

PERFECT HOME

MAGAZINE



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MARCH
1952



HOME ---- MORE THAN A WORD

By LORETTA YOUNG

Whatever Loretta Young does she does well. You will be delighted by her account of home as you have been by her pictures and radio appearances



TO ME "home" is so much more than a word — it is a picture. It is a *motion* picture with Mama in it and with me in it. It's as calm and bright and secure a picture as it could possibly be, and yet it's a picture of a great childhood tragedy.

It is a hot day and Mama is watering the lawn. I have been sent home from school because I hadn't worn any socks, and I am in tears. My pride has been shattered in front of all my classmates. And in that terrifying moment I have made the discovery that I am "different" from the other kids. My father has deserted us. I miss school a lot because I play in pictures. I haven't many friends among my classmates. And I haven't any clean socks.

Mama puts down the hose and takes me in her arms. Between sobs, I gulp out my words. My memory picture dims a little here. I can't remember what Mama said, or if she said anything at all. I remember only that she made everything seem all right.

She washed and iron-dried a pair of socks for me. She helped me into my other school dress. Then, together, we started back to school — stopping for an ice-cream soda on the way.

I wasn't embarrassed when I went into the classroom. I had a new and lovely pride in my "different-ness" now — I had the most wonderful mother in the world!

I have other memory pictures of home, too, and Mama is in them all. I suppose that is why home means to me a kind of security that has nothing to do with money. It means sympathy, gentleness, tolerance, and understanding.

Of course, I know now that no place short of heaven is perfect every moment of the day. I realize that my home today must sometimes fall short of the noble qualities I've listed, but as long as those basic ingredients are there — it's home. In measuring my success in it, I often fall back on the memory of that hot day so few blocks away and so many years ago.

Mama is a successful decorator now. She calls me frequently and says, "Just the family tonight?" And then she drives over and eats with Tom and me and our little brood. One evening recently when she looked tired, I suggested that it would be quieter if I had the children eat in the nursery.

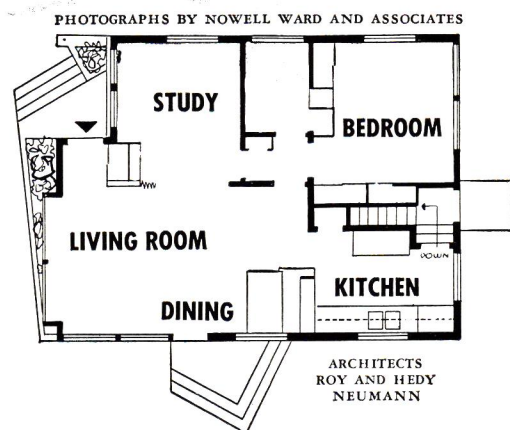
"For goodness sake," Mama said, "all this noise and excitement is relaxing. It makes me feel as young as I was when you were that noisy. Remember?"

I do. Oh, yes — I do!

Look at the color shot on our front cover and you will be able to picture the true charm of this traditional room. F. S. Lincoln captures the rich colors of the blue walls, the delightful plaid, the mellow wood furnishings



This view of the outside of the house reveals how small it actually is. You forget all about its smallness as soon as you step inside



Good planning shows outside as well as in. The picture window, chosen to add roomy effect to interior, is slanted to reduce the glare



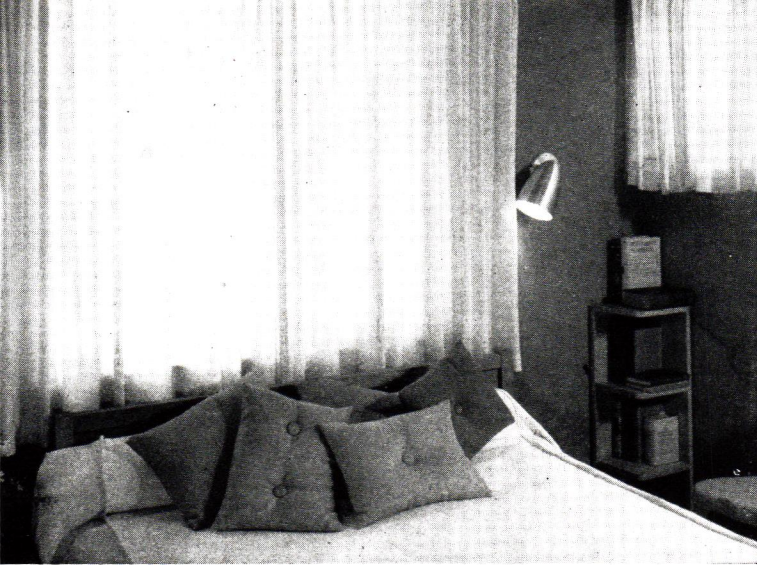
Sliding doors conceal wardrobe and nine spacious drawers in this bedroom wall. Another closet in this same wall opens into bathroom

Big stretch

By BILL TURNER

Large living-room window offers attractive view of the park across the street. High windows on left continue open appearance of room





Window placement in the bedroom eliminates any feeling of confining walls. Compact furniture does its work unobtrusively, saves space



The cosmetics cabinet in the second wall of the bedroom shows how nicely wall space is used. Cabinet is installed over basement stairs

THE OWNERS built this house on a small foundation that was already on the property when they bought it. With the added limitation of a tight budget, they had to plan skillfully to make every inch of space count. They did this with such success that you don't realize at first how small the house really is — you learn with something of a shock that it contains only 750 square feet.

