoal grill, skylight or window wall will give you the feeling of being out of doors while you work in your kitchen. Here and on the next two pages is a remarkable kitchen that has all three, also combines many old-fashioned ideas with fresh, forward-looking embellishments. The barbecue, besides adding pleasure and variety to cooking, offers the warmth and comfort of a fire. A skylight floods work areas with light, gives you a glimpse of the sky when you have a moment to look up. The window wall frames a view, creates the feeling of being in a garden. There is a sympathetic play of cool colors against warm that provides a quiet, neutral background for paintings and the view. Astonishingly, the kitchen plan adapts conventional ideas of 30 years ago: a serving pantry with access to the front door and dining room; a breakfast room secluded from the kitchen and furnished as a separate entity; laundry and ironing space away from the kitchen proper. The center work table, a base cabinet with a cutting board, has knee room for sitters and electric outlets for appliances, can be shifted to where you want it. Pantries subdivide storage, are supplemented by cabinets with trays and nooks for appliances, cutlery, baking equipment.

Barbecue baffle revolves

Barbecue grill doubles as a fireplace. It is placed at the end of a counter separating dining room, left, from breakfast area, right, has a revolving baffle that opens it to either side. The tiled counter acts as a serving table. Across it is a translucent panel with a sliding section that functions as a pass-through, throws kitchen and dining areas together for informal gatherings. The panel diffuses light from 9' wide sliding glass walls in the breakfast area, right, where there is a vista of a canyon and mountains. Silver and platters are stored under the counter on shallow, sliding trays that can be reached from either side. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Ullman, Santa Monica, Calif.; architect: Thornton M. Abell, A.I.A.; interior designer: Jane F. Ullman.

Breakfast area side of counter is adjacent to window wall

*For more pictures and floor plan, please turn the page.*
Books and paintings make a wonderfully efficient kitchen even better to work in

KITCHENS continued

Light and trees surround you here, as you move from one work area to another

Transparent plastic dome skylight sends light through the working part of the kitchen at an oblique angle. There are flush fixtures above the range, work tables and ironing space that distribute an even light across the room. The result is soft lighting, plus enough sharp spotting for precision work. The paintings and bookcases are not emphasized by individual lighting, but meld happily with the background for the work area: understated rather than dramatized. They are arranged on yellow walls adjoining black, gray and white cabinets above a black and white vinyl floor. Base cabinets, specially scaled for the not very tall owner, hold all glassware, pots and pans. China is within easy arm’s reach. The center work cabinet is headquarters for baking, making salads and arranging flowers. Bread, flour, sugar, cutlery, pie and cake tins and molds are stored in it, along with mixers, blenders and vases. There is an old-fashioned cannery room off the laundry, and another pantry with cupboards for staples in everyday use. Breakfast area chairs are the same style as those in the dining room but slightly smaller, lighter, to be moved into the living-dining area for parties. Furniture and cabinets were designed by Sam Maloof.
SAVE ROOM IN YOUR KITCHEN
FOR YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
When you plan your house from scratch, make the kitchen a social center. The room you see here was planned as a gathering place, has a 60" circular table with comfortable chairs. It is big enough for school children to spread out their homework, light enough to shove to one side if you want to make space for a nursery corner. It is within earshot of the baking center and laundry area. In the U-shaped work area, a big clock clearly spells out the time. Plastic bubble sky domes and wide windows light the kitchen by day. At night, recessed lighting under the cabinets illuminates work counters. Bullet-shaped fixtures set between beams provide overhead lighting. The rich wood cabinets, ceiling and glowing fire create a hospitable atmosphere for casual evenings with friends, or for family lunch and breakfast.

Louvers provide cross ventilation

Burners, barbecue use same ventilating hood

Informal as it may appear, this kitchen functions with production line efficiency. Baking center is on the left. Burners, barbecue, pots and pans are on the right. Appliances and storage units work together, saving time and energy, making full use of space. Powerful exhaust fan under cone-shaped stainless steel hood ventilates cooking areas. Counters around barbecue and burners are topped with unglazed tile. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Ury, Olympia Fields, Ill.; architect: John V. McPherson, A.I.A.

For manufacturers of equipment see page 24

Continued 35
SWITCH TO AN UPFRONT KITCHEN

Kitchen and dining room change places to give an arrangement any house owner might copy to advantage. This kitchen, originally at the back of the house with no direct outlet to the street, faced a small patio. By reversing the two rooms, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hausman gained a kitchen with a door to the street and a dining room opening to a garden. Walnut parquet flooring, inherited from its dining room days, gives the kitchen individuality. Teak cabinets, built on the job, emphasize the floor, have inch-thick birch and white plastic counters for durability. Metal cabinets in Pastel Blue Mist are a standard make that includes under-cabinet lighting.

Problem jog, around the powder room, turns into an asset when a cleanup area is built around it, using pipes already there. Outlet for ventilating fan is cut through exterior wall near window. Ducts over cabinets are concealed by teak that gives effect of a soffit. Former serving door, left, is pass-through at heart of storage center. Designer: Josephine von Miklos.
OPEN YOUR KITCHEN TO THE FAMILY ROOM

A wide pass-through with shutters or a woven blind is all you need to make your kitchen an extension of your family room or a separate unit. Here, the pass-through not only is a short cut to serving, but doubles as a snack bar with seats on both the family room and kitchen sides, where it is ideal for you to work sitting down. With its double ovens, twin refrigerators, long work counters and cooking island, this kitchen is so departmentalized that it requires a minimum of steps, whether you are serving to the family room, dining room or the terrace. One requisite for a kitchen so closely related to other areas is a powerful ventilating fan to catch and remove cooking odors, grease and steam at their source: the cooking area.

Three-way plan serves family room, dining room and terrace with great ease. Cooking island in the center is in a pivotal position, but also gains storage space sacrificed to open up the pass-through wall. Long baking center begins on counter next to the ovens, extends to the shuttered door that can close the kitchen off from the family room. Yellow gold cabinets and random pattern wallpaper harmonize with the rich walnut tones of the family room paneling. The brown and beige tweed carpet is pretty with the copper appliances. This workable kitchen was designed by Robert L. Friedman, A.I.A., for Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schamberg of Lincolnwood, Illinois.

For manufacturers of equipment, see page 24

Wallpaper gives this kitchen a dressed-up air

Woven blind rolls up to unite kitchen, family room

Continued
KITCHENS continued

PLAN A PENINSULA IN YOUR KITCHEN

A kitchen peninsula is your captain's bridge. It becomes the center of activity because it can be reached from three sides. It is the place to put something in a hurry and, since it juts out, should have rounded or angled corners. You can have a peninsula like the one below, if your kitchen is wide enough, or if it is tiny enough for the peninsula to serve as a fourth wall, the way it does in the kitchen at right. Both peninsulas are work centers, serving areas, room dividers and pass-throughs that also gain storage room. Properly placed, your peninsula will link the three most-used kitchen areas: sink, refrigerator and range. On the opposite page are four more kitchens planned for maximum efficiency under specific space requirements, large and small.

For floor plans, see page 78. For manufacturers of equipment, see page 24

Throughway kitchen has turn-offs to breakfast area, snack bar, terrace, carport and dining room. Open floor area under base cabinets seems to create a clean, spacious feeling. The peninsula leads directly to the strategically placed built-in freezer and refrigerators. Storage under oven and burners includes compartments and shallow sliding trays for your lids and small bowls. Toaster and mixer are set on suspension glides, pull out easily. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Roderick L. Royer, Beverly Hills, Calif.; designer: Roderick L. Royer.

Alcove kitchen lines up basic equipment in a tiny area. Peninsula and ceiling cabinets form a storage wall that screens the kitchen from the living area. Owner: Paul Nelson; designers: Mr. and Mrs. Neal Estern.
Compact one-man kitchen has decorative wood wall to conceal ducts from ventilating hood over gas range. Translucent plastic sheets hide inexpensive ceiling lighting, diffuse light over work areas. Counter surfaces are of hardwood. Interior designer: Bachstein & Freitag, A.I.D.

Color-coded kitchen employs primary colors, black and white to distinguish long row of cabinets. Pull-out table, $4\frac{1}{2}' \times 3'$ is used for breakfast, as a desk and as a sewing table. Interior designer: Casa Azul; architects: Howell, Arendt, Mosher & Grant, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Corridor kitchen organizes the sequence of your work so that several people can work together, chatting with family in breakfast-storage-TV area. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Irving Kay, San Francisco; interior designer: Everett Brown, A.I.D.; architect: Oliver M. Rousseau.

Open-house kitchen faces a garden, bids guests welcome. The striped floor accents ceiling beams and mahogany cabinets. Peninsula with range separates working center from breakfast area. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rabinovitch, Beverly Hills, Calif.; architect: Richard Dorman, A.I.A.
If you have always thought of a centerpiece as a still life of cut flowers or picked fruit, consider a new idea—use living plants. But don’t just put a pot of geraniums on the dining room table and wonder why it looks out of place. See what handsome copper can do for the geranium, or antique glass for a fern accustomed to hide its charms in a shady corner. Cultivating a centerpiece takes more time and care than ordering one from the florist (though nowhere near the money) but it is a lasting and very personal table decoration. Some plants are hardy and need only occasional watering and sunning, others pine without light and humidity. Let these potted plants recuperate on a windowsill pan with a layer of dampened pebbles or turkey grits (from feed stores) where they can renew their moisture (detailed instructions for plant care on page 102). Plants that lend themselves to centerpiece arrangements are shown on the following pages in settings that call attention to their decorative virtues.

RECRUIT A MOLD
Miniature geraniums, left, in an inverted copper mold make a bright and cheerful centerpiece for a kitchen or outdoor terrace. To protect the tin lining, put geraniums in a plastic pot with gravel at the bottom for drainage.

Low-growing alternates: pansies, crossandra.

GROW AN IVY “TREE” IN WATER
Living greenery and cut flowers combine to make a change-about centerpiece. The basis is a topiary tree framework with green tole base and glass vials; overall height is 18”. Grow ivy in the vials of water (refilled each day) and add tightly furled cut flowers to complement the color of your table setting. Here, roses echo the traditional millefleurs pattern of Franconia’s “Virginia” china for a summer luncheon. Heirloom Sterling’s “Young Love,” Fostoria’s “Fascination” goblets. Craig Creations’ cloth, napkins.
Leafy alternates: small-leaved evergreens like euonymus, creeping myrtle or creeping fig grown in wet peatmoss instead of water.

SCENT THE AIR WITH HERBS
Rosemary, trained and clipped to bushiness, is given importance by weighty iron containers (reproductions of old urns). Set the plants in plastic pots to allow for drainage; hide earth at base with moss.
Aromatic alternates: lemon verbena, rose geranium.

All centerpiece ideas by Vivian Roome and Isabel Bowman of Soupçon.
Standard rosemaries, Stillwater Gardens.
A living centerpiece is living inspiration for summer table settings.

**PICK A COOL LEAF**

A vine basket filled with the white-veined green leaves of fittonia refreshes a summer table setting. Tin liner, removable for watering, contains the plant. **Leaf alternates:** medium ground-cover plants (ivy, pachysandra); 2” pots of rex begonias.

**BUILD A PYRAMID OF BROMELIADS**

The exotic pineapple-type leaves of bromeliads (three types in shades of pink, brown and green) rise from a tiered tole container. Bromeliads draw sustenance from water, need minimum root space. **Alternates:** cacti or other succulents requiring little nourishment.

**BE VICTORIAN WITH VIOLETS**

The turn-of-the-century charm of African-violets in rosy pinks is accentuated by an antique green tole holder. Rings at sides hold standard-size plant pots, sprayed gold, water-filled vials of delicate cut maidenhair fern. **Alternate flowers:** small potted fibrous or calla begonias.

**PLANT A MINIATURE FLOWER BED**

A frail mass of velvety violas, fenced around by a silver filigree tray, lends enchantment to an informal table. The violas are grown from seed in a flat, transplanted to a tin liner in the tray. Inside of the tray is protected with foil. **Green alternates:** delicate harts tongue fern or parsley, closely packed.

Plants from Julius Rotts Co. Shopping information, page 24
LET A PLANT ROAM
Tendrils of saxifraga sarmentosa or mother-of-thousands can be trained downward. Arranged on a pile of white compotes they create a cool waterfall of green leaves for a summer table. 
**Roving alternates:** similar plants with strawberry-like runners such as chlorophytum.

SHOW OFF LACY FERNS
Antique glass goblets are just right for the delicacy of fern fronds (below, maidenhair, harts tongue, birds-nest) in a party centerpiece.
**For place favors:** plant tiny ferns in miniature goblets.

RAISE A "FIELD" OF WHEAT
Wheat centerpiece, a centuries-old idea, grows in a week. Seed (from grain store) germinates on well moistened vermiculite and Perlite covered with polyethylene film. After 2-3 days remove film, keep shoot-watered and in sun. Add cut flowers. **Alternate:** chives.

GIVE FLOWERS NEW FORM
Chrysanthemum cascade over stone results from bonsai method of training, pruning plants into dwarf formation. Container is unglazed pottery. **Alternate plant:** azalea.
Which architectural style

This page is a polling place (your ballot appears below and we urge you to vote). The referendum is enormously important to you and to us, since it affects what kind of houses are built, what kind of things are made to put in them. The question: How does America want to live today? Each of the three houses which appear on the next 11 pages answers that question in its own way. Each represents a tremendous category, embracing tens of thousands of kindred houses. The faces of each category are different. But even more sharply different is the way that they "live." And perhaps the greatest difference of all is what they mean emotionally to the families who choose them. Partisans will argue endlessly that one solves contemporary living problems honestly and the other two dodge the challenge. But the fact remains that so long as vast numbers of Americans elect each of these sorts of houses, a case can be made for each. On the pages which follow we present prototypes with some of the principal pros and cons. Our role is not to electioneer; indeed it is illegal to campaign within 100 feet of any polling place. Our object, on the contrary, is to learn from you. Won't you send us your ballot? Paste it on a postcard or put it in an envelope with a few words to tell us why you vote the way you do. In the classic democratic tradition, you need not sign your name to have your vote count. And if you, as an American, are baffled about which kind of house you really want to live in for the rest of your life, the studies on the next pages may help clear the air for you.

