



PERFECT HOME

MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 1951

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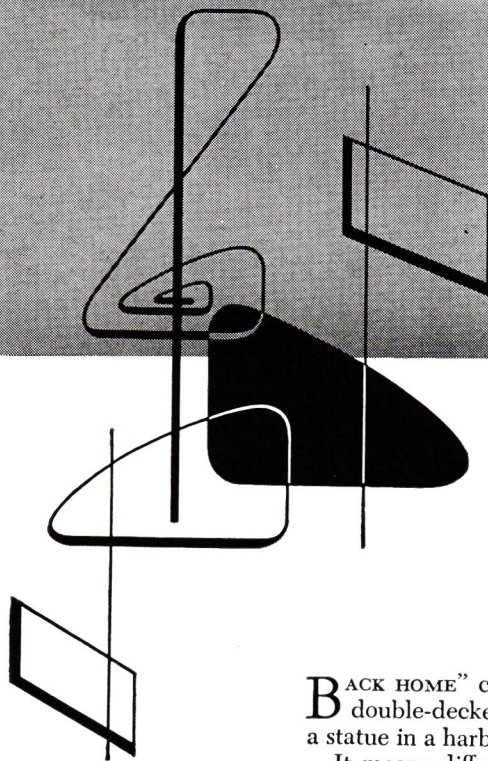
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BACK HOME

BY MEREDITH WILLSON

BACK HOME" can mean a fried egg sandwich at the Chicago airport at 2 a.m., a double-decker bunk in the dormitory, a roomette in a transcontinental train, or a statue in a harbor.

It means different things to different people, this familiar phrase. But mostly, it spells familiar, satisfying experiences which you like to recall.

Rini and I own a small segment of this planet, with a house on it and a few worldly possessions on the inside of this house. That's the first definition of "back home" to us. We worked hard for all that stuff. We picked it out; we made the payments on it. We have been supremely happy in that house. We love it!

But "back home" also means other things. The nostalgia of other days . . . the rich spring black, the lush summer green, the warm autumn red, and the glistening winter white of our home state of Iowa.

Or we feel momentarily "back home" when greeted by the friendly waiter at the third table from the door in the Chicago airport. Or we say "back home" with a relieved sigh . . . and mean it . . . to the smiling elevator man in the hotel where we stay for one week every couple of years. Or "back home" it is with eyes alight, from the deck of a ship rocking in New York harbor. And again to the tired string of a hammock on the summer cottage porch, with its swarm of tiny gnats around the screen, and its view of the small lake off there through the trees. Yes, you say to yourself, you're back home, just as you say it to the gang at the office two weeks later.

Then Sunday you go to church.

You know from the sound of the babies in the back pews that there's going to be some baptising and some joining today. You can tell from the worried angle of the choir-leader's head that several of the tenors didn't show up. And the flowers, so beautifully arranged, remind you guiltily of the ones you meant to drop off yesterday afternoon.

The Call to Worship begins and "Love Divine" is the processional hymn. You'll sing louder as the choir, giving you moral support, gets nearer to your pew. Reverend Hogue reads the Lord's Prayer just right, pausing according to the meaning of the words, instead of at the end of each line, like some.

Now "Praise God from whom all blessings flow" rises around you and you join in with confidence, join in with the words and the tune you could never forget, and you find that you're really "back home" at last. You are "back home" in the richest way of all.

Meredith Willson

Meredith Willson has been entering our homes via radio for so many years that most of us consider him an old friend. This talented orchestra leader possesses a rich, warm humor that is delightful

If this dining view and the charming exterior on our cover pique your curiosity, turn the page to see the complete house as photographed by Max Tatch

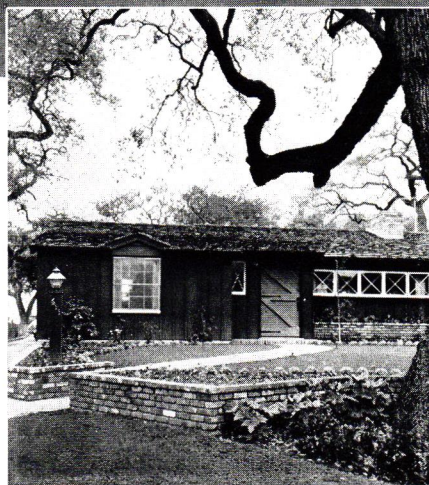
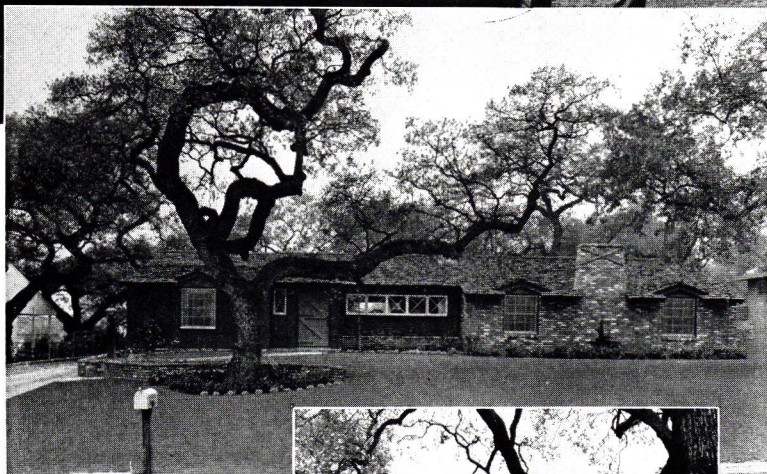