There's no cramping anywhere, no crowding of furniture, no corners where you're afraid to take a deep breath. And the spaciousness of the four rooms is not mere illusion — they not only look bigger, they *are* bigger than they would have been with less meticulous planning.

The secret? Like most good secrets, it's a combination of things.

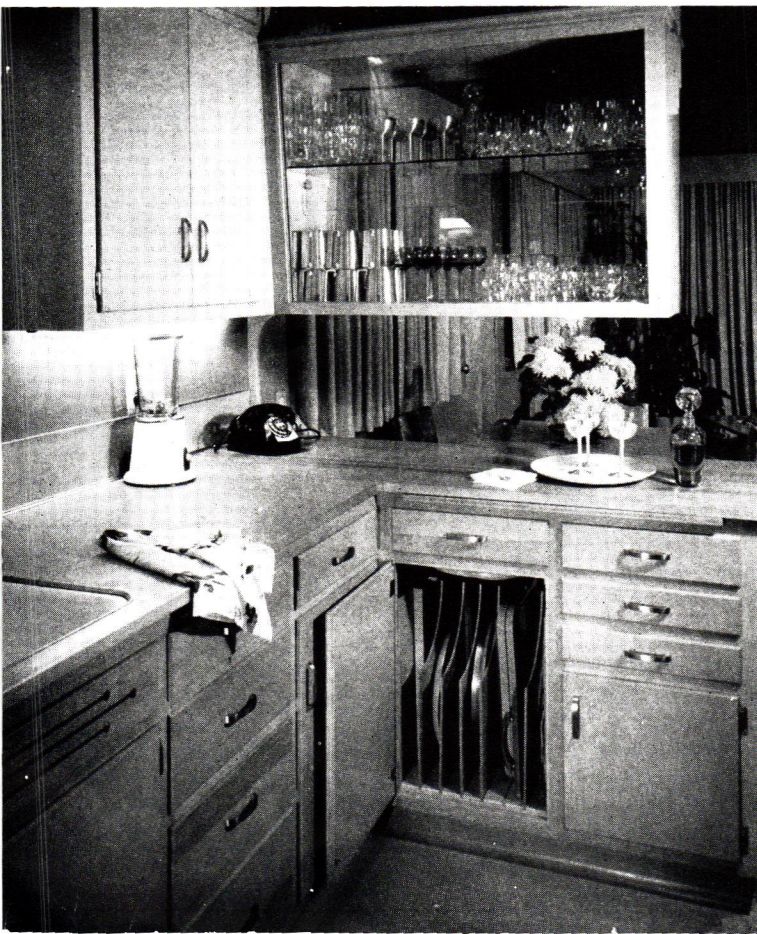
Leaving out partitions, placing windows effectively,

choosing compact furniture and grouping it carefully — all are part of it. But mostly it's a matter of carefully planned storage space.

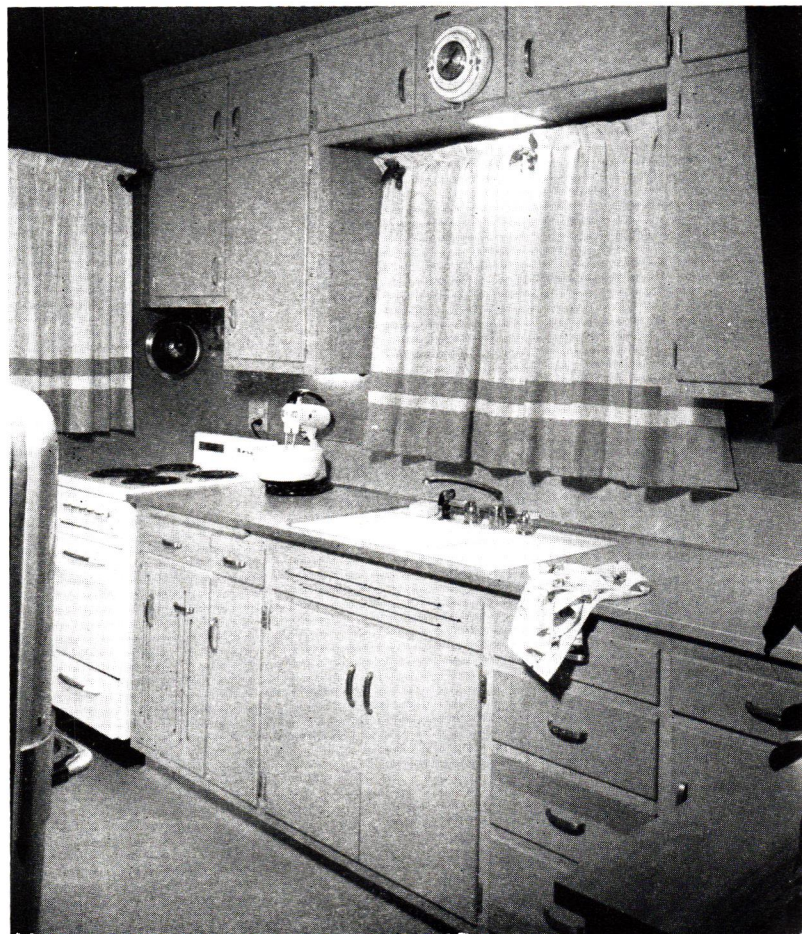
About 100 of the 750 square feet were used for storage space — an unusually large ratio. Strangely enough, the rest of the house grew accordingly! This may seem an impossibility, but it's not. The trick was done by making walls do double duty as closets, and by neatly utilizing every nook that would hold a cabinet or a shelf.

