"The delights of life are both indestructible and inexhaustible"

BY LOUIS BROMFIELD

A home is much more than merely a place in which to sleep and eat. It should be the place which anyone prefers to all else in the world. It is more important to the upbringing, the education and the general culture of any child than the school and it is unfortunate that more and more parents in our society have come to expect the school to bring up their children.

Memories of my own home are warm ones as a place where the food was good, where the talk touched upon almost every subject in the world and there was a lively interest in politics and world affairs. It was a place which contained a constantly growing library sometimes purchased with the money pinched from other things. There was always good music. It was a natural center for all the kids in the neighborhood. My mother always said that she preferred her children to learn how to play cards at home rather than in a neighbor's stableroom or haymow.

When my parents died they were unable to leave me stocks or bonds, property or cash, but they did leave me something that was worth infinitely more than any of these things. They left me a great interest and curiosity about everything concerned with living. They left me knowledge and a taste for the inexhaustible pleasures to be found in painting, in music, in literature. They left me the habit of reading... not merely squibs of this or that, but whole books. Picnics and excursions into the country were a regular part of our life, with the best of food packed up in big baskets for the day's trip, and those excursions left me with a taste for the out-of-doors and a knowledge of wild life, of fishing, of wildflowers and the laws of nature which are one of the greatest assets it is possible to have. In short they taught me in my own home that the delights of life are both indestructible and inexhaustible.

Money is pleasant to possess, but one does not live by it and it can disappear over night. What I learned in my family home is indestructible. It is the true basis of a satisfactory and enjoyable life, not only for myself but for any of those who came in contact with that home.

Home to Louis Bromfield means Malabar Farm, a large and prospering farm being run according to Mr. Bromfield's theories of better use of the land. You probably know him best for such novels as "Mrs. Parkington," "When the Rains Came" and "Mr. Smith"
By planning indoor and outdoor areas as a unit,
the designers of this snug home achieved an air of spaciousness.

House and setting blend perfectly to offer
a maximum of informal comfort.

Astute planning of storage space adds size to the bedroom
Compact—With a Spacious Air

The first thing to say about this refreshing home is that it's little—three rooms and bath. The next thing to say is that it blends with its setting so well that you feel it wasn't built but just grew out of the hillside along with the trees.

It's this blending, more than anything else, that eliminates any feeling of confinement. If this house were in cramped surroundings, it would perhaps seem tiny. But here, fitted into its hillside oasis of privacy, it gives you a sensation of wall-less freedom, of unlimited living area.

This at-oneness-with-surroundings is more than a mere architectural trick done by styling the house just so and tucking it into a woody background. The problem wasn't only to make the house part of the setting, but also to make the setting part of the house. The liaison is completely successful because the designers planned house and setting together—as one big, livable unit.

Trellis, wide eaves, generous windows—all contribute their bits toward unity. A window-wall minimizes the division between living room and terrace. The sheltered flower bed outside the living-room windows plays its subtle part. So do the rock-garden entrance, the furniture on the terrace, the well-kept lawn. In fact, it's hard to find a single element, large or small, inside or out, that is not in sympathy with the indoor-outdoor scheme.

Space-saving, of course, was a prime consideration in planning the interior. Storage facilities were built into walls and into every available nook and cranny. Non-essential furniture was eliminated. The chimney was cleverly placed to house a fireplace on its living-room side and a charcoal grill on its kitchen side. Copper hoods combine with hanging pots and pans to give this hillside home a touch of peasantlike simplicity.

House, terrace, lawn and rock garden blend to offer an invitation to secluded hillside living.
It certainly looks nothing like an old back porch but that’s just what it was. A knotty pine wainscoting and door, mirrors, make-up counter, ruffled twin seats and a washable quilted-chintz-patterned paper made a quaint and charming second and very welcome bathroom.

This minimum size powder room was actually built into a guest closet. A large mirror almost doubles the visual size of the area. The colorful wall and ceiling panels have their beauty protected by an easy-to-clean plastic finish.