FOR THE

Simple life



With shake roof and combination of used bricks and redwood this house fits comfortably into a frame of six gnarled oaks and a mountain view



TAKE weathered bricks — russet and coral from years of sunlight and rain — and use them to give sweep and balance. Take redwood siding that shares the same warm colors of the bricks, and use it vertically to give dignity and height. Put them together in a design that snuggles affectionately to Mother Earth. If you're skillful, you'll end up with a home as inviting as this.

It spells the simple life . . . graciously. No pretense. No sensational effects. Yet from the friendly Dutch door to the sprightly yellow trim, it has a serene homespun quality.

Don't expect formality inside. Everything makes for ease. It's a cheer-and-contentment place with all the simple, homely things; a pipe and footstool, a clock that strikes and flowers on the window sills.

The list of rooms reads: living, dining, utility and two bedrooms, den, kitchen, dressing room and bath. The dining room is an all-purpose room and the heart of family life. It's large with its own fireplace and a bleachers'-seat view of the kitchen. Only a wide service bar separates the two rooms. There is a rustic heavy-beamed ceiling and the pegged-oak floors are covered with large, old-fashioned braided ovals. Warm apricot burlap curtains hang beneath full print ruffles.

The bright gleam of a copper hood attracts the eye to the unusual corner fireplace, that is backed up by a similar one in the den. The living room has a spacious fireplace and great windows.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAX TATCH

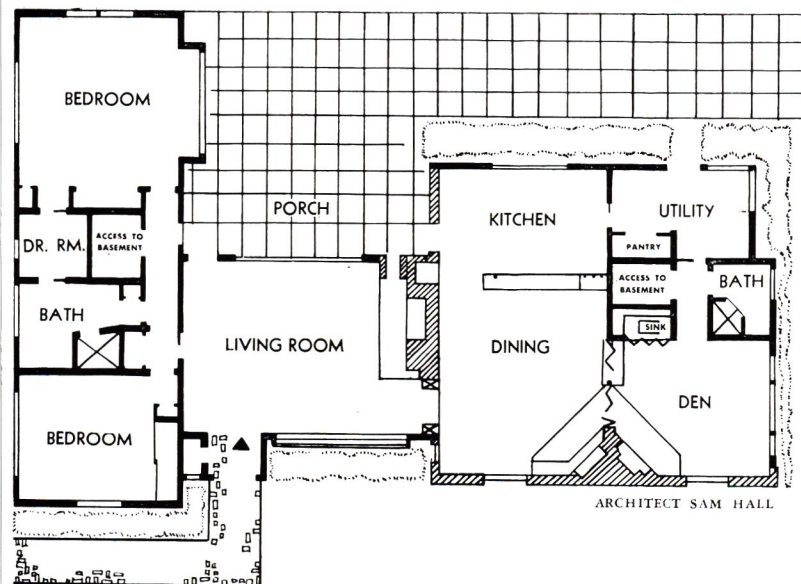


Modern honey-toned maple pieces blend with older treasures in the master bedroom. Colors are green, aqua and brown with one wall to match the floral chintz

Old bricks used throughout the house for fireplaces and for partitions have through wear, efflorescence and the elements become richer in colors and texture



The bookshelves between rooms are patchworks of color with bright book jackets and a roguish quartet of toby jugs to help guard the top shelf



The plan points out the unusually complete separation between the living, sleeping and service areas. It also shows the large porch and the terrace





THERE was not much really *wrong* with this room. It was neat and comfortable. But it lacked charm. There was no unity, no drama, no feeling of restfulness.

And so, with a little paint and a minimum of carpentry, the owners set about to transform it. We call it skin-deep remodeling, because most of the modernization was done with paint.

The first move was a re-arrangement of several pieces of furniture to provide unity. As you can see from the photograph in the in-set, the dining table seemed marooned between the two doorways. So it was moved to form an attractive grouping by the fireplace. Because the two doorways formed distracting views into the bathroom and the kitchen, movable screens were placed in the gaping openings. To make the wall between the doors more interesting, a full-length bamboo screen was used, highlighted by a dramatic painting of a dragon. The chest that had been by the fireplace was placed under it for visual support.

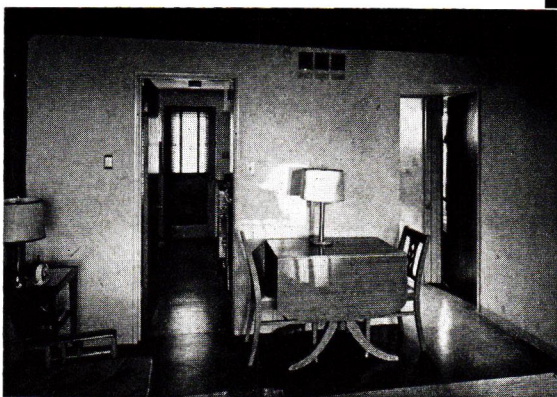
Then came the paint. The ceiling, in natural redwood, was kept as it was, but the light walls were treated in a deep leaf green. The same dramatic tone was used on the new screens, blending them into the room. Even the new shadow-box frame on the painting by the fireplace, got its coat of deep leaf green.

