

# PERFECT HOME

FEBRUARY 1952

MAGAZINE



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You probably became acquainted with Clifton Fadiman on "Information Please" or as Book-of-the-Month editor; but he is also a noted magazine and newspaper writer, lecturer, and editorial adviser for one of our largest book publishers

## THE THINGS WE REALLY LIVE BY

I HAVE often wondered what would happen to the average American home, such as my own, if the Lord should decide to perform a miracle. As a result of this miracle, while all our essential comforts would be left to us, certain things would suddenly disappear into thin air — such things as pleasure-cars, radios, television receivers, picture-magazines, movies . . .

Now, don't get the idea that I want any of this to happen. All of these things, in moderation, are good and necessary. But, if they *did* suddenly disappear, would we not learn something from their absence? After our first bewilderment, would we not look around us, to those we know and love best, our family and close friends, and begin to depend on *them*, for pleasure and relaxation and instruction?

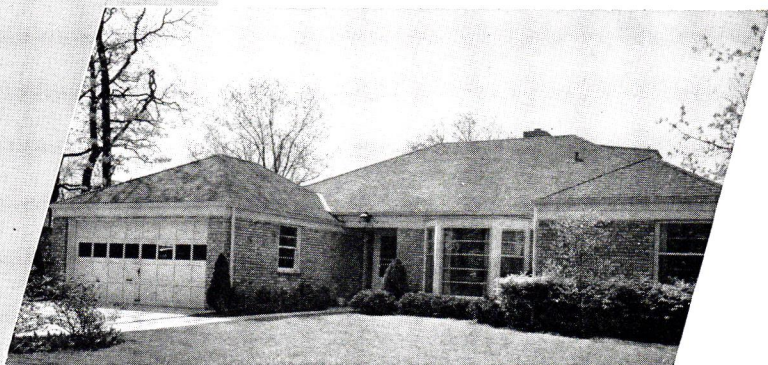
It is true that we live easier and certainly more varied lives than our forefathers did; but perhaps some of us have lost something, too — the sense of the home as the *center* of our lives. There is a tendency, however much we may ignore it, for us to lean on other people — the man on the radio, the girl on the movie-screen, the baseball team in the stadium — for some of the things that, fifty years ago, the family circle supplied. Within reason all these outside sources of entertainment are excellent; but let us not rely on them too much.

"Things are in the saddle," said Emerson, "and ride mankind." He was exaggerating for effect, of course, and yet his warning is worth attending to. What things does the home produce? Nothing that you can put your hand on — only such products as conversation and sympathy, laughter and love. Yet these are the things we really live by, or should. That is why the home is central to us, and why we should try to keep it central.

*Clifton Fadiman*

Robert C. Cleveland photographed this plaid walled dining room. Nowell Ward and Associates photographed our page 8 room as it appears in color on our front cover





SO NICE TO CALL  
*Home*



Vermilion bolsters and curtains flash bright against the neutral background of brown walls and the cypress woodwork

MODERN or traditional, large or small, houses usually are judged by their eye appeal. The angle of a roof, the spread of a window, the fullness of a ruffle; such are the things that bind us to a particular house. To just such details go credit for the heart-warming charm of this single-story brick house.

The owners made no attempt to force their loved traditional furnishings into a modern setting. They have, instead, introduced just a few modern details, modern colors, modern simplicity; but so inconspicuously the eye is never aware of the intrusion.

This is a frankly sentimental family with a warm heart for grandmother's Victorian slipper-chair and father's treasured Napoleonic clock, for hitching posts and toby jugs. But such nostalgic mementos take an unexpected sophistication before a background of dark delphinium blue and pickled-pine walls or against the great picture bay that captures sunlight by day and starlight by night.

Cleverly tucked into these hospitable rooms are some mighty fine maintenance ideas too. Other than a very light dusting, neither the pickled-pine living room wall nor the raised marble fireplace require much care, nor do the windows — easy-to-keep-sparkling because of their large horizontal panes.