When you decide which house to vote for, send your ballot to H&G Reader Service, 420 Lexington Ave., N. Y. 17.

☐ 1. American Colonial
☐ 2. Northwest Modern
☐ 3. Classic Contemporary

for you
The traditional house is designed primarily from the outside. This is at once its chief charm and severest hazard. Almost necessarily the rooms must be fitted in as sensibly as possible. The architect cannot indulge in flights of fancy; he must work within a fairly inflexible frame. However this disability is countered by two great qualities: traditional architecture is rooted in the American heart and it is elegant. The affection in which it is held has led to endless versions at all price levels (this and the fact that builders prefer its known structure to experimenting). But if it is copied "down" till the original scale is lost, it can be the poorest of houses. Elegance cannot be achieved without considerable expense. Note however that the two-story house gives you bonus space at relatively low cost since the second story does not enlarge roof or foundation.

AMERICAN COLONIAL

It stands foursquare, front door centered in its balanced façade, rooted in the land and our hearts. For how it works inside, turn the page.
In the long run, the acid test of any house is how well it works for the family that lives in it. The plan of this handsome and charming traditional house breaks with the pattern of the past in various important ways, and gains from the new thinking. Instead of formal parlors flanking the front entrance, one side has a family room (the Colonial “keeping room” gives a precedent) with broad windows sliding open to a wide screened porch handily close to the kitchen. This means outdoor and indoor dining with equal ease. The one-story arched wing serves a special purpose here—it acts as office for owners of the house, has access to a bathroom so it can double as guest wing. The covered walk to the garage is a good American way to keep out of the weather.
Formal Colonial design is tempered by outlying wing

If the Colonial house is inclined to turn a formal face toward its across-the-road neighbors, it has its informal, intimate aspect. Other sides of the house may well develop a casual, friendly pattern of roofs and walls. This is pure New England, where winter snows made a stern necessity of joining barns, smoke house and the like, to the main building. Today, with our constant desire to expand into hobby rooms, playrooms, and just plain get-away-from-it-all rooms, the old pattern is valid again. It is, of course, not cheap. When a plan calls for intricate joining and flashing, for jigs and jogs, the labor, which must all be expert and by hand, can mount into tidy sums. The question you will ask yourself is just how much this sort of charm—and it is very real charm—is worth to you. Again we cannot say too emphatically that boiled down versions of this style can be pinched and disappointing. Returning to the plan on the opposite page, there are several questions you should also face before casting your vote for this style. In formal façades windows are not chess pieces to be moved as you think best. Although all three upstairs bedrooms have windows on two sides, the only true cross ventilation depends on windows on opposite walls. When you plan from the outside, this sort of realism is out, but if you include air cooling today this is not a problem. You will notice, too, that the proportion of window to wall is small everywhere except in the rather unorthodox family room. For the rest, windows, and consequently light and air, are strictly limited. The architect has shown great ability in getting as much living value into this house as was humanly possible. But he was hampered by starting on the outside with a balanced, symmetrical box. He could not put bathrooms inside, lighting them with plastic bubbles, even had to use a priceless corner for a bath.
NORTHWEST MODERN

Here is architecture which grows out of its site as naturally as the trees which shade it, its wide outlook glass walls sheltered by wide eaves.

In this century America has developed her first truly native architecture. For two hundred years we looked to Europe for our basic building patterns, tempered them to our way of life and varied climate. But today, an indigenous architecture has developed through the nation.

In the Northwest particularly, where the dead weight of tradition is less heavy than in other areas, the design of new houses takes new forms and expresses fresh points of view. Walls are opened wide to enjoy splendid views, roofs have a wide spreading pitch to shed prevailing rains and shield windows. The abundant native woods and stone, used in their natural state, predominate in construction.

Unlike the Colonial house you have just left, this Northwest Modern house has an altogether easy-going plan (though it is carefully schemed for convenience and comfort). Unlike the traditional house it could not exist on just any lot. It grows out of its site as naturally as the trees around it. And unlike the earlier house, it has almost as much space outdoors as indoors, yet sets a high priority on privacy—in this instance a triumph since its lot is only 100 feet wide and the house spreads to within 10 feet of the boundary on one side, 16 on the other.

Toward the lake, all the living rooms and the master bedroom look through glass walls, many of them sliding to give access to open decks, a covered deck and gallery. Wide steps lead down to sand pit and play terrace where children can romp in plain sight but not underfoot.

Toward the street face the carport, the central section of the house, opposite, and two bedrooms, all protected from view and traffic noise by closely meshed plantings of native shrubs and trees. The gently pitched roof lines blend comfortably, change to delineate the three main areas of the house. They are supported by posts. This means that the walls bear no weight and can be of glass or wood as the demands of the interior plan dictate.

In the spirit of the house, native woods, cedar and birch, predominate. Exterior walls are 10 inch wide cedar boards and narrow battens in a natural stain. Carport, sheltered on two sides, is only a step from the front door, opposite, under cover of the shed roof.

Turn the page to see how the house works inside.

Continued 49
How the plan of the Northwest Modern house solves problems we all face

In designing this house the architect turned his attention first to daily living. "Looks" (and it is indeed a handsome house) grew out of the plan. Many of the problems this house solves with apparent ease are universal.

**PROBLEM 1:** How do you zone a house so it has a quiet sleeping area, a sociable center and a working wing?

One of the best answers lies in the H plan and while this house is not rigidly an H—since it is not rigid in any way—it uses the advantages of that scheme. The quiet zone is on one side, the work department on the other and the two are linked by the big living room and the dining room.

**PROBLEM 2:** How get privacy in a glassy house?

Of special interest is the fact that the sleeping and work divisions have the lion’s share of solid walls, the living-dining link is generally open to views of the lake on one side, offshore trees on the other. The dining room is enclosed in a vertical, openwork wood grille stopping short at 6½ feet so that it serves as a screen. To give it a warm, contained feeling, the living room has one long solid wall and a fireplace wall paneled in birch.

**PROBLEM 3:** How can you have plenty of space for special events without living in a barn?

The answer here is to line up the three main living rooms (living, dining and family rooms) and make it possible to open them to one another or close them off. Breakfast and lunch are often in the cozy family room and parties for children (as many as 26 at sit-down suppers) are easily managed here without tears and breakage. Dinners in the dining room are readily served from pantry.

**PROBLEM 4:** How do you provide for a larger family?

In this instance the sloping lot yields 1000 feet of basement under the house. The architect has wisely roughed it out so that it will be comparatively simple to install a bath (plumbing lines exist), bedroom and recreation room (provision has been made for a fireplace). Children’s parties end with puppet shows here. In the meantime the owners have almost limitless dead storage space.

Plan divides dexterously into sleeping, living, work areas. All three functions are well separated yet house has an airy openness indoors and all major rooms open to lake view and deck.

**Music making** is a keen family interest. Above, the listening end of the living room; opposite, setting for harp and piano. The long sofas variously face the musicians and the view of the lake.

- **Owners:** Mr. and Mrs. Martin Ried
- **Architects:** Tucker & Shields, A.I.A.
- **Location:** Bellevue, Washington
- **Size:** 2792 square feet
Looking in from lakeside deck you can see the living room, left and above, the dining room, right and above, and the frankly exposed pattern of posts and beams which support the roof, make it possible to have a glass wall that reaches up to the ridge line. Cream and amber marble and handsome walnut stained birch panels surround the living room fireplace and both the living and dining room floors are a rich terrazzo.
The plan is compact with every inch used; deck and terrace almost double living space.

The zoned plan is revealed by the front façade: the bedrooms shelter behind symmetrical brick walls; the living areas, under the grand umbrella of the floating roof, are glassy, open. This property is so secluded, so rich in trees, that it was unnecessary to fence the house off from the road. Front door with sunken area for a doormat is at right.

Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beattie
Architect: Ulrich Franzen
Location: Rye, New York
Size: 2000 square feet
Its lines are direct, its details precise, but at its best it is full of surprises and contrives to give you great variety.

The kind of modern architecture which the trim house on these four pages exemplifies seems to a great many people just about perfect for today. A great many other people take an exceedingly dim view of it. You either find pleasure in its orderliness, discipline and clean lines or feel constrained by its rather uncompromising severity. Nothing here is for show. The house turns a dignified and noncommittal face to the road. But, and this is one of the most appealing qualities of this type of design, it opens up exuberantly once you cross its threshold. This is not to say that there is no interior privacy. Most families today have taken a firm (and we believe wise) stand against the unmitigated open plan, both because it murders privacy and because it erases the possibility of surprises. Everything is revealed at once and that is that. But more and more modern architecture is finding ways, even in small and compact houses like this one, to charm the eye with all sorts of clever variations. Here one device used is particularly happy: the roof (actually supported on four posts) seems to float free above the walls and, topping these, seen through a continuous glass strip, is an ever changing frieze of sky and treetops. Within the house bedrooms are snugly enclosed and even the big living room has its divisions, a partition to screen the dining area, a storage wall to protect it from the entrance. And, most surprising variation of all, there is a sunken seating group before the raised hearth. Indeed this house says that modern can be varied yet compact, simple yet elegant.

Wooden deck has its own surprise—adjoining the house, it shelters under the overhang of its roof, then continues out into full sun, to suit any outdoor mood.

Same terrace, seen from outback, is as private as the bedroom indoors, sheltered as it is by a low brick parapet. This wall effectively blocks winds from the southwest and is a natural invitation to shrub and vine plantings, its textures blending nicely with branches and leaves. Steps down at either end make it easy to wander afield into the gentle countryside.

Continued
Dividers make one big room behave like three separate rooms

Freestanding service bar between dining room and enclosed kitchen opens to reveal indestructible plastic counter, a source of running water, space for toaster, telephone.

Across the dining table, the handsome walnut cabinet is in fact the service bar, with its jackknife front panel closed. The kitchen beyond can be concealed by wide doors.

The sociable living room, above and opposite, centers on the sunken well facing the fireplace. Beyond it is glimpsed the dining room; above it, on all four sides, runs a band of glass through which you see the sky and the rich texture of tree leaves. Neither walls nor curtains obscure it. Only interruptions are the four posts that support the roof slab and the brick chimney. Materials are simple, durable.

When you looked at the plan of this house you may have thought its living room was one great big (about 30 feet square) skating rink. Not so, as the pictures here show clearly. Entrance, living-music area and dining room are all set apart but give you little glimpses of each other in a delightfully friendly way. Practically speaking they possess lordly amounts of storage space. The raised fireplace, opposite, is set below a ribbon of cupboards, ample for music, TV, games and the paraphernalia of sociable living. There are big coat closets in the foyer, ample for the four who make up the family, and their guests. Necessities for table setting are in shelf closets backing the screen that faces the front door. The three bedrooms have batteries of closets. Even the service bar, seen at the left, includes storage, in it the telephone, handy to kitchen and living areas, the toaster for breakfast, and a sunken sink with a removable flush top. Neatness is a strong point in the planning (note how the service bar retires into its own shell when not in use) and so is independence. The Beatties’ 19-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter have their own rooms at one end of the house, their parents have bedroom, bath and study at the other. Perhaps the kitchen, more than any other part of the house, bespeaks independent thought—Mrs. Beattie’s. No woman to let her eyes wander from the meal in hand, she asked for no windows except a generous one in the ceiling. Three walls are given over to equipment; the fourth consists of a double door which opens wide to the living-dining room, closes just as firmly. Summing up her fresh, workable house, she says: “I think living in a modern house has improved our children’s sets of values. They realize that our house needn’t look like everyone else’s. It has given them a venturesome approach to living.”
Get to know
the new plastics
before you build

By Mary Roche

Fifteen years ago, if someone had tried to sell you the idea of building a plastics house, you would have dismissed it, no doubt, as absurd. Few of us in those days could have imagined anything like the substantial plastics "House of the Future" in California which visitors to Disneyland have been tramping through for over a year now.

Yet today, though a number of the new plastics are still experimental, there are few parts of a house where currently available plastics could not be used, and to good advantage. Unique as building materials—light yet sturdy, both flexible and rigid, translucent and shatterproof—they are wonderfully adaptable. And it's entirely possible that if you built a house in which every available plastic was used, it would look no more startling than the house you live in now.

This rapid acceptance of plastics for building has been hurried along by the technical research on which the chemical industry spends $500 million a year—and by changes in our ideas of what a house should be. The development of the contemporary house with its larger expanses of translucent walls, freer flow of interior space and closer relationship to the outdoors created special demands which plastics are peculiarly adapted to fill. And the accelerated push toward servantless living after World War II made us more appreciative of plastics' well known quality of easy maintenance.

It's hard to remember that we once thought of plastics as substitutes. In less than a decade, some products have become the norm—vinyl floor tiles and plastic laminates for countertops. New plastic materials sparked at least one new home lighting concept—the luminous ceiling. And currently they are stimulating the use of clear color as an integral part of the house itself. Certain plastics may be classed as the mink among building materials since they fill some specific needs more satisfactorily than other materials. Designers are also using plastics in new ways in which only plastics can be used. (Cont'd on page 91)
Plastic domes admit even light by day and can include fluorescent tubes for nightlighting. Acrylic domes, in square, rectangular or circular shapes are clear, white, or heat excluding plastic.

White plastic panels screen terrace from view at front door. The opaque material, reinforced with fiber glass, is a sturdy foil for the planting. These panels are set in 1 inch steel angle frames.

Storage wall panels are plastic impregnated abaca cloth. Material has the look of coarse textured linen but cannot soil or deteriorate and plastic surface can be wiped clean as easily as glass.

Indoors and out, old problems are solved by the NEW PLASTICS

Arch of light over kitchen counter diffuses even glow through translucent plastic panels. Plastic also shields ceiling fan.