There's a lesson here for home-planners, we think. If your living area is small, don't try to increase it by cutting down on storage area. If anything, add more; but plan to tuck it away under sinks and lavatories, in well-placed counters and cabinets. Most important of all, put walls to work. Plan them to provide cabinets, closets and cubbyholes.

Attractive counters with maximum use of storage space below is part of the secret of this compact home. Glass cupboard fills space above



Here's a textbook example of how to make use of often-wasted space over sink and window. Note placing of clock, ventilator, and light





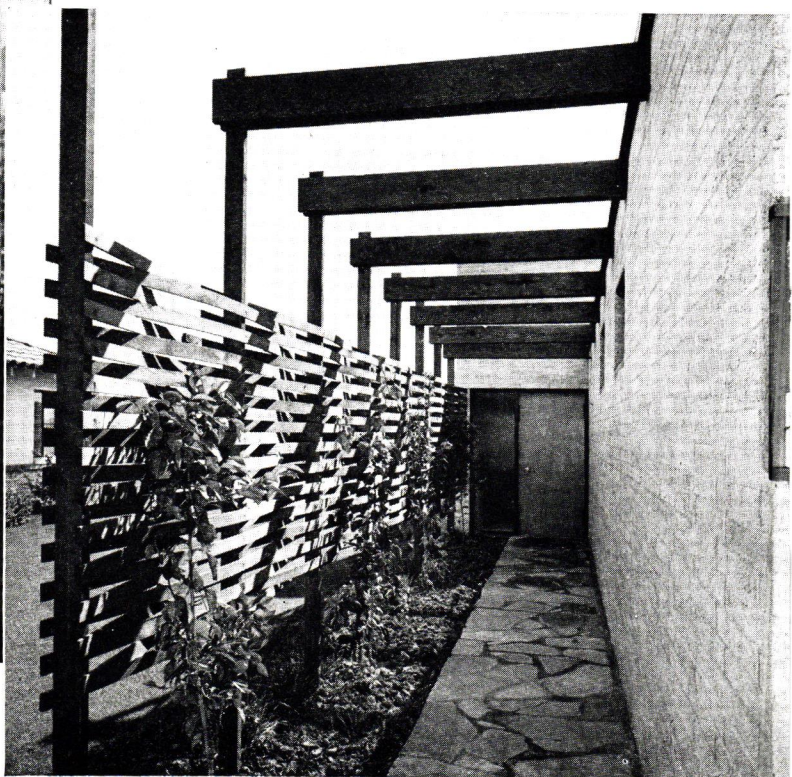
If you want a view-blocker that will not steal the light, you want structural glass or clear plastic paneling. Both are made in several patterns that diffuse and soften the light. The lower part of the wall (above) was made of corrugated panels, the top of clear glass. Hand-woven redwood strips screen entrance (right) from street

HOORAY FOR SCOPOPHOBIA

WE ARE wooing wonderful old-fashioned privacy. Open planning and picture windows have bared the secret inner-workings of many contemporary homes, have exposed them to the view of anyone rich enough to afford a gallon of gas — athletic enough to stroll along the walk.

Perhaps we are a bit prissy but we admit to a few idiosyncrasies we can't enjoy in public. For instance, we're stingy about our evening paper. "Let the neighbors read their own" we always say. When we whip up a sponge cake we like to lick the bowl. And our idea of heaven is to loll on our porch in saggy shorts, completely without kibitzers.

To show you that we are doing more than raising a still small voice in favor of privacy, we're hanging blinds at our picture window so we can live with or without the view. For additional ways of foiling the eager eye, we submit these five view-blockers.



How to Banish Household Spots and Stains

PAINT ON CEMENT

Dissolve washing soda or trisodium phosphate in boiling water. Pour this mixture onto the spot and old paint will soften enough to be scrubbed off with a stiff brush or wire brush.

SMOKE STAINS ON BRICK FIREPLACE

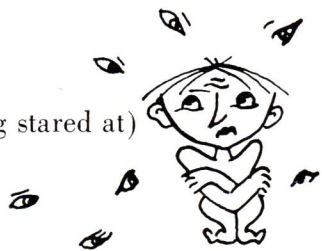
Make a thin paste of scouring powder and a very little water. Scrub this mixture into the face of the brick or stone fireplace. Remove residue with clear water. The new spray-on plastic coatings may be applied to the cleaned surface

after it has thoroughly dried. This will help keep the smoke from penetrating into the porous masonry. Used lightly it will leave no gloss.

TARNISH ON BRASS

Remove old lacquer with lacquer thinner or denatured alcohol. Clean with any good brass polish. Clean completely with benzene. Brush on clear lacquer. Make certain that the room temperature thermometer reads at least 70 degrees and do not touch the metal with your bare hands after using the benzene. Lacquer won't adhere over your finger marks.

BIA (the fear of being stared at)



Lounge or eat in wonderful privacy on the sun-dappled porch, right. The three-foot plywood screen blocks view from neighboring yards and allows you to relax in shorts or shirt tails

Vine-clad two-by-two columns frame a simple entryway, lower right. Vines also grow in the plant pockets outlining the edge of the brick porch floor. The strong vertical lines of this view-blocker counteract the effect of so many horizontal elements

Six gracefully turned supports hold glass shelves above a counter-high partition that divides the breakfast alcove from the adjoining kitchen. The view is not completely screened off, but the inevitable clutter of meal preparation is veiled from sight by low brass planters filled with trailing vines



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CLEVELAND, ANSON, SHULMAN, PARKER, MORGAN

RUST STAINS ON LINOLEUM

Rust stains on linoleum floors seldom penetrate deep into the surface and may quite often be scraped off with a razor blade or rubbed down with steel wool. The dull spot left after the stain has been removed should be brightened up with applications of paste type floor wax.