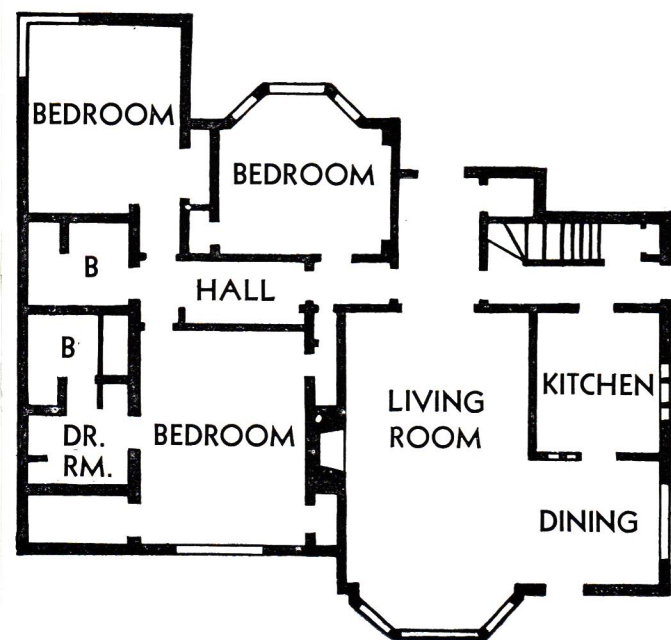
Those tricky, painted motifs on kitchen cupboard doors are certainly eye-stoppers, but don't let them cause you to overlook the practical plastic counter tops or the kind-to-the-feet linoleum.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOWELL WARD AND ASSOCIATES





This great bay window invites the warming rays of the sun all winter long. At night, tile blue and white draperies can be drawn behind the huge sofa

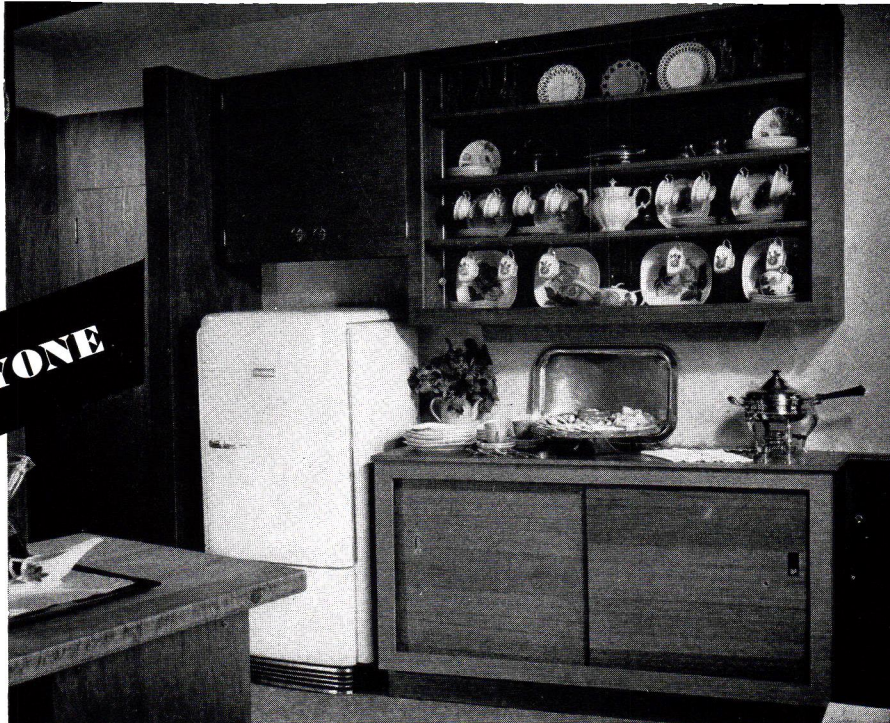


Food sketches label each cupboard quite conveniently with contents. Ruffles at the triple windows match the painted design and counter tops



The natural beauty of swamp cypress has been given full play in the built-in chests and bookcases in the bedroom of the two college-age sons





1

**N**O MATTER where I serve my guests, they always like my kitchen best." These words cross-stitched on a sampler are as true today as when great-grandma set her bountiful table 'neath a temperamental hanging lamp.