Decorative skylight frames white plastic sheets in black wood. Lighting fixture in corner uses plastic in similar design.
Carport walls are made of sheets of pliable plastic stretched over decorative wood frames. Inexpensive, they are translucent and silhouettes of plants create interesting patterns on them.

Terrace screens are standard 4 foot, flat panels of milk white plastic in redwood frames. To let air through and give you views, they are staggered. This way they still give you privacy and serve as windbreaks.

Sunny yellow plastic roofing forms arched living room ceiling. Like gable panels, it is corrugated.

Room divider in shoji pattern uses textured plastic rather like rice paper but tough and easy to clean. Screens divide garden dining room from the kitchen.

Exterior wall of living room and patio is plastic, patterned like cloth. Entrance door slides in wall, other panels are fixed.

Folding plastic panels shield front windows without shutting out light. Thin, textured plastic diffuses light through room.

Luminous ceiling of bathroom (sheets of white acrylic plastic) transmits light evenly. Door panels are opaque plastic.

Plastic screening that won't rust or need painting encloses terrace like a birdcage. Flexible material needs no frame, can be nailed to posts.
28 ways to cope with five awkward areas you are likely to face in your house

Furniture fits the spot

Rooms are not all created equal. In some, windows are pictures; in others they are punched out holes in the walls, either way leaving little space for furniture. Alcoves turn up for no good reason. Closets and entrances occur on adjacent walls, robbing precious corners. These are the hardest spots to decorate. With the right piece of furniture you can win an easy victory over space and at the same time put it to good use. Just as an artist thinks beyond his canvas when he paints, try to visualize a bay window or alcove or narrow wall as part of the larger picture which is your room. Consider what you can gain: an extra conversation or dining area, study or game corner, storage wall. Today you have an astronomic choice of ingenious, well scaled pieces that cost little but look custom made to fit the spot. You can play them up or down depending on whether you make the area a focal point or blend it with the rest of the room. On these and the following pages, the hows and whys.

If the gap in your room is an ALCOVE

Desk-dining table, lightly scaled, angles out from the alcove wall between bookcases in a foyer. Four-drawer cabinet for stationery or table accessories is suspended beneath the top. You can remove it to provide knee room for four dinner guests. You can also use the table as a buffet server or bar for large parties; its surface is oiled walnut-grain plastic. Modern Danish chairs, narrow rug with carved block design complete the solution. Desk, Furniture Accents.
Modern storage units can be combined in a variety of ways to fit your alcove, and living requirements. Make this your music corner with hi-fi installation, record storage, new Philco TV designed like a briefcase, 11½" deep. Furniture by Baumritter.

Four-drawer server fits into an alcove in any dining room. It has a marble inset for hot casseroles, long drawer for tablecloths (roll them on mailing tubes to prevent creases). Bold architectural prints make a picture wall. Furniture is by Fancher.

Open armchairs, brass and Carrara glass table tuck a cozy conversation area into a study-guest room alcove. Contrasting textures of chair caning, wool tweed rug, whitewashed pine paneling (stock doors) are delightful. Furniture by Selig Mfg. Co.

Cherry commode with fruitwood finish stores your dining room furniture in a foyer alcove: table that can seat eight pulls out of the top drawer; storage beneath holds four folding chairs. Chickenwire obelisks paper walls. Furniture by Saginaw.
If you are overlooking a CORNER

Table-desk and bookcase will give you a room within a room. Place desk at right angles to the wall so you can get at both sides. This makes a room look wider. Conceal corner jog with wallpaper. Furniture: Dux. Interior designer: Manashaw & Daggett, A.I.D.

Traditional china cabinet takes a tuck in a living-dining room, frees long walls for upholstered pieces and dining table. Mahogany with simple pediment, bow front, it blends with other periods. Cabinet by Broyhill. Decorator: Florence MacFarland.

Contemporary cabinet with combination of glass and tambour sliding doors makes good use of the space to show off a collection. Asymmetrical arrangement of this piece with small bench and wall carving draws the eye to the corner. Cabinet by Craddock.

Corner vanity (or desk) fits like a glove between an entrance door and a closet. If space permits, you can add "wings" with matching storage pieces. Walls are paneled with stock pine doors available at lumber dealers. Vanity by Brandt Cabinet Works.

If your blind spot is a NARROW WALL

Regency reproduction secretary brings importance to a small space. By eliminating heavy window hangings, you give it room to breathe. Use blinds (here of striped sailcloth repeated on the love seat), accordion pleated and wired to draw from bottom or top. Adroit placement of mirrors increases size of a small room. Cabinet by Weiman. Interior designer: Mallory-Tillis Interiors, A.I.D.
FURNITURE FITS THE SPOT continued

Bookcase and commode, at far left, team up by a fireplace for balance and height. Matting on door fronts lightens its appearance (note block design again in area rug). Furniture from the Beacon Hill Collection. Interior designer: Mallory-Tillis, A.I.D.

Ladder-back chair, left, next to a closet is handy perch for child while dressing. Its tall, narrow back makes a temporary hanger. Match window to walls with a daisy print in fabric stretched on panels (or café curtains) and in wallpaper. Chair by A. Brandt.

Hanging cabinet, far left, and cart give you an auxiliary bar in a family room. Accent windows with red aluminium blinds. Use Greek key wallpaper border to suggest molding (or to replace old molding). Furniture by American of Martinsville.

Grandmother's clock, left, marks space and time in your entrance hall, is a useful as well as decorative piece for limited space. To relieve the monotony of closet doors, paper them in trompe l'oeil motif like this make-believe library. Clock by Colonial.

More ideas for the NARROW WALL

Apothecary chest has been revived as space-saving storage piece for a kitchen dinette. Drawers are graduated sizes, 10 in all. Curtains printed with old-fashioned labels, a braid rug carry out a Provincial theme. Chest by Burns Case Goods.

Cedar-lined chest between windows protects blankets and woolens between seasons. Point it up with a group of botanical prints. For a new window treatment hang transparent curtains over linens of pale cotton to blend with your room. Chest by Lane.

Venetian console and mirror use space picturesquely in the entrance to your home. Play up their hand-carved detail with black and white wallpaper in a traditional pineapple design, a bold checkerboard tile floor. Furniture by Interiors Import Co.
If your room is faced with a PICTURE WINDOW

Drop-leaf desk and built-in bookcases will make a study area, especially useful when your picture window is at one end of your living room. Leaf extends desk top to 64". Plastic surface which looks like teak is practical for buffet serving, too. Figured linen curtains block out blackness at night. You can add architectural details with applied moldings on plywood. Furniture by Richardson Brothers. Interior designer: Manashaw and Daggett, A.I.D.

One-arm settees placed at right angles to the window take advantage of the view, form an extra seating group. Paired with small circular tables, they set off the window and clear the passageway to doors which flank it. Furniture made by Gilliam.
Lounge chair and ottoman can part company from a conversation group and take to the window for reading. Long, low coffee table underlines glass. If your view is pretty, be sure that the curtain pattern does not compete. Furniture by Broyhill. Decorator: Florence MacFarland.

Harvest table will accommodate as many as eight people for dining on the dotted line between indoors and out. Slim lined table and open-back chairs fill the space but don't block the view. For dining by candlelight, cut down reflections with an outdoor spotlight. Furniture by Basic-Witz.

Lightweight ottomans, brightly cushioned, punctuate the wall and save space in an entrance hall. They add portable seating to any room. If the window butts against a wall, have curtain tracks set to draw far to one side. Furniture made by Avard.

Pair of low cabinets with carved fronts break the line of a large expanse of glass. These, finished in back (if they were not you could paint the backs an accent color), are equally attractive from outdoors. Furniture by Jamestown Lounge Co.
If you live in a BAY WINDOW

Low dining table (25" high) and modern cockfight chairs with cane backs, upholstered seats, shape a permanent game area. In this dining-kitchen café curtains of printed voile are cheerful. Furniture by Century. Decorator: Florence MacFarland.

Companion chairs and wedge step table put the window in your bedroom to work as a pleasant retreat for reading or afternoon tea. To make the area more important by widening it, cover screens in wallpaper to match the curtains. Furniture by Globe.

Kidney desk is an ideal shape for space that often goes begging in an upstairs hall, or in a bedroom where it can double as a vanity. Unify windows with full sheer curtains; add a printed sheer swag trimmed in ball fringe for a fillip. Desk by Sligh-Lowry. Decorator: Florence MacFarland.

Pembroke table and Windsor chairs slip neatly into place for breakfast in your bedroom window. Lined curtains hung across bay let you close it off. Table by Holland. Chairs are by Nichols & Stone. Decorator: Florence MacFarland.

Three-piece sofa can be the cornerstone of a main conversation grouping. The idea here—to make a large bay a living center. Curtains alternate panels of misty plain and printed sheer (Dacron and linen); brilliant color is concentrated on the sofa. The units are easy to move for cleaning. You might have a garden in the margin: plants on wood block pedestals. Carpeting the color of café espresso extends into the bay. Sofa from Anniversary Group by Valentine Seaver, div. of Kroehler Mfg. Co.

For shopping information write H&G Reader Service
colors: soft, vivid, two-tone

shapes: varied, traditional to contemporary

patterns: delicate, bold, realistic, stylized

quality: thin, smooth, mat, translucent

here is the news in

plastics for your table

Patio-to-party plastics,

opposite, set your table

Top left: Gay design of lazy fish and wavelets on ivory plates looks well in informal lunch, supper or breakfast settings. Lifetime Ware "Gulfstream."

Top right: Textured effect of hazy blue-green tint, delicate pattern on white plate fits traditional or modern mood. Brookpark "Twilight."

Second row left: Outline flower pattern on plate with blue back, white top has an airy quality suitable to any meal. Fostoria "Blue Meadow."

Second row center: Oriental cast of design and color and lacquered look of bowls and vegetable dish are excellent for buffet service, team well with modern accessories. Prolon "Florence."

Second row right: Soft (pasted blue) color and simple shapes of plates and cups blend with other pieces, most settings. Royalon "Calypso."

Third row left: Warm peach tone of solid-color dinnerware is good background for food, accents vivid linens, is pleasing by candlelight. Cup has traditional shape. Branchell "Paradise Peach."

Third row right: Clear, sunny yellow, combination of all-over stylized flower pattern with solid-color, emphasis on modern shape gives this dinnerware a young appeal. Lucent "Sun Petal."

Bottom row left: Sturdy, well designed serving dishes and tumblers with a flecked finish to relieve the solid color, are useful, harmonious for outdoor, family-room buffets. Holiday "Rainbow."

Bottom right: White dandelions in brown plate reflect an old design technique in a modern pattern, would be good for country table, teamed with natural colors. Texas-Ware "Thistle."

All Melmac quality melamine dinnerware. Dansk Designs stainless steel "Variations" flatware.

For more about plastics for your table, please turn the page.
Plastics for your table continued

What they are, what you can expect from them, how to care for them

What's in a name? Your guarantee of quality.
And the crucial name is Melmac which is so tough you can count on it not to crack or break for at least a year.

Melamine, the basic raw material from which Melmac dishes are molded, is a thermoset plastic and will not bend, ignite or alter shape under heat. The difference between a thermoset plastic and a thermoplastic (also used in dishes) is like the difference between eggs and butter. Once set by heat, a thermoset plastic, like a fried egg, cannot go back to its original plastic state or "uncooked" form. Thermoplastics, like butter, do not stay set when exposed to high temperatures and flame, but will melt or burn.

Colors and patterns are actually molded into melamine dinnerware, not superimposed on the surface. This makes them fadeproof and immune to scratching. The surface is not a glaze but a high-gloss finish.

Melmac dishes will stand up to really rugged wear (they can even be dropped without shattering) because the extreme hardness of melamine resists breaking and chipping. Melamine can be injured by harsh blows or careless treatment. Sharp knives may scratch the surface but as the material is non-porous and the color built in, little harm is done. Direct heat may char melamine, so don't cook or warm foods in Melmac dishes or expose them to flame. As melamine has insulating qualities, plates don't need prewarming.

You can put Melmac dinnerware in your dishwasher (melamine withstands temperatures up to 270° F) with detergents like Cascade or Finish.

Melamine is non-electrostatic and will not attract dust as some plastics do. Standard household soaps or detergents and a dishcloth will keep the surface clean but if stubborn coffee or tea stains won't shift, don't use abrasive cleaners which may scratch the surface or a chlorine bleach which produces a chemical reaction. Instead, use an oxygen bleach (Dip-It, Reen' O Coffee Stain Remover or M-E Cleaner).

Today, you will find a wider choice in Melmac dinnerware than ever before: there are 18 nationally distributed brands of Melmac dinnerware with a total of 119 designs. Department stores stock Melmac in price ranges from $10 to $21.95 for 16-piece starter sets, depending on pattern, and it can be found in supermarkets at an even lower price.

This design follows tradition
A centuries-old shape with delicate fluting reproduced in white melamine contrasts coolly with colored glass, linens. Mallo-Ware "Classic White." Fraser's "Shadowpoint" stainless steel flatware.

10 years' progress in plastics

Early plastic cups were bulky, unrefined, thick, limitations imposed by molding processes and requirements of commercial users. Gradually, as processes improved, cups became slimmer, handles more delicate, graceful,
Plastic proves compatible with other materials

For large-scale entertaining, plastic dinnerware in simple colors and shapes combines easily with serving pieces in materials like lacquer, ironstone, earthenware. Here, solid-color blue and white plates and bowls blend with ironstone casseroles in willow baskets, bamboo and walnut salt and peppers. Bryant "Newport" melamine dinnerware, Fraser "Shadowpoint" flatware.

New technique marries color to color

Skilled molding makes dishes with dark color below, light on top. Short cut to unusual color scheme: pick up tones in patterned tray or cloth. Texas-Ware "Nassau" dinnerware, "Shadowpoint" flatware.

Today's cups are thin to the touch, with smooth, rounded handles which are an integral part of the design of both modern (left) and traditional shapes.

