

Late Spring • 1954

# Popular Home

Your How-to-do-it Magazine

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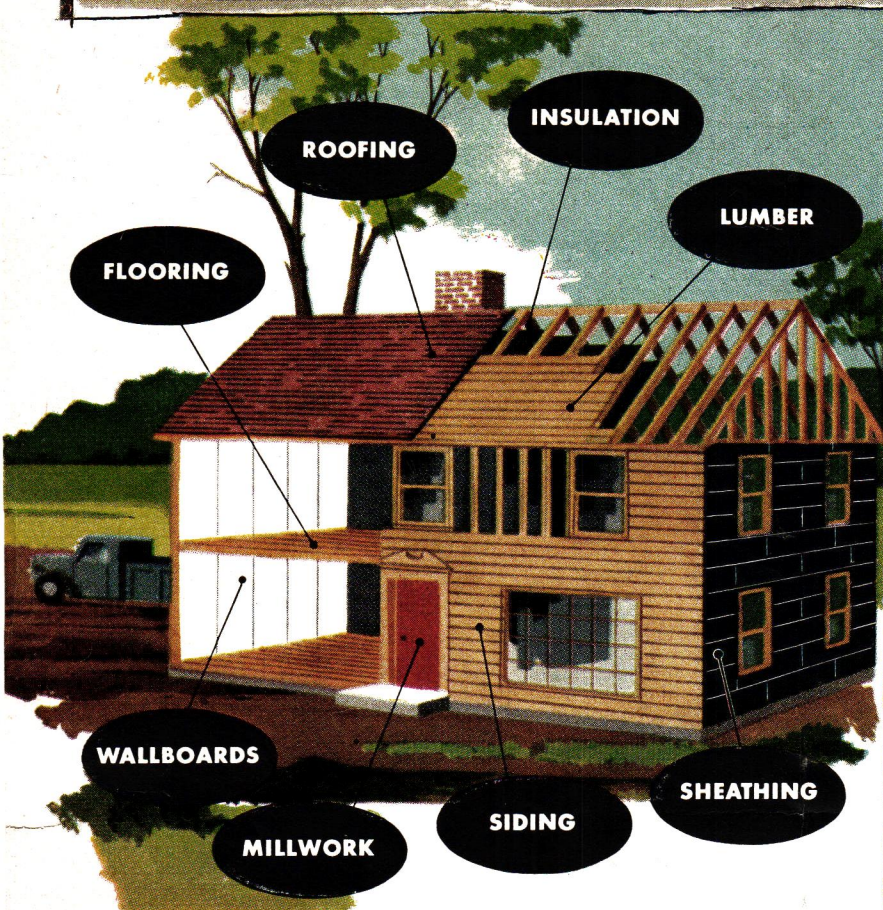


8 Ideas for  
Back-Yard Living

Build this BarbeQueen . . page 7

you're building on

# EASY STREET



when you get  
your materials from us!

One thing certain—it's far easier to get good results when you buy your materials from us, no matter how big or how small your home improvement plans are. Our stock is complete, so there's no delay.

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SEE OUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE COVER

## Popular Home

LATE SPRING • ISSUE 3 • 1954

HELLO AGAIN! Mind if we lean over the back fence for another chat? Speaking of fences, we hope you're in an "outdoor" frame of mind, because our magazine certainly is—as you'll see.

This is the third issue we've sent your way this year, and we think it's the best. The season is wonderful, anyway, and our five-page story on Back-Yard Living is just in time. Start improving your place with just *one* of the ideas shown there, and it will increase your pleasure. Whatever you do, inside or out, let us show you the same helpful service we've given your neighbors. Our part of the job can be mighty important.

Hope you'll notice that we're out to make a Handyman of you, one way or another. Offered here are three Free Handyman Plans on useful projects you can make, the great new Shop Guide, and building blueprints for the regular Feature House and a Lookout Lodge for the glorious weekends ahead. Come in—we're expecting you!

*Your Popular Home Sponsor*

(Our name and address are on the covers)

P. S. We don't ask you to frame it, but only to keep this issue. Here's a handy Index of Features for future reference:

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COVER PHOTO: HEDRICH-BLESSING



# 8 ways to build more living into your back yard



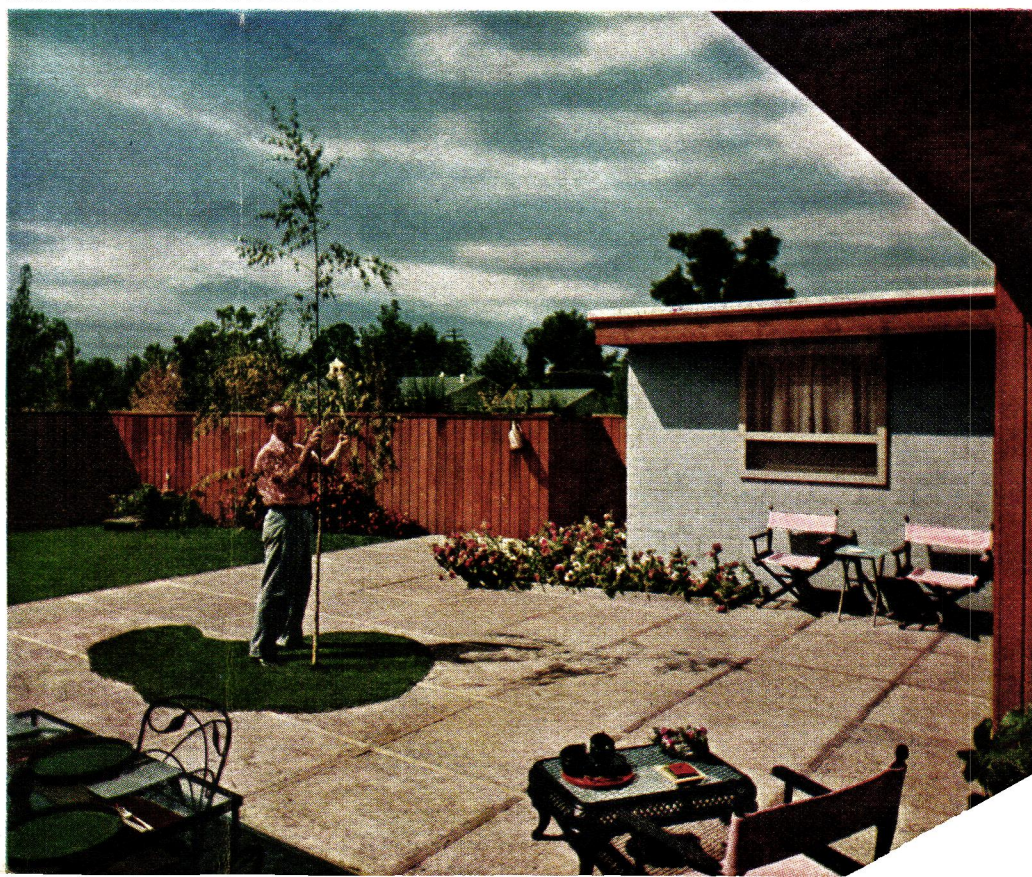
**W**HAT RICHER REWARD from life is there than this: a quiet family lunch on the terrace; a peaceful Sunday afternoon in the shade, reading and resting; the laughter of children from the play yard, where you know they're safe.