The family with a one-bath house will occasionally find itself inconvenienced. Add a couple of children to the picture and you are certain to have a healthy traffic problem every morning and evening. Try as you will, it is impossible to prevent frequent line ups, frayed tempers and tardiness.

The powder room used to be a trill — a bedecked and bedizened little cubicle with fancy dressing table and ruffle-shrouded lamps. The term is actually descended from the closet in which colonial gentlemen whitened their dress wigs. Today’s powder room is a busy spot that takes the load from the family bathroom. It is usually located on the ground floor, close enough to the kitchen so that the lady of the house can check her appearance before hurrying to answer the door, and near an entrance so that the children may run in from play without tracking through the entire house.

It can be just as pretty as those earlier versions but much more active. Little linen finger towels may transform it for guests but there is a good light and a generous mirror for Dad’s emergency shaving. There is usually a dressing table for leisurely primping and very often there is a small wardrobe so that it may be used as a dressing room. The only element it lacks is shower or tub. The extra convenience afforded by a powder room is well worth the space it may have to borrow from some less used area.

If you have a stairway there may be just enough space for a tiny room in the angle behind it. You may have a large closet that could be converted, but if like most of us you haven’t an inch to spare, you could add a vestibule to the front entrance with a closet and powder room balancing each other on either side of the door. Perhaps a similar addition along the service or back door would be even better.
This pretty bathroom illustrates an idea that's especially effective where wall and ceiling join at other than a right angle. The tips of the flowery figure in the wallpaper have been cut out and extend bowerlike above the line of the paper itself.

At best, switch plates are negative elements and this big one with an extra toggle-space at the end was definitely an eyesore—until the decorator dropped a branch out of the wall pattern and fig-leaved the scar. This treatment gives a touch of style to a prosaic fixture too; it would be a good idea even with a plate that had nothing to hide.

Random Wrinkles

There's stimulation in new ideas—even those that don't happen to be related to your particular homemaking problem—of-the-moment. Here are three novel wrinkles that we thought you'd want to know about.
PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOWELL WARD AND CAROL REED

The fatly padded headboard was cut from plywood and upholstered in antique satin. Cocky ceramic rooster lamps top squatty blond wood chests. Draperies and match-stick blinds cover window.

Today's attic is quite a different place from the sweltering or frigid catch-all of 50 years ago. Perhaps some of us will sigh just once over the nostalgic memories of that haunted spot with its cobwebs, drafts and an occasional pigeon. There was excitement in the bulging horse hair trunks and the whisper of corn braids swaying from the rafters. But try as they might no one could tempt us to trade an attic room like this one we picture for the dusty glamour of yesterday's garret. We'll willingly give up keepsakes for comfort, the patter of rain on the roof for convenience.

Insulation and the smart fresh appearance of prefinished wall panels made this remodeling job a simple project. The large panels hang on furring strips directly over the roof framing. No attempt is made to camouflage the angles of the ceiling and every inch under the low eaves is filled with cupboards or storage caches.

Walls of the bedroom are covered with a contemporary print. The Victorian chairs find a new sophistication in metallic flashed fabric.

Bathroom walls are covered with one of the versatile plastic finished wall panels which are easy to cut and fit and a dream to keep fresh and sparkling clean. A new skylight and mirror make the room seem twice its actual size.

Keep this under your hat

Bandy-legged Victorian chairs lose none of their charm but gain elegance in gold touched cotton upholstery. The blend of modern and period pieces is particularly happy. Closet doors have overscale round knobs.
Roof Styles

An Afternoon's ride through the outskirts of any large old American city will reveal almost every type of roof structure devised by man. Even the conical shelter of the American Indian and the sod or hide semispheres of the Congo find their silhouettes repeated in spires and domes.

Any roof deserves serious design consideration. Few details add as much character and individuality to the house as will this one great area. Its pitch, color, shape, material and pleasing sweep of line can determine the entire architectural spirit of a house. Analyze the homes you admire. You'll find that their roofs are far more than "coverings that afford protection to the interiors."