Plastic takes part in Provincial settings

Though centuries apart, white plates with a muted flower pattern are at home in Early American, Provincial rooms, harmonize with silver, wood. Boonton "Scandia." Photographed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Laurens W. MacFarland, Stamford, Conn.
Separation without concealment is the hospitable objective of a free standing California fence that divides lawn from pool area, backs a bench, supports plants, adds its own beauty.

Eckbo, Royston and Williams, Landscape Architects.
Draw the line only with the best of fences

While a good home fence always marks a line, real or imaginary, it should form an actual barrier only where animals, including small children, must be controlled. (For such security use, steel mesh, plain or vine clad, is the ultimate answer.) Short of actual police work, no hedge or wall has the variety or the versatility of a well-designed and well-built fence. Some of the principal fencing functions are listed above and illustrated on these four pages. While a few of the examples are dramatic either in appearance or structural ingenuity, as fences they are soft-spoken, reflecting the fact, often ignored, that suggestion may prove a better persuader than an ultimatum. Because of its structural character, a fence offers you a ready means of extending the architectural style of your house into the landscape and emphasizing the working relationship between house and grounds. To one rule, there are no exceptions: for best effect, use fences sparingly. Once the need is determined, bear in mind that a fence, providing great surface with little volume, opens a unique realm of pattern and shape to exploration.

To the familiar tyranny of rails, planks and pickets, add the new adaptability of glass and plastic, the liveliness of fresh color, the enrichments of fine plants.

- to form a background picture
- to limit or screen a view
- to separate differing areas
- to bar wind and weather
- to enclose a porch or terrace
- to support climbing plants
- to stress an architectural theme
- to protect life or property

Linear accent is often all the fence you need for either visual connection or division, here supplied inexpensively by the natural posts and hand split rails.

Owners: Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Beinecke.

Architectural supplement, perhaps, but no barrier is this simple line of square pickets. Reserved, traditional, expensive, its decorative fitness wholly justifies its use.
Screen as needed and to order is made possible with translucent plastic panels, for lightness and light. Sliding sections open to a seaward view when complete privacy is not required. Solid wood framing gives stability and look of permanence while planting inside walls adds illusion of openness. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Radar; Joseph Linehch, L.A., Jack Evans & Associates

Good design and materials give your fence a new importance, even make barriers friendly

Roofless rooftop room is walled with fences, the perimeter of wood members spaced for effective privacy, with glass to admit view, exclude wind. Fences divide the inner space, too. Ralph Jones, Landscape Architect

Ventilating louvers in fixed panels permit good air circulation in confined space but provide effective physical barrier and complete visual privacy around terrace by a swimming pool. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anton; Robert Cornwall, L.A.
Ivied trellis provides windows on a lovely garden while seeming to enclose terrace. Simple withes form diagonal squares against which the ivy rises from decorative pots. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Logan

Friezelike fence of subtly spaced vertical boards in two lengths insures privacy, but with grace. Irregular top line enhances illusion of frieze with suggestion of classic key motif.

Structural wall, with third dimension implied, results when tight boards are capped with horizontal strip, buttressed with sturdy bench. Construction insures privacy. J. W. Ward garden; Laurence Halprin, Landscape Architect

Bold basketweave screen of alternating horizontal and vertical panels is made of hand riven stakes on wood framing. For large solid surface, scale of big squares gives dramatic accent. Owners: Dr. and Mrs. Van Taylor; by Lambert Landscape Co.

Transparency safe, swimming pool area is separated from rest of ground by wall of Plexiglas on iron frame. Most communities require child-proof fencing around private pool areas. Phil Shipley, Landscape Architect

Tight wattles for texture suit locations where simple fencing is called for and good appearance a requisite. Custom made, here, comparable effects are obtainable in ready-made sapling panels. Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Logan.
K-V CLOSET FIXTURES

So convenient they practically hand out your clothes!

Say goodbye to cluttered closets with K-V fixtures. They virtually double closet capacity, keep clothes crisp and wrinkle-free. K-V offers a whole line for the modern home — all in lasting bright chrome finish, all easy to install yourself.

K-V I — CLOTHING CARRIER — Pulls out of shallow, narrow closets to bring clothes into easy reach; a slight pull slides an entire wardrobe out into the room.

K-V 1 — EXTENSION CLOSET ROD — The perfect answer for closets too shallow for a K-Venience clothing carrier. Non-sagging. Five sizes to fit all closets.

K-V 214 — SHOE RACK — Holds nine pairs of shoes, portable, fits under hanging garments, takes up little space on closet floor.

KITCHEN FIXTURES, TOO!

If you have a kitchen, you need these slide-away space savers!

K-V 714 Stacking oven rack
K-V 714 Stacking sink rack
K-V 714 Stacking age rack

Ask for K-Veninences by name at leading hardware stores and lumber dealers.

KNAPE & VOGT MFG. CO.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

NEW IDEA KITCHENS

Here are floor plans for big and little kitchens

PAGE 38

Aleove kitchen uses two walls for minimum basic equipment, depends heavily on pass-through peninsula for counter work space.

Throughway kitchen is big enough to decentralize work areas, uses peninsula as both the link and divider. Twin built-in refrigerators and a freezer are next to the barbecue, near the peninsula.

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Compact one-man kitchen lines up range, sink and refrigerator on wall. Opposite it long countertop is preparation center.

Color-coded kitchen has large enough area to leave one end free for glass sliding doors that open on a terrace. Built-ins save space; you can have cabinets over and under them.

Corridor kitchen, left, is a production line arrangement with separate work areas, counters around each appliance. Several people can work here at the laundry, range, sink or breakfast area.

Open-house kitchen, right, is a spacious L with laundry at one end, glass-walled breakfast area at the other and a large, U-shaped working center in the middle.

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Now is the time. You can enjoy...
When it comes to dessert, most people play favorites. Some plump for the forthright all-American apple pie, others prefer flamboyant crêpes Suzette or a chocolate-laden Austrian torte. In this we are only following the precedent of famous people, who all had their weaknesses for some delectable dessert. The Empress Josephine had a nostalgic fondness for bananas Creole, probably a reminder of her youth in Martinique. Two such dissimilar characters as the Empress Poppaea, wife of Nero, and Cardinal Wolsey were partial to strawberries, although she liked hers served on a bed of rose petals and he preferred a blanket of fresh heavy cream. Henry VIII, an advocate of stouter fare, gave his cook a manor for inventing a particularly good pudding. This partisan attitude applies to countries as much as to people. That famous American dessert, ice cream, actually had a long history of migration from China to Italy and France (where ices were sold as “frozen niceties”) before it found a lasting welcome and home in the land of the refrigerator. Its frosty charms have never palled, though they are often masked by an overcoat of hot chocolate or baked meringue. Spain’s favorite dessert is flan, a flavored custard. The Chinese and Japanese take only a little preserved fruit or a cooky. In Thailand dessert is a drink, a sweetened liquid made from fruit. The English cleave characteristically to steamed puddings with an occasional trifle or gooseberry fool. Understandably, it is in France, stronghold of the haute cuisine, that dessert gained not only its name (from desservir, to clear the table) but its true glory. French chefs elevated the simple sweet to a full-scale production which suitably concluded an epicurean meal. Flaming fruits, honeyed mounds of tiny cream puffs, ephemeral soufflés and iced concoctions molded to majestic proportions help close a meal with a flourish. Yet many good cooks who are eager to experiment with new entrees will stick to a few tried-and-true recipes when it comes to serving dessert to family and friends. Be a little more adventurous and you will discover how the right dessert can be the perfect balance to your menus. Consider the dessert in relation to the foods which come before it, their flavors and textures. If the first course is fruit, choose a chocolate torte or a coffee cream rather than a fruit dessert. Fruit is an excellent contrast to a heavy meat course and, according to the season, can be served flambeed or chilled (but not too cold as overchilling destroys delicate flavor). Rich creamy desserts taste best after a light entrée like squab. A spectacular dessert is not so much of a problem as you may think, because it can often be prepared ahead of time. Delicate little crêpes can be made up in batches, stored in the refrigerator, then warmed and served in a suave sauce at the last minute. A soufflé mixture can be on hand, ready for the final addition of egg whites. Frozen desserts, made days in advance, are good stock for your freezer. They lend themselves to decorative forms and designs, so rather than serving the conventional wedge of ice cream, prepare them in a bombe mold (examples of molds are shown on the next page). The recipes on the following pages will give you new ideas for desserts that qualify as the grand finale which makes a meal linger in the memory of your guests.
Frozen Desserts, Creams

Orange Ice
2 cups water
1 cup sugar
1 cup orange juice
1 tablespoon grated orange rind
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon orange extract

Set the refrigerator control at the coldest possible point.

Boil the water and sugar together until syrupy, about 5-7 minutes. Add the orange juice, rind, lemon juice and orange extract. Pour into the refrigerator tray. Freeze until mushy. Turn into a bowl. Beat until smooth. Return mixture to tray; freeze again until mushy. Beat again. Cover tray with aluminum foil and freeze until firm.

Serves 6.

Frozen Banana Pie
1¾ cups chocolate wafer crumbs
½ cup melted butter
5 bananas
1 quart vanilla ice cream
1 cup whipped cream (optional)

Mix the crumbs and butter together. Pack on the bottom and sides of an 11" buttered pie plate. Chill for 1 hour.

Mash 4 bananas, beating until smooth. Add the ice cream, and beat until thoroughly blended. Pour into the prepared pie plate. Place in the refrigerator freezing compartment or freezer and freeze until firm.

Slice the remaining banana and arrange on pie. Garnish with the whipped cream, if desired. Serves 6.

Biscuit Tortoni

Combine the chocolate, coffee, ½ cup cream and marshmallows in the top of a double boiler. Place over hot water and cook, stirring frequently until chocolate and marshmallows melt. Cool, stirring occasionally. Mix in the salt, coffee extract and vanilla.

Whip 1 cup cream and fold into mixture. Pour into the refrigerator tray and freeze, with control set at coldest point, until half frozen. Mix well and freeze until set.

Serves 6.

Mocha Marshmallow Dessert
2 squares (ounces) unsweetened chocolate
⅓ cup brewed coffee
⅓ cup heavy cream
20 marshmallows
Dash of salt
1 teaspoon coffee extract
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup heavy cream

Combine the chocolate, coffee, ⅓ cup cream and marshmallows in the top of a double boiler. Place over hot water and cook, stirring frequently until chocolate and marshmallows melt. Cool, stirring occasionally. Mix in the salt, coffee extract and vanilla.

Whip 1 cup cream and fold into mixture. Pour into the refrigerator tray and freeze, with control set at coldest point, until half frozen. Mix well and freeze until set.

Serves 6.

Refrigerator Chocolate Almond Torte

The torte is prepared in layers:
1. Cream ½ lb. sweet butter, gradually adding 1 cup sugar. Beat until light and fluffy. Add ½ lb. sweet chocolate, melted and cooled, and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Mix well. Spread on bottom of a buttered 9" spring form. Chill for 2 hours before adding the next layer:
2. Cream ½ lb. sweet butter, gradually adding 1 cup sugar. Beat until light and fluffy. Add 1½ cups ground blanched almonds and 2 tablespoons heavy cream. Mix well. Spread over the chocolate mixture. Chill and then cover with the following icing:
3. Melt ½ lb. sweet chocolate in 3 tablespoons brewed coffee. Add 2 tablespoons cream. Spread over the nut filling. Chill. To serve, carefully run a knife around the spring form and remove sides. Serves 8-10.

Omelette Norvégienne

3 egg whites
⅓ teaspoon cream of tartar
⅓ cup sugar
1 sponge cake (9" round or 8" square)
¼ cup Curacao
1 quart vanilla ice cream (firm)

Preheat the oven to 450°. Beat the egg whites and cream of tartar until firm. Gradually beat in the sugar, continuing to beat until stiff but not dry. Fold in the remaining sugar and the vanilla. Cover a board with brown paper and place the cake on it. Sprinkle with the Curacao. Spread the ice cream to within 1" of the edges. Cover with the meringue right to the edges of the cake. Sprinkle with a little granulated sugar. Bake 5 minutes. Transfer to a chilled dish and serve at once. Serves 6.
Baked Alaska Pie

3 egg whites
Few grains of salt
\( \frac{1}{4} \) teaspoon cream of tartar
\( \frac{1}{4} \) cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 prebaked pie shell, chilled
1 quart hard ice cream

Preheat oven to 450°. Beat the egg whites, salt and cream of tartar until stiff but not dry. Add 1 tablespoon of sugar at a time, beating constantly until 1/2 cup is added. Fold in the remaining sugar and vanilla. Fill the pie shell with the ice cream and cover with the meringue, being sure the edges are well covered. Sprinkle with a little sugar. Place the pie plate on a board and bake 5 minutes. Serve immediately. Serves 6.

Banana Sherbet

2 cups mashed banana
\( \frac{1}{2} \) cup Curaçao or Cointreau
\( \frac{1}{4} \) teaspoon salt
\( \frac{1}{2} \) cup light corn syrup
\( \frac{1}{2} \) cup sugar
1 cup milk
1 cup heavy cream
1 egg white, stiffly beaten

Mix the banana, liqueur, salt, syrup, sugar and milk together. Whip the cream until thick and add. Fold in the egg white. Pour into ice trays and freeze. Serves 6.

Quick Gourmet Recipe of the Month

Baked Melon Glacé

3 small cantaloupes
\( \frac{1}{2} \) cup cognac
6 egg whites
\( \frac{1}{4} \) cup sifted sugar
1 quart vanilla ice cream (very firm)
Crushed ice

Preheat oven to 475°. Cut the melons in half; cut the pulp into balls or squares and pour the cognac over them. Reserve the shells. Beat the egg whites until stiff but not dry; fold the sugar in very gradually. Half fill the shells with the melon balls. Cover with the fine ice cream, and then pile the meringue over it, being sure the edges are well covered. Place the ice in a baking pan with the melons on top of it. Bake until meringue is just browned, about 3 minutes. Serve immediately. Serves 6.