PATCHES ON OLD WALLPAPER

If you wish to cover damaged wallpaper with a new patch you will probably discover that the patch no longer matches the paper on the wall. You can make a good-to-find patch if you age the paper

before you apply it. Expose a length of new paper to bright sunlight for several days or turn your sunlamp on it for a couple of hours. Do not cut the patch with shears. Tear out an irregular spot. Feathered edges cast little shadow line.

TARNISH ON GILT FRAMES

The gilt on an old picture frame is usually very fragile. It may be cleaned with a half-and-half mixture of alcohol and ammonia applied with a soft brush. Rinse with clear water using the same soft brush and never scrub the surface. Hold the frame face down and shake off

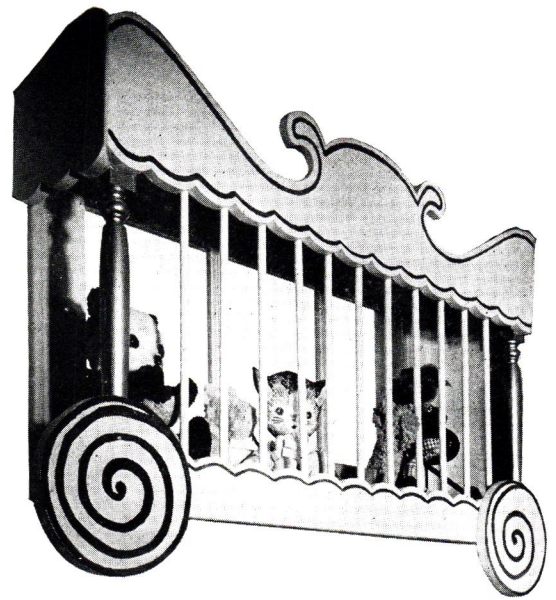
excess water then air-dry. Never rub it dry. A quick coat of liquid type wax will complete the renovation.

SMUDGES ON OLD MARBLE

After you have given the stone a good soap and water bath follow with a weak (1 oz. oxalic acid crystals to 1 quart boiling water) bleaching solution. Swab it on with cotton and remember to wear rubber gloves. Leave the bleach on a few minutes and wipe off with clear water. Repeat until the marble is as light as you want it. Protect with beeswax dissolved in turpentine or with plastic spray.



A floppy clown balances precariously in a window top shadow box (above). You can almost hear the steamy voice of the calliope when you see those ferocious wild animals in the barred window cage (above right). It's easy to forget that the circus wagon is plywood—the bars, wood dowels

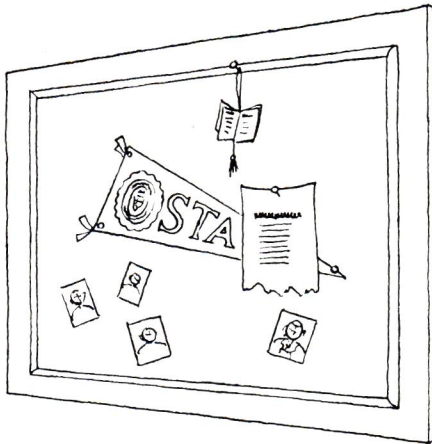


Small Talk

FOUR WALLS can bound an exciting land for your child. It can be a wonderful, secure land scaled to the limits of little arms and legs — a land gay with color yet practical enough to delight the heart of the busiest mother.

The inspiration you pour into the decorating of a nursery will, contrary to all the books, probably be more satisfying to you than to its small monarch, so why not let yourself go all-out on this fun-to-plan room?

The time you can allot to keeping order will determine just how extravagant the furnishings. Remember that a pretty wall-paper is just as easy to keep sparkling clean as a colorless one and a bright paint will wear as well as less gay shades. Cotton rugs thrive on regular tubbings and many of the sheerest new curtains wash and shake dry without ever meeting an iron. Use the check list, right, to aid you in planning the perfect nursery.