The most simple of all roof forms is the flat roof, a style adopted from hot or tropical climates. However, contemporary architectural designs have given new importance to this simplest of roof styles. The sharp horizontal lines tie the house into its setting. The wide eaves so necessary in solar orientation are economical with this style and many of these level roofs are engineered for summer comfort since they can be flooded with a shallow sheet of water to deflect the sun's heat.

Sketched here are the six most popular roof styles. Any one or its variation may be used on your home. The right roof will not only conform with the architectural scheme of the house but will add materially to its charm and individuality.

The growing desire for economy has also spotlighted the shed roof. It has only a single slope and one set of rafters leading from a high to a low wall. It is now being used on single story houses in the contemporary style.

The most widely used roof form is the gable. It is a ridged roof terminating at one or at both ends in a gable. You will see it on the Cape Cod, the ranch house, the farmhouse... in fact you will find versions of it worked into almost every architectural style used in this country. It offers the advantage of generous attic or storage space.

In earlier Georgian styles the hip roof prevailed. Here the gable ends were sliced off at the same angle.

The gambrel and Mansard roofs resulted from the natural desire to get more room without adding any additional stories to the houses. The gambrel roof has two pitches on opposite sides of the roof. The lower pitch is much steeper than the upper. It follows the Dutch tradition and is used extensively on Pennsylvania Dutch houses and barns. Light is introduced through dormers.

The French architect Francois Mansart used the same idea, but rather than end the ridge in a gable he used double pitches on all four sides and then he added a cornice.
Partitions that vanish with a push, dual-purpose dividers, sliding panels — these sound like props in an old-fashioned melodrama or a Karloff curdler. But they're part of a trend in home planning — a happy trend that fosters bigger living area by doing away with hard-and-fast walls.

A shove — a whisk — and one room joins another. Take the alcove pictured above, for instance. By means of a sliding panel which, if it were less cheerfully decorated, might have come out of a Rhinehart chiller, we see how to convert a space-adding area into den, study, television room — or it can even be Jekyll-and-Hyded into a bedroom for that unexpected guest.

In the Case of the Bookcase Wall, top right, the step-down division between areas is accented without diminishing the effect of two-room sweep.

In the Affair of the Secluded Nursery, right, the deep-laid plot unfolds (literally, that is) a child's room that can be easily supervised by watchful parents or shut off to assure quiet dreams for early-to-bedders.

Photographs by Rada and Gaync
of all things. . .

Biggest news in our neighborhood is the new nylon carpeting that is going into the new home down the street. The price of it would blow your hat off, but the new owner added up the cost of carpet replacements of the last 20 years and is convinced his cost-per-year will be low. Nylon, of course, washes with a whisk of a cloth, and is moth-proof. But nylon isn't the only thing that has been added to carpeting lately. Rayon, by itself or with wool, is being pushed so strong this year that carpet manufacturers say the trend is the biggest news since the invention of the carpet power loom 100 years ago. Carpet rayon is tougher than dress rayon, and will take clearer colors than wool. It will wear as well as wool, and stay clean as long. Two and one-half times more rayon was used last year in carpeting than the year before . . . due largely to the steep price advances on wool . . .

Now they have electronic baby-sitters, appliances you plug in by the baby's crib before you play canasta or watch television at your neighbors. This gadget will transmit your child's voice on a predetermined wave length that can be heard on any radio set up to 300 feet away. Tune in, and when baby cries, dash for home! . . .

A few years ago critics were saying that something should be done to the design of bathrooms so steam from the shower would not fog up the shaving mirror. Now you can buy an electric heating element for the mirror that dispels the moisture like a windshield defroster — press a button and the glass clears up.

Years ago when door chimes first came out, many builders installed them as "selling pointers," little extras that would catch the fancy of Mrs. Housewife and make her realize that the house was strictly modern. The nearest things to selling pointers these days are automatic dishwashers and garbage disposal units. We made a survey of 2,000 big builders recently and found that almost half of them are installing these much-yearned-for work-savers in houses built for sale . . . Some new kitchens are being equipped with table model television sets, built in behind cabinet doors. Housewives frequently like to copy down recipes, it says here, but at our house TV would also help get the teen-agers into the kitchen along about dish-cleaning time.