The effect now is delightful. This room has a cohesion, a smartness, that is both restful and interesting, as photos show.

The table changed places with a chest to make a more interesting fireplace arrangement. The blonde wood contrasts with the green wall

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MORLEY BAER

SKIN-DEEP REMODELING



BEFORE

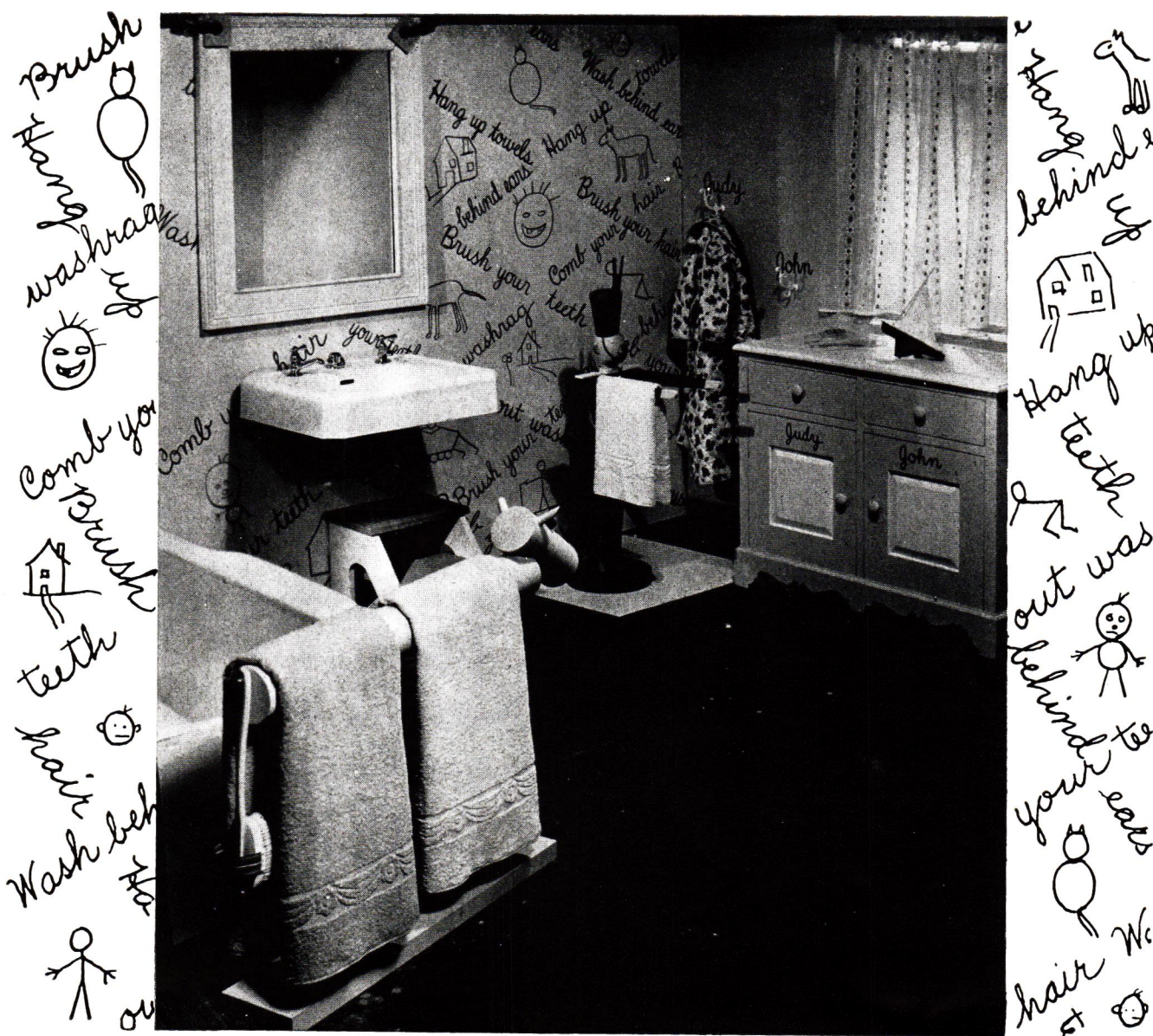
The dining table seemed ostracized between the two doorways, and from the room you could see into the kitchen and the bathroom. Now see what was done



AFTER

There's one, too, that says "Hang up your towels" and just to make that one more exciting, a jaunty wooden soldier with his arms outstretched stands stiffly at attention beside the wash basin and a tired dobbin with bath-brush tail waits in his tub-side stall for a load of bath-size towels. An old commode was resurrected from the attic, painted two shades of blue and neatly halved for Judy and John. Even wall hangers for their robes are neatly labeled so there will be no confusion. They were installed at just the right height for stubby arms. The red, white and blue steps under the wash basin bring young Jumping Jacks closer to the water. A well-lighted mirror shows up missed smudges on even the tiniest faces.