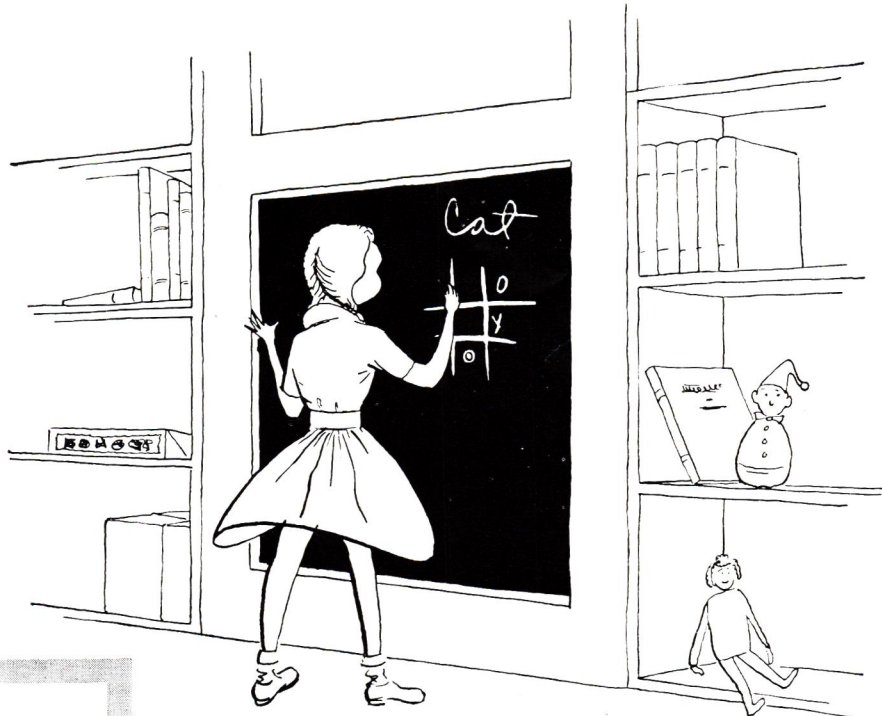
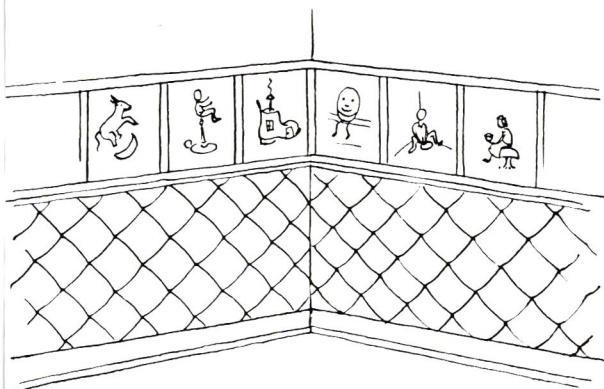


Cork, insulating board, or felt — take your choice — for a pin-up board. Frame a square in plaid, rope, wallpaper or wood and tack on doodads to catch young eyes

Never such animals and clowns as perform in this gay wallpaper bigtop! The entire gable end of the room is covered with the paper. The long play table adds to fun with red and white peppermint-stick legs



Pages from a brightly colored story book parade on an eye-level line around the wall (below). Quilted plastic covers wall below the pictures



Check List for Easy Nursery Maintenance

WALLS	Washable enamel or semigloss paint Washable wallpaper or wall fabric Plastic finish wall panels
FLOORS	Linoleum, rubber, plastic or asphalt tile Painted wood, cover if necessary with tubbable cotton rugs
WINDOWS	Simple washable curtains or blinds Safety bars on second floor bedroom window
LIGHTS	Lamps placed or anchored so that they may not be overturned Base plugs covered with safety caps Sterilizing and sun lamps a welcome addition
FURNITURE	Minimum furnishings — crib or bed, chest of drawers or shelves, low chair and table

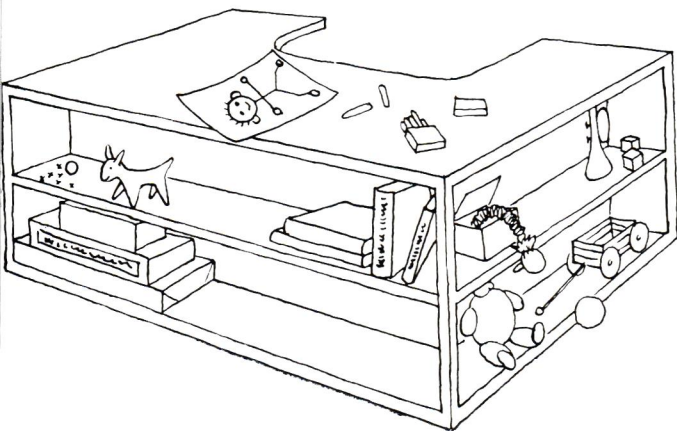
By **DONNA LOUIS NICHOLAS**

Blackboard paint was used on the big bottom panel of door (above). Several coats of this quick-drying, dull black paint and you have a blackboard that washes easily

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAX TATCH — CLEVELAND

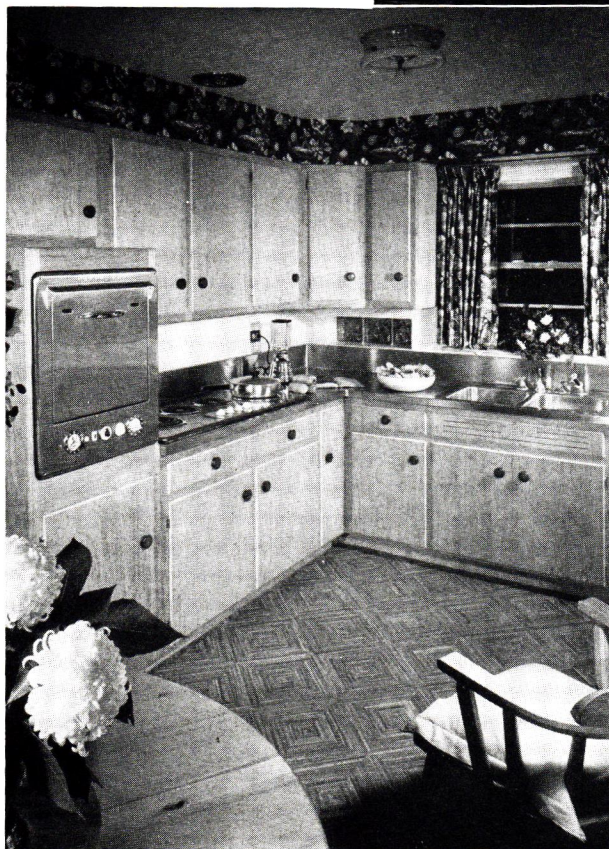


A dining-play table and toy-storage shelves are combined in one piece of furniture that can be put together in a few hours by anyone who can handle hammer and saw. Baby's chair fits neatly into indentation