Tri-color Bombe

\( \frac{1}{2} \) tablespoons gelatin
3 tablespoons cold water
3 cups heavy cream
4 tablespoons raspberry or strawberry jelly, melted
3 tablespoons sweet cocoa
2 tablespoons crème de cacao
2 tablespoons ground almonds
3 tablespoons Grand Marnier or Curaçao

Soften the gelatin in the water; place over hot water and stir until dissolved.

Whip the cream until stiff; remove \( \frac{1}{2} \) of the cream and combine with jelly and \( \frac{1}{2} \) of the gelatin. Pour into a lightly oiled mold. Divide the remaining cream and combine one half with the cocoa, crème de cacao and half the remaining gelatin. Carefully spoon over the raspberry mixture. Combine the almonds and Grand Marnier with the remaining cream and gelatin. Pour over the chocolate mixture. Chill at least 4 hours. Carefully unmold. Serves 6.

Coffee Cream

\( \frac{1}{2} \) cup brewed coffee
1 cup sugar
8 egg yolks
\( \frac{1}{2} \) teaspoon coffee extract
\( \frac{1}{2} \) teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 pints heavy cream

Cook the coffee and sugar over low heat until the mixture is syrupy and a thread forms when a fork is lifted from the pan. Beat the egg yolks, coffee extract and vanilla in a bowl, and gradually add the syrup, beating steadily until thick and cold. Whip the cream and fold into the coffee mixture. Pour into a mold and place in the freezing compartment (control set at coldest point). Chill for 3-4 hours, or until firm. Serves 8-10.

Chocolate Raspberry Cream

2 cups heavy cream
4 ounces sweet chocolate, grated
\( \frac{1}{4} \) cup sugar
3 cups raspberries

Whip the cream; add the chocolate and whip until stiff. Sprinkle sugar on raspberries; fold into cream. Chill. Serves 8-10.

Strawberry Cream

\( \frac{1}{4} \) cup cream cheese
\( \frac{1}{4} \) cup confectioners' sugar
1 cup heavy cream
\( \frac{1}{4} \) cup fruit brandy
1 quart strawberries

Beat the cheese until soft; gradually add the sugar, cream and brandy. Beat until light and fluffy. Fold in the berries carefully. Chill. Serves 8-10.

Apple Fromage

1 tablespoon gelatin
2 tablespoons cold water
3 cups applesauce, fresh or canned
2 teaspoons grated lemon rind
\( \frac{1}{2} \) teaspoon mace
1 cup heavy cream

Soften the gelatin in the water; place over hot water and stir until dissolved. Combine with the applesauce, lemon rind and mace. Chill \( \frac{1}{2} \) hour. Whip the cream and fold it into the apple mixture. Spoon into individual serving dishes and chill. Serves 6.
Orange-Wine Cream

1 teaspoon gelatin
2 teaspoons cold water
4 egg yolks
1 cup sugar
1 cup white wine
1 cup orange juice
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 cup heavy cream

Preheat the oven to 300°. Beat the egg yolks and sugar in the top of a double boiler; add the wine and place over hot water. Cook, stirring constantly until mixture coats the spoon. Add the gelatin, stirring until dissolved. Stir in the orange juice and lemon juice. Chill for 45 minutes. Whip the cream and fold it into the orange mixture. Pour into a lightly oiled mold. Chill until firm. Turn out and decorate with whipped cream and orange slices, if desired. Serves 6-8.

Pots de Creme (Vanille)

1 tablespoon gelatin
3 tablespoons cold water
1 can (2%) apricots, drained and pitted or 3 jars pureed apricots (baby food)
2 tablespoons lemon juice
3/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup heavy cream

Soften the gelatin in the water; place over hot water and stir until dissolved. Force the apricots through a sieve. Add the gelatin, lemon juice and sugar. Chill for 30 minutes. Whip the cream and fold it into the apricot mixture. Pour into a mold or individual serving dishes. Chill. Serves 6.

Apricot Cream

1 tablespoon gelatin
3 tablespoons cold water
1 can (2%) apricots, drained and pitted or 3 jars pureed apricots (baby food)
2 tablespoons lemon juice
3/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup heavy cream

Soften the gelatin in the water; place over hot water and stir until dissolved. Force the apricots through a sieve. Add the gelatin, lemon juice and sugar. Chill for 30 minutes. Whip the cream and fold it into the apricot mixture. Pour into a mold or individual serving dishes. Chill. Serves 6.

Crème Caramel

3/4 cup water
3 cups sugar
3/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
6 eggs
Dash of salt
1 cup milk, scalded
1 cup light cream, scalded
1 teaspoon vanilla
Whipped cream

Combine the water and sugar and cream of tartar in a saucepan. Bring to a boil and cook over high heat until it begins to turn light brown. Cool for 15 minutes. Measure 1 cup of the syrup and reserve the rest. Preheat oven to 350°. Butter a 9" ring mold and dust it with sugar. Beat the eggs and salt thoroughly; gradually add the 1 cup syrup, beating steadily. Add the milk, cream and vanilla. Pour into the mold. Place it in a shallow pan of hot water. Bake 35 minutes or until a knife comes out clean. Chill. Carefully unmold and fill center with whipped cream. Serve the remaining syrup separately. Serves 6-8.

Fruit Desserts

Peach Pudding

1 1/2 cups sugar
2 tablespoons lemon juice
3 cups sliced peaches, fresh or frozen
1/2 cup butter
4 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
24 ladyfingers, split

Sprinkle 1/4 cup sugar and the lemon juice on the peaches. Cream the butter, gradually adding the remaining sugar. Add 1 egg at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the vanilla and fold in the peaches. Line a buttered oblong mold with ladyfingers, reserving a few for the top. Fill with the peach mixture and cover with remaining ladyfingers. Chill for 24 hours. Carefully unmold. Serves 6.

Compote Flambe

3 cups fruit compote
6 slices sponge cake or brioche, toasted
2 tablespoons apricot jam
1/4 cup cognac
1/4 cup kirsch

Place the compote in an oblong serving dish. Arrange cake slices in a row lengthwise. Spread with the jam. Combine the cognac and kirsch and pour over the dish. Set it aflame and serve flaming. Serves 6.

Mont Blanc

1 lb. fresh chestnuts, shelled
2 cups milk
1" stick vanilla bean
3/4 cup sugar
3/4 cup water
2 tablespoons butter
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1/2 cups heavy cream
4 tablespoons grated sweet chocolate

Combine the chestnuts, milk and vanilla bean in a saucepan. Bring to a boil and cook over low heat 30 minutes, or until the chestnuts are very soft. Drain and force the chestnuts through a sieve. Boil the sugar and water together until the mixture is syrupy and a soft ball forms when a little is dropped in cold water. Blend into the chestnut puree with the butter and vanilla extract. Mix well. Form into a mound (or pour into a mold) and chill. Whip the cream and cover the mound using a pastry tube. Sprinkle with the chocolate. You can also make individual mounds. Serves 6.

Compote Flanibe

3 cups fruit compote
6 slices sponge cake or brioche, toasted
2 tablespoons apricot jam
1/4 cup cognac
1/4 cup kirsch

Place the compote in an oblong serving dish. Arrange cake slices in a row lengthwise. Spread with the jam. Combine the cognac and kirsch and pour over the dish. Set it aflame and serve flaming. Serves 6.

Apricot Cream

1 tablespoon gelatin
3 tablespoons cold water
1 can (2%) apricots, drained and pitted or 3 jars pureed apricots (baby food)
2 tablespoons lemon juice
3/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup heavy cream

Soften the gelatin in the water; place over hot water and stir until dissolved. Force the apricots through a sieve. Add the gelatin, lemon juice and sugar. Chill for 30 minutes. Whip the cream and fold it into the apricot mixture. Pour into a mold or individual serving dishes. Chill. Serves 6.

Crème Caramel

3/4 cup water
3 cups sugar
3/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
6 eggs
Dash of salt
1 cup milk, scalded
1 cup light cream, scalded
1 teaspoon vanilla
Whipped cream

Combine the water and sugar and cream of tartar in a saucepan. Bring to a boil and cook over high heat until it begins to turn light brown. Cool for 15 minutes. Measure 1 cup of the syrup and reserve the rest. Preheat oven to 350°. Butter a 9" ring mold and dust it with sugar. Beat the eggs and salt thoroughly; gradually add the 1 cup syrup, beating steadily. Add the milk, cream and vanilla. Pour into the mold. Place it in a shallow pan of hot water. Bake 35 minutes or until a knife comes out clean. Chill. Carefully unmold and fill center with whipped cream. Serve the remaining syrup separately. Serves 6-8.

Fruit Desserts

Peach Pudding

1 1/2 cups sugar
2 tablespoons lemon juice
3 cups sliced peaches, fresh or frozen
1/2 cup butter
4 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
24 ladyfingers, split

Sprinkle 1/4 cup sugar and the lemon juice on the peaches. Cream the butter, gradually adding the remaining sugar. Add 1 egg at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the vanilla and fold in the peaches. Line a buttered oblong mold with ladyfingers, reserving a few for the top. Fill with the peach mixture and cover with remaining ladyfingers. Chill for 24 hours. Carefully unmold. Serves 6.

Compote Flambe

3 cups fruit compote
6 slices sponge cake or brioche, toasted
2 tablespoons apricot jam
1/4 cup cognac
1/4 cup kirsch

Place the compote in an oblong serving dish. Arrange cake slices in a row lengthwise. Spread with the jam. Combine the cognac and kirsch and pour over the dish. Set it aflame and serve flaming. Serves 6.
Strawberry Rice Mold

3/4 cup rice
1 quart milk
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/3 cups sugar
2 tablespoons gelatin
1/2 cup Cointreau or Curacao
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup heavy cream
1 quart strawberries, hulled, washed

Wash the rice in several waters. Combine in a saucepan with the milk, salt and 3/4 cup sugar. Bring to a boil and cook over low heat 30 minutes, or until very soft. Force through a sieve. Soften the gelatin in 1/4 cup of the liqueur and add to the rice mixture, stirring until dissolved. Add the vanilla. Cool for 30 minutes. Whip the cream and fold it into the rice mixture. Pour into a ring or melon mold. Chill for at least 3 hours, or until firm. Serve with the sugar and dot with the butter. Carefully turn out the rice mold and either fill center or arrange berries around it. Serves 6.

Poires aux Crème Caramel

6 firm pears
3/4 cup sugar
2 tablespoons butter
1 cup heavy cream

Preheat the oven to 475°. Peel and quarter the pears. Arrange them in a buttered shallow baking dish (not glass, as the cream would crack it when added). Sprinkle with the sugar and dot with the butter.

Bake 15 minutes, or until the sugar is dark brown, basting once or twice. Pour the cream over all and stir gently. Bake 2 minutes longer. Serve hot. Serves 6-8.

Riz à la Compagnie

2 cups milk
1/4 cup rice, washed and drained
2 teaspoons gelatin
1/4 cup orange juice
1/4 cup sugar
1 apple, peeled and diced
1/2 cup sliced strawberries
1 tablespoon cognac
1/2 cup heavy cream, whipped

Combine the milk and rice in a saucepan. Cook over low heat 25 minutes or until rice is very soft.

Soak the gelatin in the orange juice for 5 minutes. Add to the hot rice mixture with the sugar and stir until dissolved. Cool for 30 minutes. Fold in the apple, berries, cognac and whipped cream.

Pour into a lightly oiled ring mold. Chill until set. Turn out carefully and fill the center with sweetened berries or fruit sauce (see Dessert Sauces). Serve 4-6.

Cherry Custard Dessert

2 cans (3 1/2) pitted Bing cherries
6 egg yolks
2 egg whites
1/2 cup sugar
Dash of salt
1/2 cup Curaçao or Cointreau

Drain the cherries, reserving 1 cup of the juice. Mix the egg yolks, egg whites, sugar, salt, liqueur and cherry juice in a saucepan. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly until thick. Chill, stirring occasionally. Pour over the cherries and chill. Serves 6.

Snow Apples

2 cups water
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 tablespoons grated lemon rind
6 large apples, peeled and cored
1/2 cup chopped mixed candied fruit
1 tablespoon melted butter
3 tablespoons orange juice
2 egg whites
4 tablespoons sugar
Chocolate sauce
(see recipe under Dessert Sauces)

Combine the water and brown sugar in a saucepan; cook over low heat for 10 minutes. Place the lemon rind and apples in it and cook 15 minutes, turning them frequently. Drain and arrange fruit in a baking dish. Preheat oven to 350°.

Mix the candied fruit, melted butter and orange juice together and stuff apples. Beat the egg whites until peaks form; gradually add the sugar, beating until stiff but not dry. Force through a pastry tube or pile on top of the apples. Bake 5-10 minutes or until delicately browned. Serve hot or cold, with chocolate sauce. Serves 6.
Banana Whip
(shown on cover)

6 ripe bananas
2 tablespoons orange juice
\( \frac{1}{2} \) cup sugar
1 cup heavy cream

Peel the bananas and force through a sieve, or purée in an electric blender. Add the orange juice and sugar. Whip the cream and fold into the banana purée. Serve in parfait glasses. Top with additional whipped cream and grated chocolate, if desired. Serves 6.

Peches Sabayon

4 egg yolks
\( \frac{1}{2} \) cup sugar
\( \frac{1}{4} \) cup Marsala
1 tablespoon cognac
6 peaches
2 tablespoons lemon juice

Beat the egg yolks and sugar in the top of a double boiler. Add the wine, place over hot water and cook, stirring constantly until thick and foamy. Stir in the cognac. Chill. Peel and slice the peaches and sprinkle them with the lemon juice. Chill 15 minutes and drain. Place the peaches in a glass serving dish or individual dishes and cover with the sauce. Serves 6.

Note: Other fruits may be served in the same manner.