There can't be many better things, because back-yard living has become a habit with families in every corner of the nation, growing hand-in-hand with the booming do-it-yourself trend. If you've missed out so far, you're in for a surprise. Your property can be reorganized for back-yard living easily and inexpensively if your plans are modest. The same applies to the grounds around a new house.

Just remember to plan first for the convenience and happiness of your own family. Take into account the existing fixed features of your property; and whatever you do, arrange it to keep the upkeep *down*. Look below and on the following four pages at the new ideas in small-home improvement, most of which you can accomplish with your own labor. There's a lifetime of enjoyment ahead!

HOME OF MR. CHARLES WILLIAMS, SONOMA, CALIF.

PHOTOGRAPHY: PHIL FEIN



**It's inviting and private** if small back yard is planned as this one. Sheltered on two sides by house, patio is paved with bitumen-cement mixture poured over crushed stone base in grid pattern made by 2x4 redwood forms. Same forms serve as edging for planter box at rear. Free-form opening around small tree permits feeding, growth. Redwood fence is of 1x6 boards on 2x4 framing between 4x4 posts.

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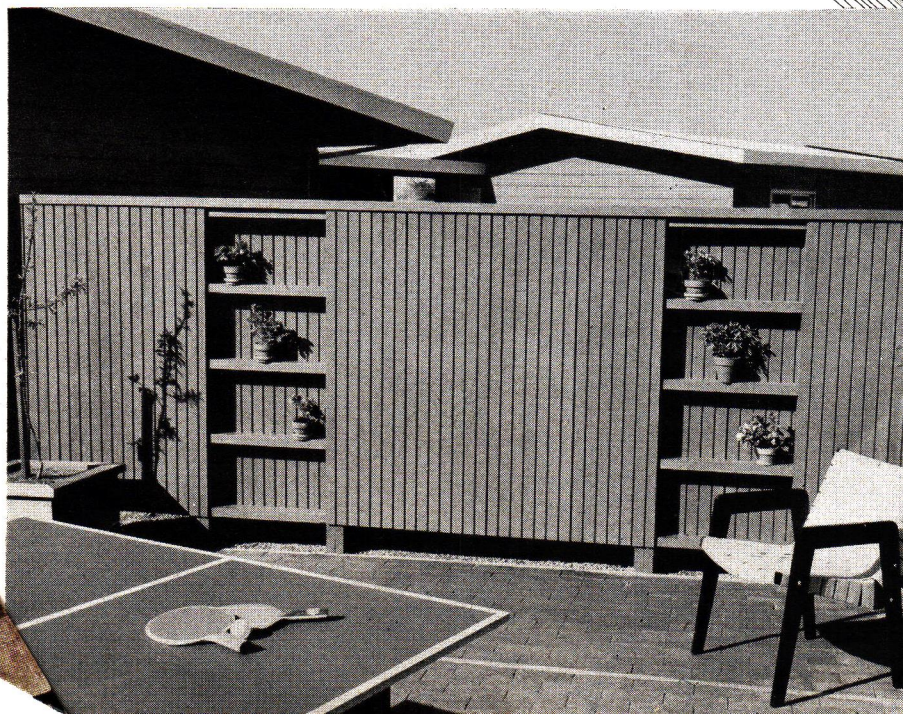
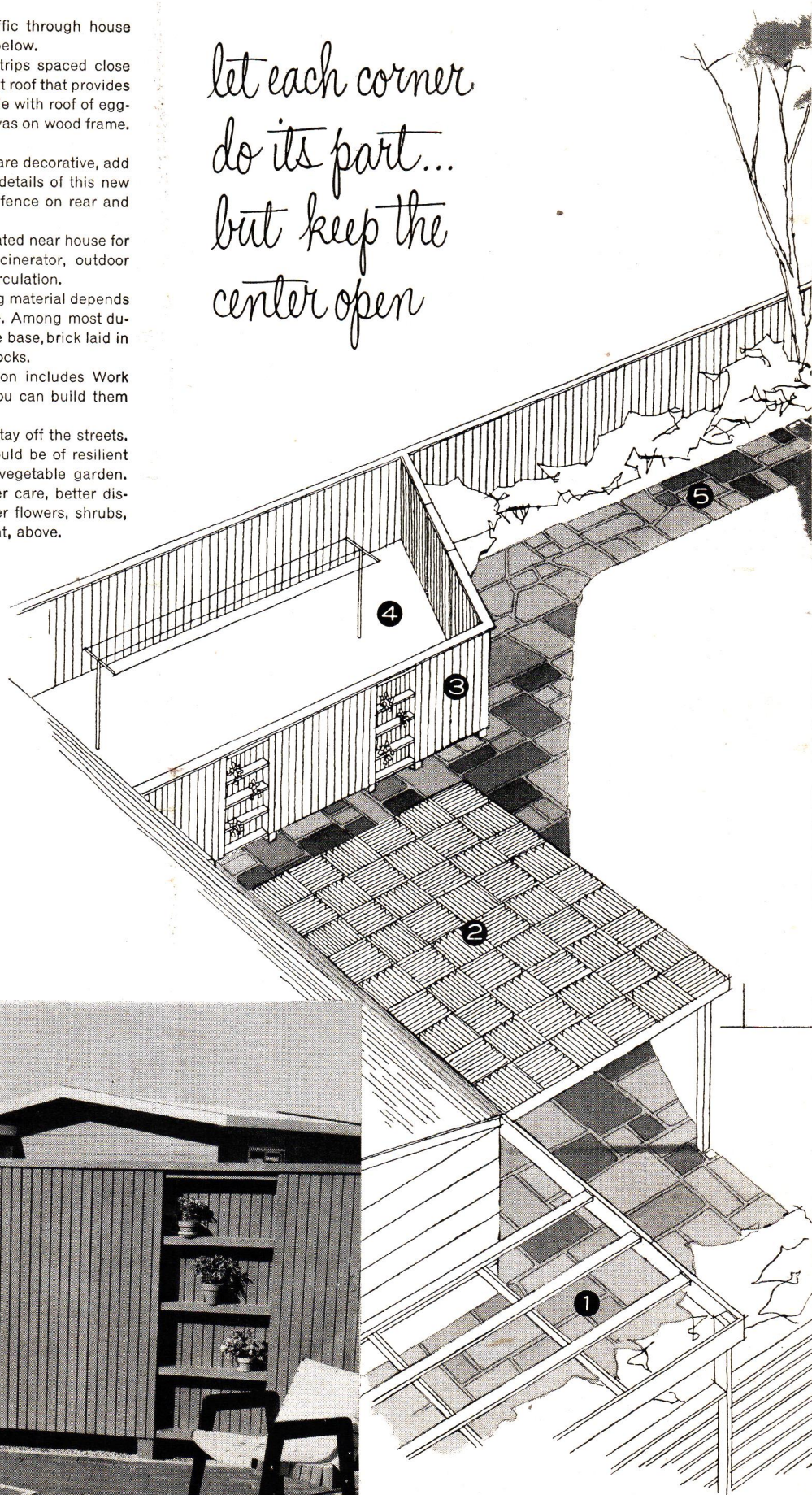
**T**HE SMALLEST OF BACK YARDS can give loads of family service if it's laid out on an open-center plan with the principal activity areas separated. In the rear portion of a typical 60 x 120-foot lot illustrated at the right, eight important features are included:

- (1) Outside entrance path from front, reducing traffic through house and preserving lawn. See photo on opposite page, below.
- (2) Part-time shade sheltering patio. Here, lattice strips spaced close together and supported by 2x4 rafters form lightweight roof that provides full shade except at mid-day. Similar result is possible with roof of egg-crate trellis, snow fencing, grape stakes, or rolled canvas on wood frame. For materials, see your local lumber dealer.
- (3) Separation of areas. Fenced divisions within yard are decorative, add to privacy provided by outside fence or hedge. For details of this new type of fence, see photo below. Yard has open-slat fence on rear and right sides, to admit prevailing breeze.
- (4) Utility and drying yard. Should be hidden, but located near house for convenience. Ideal spot for rubbish containers, incinerator, outdoor carpentry. Outside fence here is louvered for air circulation.
- (5) Paved areas where traffic is heavy. Choice of paving material depends on local availability, drainage conditions, and climate. Among most durable for patios and walks: concrete on crushed stone base, brick laid in sand, flagstones, asphalt compositions, and wood blocks.
- (6) Garden-barbecue corner. This center of attraction includes Work Center storage shed, barbecue, and table-bench. You can build them all from Free Handyman Plans—see Page 7.
- (7) Children's play yard. Give 'em room and they'll stay off the streets. Best location is within view of house. Surfacing should be of resilient type, such as tanbark. In future, this can become vegetable garden.
- (8) Flower beds. Get flowers up off ground for easier care, better display. Masonry mowing edge should be laid to border flowers, shrubs, eliminating tedious hand trimming. See photo at right, above.

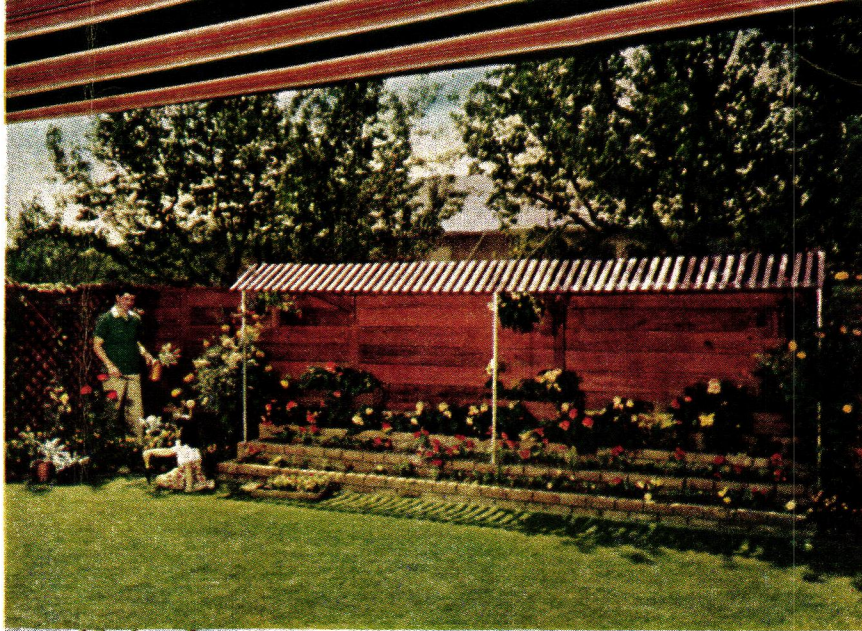
**New idea in fences** dramatizes patio enclosures or windbreaks with vertical board pattern and recesses for plants. Now available in panel form through many lumber dealers, fence also can be built of tongue-and-groove boards. For the how-to-build story on this and two other fences, see Page 6.

## back-yard living *(Continued)*

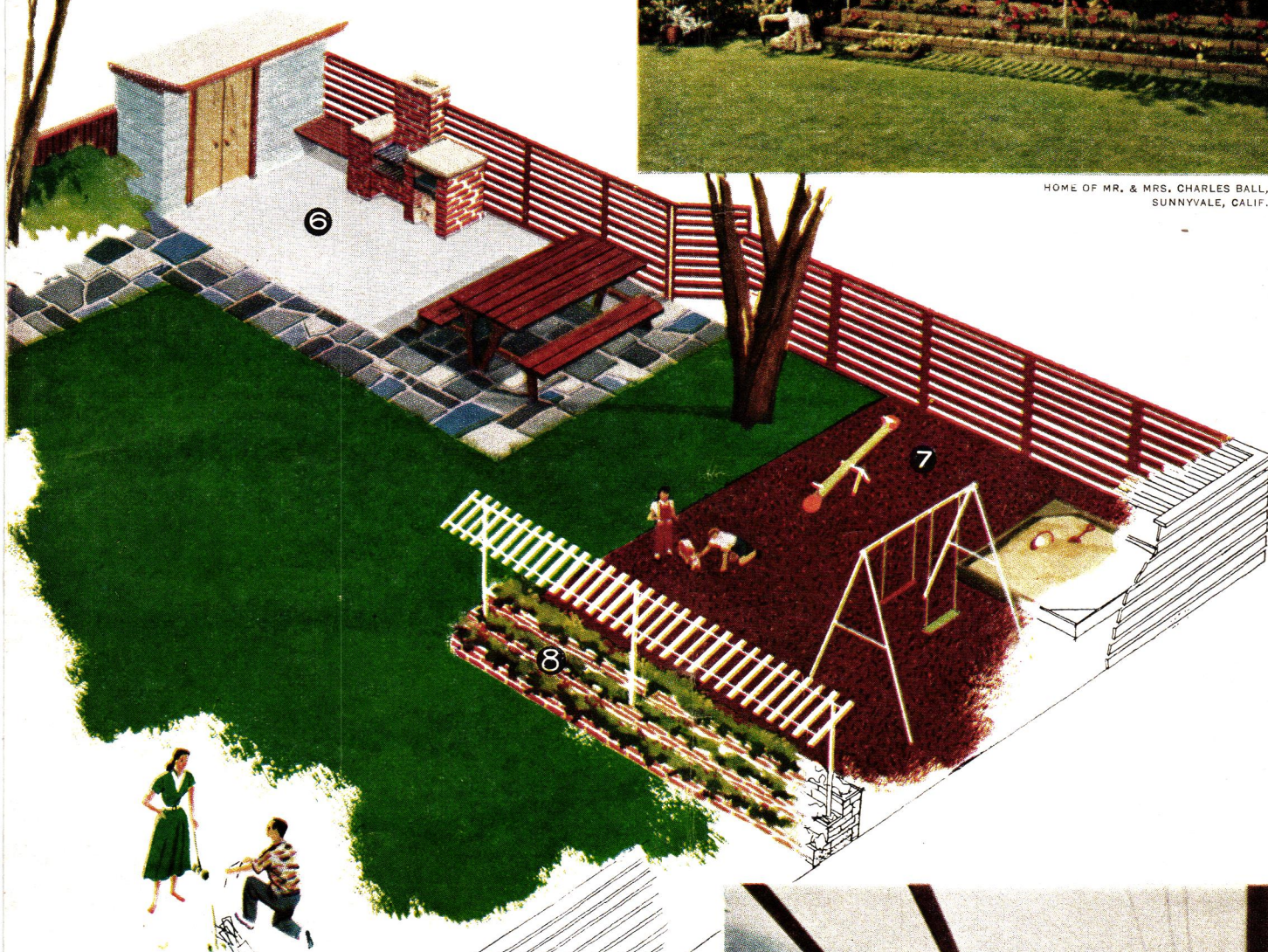
*let each corner  
do its part...  
but keep the  
center open*