In "her day," family life centered in the kitchen where tantalizing odors hinted of fresh bread, rocks, or spice cake in the making. On school nights the struggle for the three-R's took place around the big table. And Saturday invariably brought forth the wooden tub so folks at church next day could see the young 'uns knew what cleanliness was next-to!

But as the pace of life quickened, the kitchen gave way to streamlined little galleys: and somehow the heart seemed to be gone from the place.

Then the pendulum swung back. More and more, big, homey, family kitchens are being specified — but with a difference! Gone are the ancient tubs, the handpumps and greedy ranges, leaving only a sigh for their picturesqueness.

Today's kitchens, like this one, combine informality with a wonderful, everything-at-hand convenience. This inviting family room has plywood walls, three of them finished in clear mahogany and the fourth in singing yellow.

Picture windows on opposite sides of the kitchen give a full view of the woodland setting for Mother to enjoy while her electric robots whip up dinner or wash the dishes. And everything will be slick-as-a-whistle in time for Junior's gang to take over later for an evening of fun. Great-grandma wouldn't believe it!



2

1. Sliding glass doors make a sparkling display of the china cabinet's wares. Base is a handsome server

2. White chairs laced in apple-green plastic match the rubber floor tiles, add coolness to sunny colors

3. Snack bar with yellow stools is a fun spot. Kitchen side has drawers below, is convenient for serving



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVIS, HEDRICH BLESSING, SMITH, CLEVELAND

3





A plant recess shears off a corner of this television room. Greenery accents open airiness of space and forms a pleasant, quiet background



The double angle of an interior chimney is changed to an asset by fitting two chests smoothly around the corner. Shelf hides light tubes



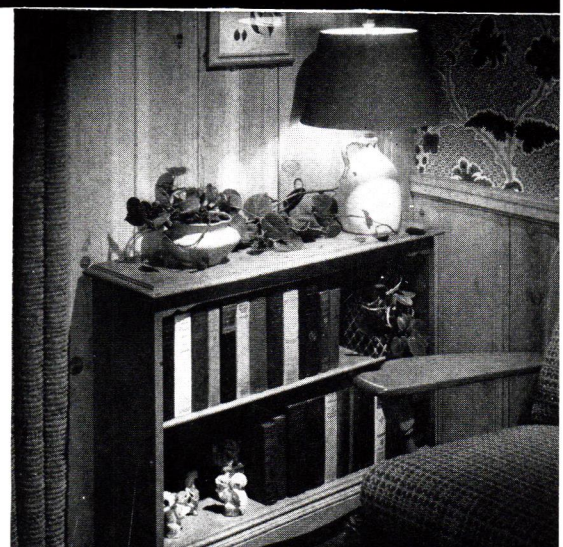
A corner cupboard need not be confined to the dining room. This honey-toned birch cabinet centers a charming reading spot

## GO SIT IN THE

# Corner

**Y**OU'LL find it's not a punishment but a pleasure to relax in any one of these corners. As rooms grow smaller, angles take on greater importance. Every inch must count. Here are six corners that can hold their own in interest and comfort with more open settings. Browsing corners, study corners, conversation corners — they're all here. Some with specially designed furniture pieces, some with groupings that take advantage of these quieter, more isolated portions of the room.

The elements contained in these corners are so well integrated that you will discover they are actually quite complete little rooms-within-rooms.



This 28-inch-high colonial bookcase is just the right height to serve as a corner piece as a lamp table or under average height windows



Most corners call for smaller scale furniture. This correlated grouping of sectional sofa and table adds lamp and pictures for conversation group