A BATHROOM WITH KID APPEAL



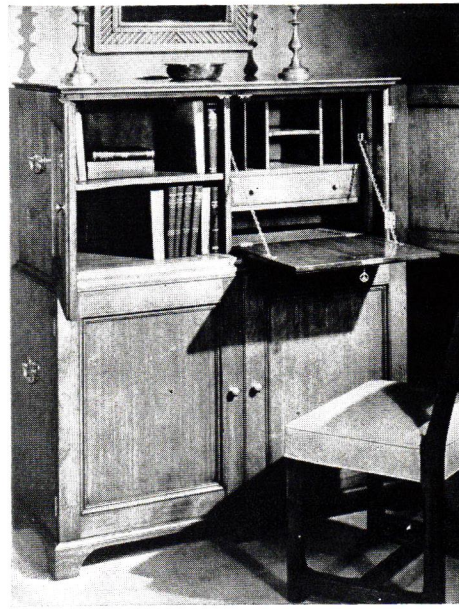


◀ Coffee table in front of the convertible sofa completes a friendly corner in which you may greet your friends in a convivial setting. Opened, above, table grows into dining table.

At the dinner hour turn down the hinged top of this chest. It becomes a table for six. The two long drawers have a six-drawer-effect front.



This versatile two-tier chest is adaptable to many rooms and uses. It is equally useful as sideboard, record cabinet, or chest for storage.



Lift the top to convert this traditional table to a vanity. The center section, especially designed for cosmetics, is partly covered by glass.



BY BRUCE ALLEN

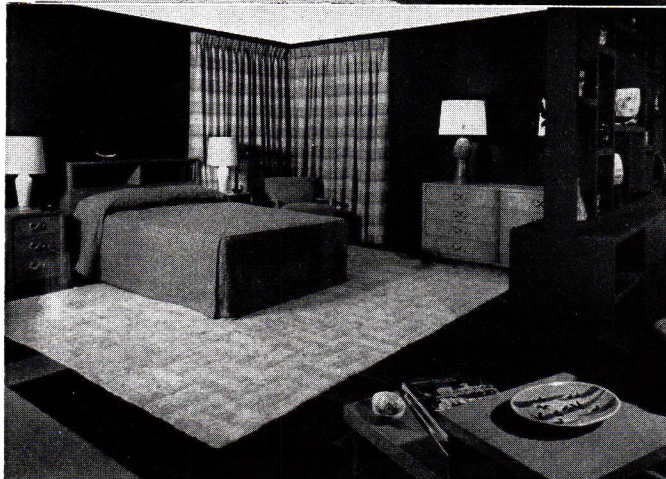
Convertibles



This regency server is at home in dining or living room. Drawer fronts are finished in crotch mahogany — the top pulls out to provide a handy serving tray for refreshments ➤

"Domino" coffee tables with multiple uses. Tables may be placed side by side for a coffee table of any length or arranged to fit any area





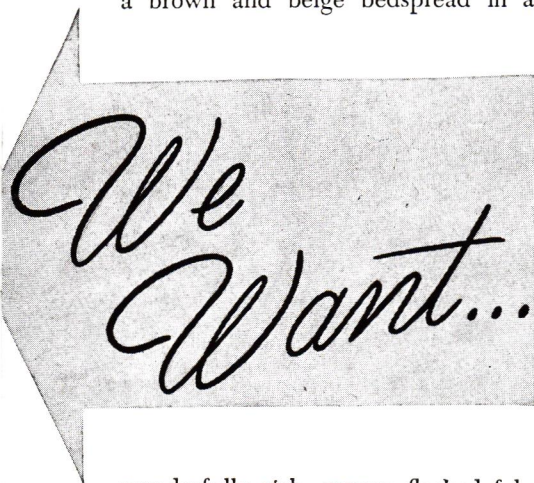
Two rooms . . . two pleasing ways to decorate them. One for the modern-minded and one for the lover of tradition



SOME like modern, some prefer traditional. Modern or traditional, the fundamentals that make a comfortable, attractive room are the same — well-styled furniture, harmonious colors, generous use of fabrics, and accessories that point up the style's charm.

The bedroom-sitting rooms illustrated are almost identical. One has been furnished with fine Early American maple pieces, the other in toffee-toned, modern walnut. Old or new, they both offer a serene background for today's living.

