

PERFECT HOME

JULY 1952

MAGAZINE

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Loved ones make it a home

The warm, friendly characters portrayed by actor Jean Hersholt have entered our hearts by way of the screen, our homes through radio. It's no surprise to find that his own home is one of his most precious treasures

WHEN one has lived in the same home — the perfect home, as I call mine — for more than a quarter of a century, he realizes that a good many factors enter into the making of such a home and that it would be exceedingly difficult, if possible at all, to do full justice to these in a few words. But I feel that two of these factors stand head and shoulders above the others. To me they will always be synonymous with home.

The first of these — and no doubt most happy husbands and fathers share my sentiments — is one's family. Walls, roof and furniture make a house, but it is primarily your loved ones who make it a home, the center of a full and happy life. In my instance, it has been a dear wife and son, and more recently a daughter-in-law and grandson, who have breathed into my home the life and warmth, the radiant love, that prevails there. It is they who have made it a home in the truest sense of the word.

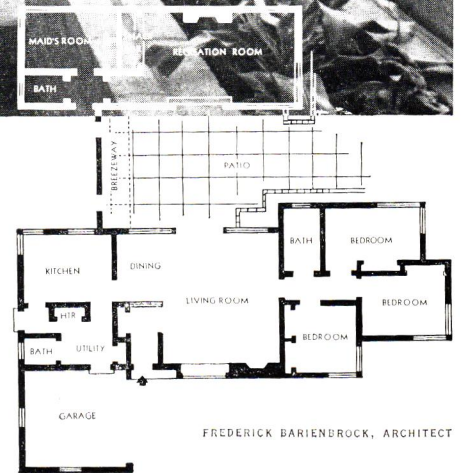
In a broader sense, a home to me spells America. As one of foreign birth, I can fully appreciate what it means to have one's home in America, whose very structure, like that of the well-built home, rests upon a foundation of love. Indeed, it is in no small measure America itself which makes yours and mine a home, be it in Beverly Hills, where I live, or in Kalamazoo. Whether you realize it or not, and I think you do, the sunshine which Uncle Sam radiates has a way of penetrating the darkest hallway, of casting a warm, peaceful glow across your room that — well, simply makes it your home, and keeps it that way.

The lure of the out-of-doors is pictured in this patio setting photographed by Max Tatch and in Maynard Parker's garden view we show in color on our front cover



Great window-wall of fun-room overlooks the large enclosed terrace

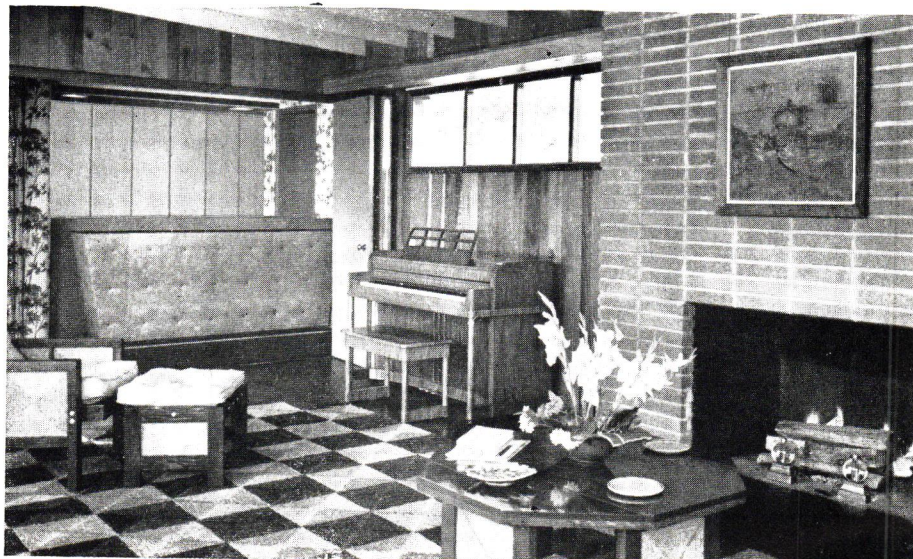
they added on just for fun



Rush carpeting adds interest to fun-room furniture

It's well nigh impossible to improve the flavor of a sun-ripened strawberry, but who wants to make a full meal of them? It's the same with our day-to-day living. Formality is fine, but not for a full 24 hours of every day. There's a touch of the rowdy in each of us. That's why this house was built in two parts. It was, as you can see from the rooms pictured on the opposite page, a gracious home.

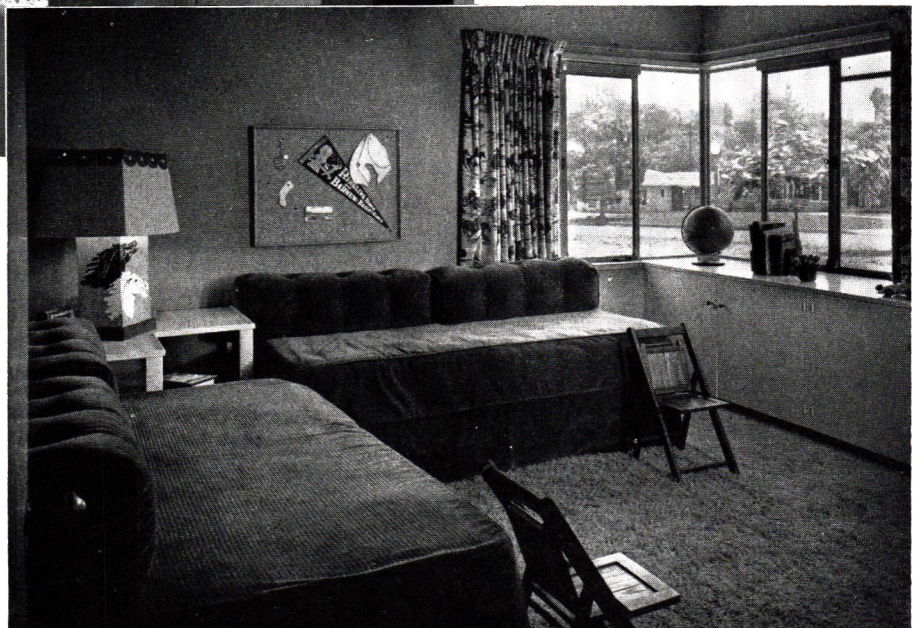
All would have been perfect had the family been willing to confine its activities to bridge or quiet conversation, but like almost every other family, this one, too, was a combination of contradictions. The desire for a truly