Peach Melba

3 large peaches
\( \frac{1}{2} \) cup water
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
6 scoops vanilla ice cream
3 tablespoons raspberry jam

Whipped cream

Plunge the peaches into boiling water for a few seconds and remove the skins. Cut peaches in half and discard the pits.

Boil the water, sugar and vanilla together for 2 minutes. Add the peaches, and cook over low heat for about 5 minutes, or until tender but firm. Chill.

Place the scoops of ice cream in individual serving dishes. Cover each with a peach half and coat the peaches with the jam. Garnish with whipped cream.

Note: Canned peaches may be substituted for the home cooked fruit, if desired, but there will be a slight loss of flavor.

Soufflés

Brazil Nut Soufflé

4 egg yolks
\( \frac{1}{2} \) cup sugar
\( \frac{3}{4} \) cup Marsala
1 tablespoon cognac
6 peaches
2 tablespoons lemon juice

Mix well.

Combine the nuts and cream in a saucepan. Cook over low heat until bubbles form. Gradually add the sugar mixture, stirring constantly until thick, about 5 minutes. Add butter and cognac. Let cool for 15 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350°. Beat the egg whites until stiff but not dry and fold into the nut mixture. Pour into a buttered 1 1/2 quart soufflé dish. Bake 30 minutes. Serve at once. Serve with cognac-flavored whipped cream if desired. Serves 6.

Soufflé Demoiselle

8 egg yolks
2 tablespoons flour
\( \frac{1}{2} \) cup sugar
\( \frac{3}{4} \) cup heavy cream
1 teaspoon vanilla
\( \frac{1}{4} \) cup Grand Marnier or Curacao
12 ladyfingers, split
8 egg whites
\( \frac{1}{4} \) teaspoon salt

Beat the egg yolks, flour and sugar together in the top of a double boiler. Add the cream. Place over hot water and cook, stirring constantly until thick and smooth. Add the vanilla and liqueur. Let cool for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Preheat the oven to 350°. Line a buttered 2 quart soufflé dish with the ladyfingers.

Beat the egg whites and salt until stiff but not dry and fold into the cooled mixture. Pour into the prepared soufflé dish. Bake 30 minutes. Serve at once. Serves 6-8.

Apple Soufflé Pudding

4 apples, peeled and diced
\( \frac{3}{4} \) cup brown sugar
3 tablespoons butter
3 egg yolks
\( \frac{1}{4} \) cup sugar
\( \frac{1}{4} \) cup sifted flour
\( \frac{3}{4} \) teaspoon baking powder
\( \frac{1}{4} \) cup ground blanched almonds
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 egg whites, stiffly beaten

Cook the apples and brown sugar together for 10 minutes. Cool. Spread the butter on the bottom and sides of a 1 quart casserole or soufflé dish. Preheat oven to 350°. Beat the egg yolks, gradually adding the sugar. Beat until light in color. Sift the flour and baking powder over the mixture gradually. Add the almonds and vanilla, mixing well. Fold in the egg whites. Place the apples in the buttered dish, pour mixture over them. Bake 30 minutes, or until a cake tester comes out clean. Serve warm. Serves 6.

Cold Chocolate Soufflé

4 ounces sweet chocolate
3 tablespoons brewed coffee
2 tablespoons gelatin
2 tablespoons cold water
3 eggs
3 egg yolks
\( \frac{3}{4} \) cup sugar
1 1/4 cups heavy cream, whipped

Melt the chocolate in the coffee, mixing until smooth. Cool. Soak gelatin in water.

Beat the eggs and egg yolks in the top of a double boiler. Add the sugar. Place over hot water and cook, beating steadily until thick. Add the gelatin, stirring until dissolved. Stir in the chocolate. Let cool for 30 minutes. Beat with a rotary beater for 5 minutes. Fold in the whipped cream.

Butter a band of wax paper and tie around the top of a buttered 1 quart soufflé dish so that it stands 2" above the top. Pour the mixture into dish. Chill at least 4 hours. Remove the collar carefully. Serves 6-8.

Strawberry Soufflé Glacé

1 cup sugar
1 cup water
2 cups strawberries, fresh or frozen
4 egg yolks
2 cups light cream, scalded
2 cups heavy cream, whipped

Combine 1/2 cup sugar and the water in a saucepan. Cook until syrupy, about 5 minutes. Add the berries and cook 5 minutes. Force through a sieve.

HOUSE & GARDEN. AUGUST, 1958
Beat the egg yolks and remaining sugar in the top of a double boiler. Gradually add the light cream, stirring steadily. Place over hot water and cook, stirring constantly until thick. Strain. Add to strawberry syrup. Cool. Fold in the whipped cream.

Butter a band of wax paper and tie it around the top of a buttered 1 1/2 quart souffle dish so that it extends 2" above the top. Pour the mixture into dish. Place in the freezing compartment and freeze for 3-4 hours. Carefully remove collar and serve. Serves 6.

Chocolate Sponge Soufflé

2 squares (ounces) unsweetened chocolate
2 ounces sweet chocolate
1/4 cup brewed coffee
1 1/4 cups milk, scalded
1/4 cup sifted flour
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
3 egg yolks
3 tablespoons melted butter
2 teaspoons vanilla
3 egg whites

Melt the chocolate in the coffee; add the milk, beating until smooth. Combine the flour, sugar and salt in a bowl. Beat in the egg yolks, butter, vanilla. Gradually add the chocolate mixture. Preheat oven to 350°. Beat the egg whites until stiff but not dry and fold into the chocolate mixture. Pour into a 1 1/2 quart buttered baking dish. Place in a pan of hot water and bake 45 minutes. May be served hot or cold, with lightly whipped cream. Serves 6.

Crêpes and Beignets

Crêpes

1 lb. cream cheese
5 eggs, separated
1/2 cup sifted sugar
1 tablespoon flour
1/4 cup heavy cream
1 tablespoon cognac
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 tablespoons melted butter
2 tablespoons graham cracker crumbs

Force the cheese through a sieve or purée in an electric mixer.

Beat the egg yolks, gradually adding the sugar and flour. Add the cheese, cream, cognac and vanilla, beating until smooth. Preheat the oven to 325°. Butter a 1 1/2 quart soufflé dish and dust it with the cracker crumbs. Beat the egg whites until stiff but not dry and fold into the cheese mixture. Pour into the prepared soufflé dish. Bake 50 minutes and serve. Serves 6.

Crepes Suzette

6 lumps sugar
1 large orange
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 teaspoons grated lemon rind
6 tablespoons butter
1/2 cup Cointreau or Curaçao
1/2 cup Grand Marnier
Crêpes
1/2 cup cognac

Rub the lumps of sugar on the orange rind. Squeeze the orange and grate the rind. Combine the sugar, orange juice, lemon juice, orange and lemon rinds and the butter in a skillet or in the flat pan of a chafing dish. Bring to a boil and add the Cointreau and Grand Marnier. Place the crêpes in the pan and turn until moistened. Fold into quarters. Pour the warmed cognac over them and set aflame.

Crêpes Normande

3 apples, peeled and sliced
1/4 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
Crêpes
1/2 cup melted butter
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1/2 cup apple brandy

Combine the apples, sugar and cinnamon in a saucepan. Cook over low heat for 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Cool for 15 minutes. Prepare the crêpes but cook only on one side, stacking them as they are made. Place a tablespoon of the mixture on cooked side of each crêpe and roll up carefully. Arrange in a buttered baking dish. Sprinkle with the butter and brown sugar. Bake in a 375° oven 15 minutes. Pour the warmed brandy over the top and set aflame.

Beignets

A beignet, or fritter, must be properly prepared to be successful. Appliance companies have been of great help in recent years. The new thermostatically controlled deep fryers are excellent for this purpose. If you don't own one, use a deep, heavy saucepan, a frying basket, and an accurate thermometer. The temperature of the fat is all-important, and should be maintained at the recommended heat level at all times. Never crowd the basket if you want crisp, well browned fritters. Use sweet, fresh fat and save it for future use. Never fry any strong-flavored foods in it if you want to use it for fritters again.
Apple Fritters

1/2 cup sugar
3 large apples, peeled, cored and diced
3/4 cup sifted flour
Dash of salt
1/4 cup milk
1 tablespoon melted butter
2 tablespoons cognac
1 egg yolk, beaten
1 egg white, stiffly beaten
Fat for deep frying

Sprinkle the sugar (reserving 1 tablespoon) on the apples. Cover and set aside for 1 hour. Mix the flour, salt, milk, butter and cognac until smooth. Add the egg yolk. The batter should be the consistency of heavy cream, so add a little water if too thick. Fold in the egg white. Heat the fat to 370°. Drain the apples and dip into the batter. Fry a few pieces at a time until well browned. Drain and sprinkle with sugar. Place in a 450° oven until glazed. Pineapple may be prepared in same way. Serves 6.

Blueberry Fritter Pancakes

1 cup sifted flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
3 tablespoons sugar
Dash of salt
2 egg yolks, beaten
3 tablespoons cold water
1 cup blueberries
2 egg whites, stiffly beaten
Fat for deep frying

Sift the flour, baking powder, sugar and salt into a bowl. Mix in the egg yolks and water. Add the blueberries and fold in the egg whites. Heat the fat to 370° and drop the batter into it by the tablespoon. Fry until lightly browned. (Do not fry too many at once.) Drain and sprinkle with sugar. Place in a 450° oven until glazed. Serves 6.

Crème Frite Flambe

3 egg yolks
1/4 cup sugar
Dash of salt
4 tablespoons cornstarch
1/2 cup cognac
2 cups heavy cream, scalded
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 egg, beaten
1/4 cup ground almonds
Fat for deep frying

Beat the egg yolks in the top of a double boiler. Stir in the sugar and salt. Mix the cornstarch and half the cognac to a smooth paste. Add to the egg yolk mixture. Gradually add the cream, stirring constantly, until thick. Add the lemon juice. Pour into a well buttered oblong dish (about 3/4" to 1" deep). Cool until firm. Cut into 2" squares. Dip in the crumbs, then the egg and then the almonds. Heat the fat to 370° and fry a few at a time until browned. Drain. Place in a heated serving dish, pour the remaining cognac over them and set afame. Serves 6.

Beignets Soufflés

3/4 lb. butter
1 cup water
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon sugar
1 cup sifted flour
4 eggs
1 tablespoon cognac
Fat for deep frying
Confectioners' sugar

Combine the butter, water, salt and sugar in a saucepan. Bring to a boil and when butter melts add all the flour at once, stirring constantly over low heat until mixture leaves the sides of the pan. Remove from heat, and add one egg at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the cognac. Heat the fat to 370° and drop the mixture into it by the tablespoon. Do not fry too many at once. Fry until browned on all sides. (There is no need to turn the beignets, as they turn themselves when brown on one side.) Drain and sprinkle with confectioners' sugar. Serve hot. Serves 6.

VARIATIONS

Beignets Dauphine
Split the fritters and fill with sweetened whipped cream, flavored with almond extract. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar.

Beignets Grandmère
Split the fritters and fill with strawberry jam. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar.

Medicis
Split the fritters and fill with chocolate Bavarian cream. Serve with chocolate sauce. (See recipe under Dessert Sauces.)

Dessert Sauces

Hot Chocolate Sauce

3/4 pound sweet chocolate
3/4 cup brewed coffee
1 tablespoon cognac
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 tablespoons heavy cream

Break the chocolate into small pieces and combine with the coffee in a saucepan. Place over low heat and stir until melted and smooth. Add the cognac, vanilla and cream. Hold over hot water until needed.

Foamy Sauce

2 egg yolks
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup sifted confectioners' sugar
1 cup heavy cream, whipped
1 egg white, stiffly beaten

Beat the egg yolks and vanilla until light. Add the sugar gradually, beating constantly until it is light and frothy. Fold in the whipped cream and the stiffly beaten egg white.

Fruit Sauce

3/4 cup sugar
2 tablespoons water
2 cups fresh or frozen strawberries or raspberries
1/2 cup heavy cream, whipped
1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Combine the sugar, water and berries in a saucepan. Bring to a boil and cook over low heat 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Force through a sieve and cool. Fold in the whipped cream and vanilla.
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Use the entry blank below . . . before October 20, 1958.
NEW PLASTICS
continued from page 56

It's also hard to remember that we once thought of plastics as cheap. On paper, both per pound prices of the raw resins and the square-foot prices of finished materials are, and always have been, higher than for standard materials. But sometimes a plastic cuts labor costs by eliminating one or two steps of the usual installation. Or its light weight will cut the cost of supports or framing. Or it may achieve a special effect which otherwise could be obtained only with a standard material at an exorbitant price.

Suppose, for instance, you are weighing the cost of a large circular bay window. You could have a curved pane custom made of plate glass. But it would cost you a fortune and quite possibly an ulcer, what with the tension you'd be under while the workmen were installing it. An alternative would be a mullioned window with small panes. But you would have to pay for the more complicated framing and glazing (and for more complicated window washing). The solution might be to use plastic. True, clear acrylic, the most glass-like of the plastics, costs more per square foot than flat plate glass. But the acrylic need not be preformed in the factory. A flat sheet could be bent into shape right on the spot and installed with relatively little effort. A flat plate glass. But the acrylic has proved to be as transparent as glass.

Another point on which most plastics excel is color. Though some plastics have proved to be as transparent as glass. But the acrylic otherwise could be obtained only with a standard material at an exorbitant price.

There are other advantages pertinent to home building which are shared more or less by all plastics. Easy upkeep is an obvious virtue. In this respect, plastics compare favorably with wood, which blocks the passage of heat much more effectively than metal. Masonry or glass. But wood blocks light. And light weight can be an asset on several different counts. It means a savings in labor costs when one man can lift a unit which in another material would be a load for two or three. And light weight makes possible a greater degree of factory fabrication which in turn saves time, labor and complexity of operations on the site.

The total bill, you'd find, into shape right on the spot and installed with relatively little effort.

As every schoolboy knows today, plastics are man-made substances created in the laboratory by ringing numerous changes in the molecular structure of a few natural elements. There are 17 specific uses to be sure that use is continued on next page. New York, Chicago, Beverly Hills, Miami.