A single color theme and an air of spaciousness were the two aims in decorating the modern room. It was done in shades of brown, from the deep chocolate of walls and dividing shelves to the light beige of the cotton rugs. Blending into this monotone background are toffee walnut furniture and a brown and beige bedspread in a

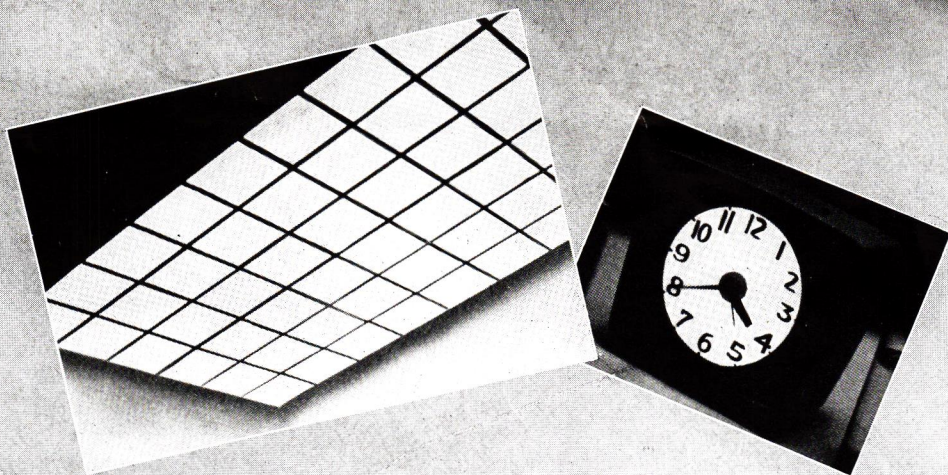


wonderfully rich, copper flecked fabric. This flash of copper is repeated in canyon-red chairs.

Colonial maple furniture against a canary-yellow background gives the traditional room a gay and larger look. Modern fabrics and colors blend happily with traditional furniture in the leaf-patterned print of the sofa, in the simple terra cotta lamp shades, in the yellow tweed of the arm chair and the pale green textured cotton rugs. This delightful blend of modern and colonial is felt again in the airy Swedish motif of the tiered bedroom curtains. Their rich rosy terra cotta is repeated in the quilted bedspreads and in copper accessories.

Tiny round pillows are used on the bed, chairs, and sofa to make furniture appear larger in proportion, a trick that in turn makes the whole area seem much more spacious.

Yes, some like the clean lines of modern and others prefer the enduring loveliness of traditional. Take your choice — but stick to the fundamentals that make charm, if you would have background designed for serene living.



THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

SEE that glowing ceiling up there? Or those clock dials, those radio dials, the lighted risers on the carpeted steps, the luminescent house numbers?

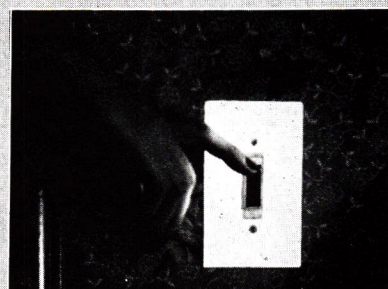
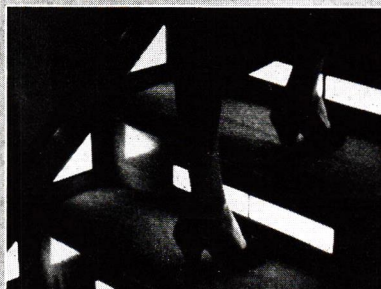
This is not frosted glass over an incandescent bulb or a fluorescent tube. This is an entirely new way to produce artificial light!

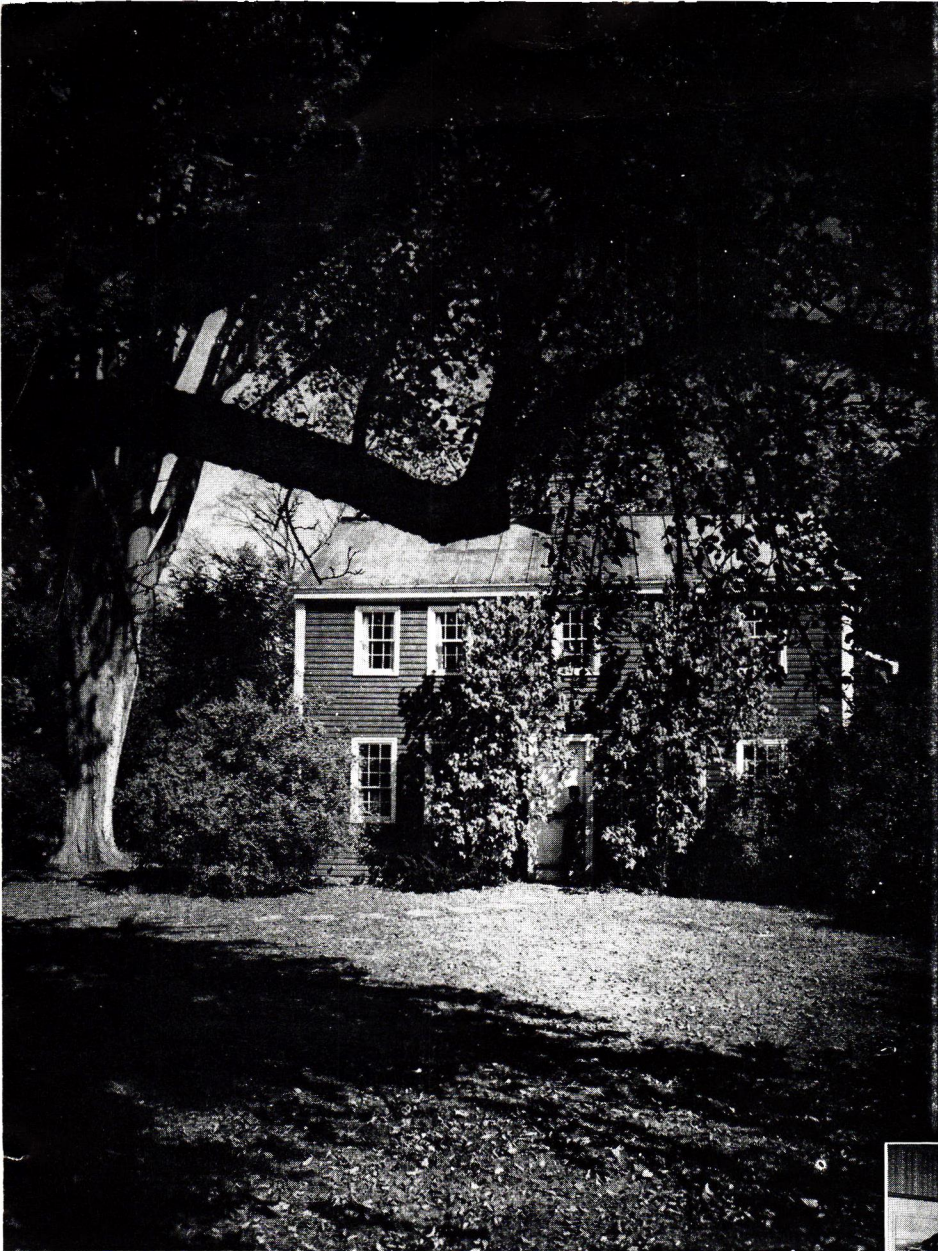
This new lighting principle is called "electro-luminescence." In effect, it uses the glass itself as a light source, instead of a filament or a glass-enclosed luminous gas. The sheets of glass which you see pictured actually produce the light because they have been coated with the newly developed phosphor-dielectric film and aluminum. As a result, the whole pane of glass glows with light.