**Eye-catcher in any yard** is brick "stairway planter" with protective sunshade above. Framework of 2x2 lumber and angle iron posts support lath strip "awning". Three-step planter is built six brick courses high in rear, four in center, two in front. Some climates require concrete slab base for planter. If one is used, drill one-inch holes about 6 inches apart in bottom of each box, to permit drainage.



HOME OF MR. & MRS. CHARLES BALL,  
SUNNYVALE, CALIF.



**No "stay away" look** about this approach to back yard, at side of Williams house. Colorful rock garden is sheltered by overhead trellis which carries wire screening for vines and partial shade. Framing is of 2x4 lumber, and walk is of redwood slabs laid in turf.

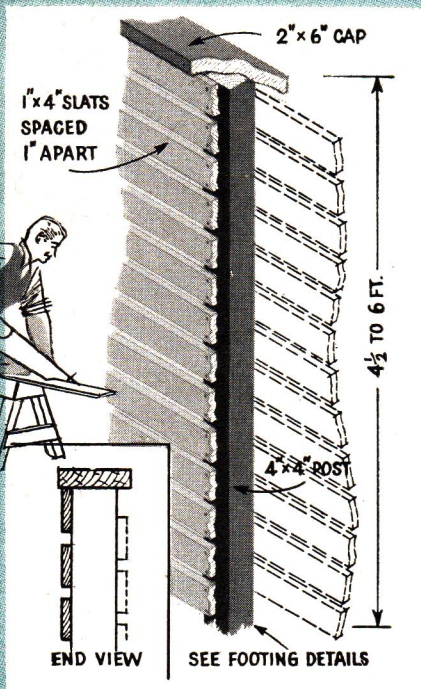
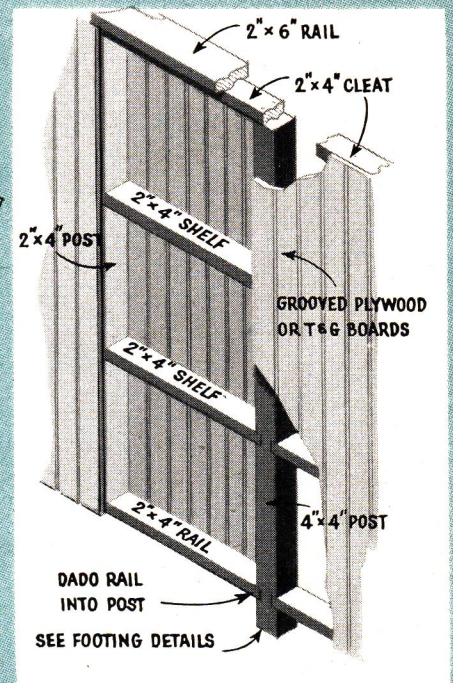
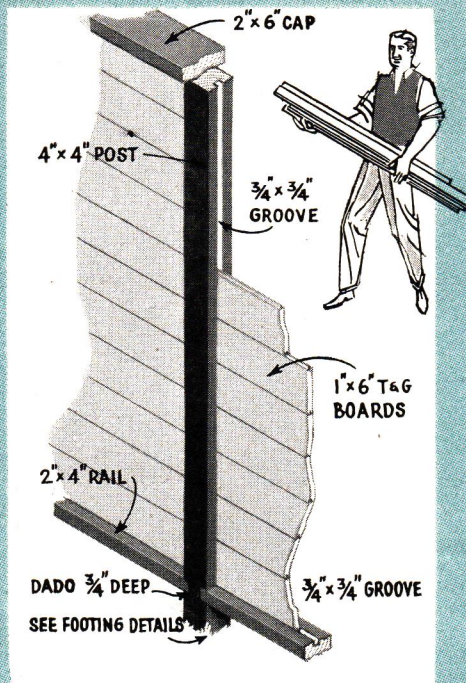
ARCHITECT: R. STUART JOHNSTON



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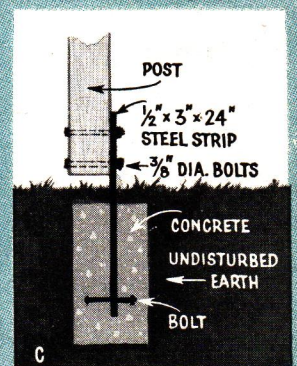
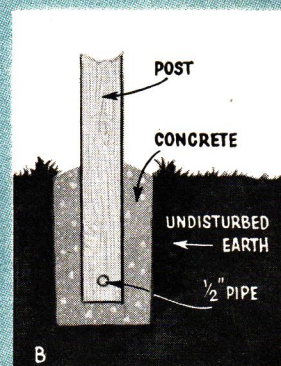
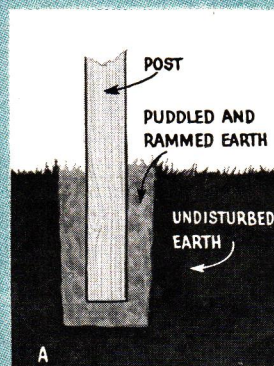
*Here's the how-to-do-it story  
to save labor, expense on  
three types of wood fences*

# Use Fences for Privacy and Beauty



**The solid board fence** provides a total visual and wind screen. Construction is simple and rapid, once posts are accurately set. The grooves and dados in the posts, and the groove in the bottom rail should be made before erection is started. These operations are easily done with a circular saw or a combination plane. Set posts 8 ft. on center. Fasten bottom rail pieces between posts. Tongue-and-groove boards are simply slipped into post grooves. Then nail on 2x6 cap.

**This full screen fence** with vertical grooved appearance can be built two ways. Either grooved (see photo on Page 4) or plain plywood, or tongue-and-groove individual boards do the job. Shelf sections are decorative features, but can be omitted. Construction is shown for adjacent shelf sections open to opposite sides of the fence, but these can face same side, as basic framework is similar for both versions. The 4x4 posts should be 8 ft. on center, with a 2x4 post between each pair.



**Two-in-one fence** is simple but effective. With horizontal boards applied on only one side, you have a slat fence (photo on Page 7) that is not solid but won't give in to children or animals. With boards also on back side (shaded) and positioned to cover openings on front side, you have baffle fence that is one of easiest to build of all louvered types. This arrangement also provides complete visual screen, yet welcomes the breeze. Used either way, fence is built with 4x4 posts 8 ft. on center, 2x4 posts between. Cap of 2x6 boards may be omitted, but adds beauty and rigidity.