Living room corner for conversation

Boy's room has corner view

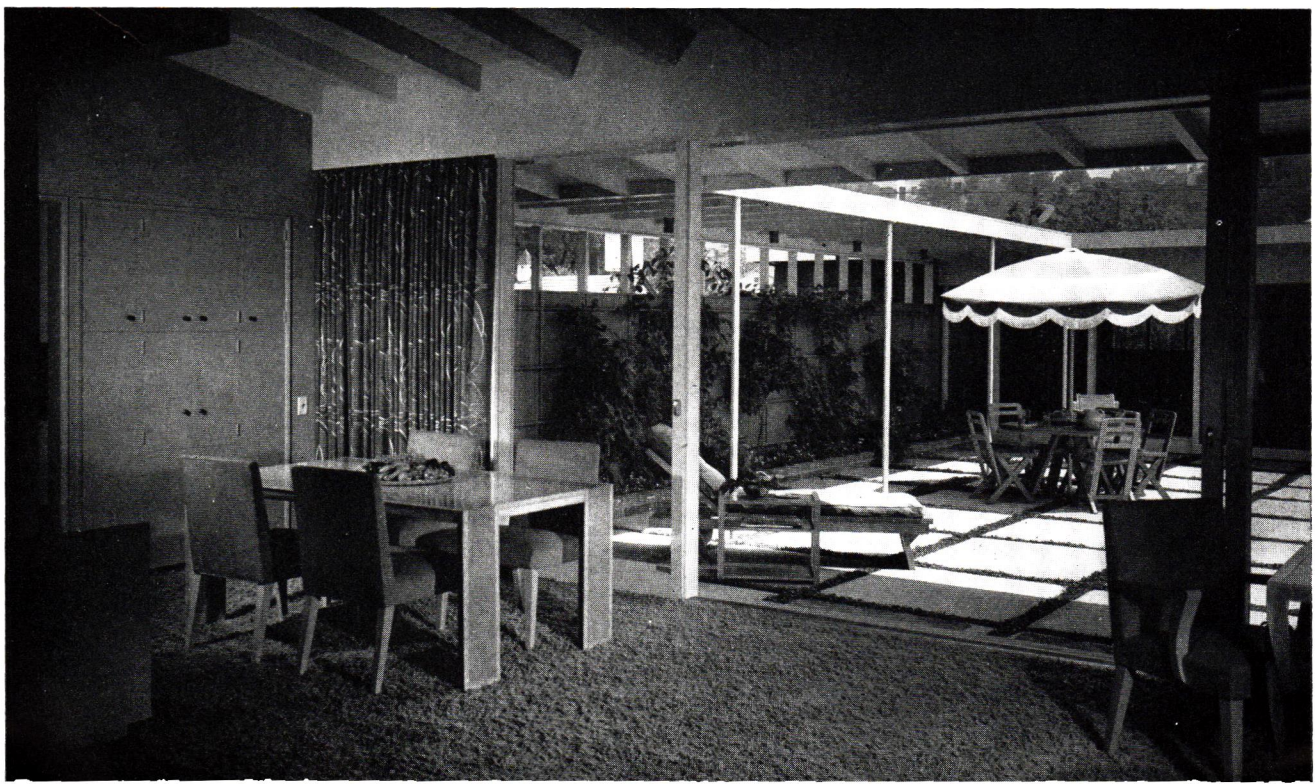


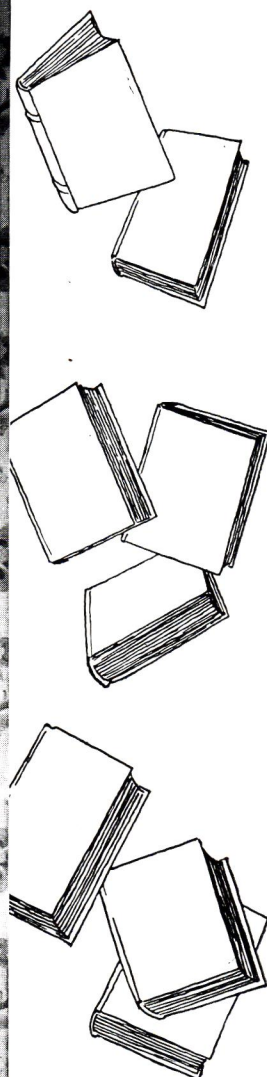
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAYNARD PARKER

lovely house was out of balance with naturally exuberant spirits. There was no place for a ping-pong table, and the lovely shag carpet automatically put an end to any idea of dancing.

Since there was little chance of compromise the suggestion of a fun-room was cheered by all. The plan shows how well it has been worked out. The new addition, pictured on the opposite page, encloses the old terrace and connects with the house via a covered breezeway. A new bedroom and bath were combined with the fun-room in a simple rectangular structure. There's a cement floor for dancing, a radio, television set and piano for sound effects, and a well stocked snack-bar for those oh-so-necessary refreshments.