It is predicted that this new idea in lighting will have a fine future as a means of low-level illumination and to help us see objects in the home that need extra lighting — such as switchplates, tables, signs, radio and clock dials, step risers and sides.

The cost of this new light is startlingly low. Small areas can be lighted 24 hours a day for as low as only a few cents per year. Even a large 4' by 6' panel, with transformer to build up brightness, will consume less energy than a 25-watt bulb.

The first applications of the new principle to come on the market will be in a brilliant green, but it is expected that it will soon also be produced in yellow, light blue, and white.





PHOTOGRAPHS BY DEARBORN-MASSAR

IMAGINE actually living in this house 150 years ago. Thomas Jefferson's campaign for the presidency of our turbulent new nation was just drawing to a successful conclusion when this house was built. The venerable oaks under which it now stands were not yet man-high and Indians in braids and blankets were familiar sights along the surrounding wooded trails.

It took an architect to spot the ageless charm beneath the neglected exterior.

There is little left of the original structure. The exterior walls and a few central partitions were the only things not removed, added or replaced. The three new fireplaces are shown in these pictures. All windows, the foundation and most of the interior walls are new.

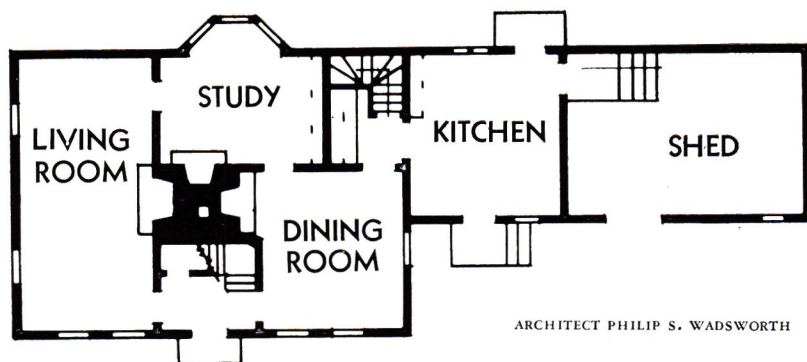
The original house used olive green paint glazed with rich red for all interior walls. This color has been repeated on the walls of the study. Bookcases are lined with crimson.

Spode's "Blue Tower" china set the decorating theme for the dining room. Walls are covered in royal and white "Willow" patterned paper. One wall is paneled in wide white boards. Still further changes are in line for this home. They include more and larger windows wherever they can be introduced without spoiling the spirit of the architecture, enlarging several rooms and adding both a porch and another much-needed bath.