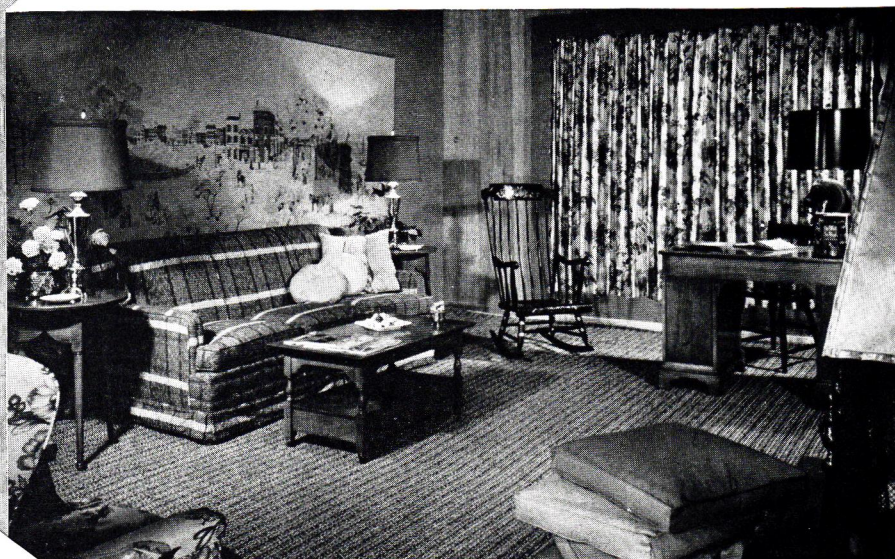


Such a round-the-corner grouping of bookcases and tambour-front cabinets can be scaled to size of any room. Cotton carpet is a perfect match



ROOM FOR THE

# Carriage track



PLEASANT memories are stirred by this room's tapestry of bygone days for those who treasure their sentimental past. The traditional touches are borrowed from an era of elegance — pictured in the wallpaper back of the sofa — when a man's worth could be measured by the sleekness of his horses and the significance of his carriages.

Two coach lanterns, now wired for electricity, hang above the fireplace. A third hangs above the Pennsylvania Dutch chair in the dining end of the room. The wall is inlaid with six prints of Early American carriage designs.

The theme is repeated in a group of framed sketches near the desk. Here, even the most casual observer will pause to admire the intriguing lamp that is a reproduction of an old horsehead hitching post.

In spite of such additional reproductions of a bygone era — the rocking chair and duck-footed end tables, there is an elusive quality to this room's antiquity. Like a well-preserved antique, it is occasionally overwhelmed by the bolder notes of modern life.





PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOWELL WARD AND ASSOCIATES

The fireplace is beautiful in a way that would have startled any company gathered before a Victorian hearth. Firelight and sunlight seem to be caught in the gleam of the impressive copper hood that tapers to the ceiling above the raised brick hearth. Mesh screening that gives the appearance of being draped around three sides may be drawn to protect the room from sputtering embers.

Those who relax in the spacious, plaid-covered depths of the sofa are charmed by the harmonious blend of colors surrounding them. The fireplace wall is clear-finished paneling contrasted at one end of the room by geranium-pink walls and, at the other, by a combination of both wall treatments. The barrel chair and matching draperies of flower-splashed chintz are as gay as an English garden.

One of the new rough-weave floor coverings stretches from wall to wall in an interesting expanse of muted colors. The same tones are picked up in a major key by four twill-covered pillows that may be stacked to form an ottoman, or strewn about on the floor before the fire.

## floor show

**D**O YOUR FLOORS need a beauty treatment? Remember how handsome they were when new? Every few years they need a little extra attention. Dirt and bright sunlight may have dimmed their color and hurrying feet scuffed away their protective finish. This is the time of the year when homemakers start taking stock to see how many jobs can be lined up for that mad month of cleaning and redecorating. If your floors show the ravages of too much traffic they should top the list.

The trend toward simplified living seems to indicate the use of fewer carpets and rugs and, if they are to look their best, your newly uncovered floors must be in their finest condition.

Hardwood, softwood, tile, linoleum, plastics, asphalt, rubber or masonry; probably all that any of them will need is a good cleaning and waxing. Remove accumulated wax with one of the very effective wax removing cleaners. If you find the finish undamaged, rewax with paste or liquid polishing wax.

If the beauty of the wood hides beneath layers of paint or varnish, or if winter wear has damaged the surface beyond the effects of a simple cleaning and polishing job, you will want to call in a floor doctor. He will remove the old finish down to clean wood with a power sander and edger. If your wood floors have the soft patina of age, you will probably want him to hand-scrape the wood to keep the lovely time-mellowed coloring. He will use filler on open grain woods. Then ask him to apply one of the wonderful new penetrating floor seals. This finish combines the advantages of both varnish and oil, but unlike these older finishes, it will allow you to touch up traffic lanes without completely refinishing unworn areas. Such repairs are never too successful with varnish or shellac surfaces. Penetrating seals go deep into the wood, becoming part of the structure, protecting against moisture and dirt and helping prevent slivering and checking. This seal may be applied to any flooring except rubber or asphalt tile.