## Get 'em firmly in the ground

Secret of a sturdy fence is a good post foundation. Since climate, rainfall and soil conditions are important considerations, get your lumber dealer's advice when you see him for materials. You can't miss if you use the construction in Detail C, which is simplest method. As diagram shows, first the predrilled steel strip is worked into concrete. After concrete has set, posts are attached with bolts. Construction B is generally satisfactory, and method A works in many cases. Redwood and cedar make best fence lumber, with pine, fir and hemlock also satisfactory. For finishes, the creosote stains available in many colors are recommended.



# a garden-barbecue corner – with the BarbeQueen

**T**HE HEART of your back-yard living, where family and guests always congregate, is the outdoor fireplace. Here, as planned by a leading fireplace designer, is POPULAR HOME's new BarbeQueen—designed for *you* to build, simply and economically.

Locate it where you wish, or make it part of a complete garden-barbecue corner as illustrated on the cover of this issue. The companion unit to the BarbeQueen is the all-purpose Outdoor Work Center (below), introduced in the last issue of POPULAR HOME. Free Handyman Plans with complete directions for building both are available through the friendly local firm named on the covers.

Designed to perform just as well as it looks, the BarbeQueen has three plus features: wide work top, covered storage compartment, and adjustable grate positions for burning charcoal or wood. It's 76 inches wide, 40 inches deep and 35 inches high plus the chimney. Standard sizes of masonry and metal parts make it a "natural" for the amateur home craftsman. For your BarbeQueen Plan, you'll have to hurry!



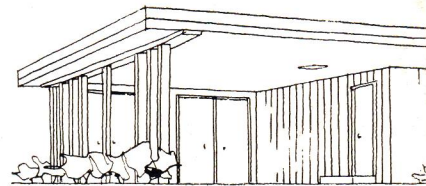
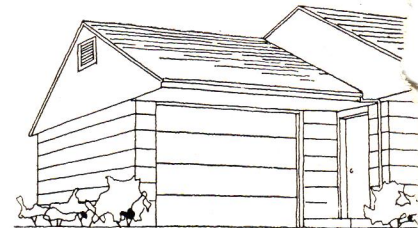
HERMAN A. HAGER, DESIGNER

Get **FREE**  
Plans for  
all **3**

**You get a glimpse** on the cover of this prize bench-table (below)—the famous POPULAR HOME PicnicKing that was introduced last year with record-breaking results. Back tilts up, it's a table; down, it's a bench! Build two, and you have a 3x6-foot table surface or benches for six persons. You can get a Free Handyman Plan for this, too—see your lumber dealer for materials.

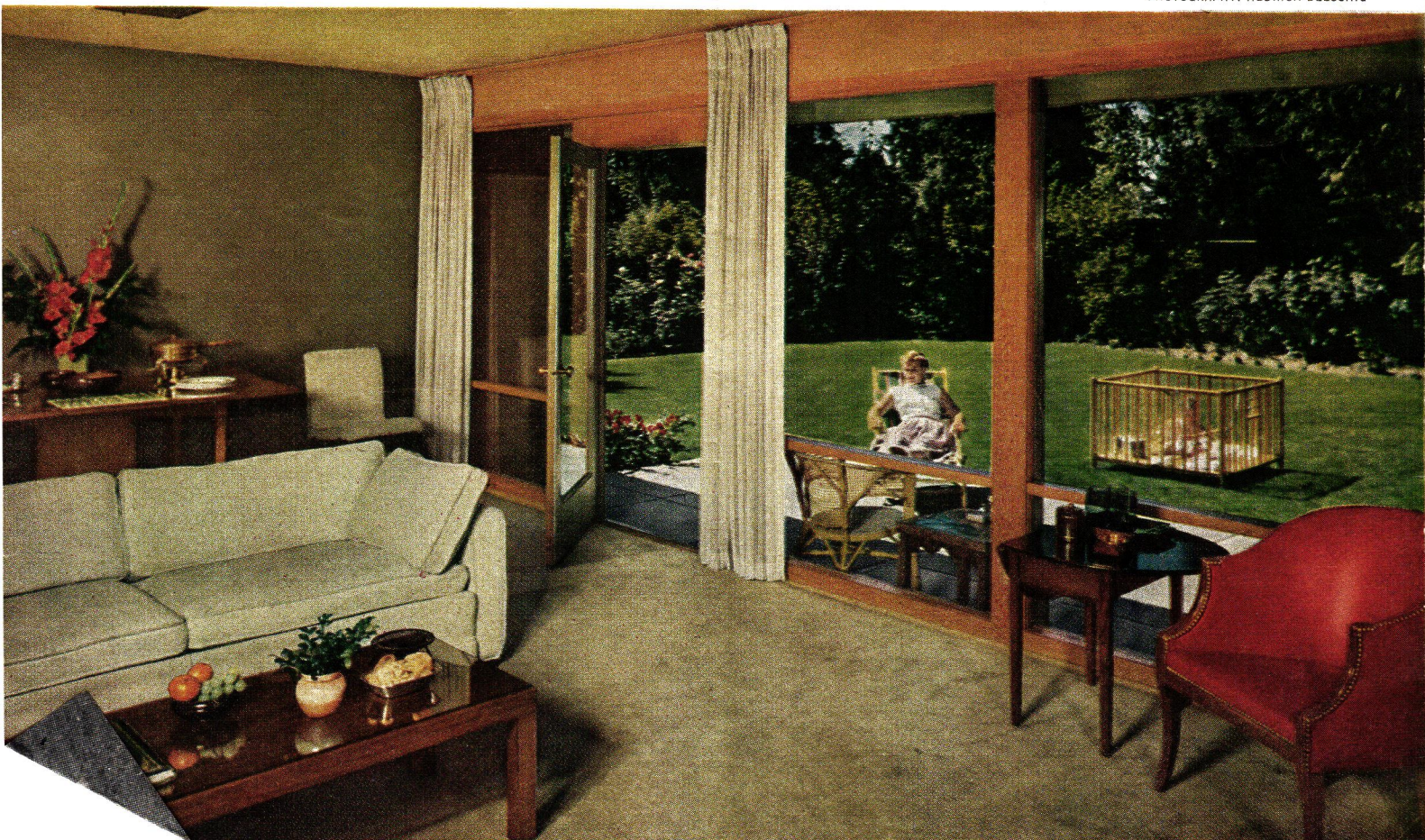


## POPULAR HOME'S

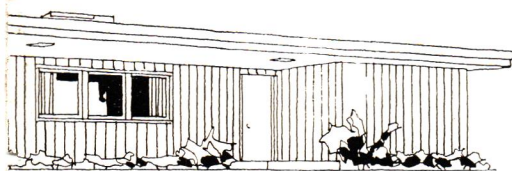
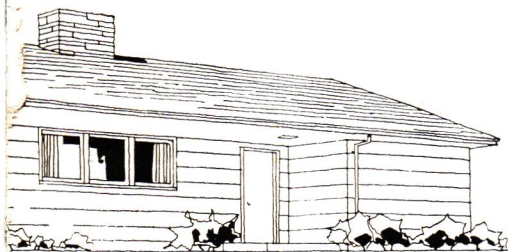


**Big as all outdoors**, or so it seems, is the living room-patio arrangement. Window wall is located at rear for maximum enjoyment of terrace (above) and garden is walled in with high fence for privacy. Ideal location of living-dining room (below) eliminates traffic. Wide overhang on exterior protects room from strong summer sun, shields portion of terrace.