Full ruffled cottage curtains and fat square pillows lend a luxury look to a wee girl's room but are not at all difficult to keep crisp and clean for the curtains are made of fine sheer seersucker edged with ball fringe. Neither they nor the chenille spread need be ironed

COMMUNITY KITCHEN



In the kitchen section, stainless-steel sink is built into a U-shaped arrangement of cabinets and work surfaces. Oven is at handy height

It's a pleasure to work at this gleaming sink because you are not isolated from family and friends, who may lounge at the opposite end of room

The living-dining area (top) is furnished with sectional sofa, glass-door cupboard, table with lazy Susan, and four captain's chairs. Grain of furniture matches kitchen cabinets

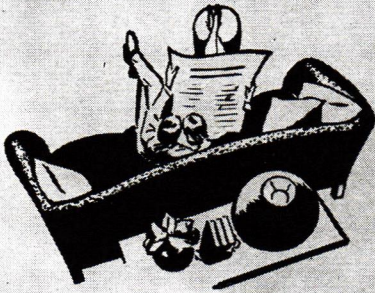
ARE you a cook who feels that the preparation of food should be as much a social pleasure as the eating of it? Then this is for you. It's a combined kitchen-dining-living-room that's insurance against lonesomeness at cooking time.

The decorating and furnishing problems were solved rather neatly, we think. A floor covering with a parquet effect and a large-figured wallpaper unify the room and are in keeping with all three of its functions. The mellow kitchen woodwork is in complete harmony with the living and dining room furniture. The overall effect of this happy three-way combination is one of convenience and congeniality. We certainly vote for more combinations like this!

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOWELL WARD AND ASSOCIATES



Your home

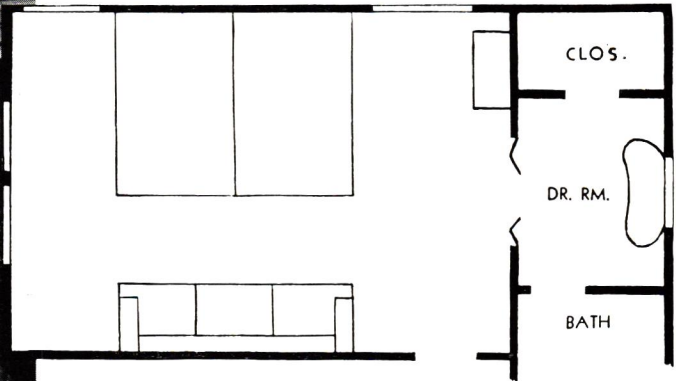


YOUR HOME — the house that you live in —
 Is your proudest possession, your place in the sun,
 your symbol of achievement.
 It is your shelter against the trials of life.
 It is loved for the storms it has helped you weather,
 the heights it has helped you climb, the tears
 it has dried, the joys it has created.
 It can stand for centuries.
 It can cradle your young at birth, shape their character
 at youth, spark their success at maturity, and
 comfort them in their sunset years.
 Your home is the expression of your faith in a way of life.
 It is a bulwark against tyranny.
 It is your stake in America, a nation made free and great
 by men and women who — like you — believe in the
 stronghold of enterprise.
 It is your home!

— R. H. C.



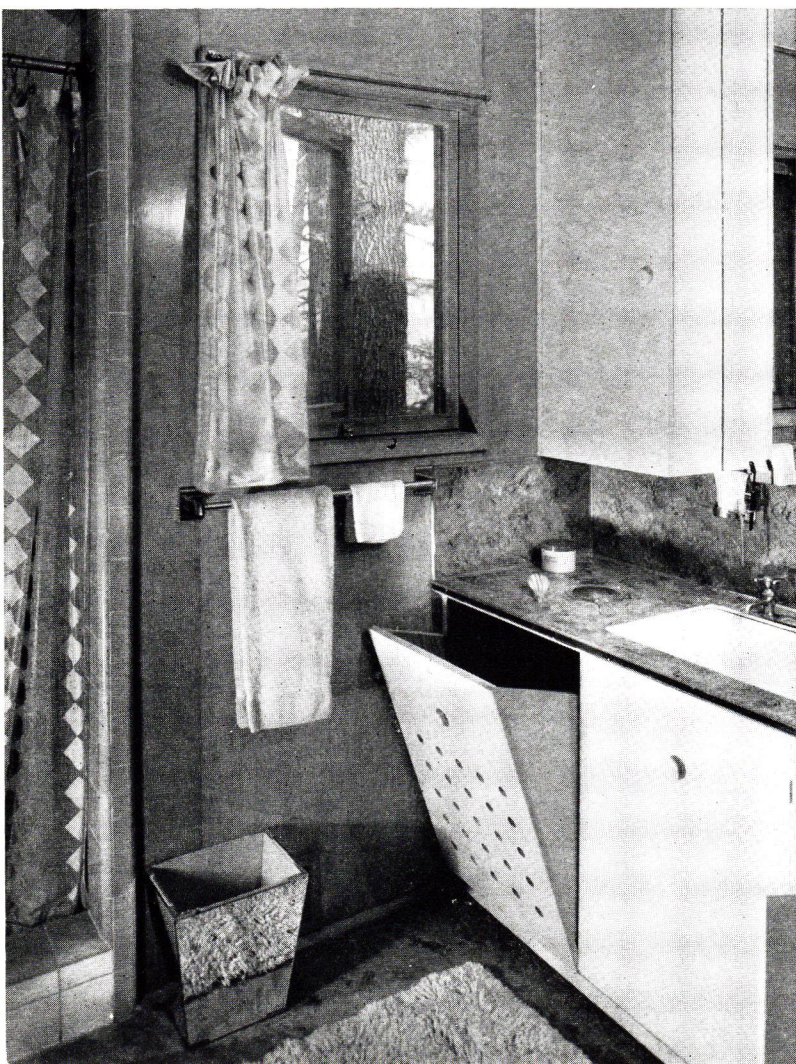
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAX TATCH