Dining and living areas look out on a paved terrace toward new addition



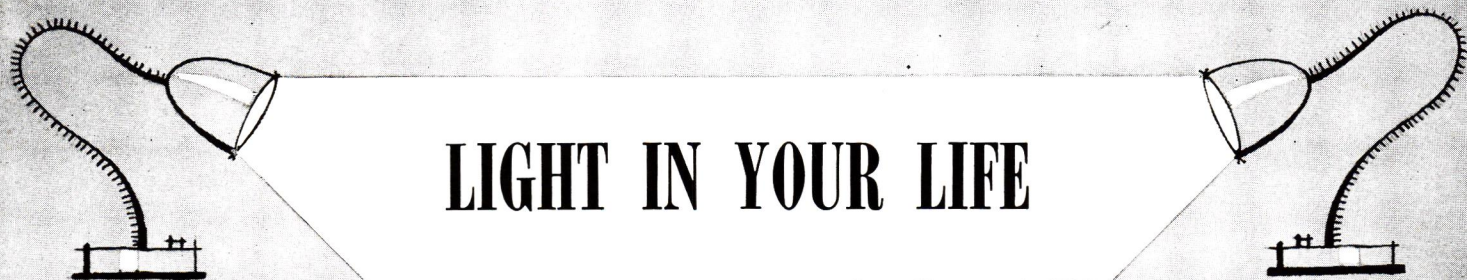


High Wide and Handsome

HAVE you ever tried to enjoy a leisurely family meal while all of your young neighbors waited impatiently in the living room for their first baseman to finish his dessert? If so, you'll appreciate the problem that prompted this remodeling job. A wide doorway between living and dining rooms offered an uninterrupted view of the entire table.

At first it was decided to fill in the opening with bookshelves. Then some ingenious soul suggested mobile sections. Concealed casters under the bottom cupboard sections allow the shelves to swing back into the dining room. Doors open and fold flat against back of bookcases.





LIGHT IN YOUR LIFE

ABOUT one-fourth of the daily energy expended by the average person can be accounted for by activity of the eye mechanism. In other words, we use up a large part of our vitality by just looking at things!

You can see how this is true. Take cooking, for instance. It goes fast and easy if there's plenty of diffused white light on every kitchen work area. On the other hand, getting a meal in a bad light is a strain. Tuckers you out in no time.

A home with perfect lighting for every phase of day-to-day living isn't the rarity it used to be. All that's required is a bit of analysis and planning. Let's go through your home room by room and consider some lighting details that experts have worked out — details that save eyesight, add to convenience, and lend charm and cheer to the setting.

We'll begin with the front stoop. Entrance lighting should serve as a welcome and also a protection. It should illuminate the late caller who rings your bell. Decorative weatherproof fixtures that hold 40-watt bulbs on each side of the door will do this well. If you have just one porch fixture, you'll need at least a 60-watt bulb.

For other outdoor lighting, you can get neat weatherproof floodlights that fasten inconspicuously to the outside of your house. They'll light your drive and the area around your garage. And if you have a badminton, shuffleboard, or horseshoe court, these lights will assure after-sundown action.

Inside, we need spend only a moment on the front hall. Here lighting should be simple and unobtrusive. A ceiling fixture will serve—or indirect lighting from behind valances over door or window. If there's a stairway nearby, remember to place fixtures so they don't look bad from above.

The details of living-room lighting depend on size, shape, and style of the room; so we won't try to lay down hard and fast rules. Valances over doors and windows are a good bet for most homes, however. They give drama to the room and, carefully placed, they can make it seem larger too. Some experts recommend a minimum of 16 feet of valance.

If you have recessed nooks and niches in your living room, these offer opportunities for concealed lighting that will add immeasurably to their interest. And for a really dramatic effect, plan to spotlight planters and pictures.

Make adequate provisions for table and floor lamps — an outlet every 20 running feet is the absolute minimum. Here are some figures that will help you choose lamps:

The ideal height for a floor lamp is 49 inches from the floor to the lower edge of the shade, but an inch one way or the other isn't going to give anybody astigmatism. For reading, a floor lamp should be placed so that the bulb is 26 inches behind your book and 15 inches to the right or left. A swing-arm lamp is excellent for sewing (which requires more light than reading), because you can adjust it so that the bulb is almost directly over your work. A sewing light should be only 12 inches behind the center of your work and 15 inches to the right or left.

If table lamps are to be used for reading, arrange them so that the bulb is 16 inches behind the book and 20 inches to the right or left. The best height for a table lamp is 15

to 17 inches — from the bottom of the shade to the surface of the table. The diameter of the bottom of the shade should be at least 16 inches; the top of the diffusing bowl should measure 8 or 9 inches. All lamps, floor and table, should have either diffusing bowls or indirect-light bulbs.

If you use the living room for television, you've probably learned that the screen is much easier on the eyes if you do *not* black out the room. The important thing here is to *balance* your lighting to avoid bright spots and shadows.

For your dining area, an overhead light is best because it will make your tableware gleam and twinkle like a bride's smile. If you don't want to go in for an old-fashioned crystal chandelier, almost any simple overhead fixture, either close to the ceiling or suspended, will fill the bill. Be sure it's good and bright, however. Eating doesn't require so much light as a lot of other activities, but remember this: Your dining table is the largest table in your house and chances are it's used for everything from parchesi to package wrapping. So choose a fixture that sheds good white light.

In the kitchen you need a central fixture to hold a 150-watt bulb — or its equivalent in fluorescent tubes. This central light is necessary to eliminate contrasts between lighted areas and the rest of the room. A room unevenly lighted tends to tire the eyes. You can't depend on this central light alone, of course, because you'd find yourself standing in your own light at almost every work surface.