Continued on page 94

Owens-Corning Fiberglas, Monsanto Chemical, Dow Chemical, Bakelite, Rohm & Haas.

What do plastics have that other materials lack?

Being man-made they can be molded to meet specific requirements. This does not mean they are perfect. A specific plastic with valuable assets for a given use might also have a shortcoming for which allowances must be made as we have always made allowances for the fact that wood swells and shrinks, metals corrode and glass breaks rather easily.

There are other advantages pertinent to home building which are shared more or less by all plastics. Easy upkeep is an obvious virtue. In this respect, plastics compare favorably with wood, which blocks the passage of heat much more effectively than metal. Masonry or glass. But wood blocks light. And light weight can be an asset on several different counts. It means a savings in labor costs when one man can lift a unit which in another material would be a load for two or three. And light weight makes possible a greater degree of factory fabrication which in turn saves time, labor and complexity of operations on the site.

Less often realized is the fact that plastics are poor conductors of heat. And since the primary function of a house is to keep in the heat when you want it and keep it out when you don't, low heat transmission is decidedly a virtue. In this respect, plastics compare favorably with wood which blocks the passage of heat much more effectively than metal, masonry or glass. But wood blocks light. And light weight makes possible a greater degree of factory fabrication which in turn saves time, labor and complexity of operations on the site.

Clear acrylic has been found to be as transparent as glass. Other plastics, translucent rather than transparent, have a unique talent for diffusing light—they gather it up from one or several sources and distribute it evenly over a wide area.

Another point on which most plastics excel is color. Though some are limited to a few dark and rather muddy tones, the majority can be produced in a practically unlimited range of clear shades and tints. And the color is built in—always there, no matter what happens to the surface.

Plastics have one common idiosyncrasy, though, which an architect must take into account—that is "creep" or a tendency to expand under loads and with rises in temperature. It need not be a drawback, if proper precautions are taken.

Continued on page 94

Continued on page 51

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Continued

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TRAFFIC KITCHEN FOR THREE COOKS
(shown on the cover)

Three people can work in this kitchen at the same time without getting in each other's way. Key to the plan is a large cooking island. On one side is the counter range for the mother, handy to sink, wall-hung refrigerators and ovens. On the other is the father's cooking center, with a built-in barbecue and cutting board. Nearby is an ice-cube maker and bar sink. Off in a corner is the teenage center with a soda bar and cleanup sink. Generous counter surfaces are near all major appliances. Built by Los Angeles Department of Water & Power; designers: Ralph & Jane Bonnell.

Television is visible from all three work areas. Air conditioner is above it, record player below. Beside it is a wall oven with a built-in rotisserie.

Long peninsula separates kitchen from laundry area. With barbecue and burners both in the center island, only one ventilating fan and hood is needed.

Soda bar for teenagers is off in a corner for privacy, still is close to the snack bar. Tile on the walls and countertops here protects against accidents.

For further information see page 24.
Slide-away ironing board is conveniently close to dryer. Washer and dryer each take 25 linear inches of space. Plastic counters, part of laundry and planning desk center, have rolled edges. Laundry cabinets are color coded.

Electronic oven and ice maker are in the food preparation center. This oven heats food in table dishes—the reason why dishes are stored nearby. Ice maker turns out more than 1,800 cubes automatically each day without filling trays.

Barbecue, built in the center cooking island behind the counter range, is under this hardwood cutting, carving board. Section of board can be raised to open the barbecue. It has a 24" drip tray, heating element and rotisserie.

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For the complete color story
for fall decorating—be sure to get both
September (on newsstands August 21)
and October H&G (on newsstands
September 25)!

NEW PLASTICS
continued from page 91

None of the plastics takes
very well to extremely high tem-
peratures. But this, too, is a fairly
academic limitation except in the
case of plastic piping which cannot,
at the moment, be used for hot water lines.

Like wood, all plastics can be
destroyed by fire, though they vary considerably in degree of
flammability. Some are rated as
"self-extinguishing" since they curl up
and melt but do not support a
flame. Others burn easily.

Many plastics are vulnerable
to abrasion. (A happy exception
is vinyl floor tile.) No doubt they
stand to risk more damage from
ill-chosen abrasive cleaners than
from anything likely to happen to
them in normal use. Plastics also
tend to have a disagreeable attrac-
tion to dust, but this can be mini-
imized either by a special process
in manufacturing or by treatment
with anti-static wax.

The key to satisfaction with
plastics as with any other building
material is to use the right one in
the right place. Since you're not
likely to build an all-plastics
house just to show it can be done,
the right place for you to use a
plastic is wherever one can do a
better job structurally or decorati-
vously than traditional materials.

Following is a glossary of the
uses to which some of the plastic
building products currently avail-
able might be put—and some of
the advantages they offer. For a
list of products in these categories
now on the market and names and
addresses of manufacturers write
H&G Reader's Service.

Exterior walls
No all-plastic product yet for
structural walls. But various plas-
cs combined with or reinforced
by other materials, available for
opaque or translucent wall areas.

Opaque sandwich panels can
serve as non-load-bearing walls.
One now on market has balsa
wood core between two layers of
fiber glass-reinforced plastic. It
comes in six colors, variety of
sizes and thicknesses up to 4' x 8'
x 2". Panels are joined by special
system of aluminum battens. An-
other type has faces of fiber glass-
reinforced plastic with a foamed
plastic core. Advantage: prefab-
ricated wall with built-in insula-
tion and finished, colored surface
saves building labor, and speeds it
up.

Translucent panels admit
light where transparent window
is undesirable. Several types avail-
able are:

Translucent sandwich con-
ists of two fiber glass-reinforced
plastic facings laminated to inner
grid of aluminum or paper honey-
comb. Aluminum-grid type used
for roof of U. S. Pavilion at Brus-
sele World's Fair comes in white,
crystal or four colors.

Faceted panels of translucent
white acrylic add three-dimen-
sional accent to exteriors.

Reinforced-plastic panel of
single thickness is more widely
used perhaps than any other sin-
gle plastic product for building.
Makes exterior wall sections, in-
terior partitions, room dividers,
translucent roof sections, patio
roofs, sliding doors, shoji, awnings,
shower enclosures, outdoor fences.
Comes flat or corrugated; color-
less and in an almost unlimited
color range. Usual reinforcement
is fiber glass, though one manu-
facturer uses fiber glass plus
nylon for extra strength. Another
uses curled wood shavings to
give flat panels a delicate cob-
webby pattern. Other flat panels
are plain, or patterned with embed-
ed butterflies, grasses, leaves,
etc. All come in a range of heights,
widths and thicknesses for differ-
ent purposes. Can be sawed,
nailed, screwed or bolted. Some
have special heat-blocking addi-
tive—especially desirable when
used for roof sections of patio
roofs. Most are made of polyester
plastics but those made of polyes-
ter plus acrylic are claimed to be
superior for outdoor or exterior
use, said to have greater weather
resistance.

Roofs
There is still no rigid, opaque,
all-plastic roof sheathing recom-
ended for houses of conventional
construction. But in addition to
fiber glass-reinforced panels for
translucent sections, there are:
Plastic sprays, brought to the
site in liquid form and applied
with a spray gun. Plastic forms a
continuous weatherproof sheathing
or "skin" over practically any ma-
terial, including fabric. Has been
used to roof houses of imaginative
modern design, but not long
enough to prove how many years
it will last.

Insulation
Moisture barriers of pliable
plastic are used to block moisture
under concrete slab foundations,
between beams and sub-flooring
of houses with conventional foun-
dations, on inner side of exterior
frame-construction walls. Film
comes in different weights, includ-
ing one type reinforced with sisal,
and in widths ranging from 3' to
32'. Said to last life of building
because it is chemically inert, it
does not deteriorate. Advantages:
lighter weight, fewer joints, and it can be handled by two men instead of the four needed to install and seal non-plastic barries.

Insulation is provided by one plastic in “expanded” or foamed form. Looks like foam rubber or sponge, but is rigid, can be sawed. Newest version especially tailored for use with concrete slab foundations is black, smooth surfaced board, 2’ x 8” x 8” thick. It is scored lengthwise in three places so workman without tools can trim to width desired by local building code simply by snapping along scored line. Masonry walls can be insulated by standard boards of foamed plastic—packaged in 3’ lengths, in 10” or 12” widths, in thicknesses from 1” to 5”. Boards are cemented directly on inner side of wall, eliminating furring strips; serve as base for finish plaster, eliminate lathing. May also be used on roofs or under concrete slabs. Advantages: Saves time and labor; imperious to moisture; resistant to rot and fungus growth; no appeal for insects or rodents.

Flashing composed of black, elastic sheet of plastic is said to be more effective against water penetration than any other available material. Though resistant to abrasion and tearing, can be cut on job and solvent-bonded to itself to form permanent joints. Will form seal around nails driven through it, is resistant to chemicals, corrosion, fire, is paintable.

Gutters and downspouts

One type of rigid, fiber glass-reinforced plastic has come on market in past year, is said to be stronger than steel. Advantages: Needs no cross bracing; won’t corrode or break from freezing; never has to be painted since color (white or copper) is built in.

Windows

Transparent glazing of glasslike acrylic is exceptionally clear, weather’s well, transmits heat more slowly than glass, but is more expensive. Best use is for special installations where ease of handling would hold down labor costs as compared to those for glass. High breakage resistance also suggests economies for window close looking play yards. Drawbacks of plastic: scratches easily, therefore better for windows out of reach from ground, away from brushing branches; attracts dust so not good near dusty roadways; though rated as “slow burning,” use may be restricted by some building codes.

Translucent glazing—especially of large fixed windows or sliding window walls—is another use for ubiquitous fiber glass-reinforced panels. Colorless, fiber glass-reinforced plastic is also available in prefabricated awning-type window with aluminum or steel frame. Another translucent glazing is windshield-type of safety glass sandwich; it is made of two sheets of glass laminated to a thin core of plastic with embedded botanical and decorative patterns. Variation of same idea can be used to create stained glass effect. Advantage of safety glass: shatter and fire resistance, decorative interest, less heat transmission than plain glass.

Skylights fabricated in square, rectangular or round plastic bubbles or domes are either clear or translucent. One is plain acrylic in metal frame. Another is acrylic reinforced with loose weave fabric said to filter out 76% of the solar heat. A self-flashing type is acrylic bubbles chemically bonded to a flat sheet of fiber glass-reinforced plastic which extends to form 4” flange that can be nailed to roof. Still another has double domes of fiber glass-reinforced plastic with heat insulating air space between. New models add ventilating fans to translucent dome. All are unobtrusive, simply designed devices to add daylight or bring it into inside rooms. (A similar transparent acrylic half-bubble is available for protecting areaways of cellar windows without cutting off light.)

Sun control devices

Fixed louver panels, to be used in place of a fixed window, are made of single continuous plastic sheet formed into louver shape. Downward slanting “slats” are coated on outside with heat reflecting, aluminum-pigmented plastic; horizontal “slats” are transparent, let you see straight through. Panels may also be installed vertically to cut off undesirable view in one direction.

Vertical, movable-louver jalousies with slats of fiber glass reinforced plastic can serve in warm climates instead of exterior wall.

Flat shoji panels of fiber glass-reinforced plastic have remarkable resemblance to traditional Japanese paper screens used indoors. Have superior resistance to tearing, are much easier to keep clean.

Rigid awnings of translucent, fiber glass-reinforced plastic with heat-block additive let in diffused light. Continued on next page
light but keep out sun’s rays, prevent fading of interior furnishings. Come prefabricated in range of colors, with aluminum frames. Can be left up year round.

Plastic fabric awnings woven of plastic filament are partly translucent (due to the weave), also rot proof, mildew proof, sag proof, weatherproof year round. Come in range of colors and good looking stripes. (Insect screening woven of same plastic filament has similar advantages of weather resistance and is rustproof.)

Floor coverings

It was plastic tile’s superior color clarity that brought smooth surface floor coverings out of the kitchen into the most elegant living rooms.

Vinyl flooring has unusual abrasion resistance, is non-porous so won’t hold dirt, combines in one product resilience, resistance to grease, alkalis and strong cleansers; includes some types suitable for installation in base- ments and on concrete slab foundations as well as above grade. Three general classifications: all-vinyl tile (homogeneous) has greatest color brilliance, greatest resistance to indentation, is most expensive. Vinyl-asbestos tile, strengthened by asbestos, can be installed below ground level, is somewhat less flexible, less expensive, most widely used. Vinyl-surface laminates in tiles or in sheet form like linoleum, are—in some versions—the least expensive, least durable. First two types come in wide range of clear solid colors, light and dark, as well as precise simulations of rare marbles, terrazzo, etc. Some have press-on backing that requires no adhesive. An interesting new tile laminate combines three materials: top layer of transparent vinyl; center of real hardwood veneer (six choices include walnut, mahogany, teak); cushion base of cork. Installed, would look like hardwood parquet floor, have easy-upkeep advantages of vinyl, sound absorbent qualities of cork.

Interior partitions

Room dividers or partitions may be constructed from any one of the fiber glass-reinforced plastic panels or translucent sandwich panels including safety glass.

Folding accordian walls made of double layers of fabric-supported plastic make better sound-blocks than hard, single-thickness walls with flat surfaces.

Wall coverings

Plastic laminates—the same ones that are used for countertops—can now be applied directly to a plaster, plywood or gypsum board wall, with a new type of adhesive. Laminates provide a tough, permanent, easy-to-keep-up surface. Wide range of patterns includes wood grains.

Vinyl-coated fabrics are hung like wallpaper, but with special adhesive. Coating takes clear, bright colors, is scuff proof, fade proof, scrubbable. Whole material is flexible enough to be carried around corners and over moldings without cracking. In addition to smooth surfaced, solid color versions there are countless embossed textures, some with abstract patterns, others simulating ridged wood, woven bamboo, stone, brick, woven silk.