House designers and builders are concerned — as they should be — over the lack of adequate space in many homes built these days. To help add more space without sacrificing quality of construction, they are considering such things as: elimination of the back or service door, making one entrance do the trick; including the kitchen in the living room, separated only by a counter or cabinet walls; less gingerbread on the trim; fewer partitions; recognition of the fact that a few feet extra in width or length does not add proportionately to cost.

I suppose progress comes only from exploring every possible new idea, but one that seems to be getting more play than it deserves is the house on stilts. Several designers in the South have built homes eight or ten feet in the air supported only by slender steel pipes. Another has built a "second story house" with the first floor almost entirely enclosed in glass. The objective back of the idea has merit. Second floor living, as its proponents point out, gives a better view, more privacy for glass-walled living, provides an inexpensive first floor space for car storage, terraces and recreation areas and better circulation of summer breezes.

A tucked-away for your party glasses

In a tiny space, hidden under the working surface of your built-in kitchen cabinet, from five to six dozen iced-tea and sherbet glasses make their permanent home!

Store the glasses you use most often on the easy-to-reach top shelf, with its handy pull-out tray. The protective plywood frame, with its individual glass-sized perforations, will hold them steady, prevent their sliding and nicking each other, on the trip out. Pieces less frequently used can be stored on the stationery lower shelves.

Here's an efficient, compact use of space, combined with real respect for your sparkle-ware!
OF the television sets now being made are very well styled, but you may wish to fit yours even more inconspicuously into your decorating scheme. These built-ins, the bed, the grandfather's clock and the bookcase installation, are just a few of many possibilities

**WHAT ROOM FOR TELEVISION?**

One of our favorite cartoons of the past year shows a man in his home viewing a football game on television. Firemen with spurting fire hoses and extinguishers are rushing to and fro beside him. Without looking from the screen, the man asks, "What part of the house is the fire in now?"

The modern television addict — it is estimated there are now more than 15 million sets and other millions being added each month — is a strange character, unlike his prototype, the home movie zealot or the radio enthusiast. Perforce he must have utter sanctuary. Usually the draperies are pulled shut, to fend off glare. All lamps in the room, save one, are out. Except for an occasional cough, no one can make a sound — rustle a newspaper or rattle an ash tray — except at his own peril.

Architects and interior decorators are asking what they are to do with this new pastime. You can't carry on the usual functions of living in the same room with television, they argue, so the logical thing is to give it a room of its own. They are urging that basement recreation rooms be re-activated, with emphasis on comfortable chairs and sofas. Or house it in a den, or extra bedroom. Plan your house for television, they say, or you run the chance of having it architecturally obsolete in a few years.

Other designers and decorators believe that the living room can provide all this, and living, too. The newer sets are more adequate in daylight, they point out, and besides, television rooms should not be dark. And as more and more families acquire sets, there will be fewer and fewer neighbors to invite into your home theater-fashion. Make the screen the center of interest in such a room, instead of the fireplace or breakfront. Provide furniture on wheels or collapsible chairs for easy viewing. Choose cabinet models that have doors to cover the yawning screen, or build in a set with such doors, so it will be a thing of beauty when not in use.

One school of thought favors the increased use of indirect or projected pictures. These "big pictures" can be as large as 4 by 3 feet, on a section of wall or rollup movie screen, yet the set itself can be inconspicuously built into a shelf cabinet, bed footboard, or even a grandfather's clock.

The right answer for you depends in part on how much of a habit televiewing is likely to become in your household. Certainly home architecture and design should accommodate itself to the dominant and ever changing ways of life.
IF EVERY home planner would write a memo to her architect outlining her regular kitchen routine, many more kitchens would operate just as smoothly as this one.