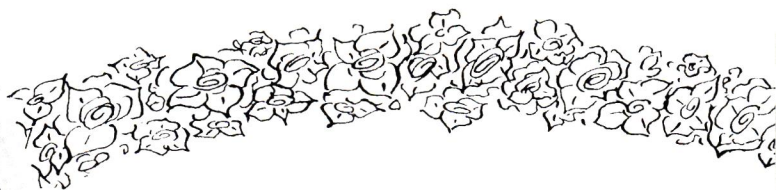
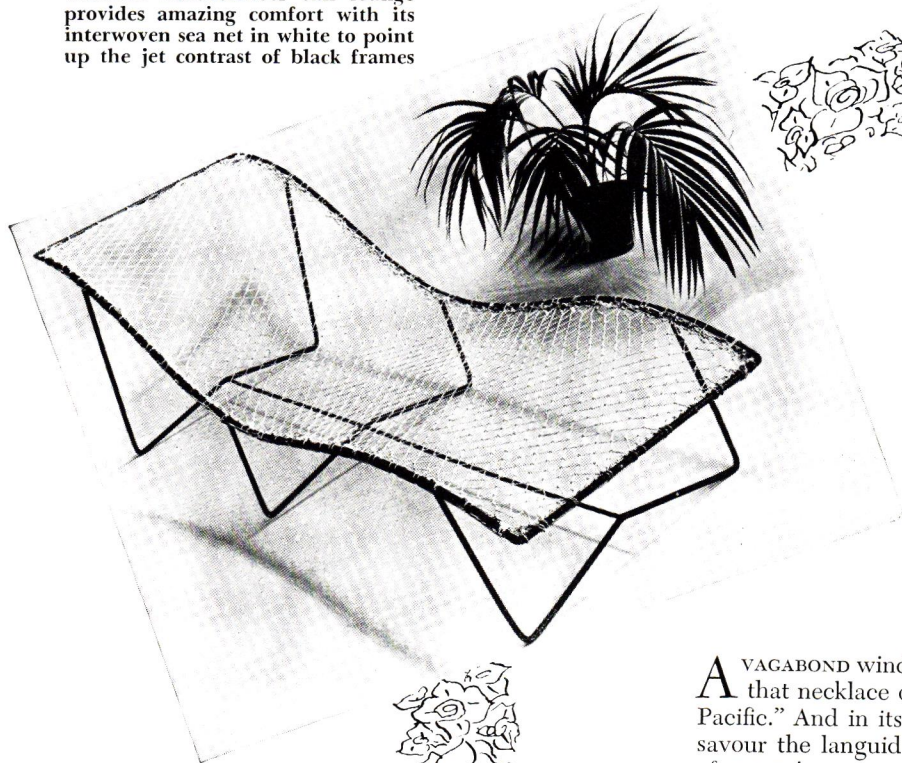
Fluorescent tubes are excellent at ceiling height over the sink; if possible, or they should be concealed — tucked into a recess in the ceiling or hidden by a cornice. A shielded light just below eye-level (58 inches from the floor is the recommended height) is what you need over the range. If you have wall cabinets over your food-preparation area, that's fine. Use them for a shield and install a fluorescent tube under them — back in the corner out of sight.

In the utility room, fixtures can be entirely functional. They should be placed directly over work areas. A plain metal reflector and a good bright bulb are all you need above the laundry trays. Two 25-watt fluorescent tubes above your board or ironer will eliminate twilight-state ironing and assure you of seeing all the wrinkles.

In the bathroom, your chief lighting goal is shadow-free light on a person standing before the mirror. A vertical fluorescent tube on each side of the glass and a fixture directly overhead — 12 to 18 inches from the wall — will do the trick nicely. The overhead fixture is important: it assures an even distribution of light for shaving or make-up. All switches should be away from grounded plumbing.

In bedrooms, you'll want a ceiling fixture of relatively low brilliance (this is especially important in a child's room). Since the present-day bedroom is often a study and a sewing, writing, and reading room, its lighting should be planned accordingly. Put in plenty of wall outlets. Mirrors can be lighted with bracket or trough lights (one on each side) or by twin vanity lamps. For really comfortable reading in bed, put a wall fixture directly over the head of the bed with 30 inches between the lower edge of the shade and the top of the mattress and use an indirect-light bulb.

Graceful beachcomber sun lounge provides amazing comfort with its interwoven sea net in white to point up the jet contrast of black frames



Let's Go native



A VAGABOND wind blows eastward to the States at times from *Hawaii Nei* — that necklace of eight enchanting islands known as the “Paradise of the Pacific.” And in its wake it leaves a restlessness in some who would like to savour the languid life of the South Seas . . . in a perfectly civilized way of course!

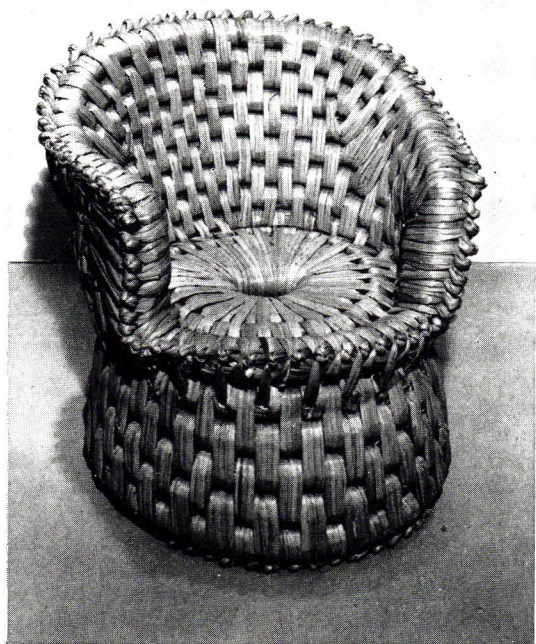
Your tropical dream is nearer than you think — no farther away than your own porch. And if you lack this supplement to your home, any interior room can be transformed into a romantic *lanai* with a little exotic legerdemain.

In Hawaii, the *k'ang* would be your most important piece of furniture. This island version of the sofa that originated in ancient China is usually long and low and definitely designed with an eye to luxurious indolence. You will want yours strewn with the invitation of lush cushions covered in “Pomegranate” or “Papaya” fabric in brown and orange, or in one of the tropical fish or foliage patterns so new this season.