Linoleum floors require the constant protection of wax. They should be washed whenever they become soiled, but do not use too much water and never use a cleaning compound too strong for your hands. Linoleum floors in kitchens and bathrooms may be kept sparkling with self-polishing wax. Use a dry mop. Never use oil or polishes.

Rubber and asphalt floors like linoleum should be cleaned with warm suds used sparingly. Remove all excess moisture at once. Protect the surface with *self-polishing wax*.

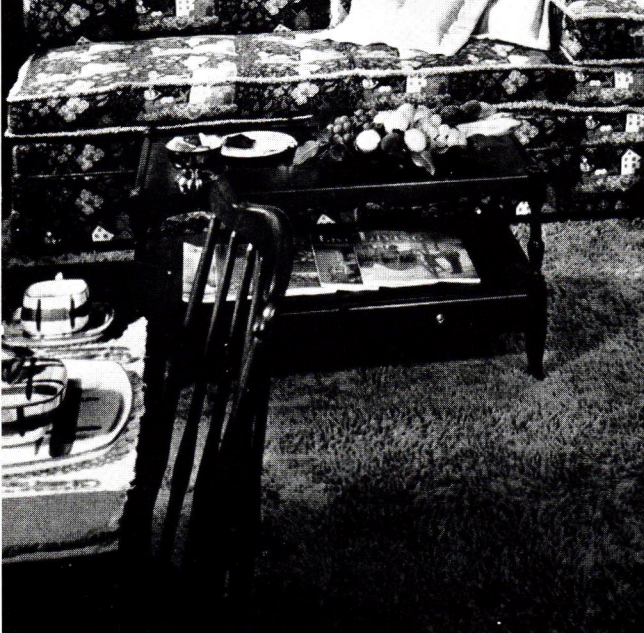
Do not use paste wax on rubber flooring. Solvents in the wax may damage the tile. Wipe up grease spots immediately. Asphalt tile should receive the same care you would give rubber floors.

Rubber-based paints can do wonders for the down-at-the-heels concrete floor. Colors are neutral but rich, ranging from grey through blues, and tile reds to warm earthy browns. The same floor seal that we have suggested for wood will seal the pores of unpainted concrete flooring, make it easier to keep clean and prevent the absorption of grease or water. Floor seals improve the appearance of brick, tile or even flagstone flooring. Follow all such finishes with an application of paste, liquid or self-polishing wax.



# LITTLE AND LIVABLE

BY BILL TURNER



The tapestry-like rustic print of the sofa catches background colors to form a gay and cozy focal point for this much-lived-in, extra-duty room. Cherrywood table and chairs (opposite page, above) join with a print group and a Provincial-type hutch and shelf to make a picturesque dining corner

The sofa is ingeniously designed to become twin beds by night — each with an inner-spring mattress. Radio and books are within easy reach and the coffee table has become a bedside table. A big mirror unifies twin chests (opposite page, below). Top of one at right opens up to make a writing desk







PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOWELL WARD AND ASSOCIATES

THE DAY when a tiny house meant uncomfortable living is gone forever. Take for an extreme example, this combined living-dining-bedroom. Augmented only by kitchen and bath, it offers convenience and completeness usually found only in much larger homes.