There would be more stove-high counters, more specially planned storage space for things like soft drink cases, grated fruits and large canning kettles. There would be dual-use items like the desk that doubles as a sorting table and the laundry tubs that serve as a flower-arranging center. There would be drawers and cupboards beside each work center to house all necessary equipment right on the spot.

We picture an excellent example of one room that combines laundry, food preparation center, home office and a food bar without the slightest sense of crowding.

The huge food bar sits at right angles to the double corner window. Monchers are always certain of a pleasant view. The bar is topped with a cream-colored plastic that is imperious to spills and heat. The matching plastic leatherette-covered bar stools tuck completely under the wide counter. No cramped knees here since there is room to spare and ten people can line up at the large counter.

It can take teen-age exuberance in its stride yet is good looking enough to lure the bridge club or after-the-show crowd.

Right next to this busy center is a double sink flanked by plenty of cupboards and drawers. The back entrance, too, is ideally located beside the sink.

Along the next wall are the washing machine, the washday sink and a desk. Beneath the sink are shelves for laundry supplies and an assortment of vases and flower containers.

Next in line is the "think corner" where meals are planned, market lists made out and the inevitable bills mulled over. Here, too, is a convenient telephone extension. The desk is glass-topped but might just as practically have been covered with the bar-top plastic. Five drawers mean plenty of room for both the housewife and husband to file all of their bills. One drawer holds all appliance operating instructions and a household equipment check list.

The louvered door opens to reveal a cleaning closet the depth of the desk. In it are centered all supplies used on the ground floor — vacuum cleaner, polishes, brooms, mops, etc. Space above it is used to house rarely used items like the ice cream freezer, picnic baskets and thermos jugs.

At right angles to this louvered door its twin opens to the central hall. Next is a roomy cabinet with large drawers. The range, the refrigerator, another storage closet and the dining room door fill out the rest of this wall.

If you can visualize a more compact kitchen than this with so much storage space, and so much convenience, we would like to see it! There are drawers and cupboards almost everywhere you look.

Ceiling beams were left exposed and light is supplied by simple rectangles of frosted glass covering electric light bulbs.

Plenty of color was one of the orders and this scheme is as gay as a fiesta, with bright coral for all woodwork and a blend of cream and green for the walls and the floors.
Passers-by frequently pause to admire the simple colonial flavor that distinguishes this house. The red brick exterior is a perfect background for flashes of crocus-white that give a fresh, spring-morning look to details like louvered shutters, wide cornices, and door and window trim.

Little touches reach out a friendly welcome to those approaching the beautiful entrance with its paneled door, its side-lights and brass knocker — all true to the early American tradition. But a glance around holds a few surprises. The door light is a swinging Victorian lamp complete with fluted glass chimney. And the bench suggests a past that can only include a moonlit Louisiana garden.

The garage flows pleasantly into the lines of the house and is situated to give sheltered car-to-house accessibility. Designed with an alcove, it provides out-of-sight storage for bikes, tools, screens, and other impediments.

Extra living space was gained inside with money saved by eliminating a basement. A radiant-heated concrete slab protects against the elements in a way that would have flabbergasted the ancestors from whom so much excellent design has been borrowed.

Modern planning gives an airy spaciousness, too, that ends appropriately in a screened porch that keeps the back yard and garden close at hand. And three open sides entice every breeze!
Comfort and informality are carried from architecture to landscaping in this attractive back yard. The lawn and flower gardens are close to outdoor living quarters where a potpourri of fragrance and coloring can be enjoyed by all who take their ease on the screened porch.

The colonial entrance, left, is the focal point of this appealing house. Inside, a foyer with six-foot coat closet leads to the kitchen whose utilitarian qualities are hidden beneath a gentle air. Quaint sprigged wallpaper adds a memory-stirring aura to Hitchcock chairs, trestle table, banjo clock, and cherished milk-glass.
This attractive English type home on Euclid Avenue has been purchased by the Reverend and Mrs. Donald Condon for their home.

Rev. Condon is Chaplain at the U.S. Veterans Hospital.

Negotiations were handled by Wesley A. Albright of the Picotte Realty Office.

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