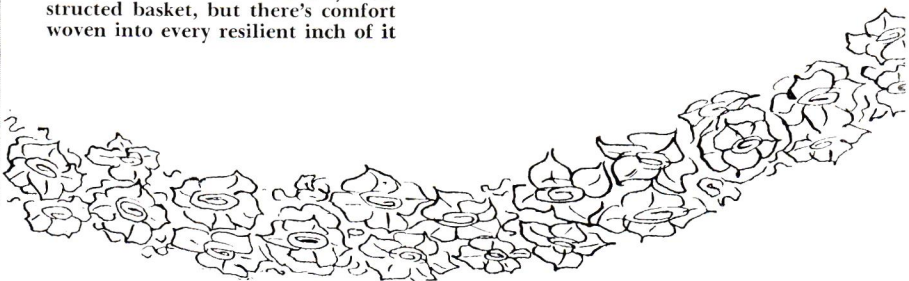
Underfoot will be hemp squares, fiber or lauhala rugs. The latter, hand-woven in Samoa from native lauhala plants, may also be found in nut-toned place mats for table or buffet trays. Any touches of bamboo, straw, or even the rough-textured tapa cloth pounded from bark by the natives will cast an authentic sea-island spell.

If you want to submit without reservation to this mood-making plan, there are wall coverings that simulate all three of these tropical materials. Made of molded plastic in a three-dimensional design, they are flexible, easy to apply, and capable of deceiving even a true islander!

Those who have a touch of beachcomber in their souls can take their imaginative sea-spray in lounge chairs of black-painted steel covered with a rugged sort of fishing net . . . and pray that the goddess Pele who watches over *Hawaii Nei* from her Kilauea volcano won't be overcome at the sight!

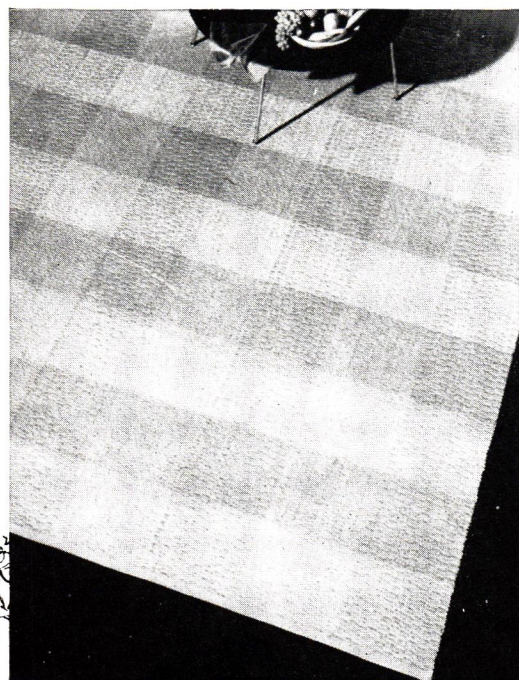


True, it looks like a sturdily constructed basket, but there's comfort woven into every resilient inch of it





A place for conjuring up dreams of sea-swept shores, moonlit mountains, and valleys of spun-gold sun. Every curve of the sofa, cushioned with four inches of foam rubber, beckons the lazy lounger. Coffee table in outrigger design matches the drawer fronts of end tables with an exotic new material resembling the mottled shell of the giant south-seas tortoise

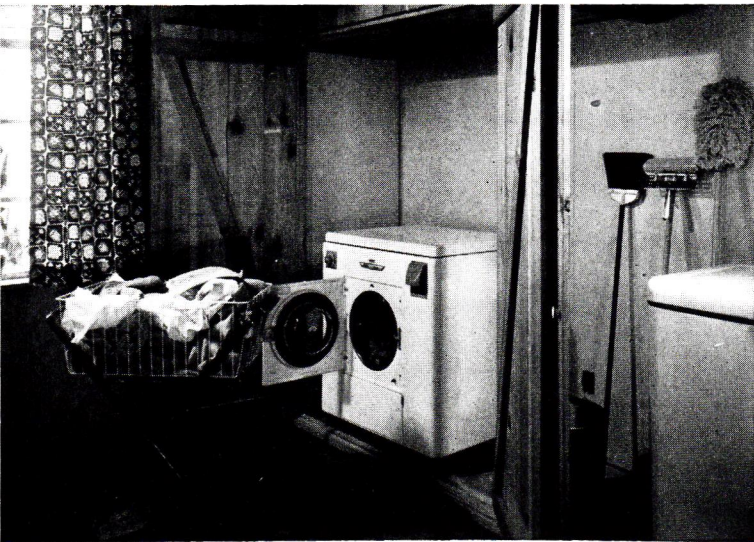


Reversible fiber rug with a native-craft look, but it was woven on American machines! Three shades of beige define the interesting foot-square rush blocks

BY ELEANORE PAGE HAMILTON



Black iron lamp in simple tripod form is topped with a shade of paper parchment covered with native grass cloth — laminated for permanence. Lends atmosphere to modern lanais