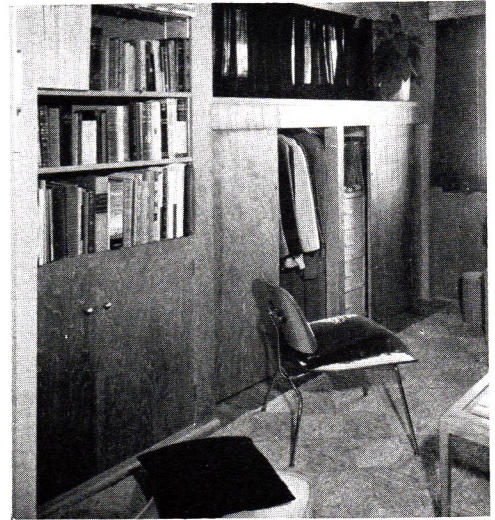


Closet to Dressing Room

THE BATH used to be "out in the hall and round the corner" from this bedroom. Now you reach it directly through the dressing room. The old closet was large enough to hold two wardrobes and linens, to say nothing of a couple of all the clothing but it has been sheared down to less than a third of its original size — just over a hanger deep.

The old paneled door gave way to louvered doors and a window was cut into the closet wall. A dressing table fits under this new window. The adjoining bedroom sets the color theme with rose carpet and ceiling and pale-pink-and-white walls. Louvered doors separate new room from bedroom.





Magician's trunk

HERE'S AN ALCOVE as tricky as a magician's trunk and as convenient as his sleeve. By simply leaving out a partition that would have separated it from the living room, the planners of the home described on pages 4 and 5 eliminated a cramped cubbyhole that probably wouldn't have been used. As it is, this pleasant nook adds to the area of the living room and does several special jobs besides. It's a television room, den, library — and extra bedroom!

A wall-to-wall accordion door provides privacy. The couch converts to a bed. The desk becomes a dressing table. Doors in the left wall slide back to uncover a closet.

Secret Order

BUILT-INS like these will win the heart of any homemaker with a yen for order in her veins. They're a happy combination of storage space and good looks, and each at least doubles the usefulness of the area it occupies.

Look at that kitchen cupboard, far left, above. It gets crowded but never too crowded to keep each piece in its own special place where it sits or hangs but never stacks.

The wall-wide storage unit, above, eliminates all need for a chest of drawers and linen closet since it holds both clothing and extra bedding.

The same idea was applied to the man's closet, left. Drawers, shelves and dressing table take care of the clothes storage problem.

The under-counter bathroom hamper, far left, is a luxury idea you can use even if you're counting pennies. It will cost little more than a portable hamper and is never under foot.

The dressing shelf hides in a small niche.



By
ELEANORE HAMILTON

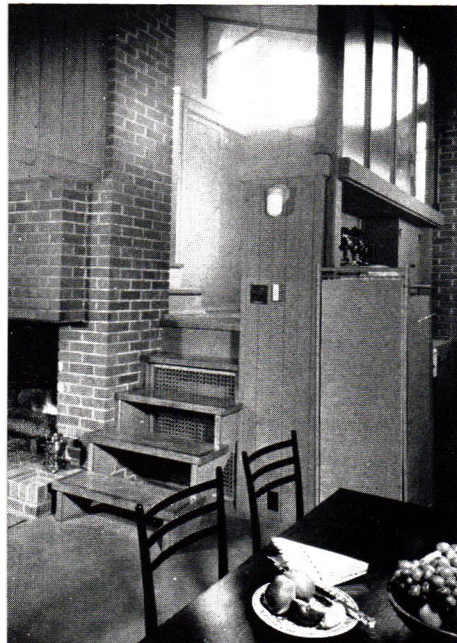


Ancestral portrait and heirloom chest and chair give a familiar look to a setting whose theme is basically modern

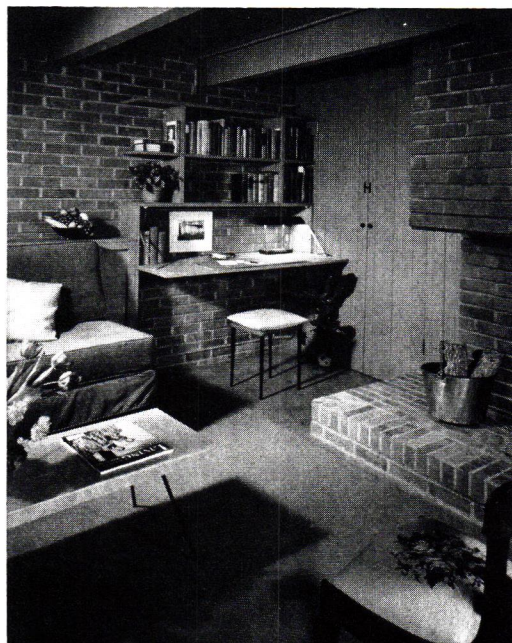
You feel but a handshake away from the wood folk in this house that echoes the charm of its scenic setting. Inside, an understanding heart has proved that there is a natural affinity between antique and modern design