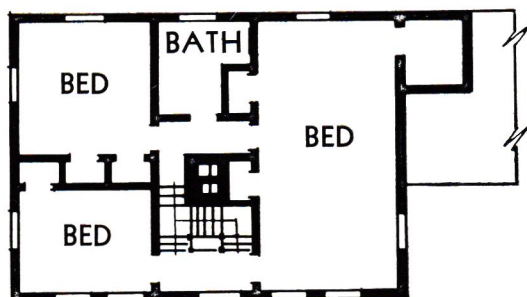
Under tall oaks stands a friendly home whose generous touch of tradition gives it quiet grace and dignity. Sincere lines could not be hidden by an advanced state of disrepair. The original spirit was always in mind when making changes



IT'S 150 YEARS OLD



ARCHITECT PHILIP S. WADSWORTH

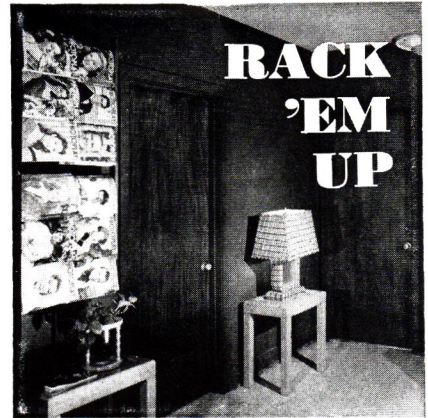




Indecision in the colors used in the study . . . deep olive green glazed with vermilion



There is charm rooted in days and ways now gone, made livable by modern revisions. The willow pattern paper of the dining room keeps the spirit of the orient trade alive



If your magazines are guilty of disorderly conduct, sentence them to the rack. It's a good way to keep them from lolling untidily wherever a reader drops them.

Of course, you'll need a bit of human co-operation; therefore, you should make the racks as easy to use as the two shown on this page. Both are structurally simple and either is suitable for any room that permits a measure of informality.

The wall rack consists of slender uprights and wafer-thin but sturdy crossbars that are held a few inches from the wall. Magazines are racked merely by opening them near the middle and dropping them over the bars.

The door rack, held in place by a few screws, lets magazines stand upright on narrow ledges. The door gives support at the back while dowels keep magazines from tipping forward.





PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAX TATCH



THE window shade started it. Fresh and white, it hung on the outside of the nursery door. Raise it and you could keep a guardian eye on the tiny mite in her quiet crib inside the room. Pull it down and you shut out the world during naptime.

Mother thought first of painting baby's version of the old "Do not disturb" sign directly on the cloth shade. Then as paint brushes will, this one started to wander. First, it trailed a few glittering stars between the words and spotted some over to the adjoining wall. Then just for fun it traced a couple of bluebirds.

Into the nursery went the roving brush and before it stopped, every piece of furniture was bright with color. The quiet sky-blue ceiling was awink with stars above the crib and the "many angels" of the old prayer guarded head and foot of the tiny bed.

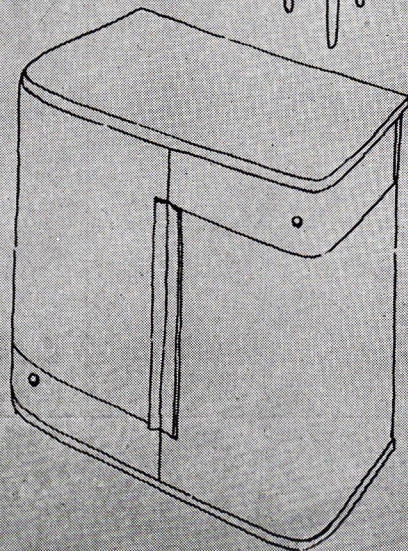
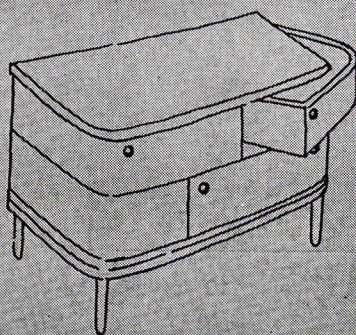
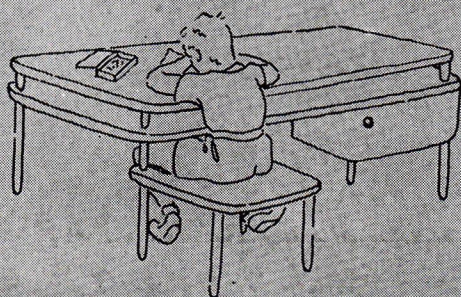
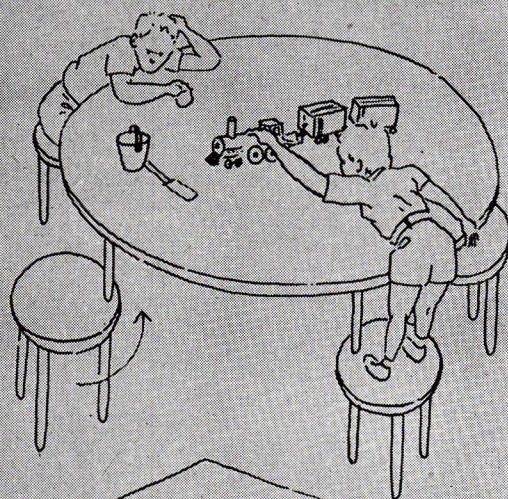