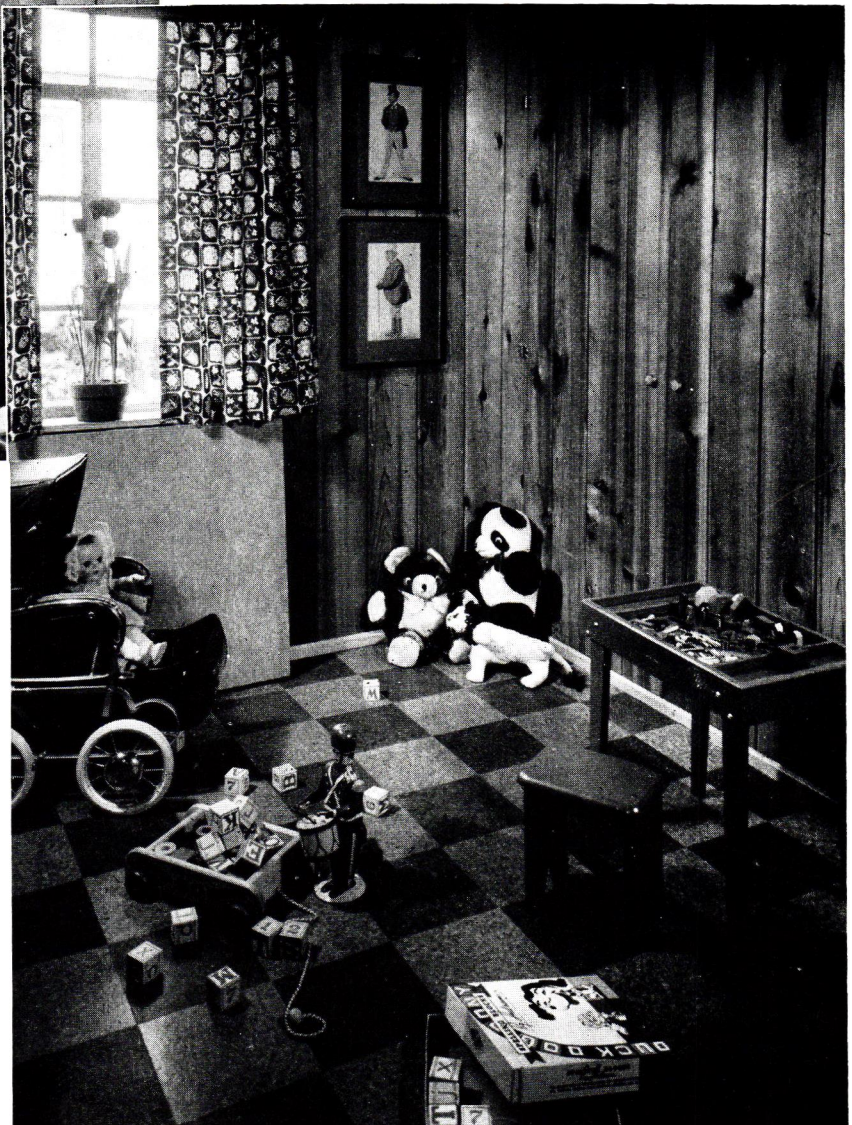
Convertible Corner

Three different rooms? . . . Look again. These pictures are all of the same corner of a room that leads a triple life, saves space and steps



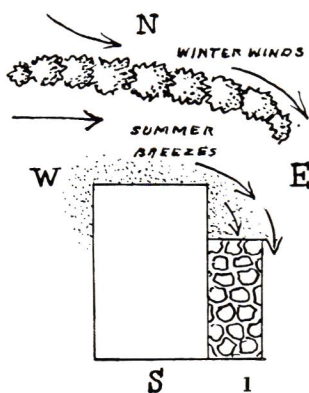
PLANNED to save space in a small home, this just-off-the-kitchen room would do credit to a designer of stage sets — so quickly and easily can it be converted from one phase of its triple life to another.

First, it's a dining room where family and guests can eat in a cozy rustic atmosphere. Whisk aside table and chairs and — presto! It's a playroom — just the place for toddlers while Mother's at work in the kitchen. A peek behind the two sets of double doors reveals its third function as that of utility room — who'd have guessed that those handsome panelled walls concealed washer and freezer, along with plenty of space for mops and brooms?



Weather

STAY 'WAY FROM MY DOOR



THE classic complaint that nobody does anything about the weather need no longer be literally true for the home owner who plans his landscaping wisely. We can't tell you how to rearrange the seasons to suit your mood, but we do say that strategic landscaping can take *some* of the bite out of severe weather.

Take a look at the windbreak in Figure 1, for instance. In many parts of the country, harsh winter winds and cool summer breezes come from different directions. A curved line of trees will keep away the freezing blasts but, come dog days, it can trap caressing zephyrs. If a windbreak reduces a wind from 12 to 3 miles per hour, at 32 degrees F. it will take only half the amount of fuel to heat your house during the period of wind. The success of a windbreak depends, of course, on getting it in exactly the right place. Get expert advice before you plant one — from the weather bureau, your nurseryman, or both.

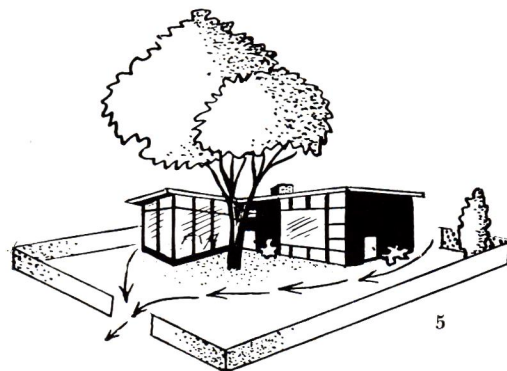
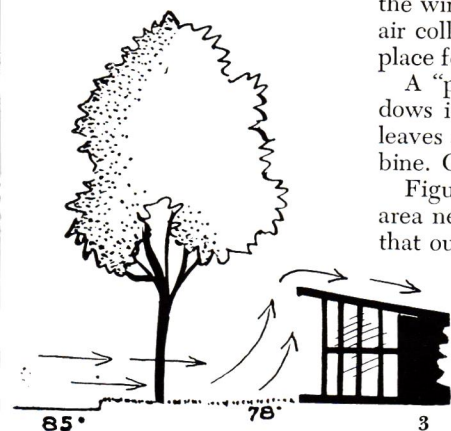
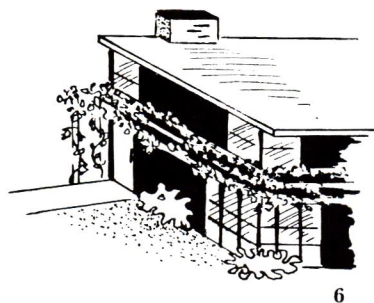
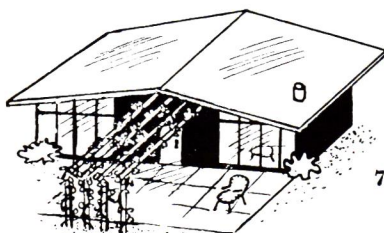
Of course, landscaping isn't always a matter of planting. Sometimes it's a matter of where to place the house. If you have a lot graced with a big tree, plan to build where it will shade not only your outdoor living area but also the house. Studies show that a tree in the right place (see Figure 2) can reduce roof temperatures 20 to 40 degrees. The right place is to the west of the house where the tree will shelter walls and roof during the early afternoon.