PHOTOGRAPHY: HEDRICH-BLESSING



# house with 2 faces



*You Get Your Choice with this  
Dream House—Two Exteriors Fit  
Its Flexible, Easy-Living Floor Plan*

**P**OPULAR HOME's House With Two Faces was chosen for its workable plan and because it's a good house to look at, as well as to live in. It gives you a choice of exteriors, each attractive but different in appearance (see above). In fact, the basic similarity of these two houses, which are almost next door to each other in a picturesque Seattle, Wash. community, defies detection. The architects, Chiarelli & Kirk of Seattle, planned it that way.

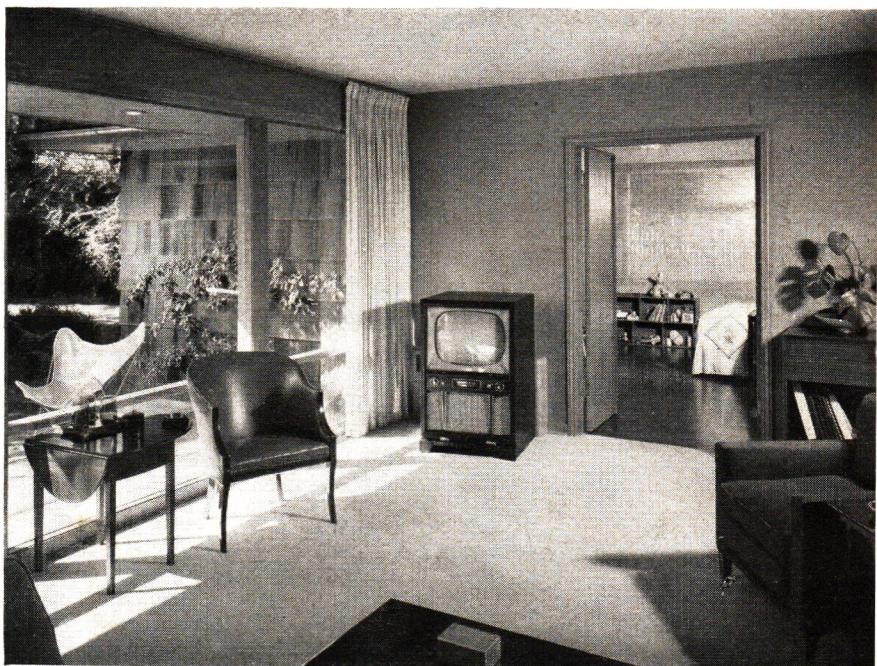
This house has a floor plan that is intimate enough for a small family but also is geared to cope with a lively household of children. It's arranged to help the homemaker in her housekeeping with a step-saver kitchen, spacious entrance hall, large bathroom, and good closets. Most important of all is the multi-use room. Picture its possibilities in your own household as a children's playroom or bedroom, for living room expansion, for what you will.

Choose the Face you like, and build it for *your* family—complete blueprints are available.

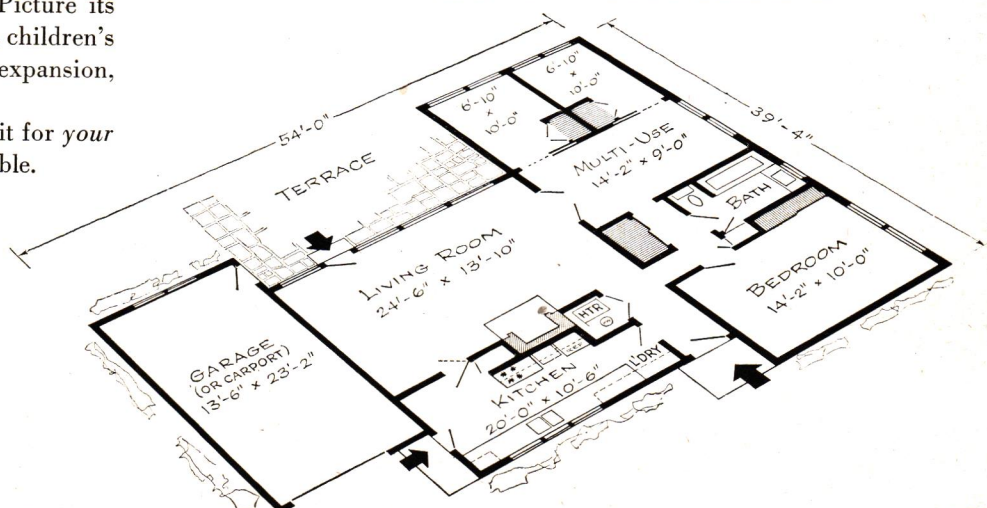
**BUY BUILDING BLUEPRINTS**, complete and inexpensive, for this house. Order them from company whose name appears on covers of this magazine. Plans available are No. PH 11-3A (no basement, as here), or PH 11-3B (with basement, and 2 feet wider than shown here). Specify either flat roof or gable roof exterior. Size (excluding garage or carport): 1,233 sq. ft., 14,463 cu. ft.



**Here's a kitchen** that makes sense. In the home of Mr. & Mrs. George Tavernite the broad windows overlook the street and Mrs. Tavernite can answer either the front door, the service door (straight ahead) or step through it and into the car. There's room for laundry equipment, for eating, for ample wall cabinets, and a utility closet.



**Multi-use** room expands living-dining area to luxury size. Here in the Carl Grosenicks' house, where color photos at left also were taken, room is used for children's play. The Tavernites have wider opening into multi-purpose room and folding door closure, use space for hobbies and music. Passageway at far right leads to entrance hall.





**Don McNeill's study** reflects his devotion to fishing and hunting. The cabinet wall which extends into entrance hall houses gun cabinet and collection of trophies and souvenirs. Another feature of house is winding main staircase (right) in entrance hall. The McNeills also have new summer home 40 miles from Chicago where underprivileged children are invited for vacations.

## Homes of Famous People



PHOTOGRAPHY: NOWELL WARD



# Don McNeill

## has his own

## Breakfast Club

"**TWENTY YEARS OF CORN**" is Don McNeill's description of the recipe that has made his daily Breakfast Club one of radio's oldest and most successful programs. It's a stage label only—for his home life is distinctly different from the crowded, fast-paced hours at the studio.

That's because Don is first of all a family man, as his listeners know. His imposing 11-room home in Winnetka, Ill., a Chicago suburb, reflects this fact. It is furnished and equipped for the comfort and relaxation of himself and his family—his spirited wife, Kay, who has often appeared on the radio show, and their three tall, athletic sons, Tom, 19, Don, Jr., 17, and Bob, 13. Color, informality and efficiency are the home's keynotes, for Kay does much of the cooking and most of her own housework.