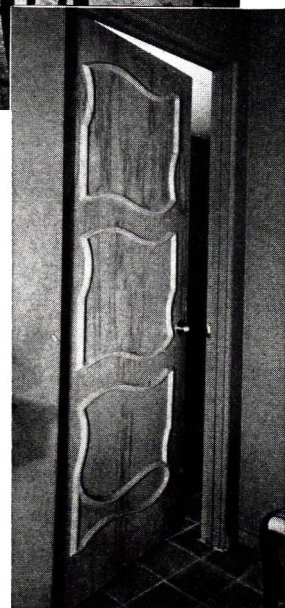
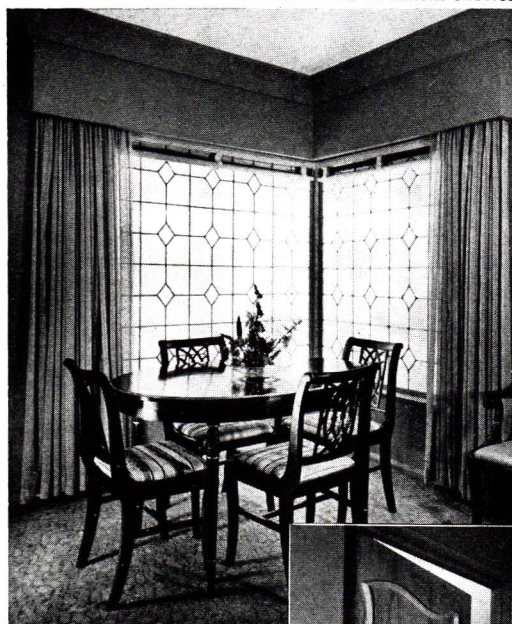
The mood is one of comfort and color, of furniture hospitably arranged against a cheery background of green wallpaper, cerise rug, and chartreuse draperies. The sofa serves a unifying purpose by kaleidoscoping these colors into a scenic pattern.

Besides being the focal point of the room, this sofa also typifies the versatility of the other furniture: it can be quickly converted into twin beds. Almost every other piece plays a dual role, too. The top "drawer" of one of the twin chests turns out to be a writing desk. The coffee table, with drawers and space for magazines, serves as night table.

Tables, chests, cabinets, and chairs are of cherrywood. Their simple Provincial design combines with the Colonial wallpaper and the plain rug to give this triple-duty room an air of neatness—insurance against a crowded appearance.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRANK GAYNOR



NOW  
SEE  
THIS

WHY TREAT doors and windows as mere entrances and ventilators? Why consider them neutral elements in your decorating scheme when, with a bit of styling, you can make them contribute to the personality of a room?

Sometimes you may even make a door or window set the theme for a whole decorating plan. The opaque windows in the dining area above, for instance, not only shut out a poor view but also give a chapel-like distinction to a corner that might otherwise be plain. The beauty of the glass is emphasized by carrying the green of the small diamond-shaped panes into the curtains.

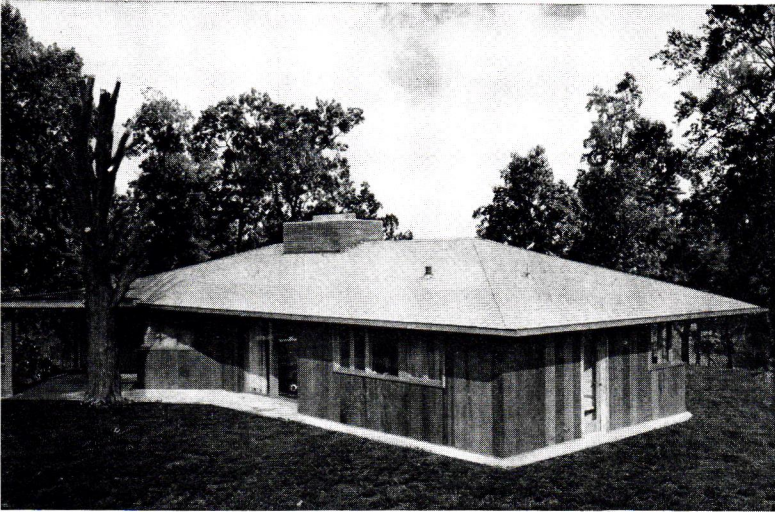
The door in the lower picture was once a plain slab door in a plain wall. By adding a graceful design in curved wood stripping, the owners turned it into a strong stylistic influence. The improvement was a simple one to make and could be done by anybody handy with tools. A rectangular design in half-round would look well here and would be especially easy to put on.