Plastic “wallpaper” is plastic laminated to paper backing. Newest type looks like extraordinarily heavy paper with surface texture like cigarbox wood. Not as flexible as vinyl-coated fabrics, but scored vertically at 1/4” intervals so joinings don’t show. Standard colors include neutral grays, browns, turquoise, deep blue, lavender; 500 special colors also available.

Wall tiles more popular since development of special adhesives can now be mounted securely on almost any structurally sound wall. Made in solid colors with glossy surfaces, also mat finished, or in two-color textured striations. Newest have inlaid patterns, can be used in multiple or combined with solid-color type to compose individual patterns on wall.

Ceilings

Acoustical tile with deep-sculptured pattern, finished with vinyl coating, makes decorative ceiling, is easier to keep clean than conventional acoustical surfaces.

Lighting

Luminous ceilings are direct result of fact that light-diffusing plastic panels are lightweight enough to suspend from ceiling without unduly heavy supports or danger of breakage. Tube lighting is fixed directly to real ceiling—no need of fancy finish or fixtures since plastic diffuser panel hides all. Fluorescent lights usually are used because incandescent type is apt to give off too much heat for plastic.

Ceiling lighting is one instance where you do have to weigh respective advantages of different plastics: Vinyl is most commonly used, moderate in price. New formulation has improved its resistance to discoloring by ultraviolet rays and resistance increases as panel is further removed from lamp. Vinyl has best resistance to fire—rated as “self-extinguishing.” Cast acrylic gives better diffusion, does not yellow, is more expensive—but rated as “slow burning.” Poly styrene is cheaper than acrylic, but has in past been accused of brittleness, shine and yellowing—though these are said to be corrected by new formulations. Also rated as “slow burning.”

All three plastics are available in flat or corrugated panels or molded panels with simple, three-dimensional patterns. Most are translucent, white; one combines translucent pastels with white. Another type is a close-grid of prismatic louvers that refract light like crystal chandelier. All of these require some type of supporting frame. There is also a solid, circular-louver panel requiring no frame—when installed looks like one-piece ceiling.

Acoustical luminous ceilings have been developed—in one case by using perforated steel baffles containing fiber glass to hold up the plastic panels; in another by using a double panel of the molded type with air space in center.

Ceiling fixtures with plastic diffusers are also available. Some are designed to be mounted check to check to simulate effect of luminous ceiling.

Outdoor fences

For new types of outdoor screen that provide privacy to glass-walled interiors, fiber glass-reinforced panels seem custom tailored. Translucent, they improve the relationship of indoors and outdoors, do not cut off light, do not have confining effect of opaque wall, do not cut off view of passersby. They are also decorative, and require little maintenance. For another type of fence, broad bands of fiber glass-reinforced plastic may be threaded, basket-weave fashion, in and out of a series of posts.
Of all summer flowers phlox blooms most freely, best survives heat and drought and the most unpromising ground. Summer is just the climax of a growing year that starts as spring begins. On the following pages we present the starry parade, suggest times and places in which to use them all. Here also you will find practical hints on caring for living centerpieces (see pages 40 to 43) and a sheaf of notes on things to do in August.

SUNNY DRIFTS OF PHLOX, IN ALMOST EVERY SHADE, ARE THE HALLMARK OF THE BORDER FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER

H&G'S
GARDENER'S MONTH

HOUSE & GARDEN, AUGUST, 1958
PHLOX FOLLOWS THE SEASONS IN THE ALL YEAR GARDEN

Phlox is one of the very few plants with which it’s fair to try to play both ends of the season against the middle. You can do it in two important ways: by choosing species and varieties that will produce flowers at as many different times as possible during the growing year; by picking all blooms before they fade so that each flowering period is extended to maximum range. It is entirely feasible to have some kind of phlox flowering somewhere in your garden from daffodil time till the chrysanthemums take over—in sun and shade, among rocks, under leafy trees, or in the open garden. The old favorites Miss Lingard (white) and Miss Verboom (pink) bridge the gap between the lower growing spring species and the tall summer hybrids. And for a gay obbligato, annual varieties repeat all the pastel colors of the perennial kinds and add yellow as well to the edges of beds and borders. There are at least a score of handsome summer varieties like those below and on the preceding page. Buy them as plants, by varietal name. Most good nurseries supply the others, too. Packets of annual Drummond phlox, mixed or in separate color, are available from seedsmen everywhere.

The twofold beauty of phlox—starry florets of great delicacy repeated in opulent mounds and sheets of color—is best exemplified in the tall summer hybrids available in all shades except yellow.
Stellaria species is easily star and starriest of the early phlox, with crisp florets, deeply notched, pale violet petals. *P. subulata* in foreground.

Trailiiifi form, like all early kiini.-. is perennial, tolerates shade. *P. nivalis* has white flowers that fall softly over stones. Try Camla variety.

Blue phlox, sometimes called woods phlox, actually divaricata species, is among most popular perennials in bulb borders or spring woods.

Tallest phlox in spring garden is *P. ovata*, bearing characteristic starry florets an inch across, purple or pink, in small clusters during late spring.

Phlox from seed makes edging for annual borders, in many shades.

Fringed florets mark one annual variety producing 3-inch clusters.

Gardeners have confidence in Wayside Gardens

It has long been an accepted truth that a vast majority of American gardeners depend on Wayside Gardens to supply them with the very newest and most worthwhile garden subjects. The winning of this priceless confidence is the result of Wayside's strict adherence to the highest ideals of quality and dependability. Year after year, the impression grows, and rightly so, that Wayside Gardens offers only the newest and best in horticulture.

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*New Forsythia, Lynwood Gold.* Will soon replace all other deep yellow. Golden flowers are twice as large and it blooms much longer.

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NOTES FOR AUGUST'S GARDENER

The only chores worth doing during the dogdays are the ones you can sandwich in between catnaps.

First weekend

North latitudes: One biannually, even sedentary, August pursuit that you can enjoy intermittently is the planting of a few handfuls of hardy fall flowering bulbs in neglected garden corners. Characteristic time schedule for a typical cycle: plant meadow saffron (colchicum) August 1; it will be in flower by September 15. Next April it will put up leaves that will disappear by the fourth of July. By September 15 of next year it will flower once more, by October 15 once more will disappear. Species and varieties available from good dealers include those with single flowers in lavender, rose, white, violet and, either single or double, lilac. Best of the autumn crocuses are catalogued as zonatus, speciosus, occasionally sativus. Aitchinsonii is a handsome light blue. Others range from white through the light purples, some with yellow throats and stamens. Catalogued names are generally less instructive than color designations. Bright yellow sternbergias, which produce leaves with their flowers, naturalize gracefully beneath birch clumps.

Any of them may be grouped effectively among low ground cover around a bird bath or garden figure, beside a stone wall or step, in front of low evergreen shrubs, and of course in the rock garden.

West and southwest: Dry climates make spider mites ("red spiders," though they are seldom red) the most dangerous pest in the rose garden, partly because it is easier to kill competing pests and leave a clear field to the mites, partly because they often pass unnoticed until infestation is general. Aramite (15% wettable powder) at 1 tablespoon per gallon of water applied weekly, is a dependable control—alone or added to combination pesticides. To help retain moisture in pots of August-sown annuals and perennials, tie pieces of burlap or sacking over top and around sides of the pots, either single or double, lilac. Best of the autumn crocuses are catalogued as zonatus, speciosus, occasionally sativus. Aitchinsonii is a handsome light blue. Others range from white through the light purples, some with yellow throats and stamens. Catalogued names are generally less instructive than color designations. Bright yellow sternbergias, which produce leaves with their flowers, naturalize gracefully beneath birch clumps.

Continued

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UNION NATIONAL, Inc. JAMESTOWN, N. Y.
AUGUST'S GARDENER continued

Second weekend

Northern tier: When days shrink to less than 14 hours, chrysanthemums stop making green growth, start setting flower buds, are ready to be set in beds and borders where they are to blossom. Avoid two worst temptations: 1, to plop plants indiscriminately into gaps where other plants failed or have passed peak, with resultant spotty and belterskelter effect; 2, to set plants in regular rows, thus creating stiffness and monotony. Suggestion: place plants in threes and fives (odd numbers for some reason form more pleasing groups than even numbers), spaced at unequal intervals averaging about 18 inches. Surround taller clumps that may require staking with branching clumps of unequal, lower heights to create billows and drifts rather than exclamation points. If you lack enough plants to get proper effect, resolve to make more cuttings, acquire more plants next spring. . . . Most of the June flowering perennials may be divided and reset in August as the mood strikes you. And fresh seed of hybrid delphiniums, pansies and many primroses, planted a flat or pot at a time in the cool of early evening, should be started by mid-month if they are to form plants that will winter reliably, produce flowers on schedule next year (primroses, of course, will develop in their own good time).

California Bay region: These are the days to remember that drying winds often cause more damage to fuchsias than hot sun, so consider the possible need for screens beside the plants in exposed locations rather than mere shades over them. Windbreaks will also lengthen the life, maintain condition of delicate blossoms. With or without windbreaks, weary not of watering—daily at least, and preferably with a mist nozzle on your hose.

Third weekend

North and northeast: Fore-handed lawn builders will prepare their seedbed, thoroughly but not too fussily, at least a week (preferably a fortnight) ahead of expected sowing date. Purposes: to allow plenty of time for the soil to settle naturally; to permit settling and rains to reveal high and low places that will need adjustment. Raking and rolling (surface compaction only) of newly tilled ground may delay to your disadvantage, perhaps actually prevent, underground soft and hard spots from being recognized before seeding. You will enjoy the considerable benefits of slow tillage rather than egg-beater pulverizing more fully if the ground is given this extra time to weather. . . . Divide two long-lived and slow-growing perennials that no border should lack in ample clumps during August's semi-dormancy. You may slice Oriental poppy roots, resembling outsized molars, vertically into pieces retaining two or three crowns, now about ready to raise new leaf shoots. (Long roots of favored varieties may be robbed of two-inch pieces, pencil thick, which will form new plants if placed slantwise in an out-of-the-way spot and covered an inch or so deep.) Dictamnus, the gas plant (did anyone ever really succeed in igniting the vapor of the blossoms?), almost as long lived as the peony, seems to resent disturbance less in late summer than at any other time. It should be divided the way you do poppies, the pieces reset immediately with crowns at precisely same level as before. Don't worry if foliage fades rapidly at season's end.

West coast: Wherever winters are substantially freeze tree, set out freesias, lachenalians, hardy cyclamen. Suggestion: plant more liberal clumps than you think you need and you will get really substantial and dramatic effects from the airy and delicate flower sprays.

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### Advertising Index

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Fourth weekend

Wherever you are: There are several score things you meant to do before Labor Day that you have not done. Although they may be done differently in different localities, their merits are common. Here are a few: Complete all catalogue orders for spring flowering bulbs (and that includes iris varieties you forgot to order in June) . . . Turn the compost heap, preferably starting a second pile in which to accumulate fall gleanings without covering the remains of pile number one which you will use in the beds you prepare for fall planting . . . Start late lettuce. Sow some in frames that may be covered as cold weather approaches. Good leaf lettuce may be enjoyed till December even in the chilly north . . . Prepare a heap of soil for indoor pot plants, not because you need to get the mixture under cover, but because from now on you will be preparing seedlings, root cuttings, divisions for later growth in the house. Our custom de luxe general purpose mixture: 2 parts garden earth, 1 part sand, 1 part dried cattle manure, 2 parts leaf mold or peatmoss, 1/2 cup bone meal per peck of mixture . . . Buy a couple of staple reference books recently issued: the American Rose Annual 1958 (Douglas distribute it for the American Rose Society, $1.50), the rose growers' code memum: The Directory of American Horticulture, 1958 (American Horticultural Council, $1.50), valuable if only for its list of horticultural organizations, including "single plant" societies and state and national experiment stations.

DOUBLE-DUTY CENTERPIECES

CAN MAKE GOOD HOUSE PLANTS

Shown on pages 40-43

Centerpiece plants can double effectively as room decorations or frame a window when you are not using them on your table. If you can control humidity, temperature and light, they may thrive indefinitely, like any other house plants. A fairly humid 60°-70° is ideal for indoor plants. Since this is higher than most homes can maintain, set your plants in porous containers like plastic pots or metal trays. Be sure that the soil is rich in humus (add compost, leafmold, dried manure), but sandy enough to permit good drainage. To add moisture to the air around the plants, conceal a pan of water among the pots or set them in a window box or tray lined with gravel kept wet. A daily spraying with water helps.

Adequate ventilation is important, especially in winter. Fresh air not only increases humidity, but eliminates harmful concentrations of cooking or heating gas in the atmosphere. Ferns, and foliage plants like the marantas and bromeliads do not need direct sunlight. Incandescent or fluorescent light, or both, will suit these plants and keep African-violets flowering. Begonias and geraniums will need stronger light to flower well—and so will patience plant and crossandra.

When plants are not on active duty, use them to enliven a room. Glass window shelves, a long tray or plant box in the floor. For maximum effect, construct it near a deep window where the sun is not too strong. Install an inch or two of stone chips for drainage, and then cover the gravel and surround the pots with moist peat.

To prevent the straggly look, clip and trim your plants occasionally. One yellow leaf, a tendril or stem that has over-reached its limits—almost any material will do, as long as it is large enough to hold the pot and flatten the plant. A tiered wire stand, straight or curving, is an attractive portable plant holder for your terrace in summer, or before a window in winter. Best of all to make plants a real part of your home, build a sunken plant box in the floor. For maximum effect, construct it near a deep window where the sun is not too strong. Install an inch or two of stone chips for drainage, and to hold pots above water level, then cover the gravel and surround the pots with moist peat.

To prevent the straggly look, clip and trim your plants occasionally. One yellow leaf, a tendril or stem that has over-reached itself, a smudgy container can spoil the whole effect. To keep your plants in line and "store" them decoratively under good living conditions. Then they will always be available when you need them to brighten your table again.
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