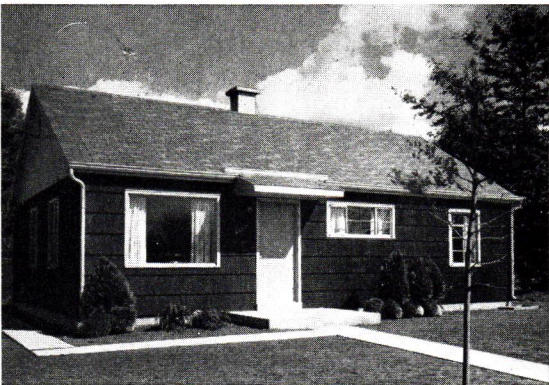
Lots of lawn around your home will make it *look* cooler and really *be* cooler. Grass is cooler than bare ground or pavement. Take a look at Figure 3, which pictures an actual situation where temperature readings were taken. At the hottest part of the day, the grassy area on the shady side of the tree was found to be 78 degrees, and the barren area 85. Even when the sun struck both areas evenly, the grass was cooler than the bare ground. Following this same line of thought, we conclude that a walk of small squares with lawn between them (Figure 4) is cooler than solid concrete.

Figure 5 is a bit on the theoretical side, but it illustrates a principle worth taking into consideration. The home is built at the rear of a plot that slopes downward toward the front gate. Cold air flows downward and will drain off through the open gate, not collecting around the house in the winter. Close the gate on a sultry evening and the cool air collects at the lower end of the property, makes a nice place for a picnic.

A "plant awning" is shown in Figure 6. It shades windows in summer, allows sun to enter in winter when the leaves are gone. Grape vines might be good here. Or woodbine. Or colorful flowers.

Figure 7 shows a pergola that makes a delightfully cool area next to the house — a good spot to set up a table for that outdoor dinner — or just to lounge of a sultry Sunday.





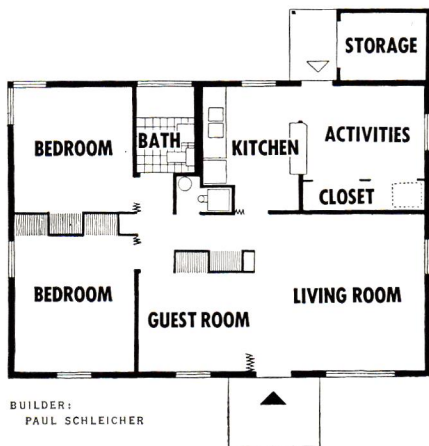
WHAT'S YOUR DREAM OF HOME?

WHEN we were very small our dream of home was fashioned around the gingerbread house that held such allure for lonely Hansel and Gretel. It was rich in sweet lacy fretwork, had a cobbled chocolate walk and a frosted door stood slightly ajar to coax the curious inside.

Today's dream is not so colorful but it is far more practical. And every bit as exciting. It concentrates on details beyond the inviting entrance.

There's not a hint of superfluous frill in the detailing, but check carefully and you'll find plenty of real surprises like the expandable living-guest room and the large storage for inevitable household extras. There are many conveniences that break slowly on the eye, like the wonderful plastic counter tops, the easy-to-open kitchen cupboards, the sound-barring closets between bedrooms, the well-planned kitchen that also holds an efficient laundry, and even more unusual, the large activities room with its wall-wide storage closet. (You'll see it pictured on page 10.)

Yes, our ideas have certainly changed. Peppermint paths no longer lure us but we can grow misty-eyed over the practical features of a plastic cork floor. We feel greater delight over the inch-thick, aluminum-foil-backed insulation blanket hidden in our walls or the baseboard heating ducts than we were ever able to feel over the doom of the crafty witch. But we're not at all unusual — for a home such as this fits both the dream fabric and the budgets of young families.



Warm colors give the combination living and guest room unusual visual continuity. The walls are deep beige while the plastic cork floor is deep cocoa brown. Salmon pink and golden yellow are used liberally as accent colors





Guest room doubles as a television room with folding plastic doors shutting out activities in the adjoining living room



Kitchen and laundry are combined in this cheery room. Sunny chartreuse walls are a fine foil for leaf-patterned curtains

Furniture is used interchangeably throughout the house. Chairs are used singly or lined up to form one sofa-length unit



BY
DONNA LOUIS
NICHOLAS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOWELL WARD AND ASSOCIATES

BY BRUCE ALLEN

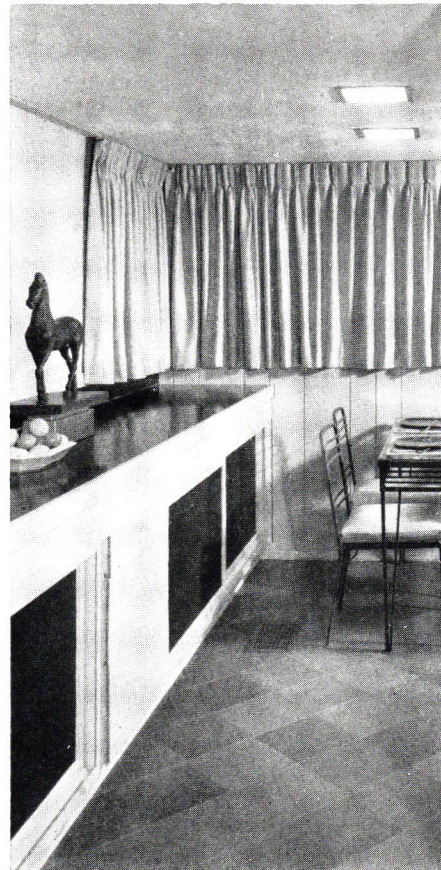
HIGH WINDOWS MEAN MORE WALL SPACE

EVER since the idea of large picture windows caught on, the ratio between usable wall space and glassed areas has been getting more and more out of balance.