BY ELEANORE HAMILTON

## THIS LITTLE HOUSE WENT TO COLLEGE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOWELL WARD & ASSOCIATES



Roman brick fireplace is focal point of room, its unique corner design making it visible from living and dining areas. Raised hearth is notable

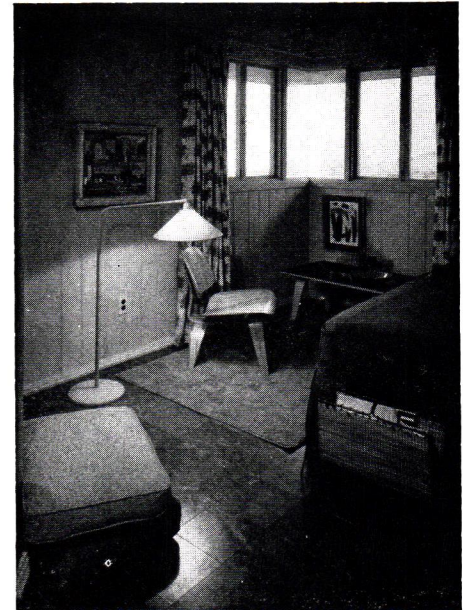
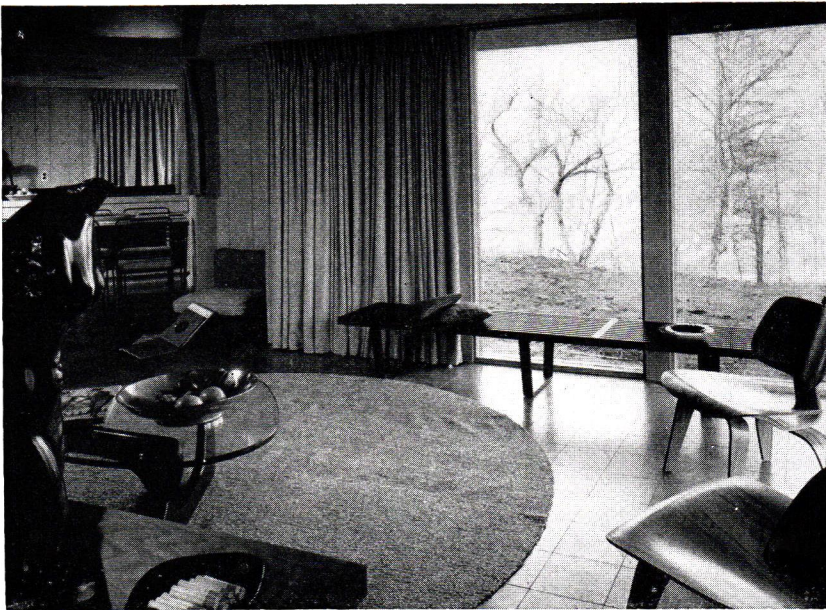
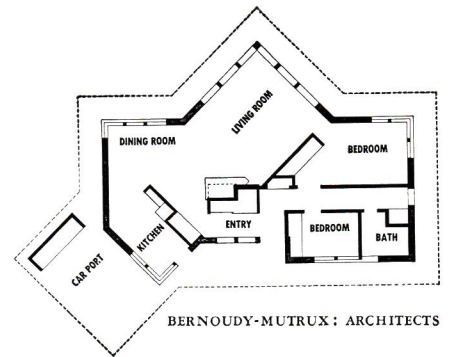


STUDENTS of interior design at a women's college varied the usual three-R's routine by decorating a house for one of the school's professors. The results speak glowingly for both their talent and their resourcefulness.

The house is an excellent interpretation of modern, with sweeping lines and interesting angles that surprise you with the feeling of spaciousness they create in this small area.

Fabrics and rugs were chosen by the students to emphasize this effect, as well as to conform to their client's personal taste in colors. The warmth of sunny yellows is diffused throughout the living-dining area, blending softly with the tones of the brick corner fireplace and cork-tiled floors.

Trimly tailored spreads, draperies, and shower ensemble were made by the young decorators in bedroom theme of beige, terra cotta, and russet brown.