MANY ANGELS WATCH DO KEEP

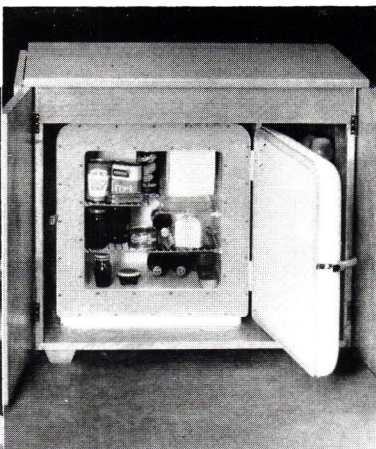
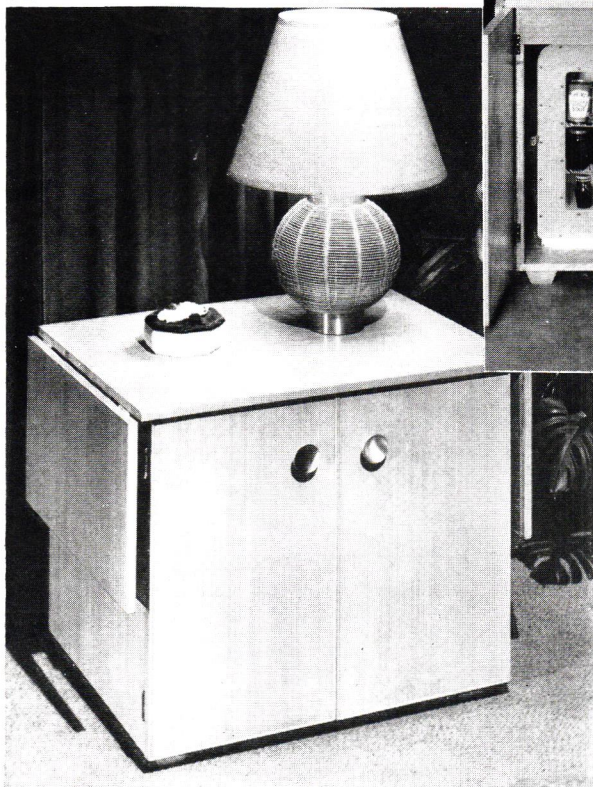
FURNITURE CAN BE FUN

THERE's no doubt that these new tot-size units have more than functional value. A table is fine but just think how much more exciting it is when, in "merry-go-round" fashion, it whirls its own bright chairs out into sitting position. A cupboard becomes a Pandora's box for the treasure-minded when it, too, swings out easily to receive its load. This strictly kindergarten-age furniture is scaled to suit abbreviated arms and legs.

The accompanying sketches explain how the pieces look and how they are used. The dowel hinges are particularly wear-proof and the bright-as-butterfly colors are, so the designer says, an inducement to keep order in the nursery.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY AMERICAN FURNITURE MART



This Refrigerator's By The Sofa

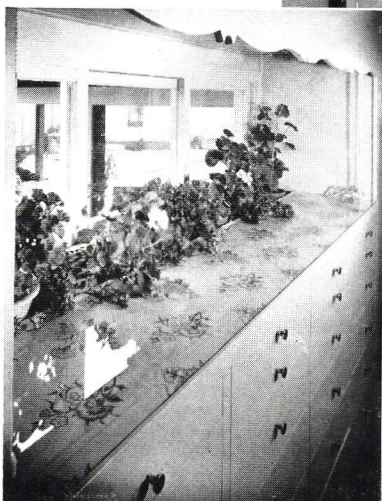
Now that we have tables that turn into beds, radios that look like bookcases, and pictures that are really movie screens, it's no wonder that some enterprising designer finally turned his genius to the problem of a refrigerator for the tiny house or one-room home. Wonderful though it may be, the usual gleaming white refrigerator becomes, because of its size, the dominant feature of a room. Here is one that defies you to discover it. A console chest faced handsomely with bleached mahogany holds more than two cubic feet of refrigerator space and two ice cube trays. Alongside there is room for a small stock of canned goods and fruit. When the two drop leaves are raised they form a beautifully grained table 66-inches long.

You can't beat the storage problems for inspiring good ideas. To storage walls, storage cabinets and storage closets in basement and attic, you can now add this idea for a storage hallway. This is a large corridor adjoining two bedrooms and just around the corner from the front entrance. Two wardrobe closets, a bank of twenty-one drawers and twelve feet of overhead cupboard space take over the storage needs of most of the house. To give the hallway daytime illumination there is a high window above the drawers. A plant pocket recesses pots along the window line and a blind drops down to cover the recess at night.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT C. CLEVELAND

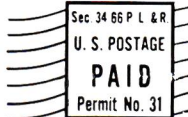
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Perhaps you've heard the story of the ship's captain and the chief engineer who got into an argument over the difficulty of their respective jobs. To settle the matter they agreed to switch: the captain went into the engine room and the engineer took over the bridge. In an hour the captain appeared on deck, sweaty, grease-stained, frustrated. "All right," he called to the engineer, "I give up. She's stalled and I can't get her to go."

"Of course not," the engineer admitted sadly. "She's been aground for the last 45 minutes!"

Home owners will readily appreciate that story's application, we think, because they know the disaster that can result from an inexperienced person's undertaking a repairing or remodeling job.

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