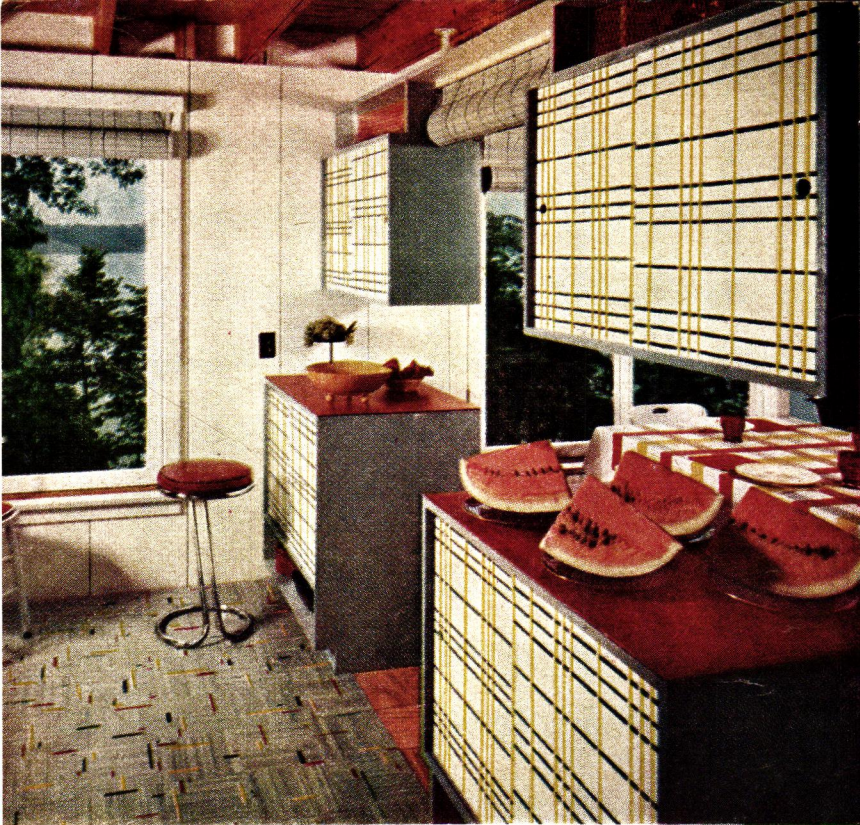
Because of their busy schedule, the McNeills seldom attend parties and limit their leisure hours to a few close friends. With Tom away at college, it's a great event when the family is together. On Sunday mornings, and as frequently as possible on other days, they have their own Breakfast Club—at home.

**McNeills have added** improvements since purchasing house six years ago. Boys' rooms are equipped with built-in shelves, cabinets. Drawing board is attached to desk in Tom's room (left). Tom, 6'4", now is sophomore at Notre Dame. Don, Jr., 6'5", already is an athlete, and Bob shares his father's love for the outdoors. Their rooms show masculine taste.

**In familiar role** of toastmaster (below), Don McNeill entertains daily audience estimated at two million families. More than 150,000 persons attend broadcasts each year in Chicago and on tour. Sam Cowling and Fran Allison (Aunt Fanny), shown in action here, have been Breakfast Club regulars for 17 years. Memory Time, Prayer Time, March Time and Sunshine Shower are popular features of daily shows.



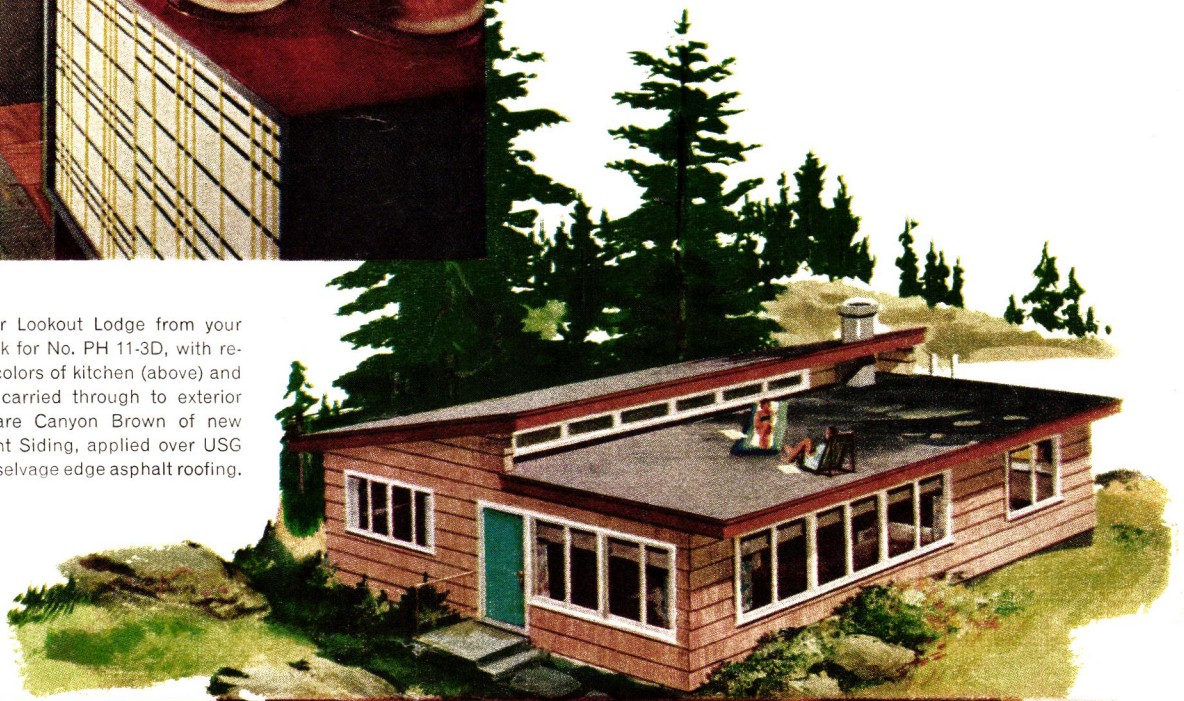
POPULAR HOME'S



PHOTOGRAPHY: HEDRICH-BLESSING

**Order building blueprints** for Lookout Lodge from your local firm named on covers—ask for No. PH 11-3D, with reversed plan if desired. Inviting colors of kitchen (above) and living-dining area (below) are carried through to exterior (right). There, exterior walls are Canyon Brown of new USG\* Striated Asbestos Cement Siding, applied over USG Sheathing. Roof is covered with selvage edge asphalt roofing.