Glass window-wall makes the rustic setting a part of the home. Draperies of soft beige pull across for nighttime intimacy; were made by students

Autumnal browns and russet tones in the bedroom are subdued setting for modern decor

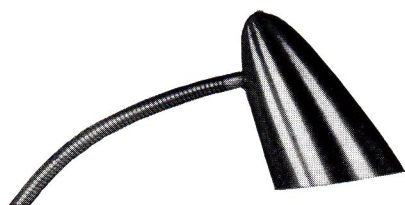
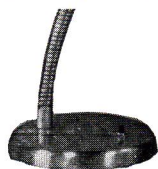


Paneled walls and cork tile in the kitchen inspired students to select new bamboo draperies

Clever use of angles gives an impression of long vistas in this artistic home. Students chose fabrics and accessories that accent the architectural details



## NEW LAMPS



**N**O ONE particular style takes precedence in new lamps offered this year. Glareless diffused lighting, spot lighting or general decorative lighting; modern, traditional or purely whimsical lamps — there is one for every need in the selections being offered. Some are richly ornamental, others quite obviously planned to meet specific needs.

A lighted lamp has always been a symbol of home. Designs of this year have been both more sensational and more beautiful. The five we have selected as examples show you how very adaptable today's lamps can be whether fabricated of silk and porcelain or of brass and spun aluminum.



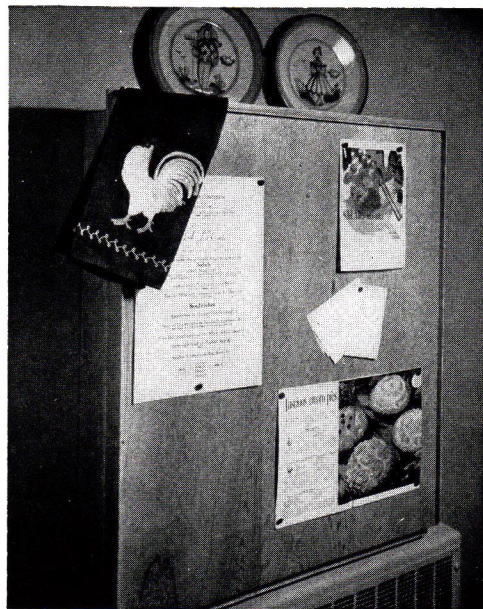
Aluminum spot with a pin-up mounting

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOWELL WARD AND ASSOCIATES



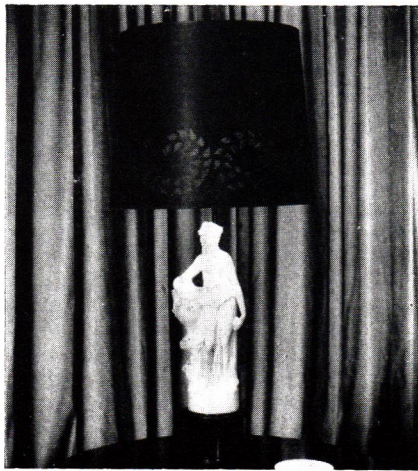
**I**F YOU WAIT around to collect your full quota of meals you will consume somewhat over 75,000 in your lifetime. That impressive total does not include midnight snacks or mid-morning rolls and coffee. Seventy-five thousand meals represent a towering stack of dishes toted from the kitchen and back again . . . a mighty convincing argument in favor of the quick snack counter for effortless breakfasts and lunches.

The drop-down breakfast bar, pictured here, reduces necessary mealtime space to a minimum but certainly is in no way short of charm. It fits compactly above the kitchen radiator and provides generous storage space.



Eating Places . . . . .





Regency inspired lamp—parchment shade



Contemporary design in glowing alabaster



Gleaming brass with black or white metal

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT C. CLEVELAND



A SPOT such as this can be a natural for hurry-up meals and can be decorated so invitingly that there need be no air of urgency or of eating on the run.

Comfortable chairs, plenty of leg room and a pleasant view — what more should any mealtime setting offer? The family that uses this kitchen breakfasts in shifts. This pass-through counter has quite understandably become a favorite eating spot. A small touch, but see how wallpaper cut-outs dress up the plain cupboard doors. They're practical, too, since they protect a vulnerable wear-spot. Lightly scaled rush chairs help preserve the illusion of spaciousness.

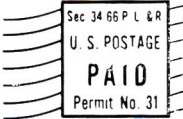






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