SIZED TO HOLD A VIEW

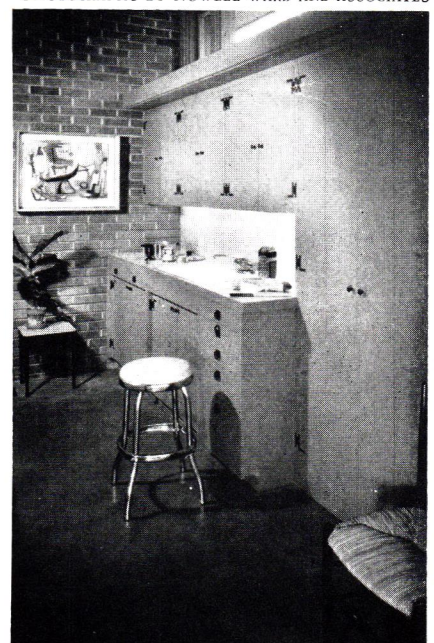




Stairway to balcony bedroom is lit by glass wall by day, hanging globe by night



Built-in desk and bookshelves in the fireplace corner make a cozy nook for study

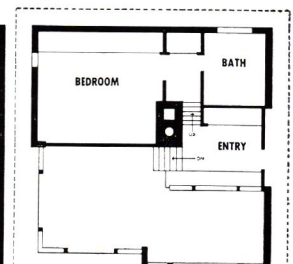
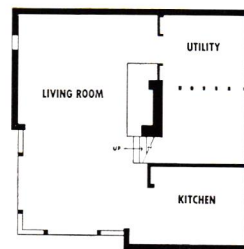


L and H hinges and colonial drawer pulls are homey touches in this work center

WHAT A DARLING mite-of-a-house!" you'll exclaim when you catch your first glimpse of this 24x24-foot treasure perched on the edge of a cliff. But wait until you cross the threshold and you'll change your mind about its size.

Here's a house that seems to reach out and gather the woods and wide ravine into its intimate circle of living. The strategic use of glass invites nature to lend a hand in decorating the interior. Wood beams and paneling, ruddy brick walls and fireplace, and a pleasant merger of old and new furnishings are restfully at home in the delightful surroundings.

The feeling of spaciousness is furthered by two-level planning that leaves no full-height walls to divide the house. Steps behind the fireplace lead to a balcony bedroom hidden away 'neath the rooftop like some enchanted owl's nest. The owner has but to peak over the paneled partition to know the thrill of a bird's-eye view of the countryside displayed through downstairs window-walls.

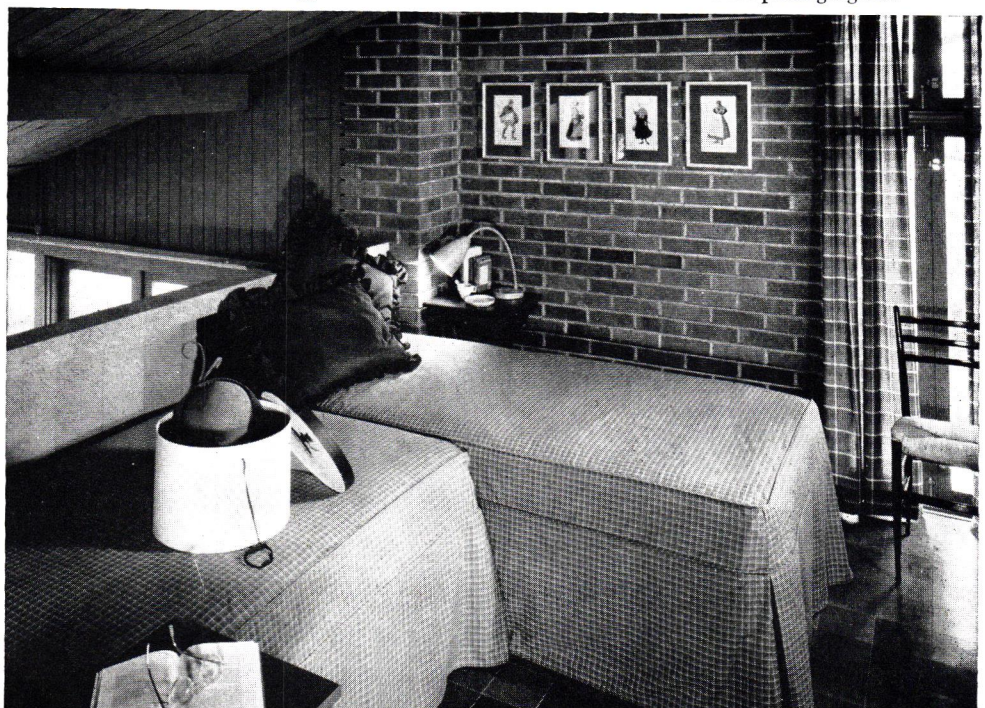


ARCHITECTS BERNOUDY-MUTRUX

Comforting arms of a Boston rocker tempt you to daydream, spellbound by the view



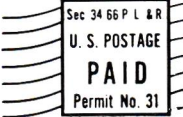
Floor-to-ceiling windows flood the balcony bedroom with sunlight and starshine . . . are draped with fabric that suggests continuation of brick walls. Bedcovers are plaid gingham





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