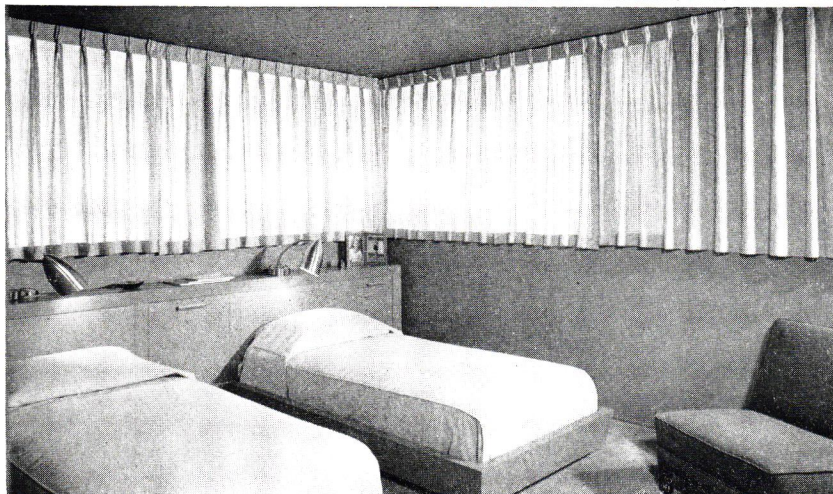
In spite of the fact that one famous architect advocated a house with no exterior windows, most of us are too dedicated to an abundance of light to give up a single foot of glass in favor of the wall space that would simplify furniture arrangement.

As a result, we too often have to back the sofa against the picture window or set a chair smack in front of a fine view.

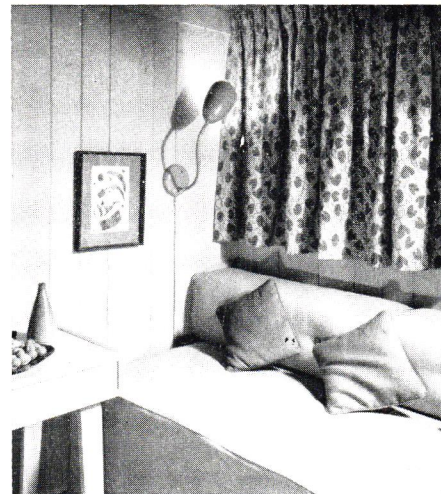
Each of the rooms pictured here has more than the average amount of light and ventilation — and of usable wall space, too! This has been brought about by high windows running well above the top line of most furniture.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY CLEVELAND, BAER, FEIN AND WARD



Curtains of high corner windows have been carried on across end of room to give appearance of wall-wide ribbon of high windows



High windows in the two rooms above allow much more flexible furniture arrangement and assure a far greater sense of privacy



Short windows in bedroom bay have full-tucked cottage curtain skirts. A built-in bed and deep toy cupboards fit beneath windows



These just-under-the-ceiling windows counteract the vertical lines of the fireplace. Bookshelves repeat strong horizontal sweep

ELEVATOR TABLES



A TABLE that grows or shrinks to fit your purpose may seem like something out of *Alice in Wonderland*, but here it is — another modern convenience. The top photograph shows it at coffee-table height. Its mahogany top, widely banded with rosewood and inlaid with an ebony line, makes it a strikingly handsome piece of furniture for anybody's living room.

At mealtime (second photograph), you need make only a simple adjustment to bring it to the right height for fireside dining. What's more, this convenient piece of furniture can be locked at any of six different heights.

The third picture shows a smaller model set at chairside height. Twenty-three inches in diameter, it's as versatile as its big sister, elevates to a small dining table or a game table that's just right for two.

Cool attic = cool house

MORE and more home owners are finding relief from sizzle-and-wilt weather by installing attic fans. The effectiveness of the device varies somewhat with the house — depending on size, location, and general plan — but if you have serious trouble keeping your house cool, it may pay you to consider a fan plan.

Here's why your home heats up till you feel like a brick in a kiln: Hot air collects in the attic, can't get out, and so gets hotter and hotter as the sun beats down on the roof. In some cases attic heat has been found to be as much as 40 degrees higher than outside temperature. When night falls, the air outside usually cools off quickly; but the hot, dead air in the attic cools only a little. This is likely to cause the rooms below to stay stifling all night.

An attic fan changes all that. When the sun goes down and the mercury begins to go down a bit, too, you flick a switch and the fan goes to work. It draws the stale downstairs air up through a louvered opening in the ceiling and forces the steaming air out of the attic through exhaust openings. Fresh air is drawn into the house through doors and

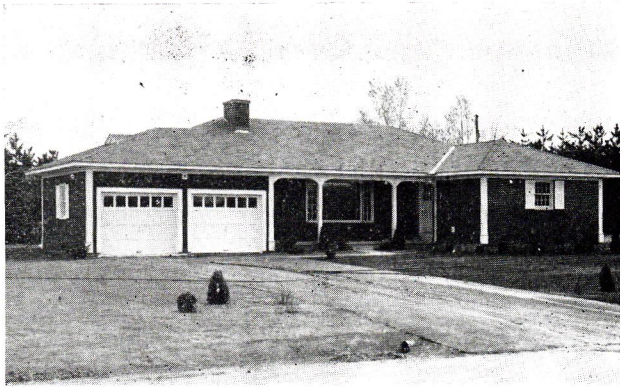
windows. The success of the operation naturally depends on how cool the outside air is; but even on the stickiest of nights the air you bring into your house will at least be gently moving and you'll get a better night's rest than you would without the fan. In the morning the house will be cool and it will stay cool much longer than it would if it started the day under a still-hot attic. And — most important to summer comfort — the air will be thoroughly fresh.

There are several makes and models of attic fans, most of them now developed to the point where they do their work quietly and efficiently. One that we happen to be familiar with is set on a heavy rubber base and makes less noise than a purring kitten. It's only three feet square and a scant foot and a half high; so it will fit easily into the most cramped attic. The shuttered ceiling opening is automatic — opens when you switch on the fan — and has a "weatherstrip" construction that eliminates drafts when it's closed. Installation of the fan is easy, economical, and accomplished without mess — the ceiling opening is fitted in place without need for re-papering, plastering, or painting.



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