\*T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



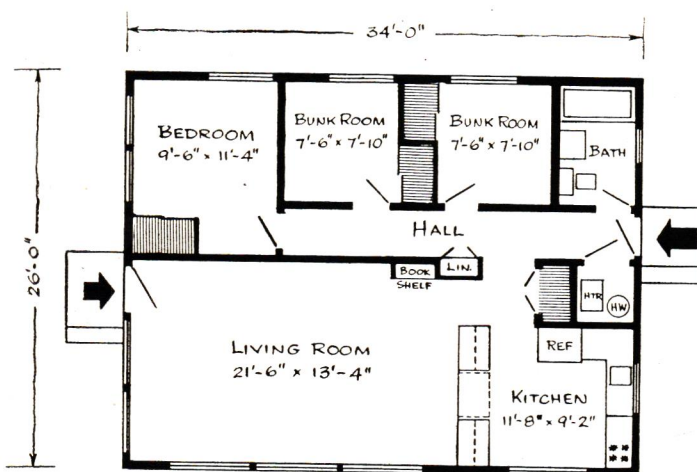
# lookout lodge for you to build

EVERYONE'S ENTITLED to get away for week-ends and vacations, when warm weather beckons and the water's fine. Nothing will hold you back, this summer, if your own Lookout Lodge waits at the end of the trail.

Here, as it stands on the shore of Lauderdale Lakes, Wis., is POPULAR HOME's choice for leisure-hour living. It's a cottage designed to return the most convenience for the fewest dollars. You slide open the windows, and the living room becomes a porch. Put mother in the kitchen, and she shares the front view with the rest of the family. Chase the youngsters up to the roof, and they find a sun deck ready to enjoy. Invite the friends, and you can sleep seven comfortably.

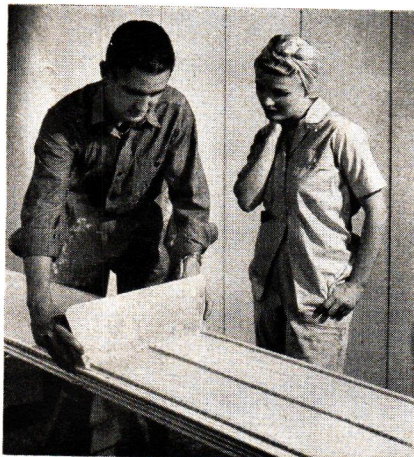
With all this, it's a cottage planned for *you* to build. Standard parts and stock materials let even the rookie handyman do much of the work himself, and the design permits many money-saving short cuts. Still, the Lookout Lodge comes out sound and weather-tight, thanks to the quality building materials it's designed to use.

See your local lumber dealer about it now. Complete building blueprints are available. Move fast, and you'll move in this summer!



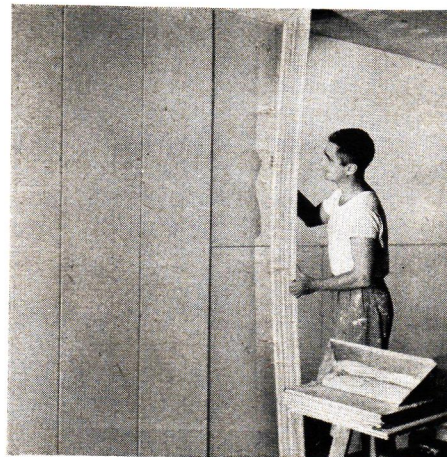
ADAPTED FOR POPULAR HOME BY HOLABIRD & ROOT & BURGEE, ARCHITECTS  
SIZE: 886 SQ. FT., 7,700 CU. FT.

***Sure, you can do the job! Here's how easy it is***

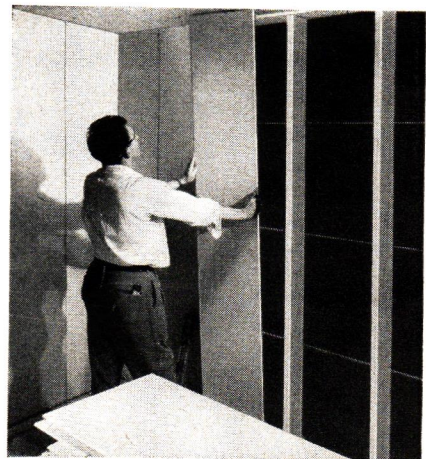


**The simple way** to beautiful inside walls is with PANEL SHEETROCK\* gypsum wall-board. You use notched spreader to spread special cement in ribbons on back of board.

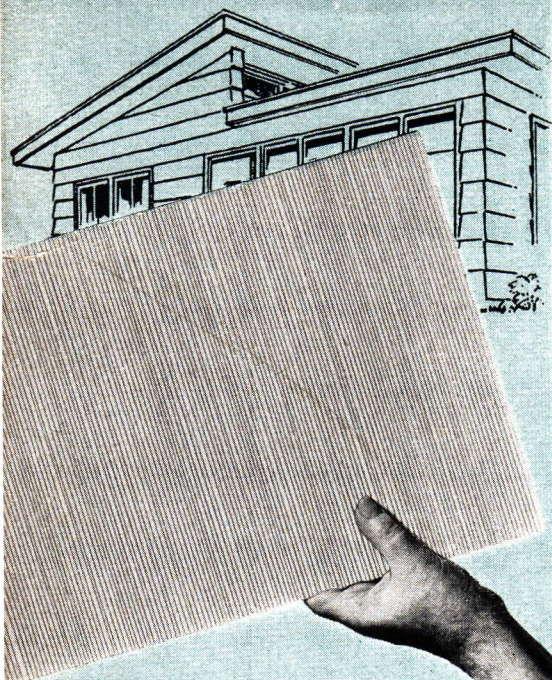
\*T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



**Then stick up** the 16-inch panels over base layer of regular wallboard—as fast as wall-paper. No joint treatment, no nails to conceal! See your USG dealer for detailed instructions.

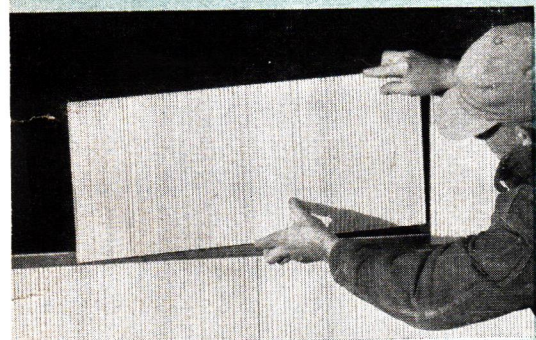


**Alternate method** is to nail SHEETROCK panels direct to wood framing. Each panel is face nailed near edges to studs. And exterior work is just as easy—turn the page.



## Look at the Outside

THERE'S SOMETHING NEW in siding—for Lookout Lodge (Page 12) and any exterior siding job. It's USG Striated Asbestos Cement Siding that goes up fast and requires much less maintenance than a painted surface. And it's available in five soft-hued colors: Birch White, Cadet Gray, Salem Red, Canyon Brown, Island Green. The 12 x 27-inch shingles are fireproof, and have a plastic coating for weather protection. See them at your USG dealer's.

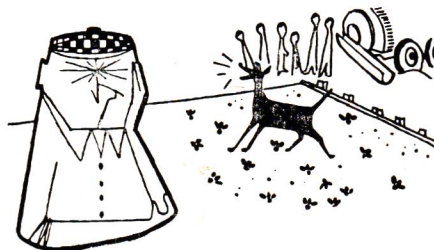


You get quick erection and pleasing shadow line by using USG SHADOW-LOCK\* attachment system with the new striated shingles. Aluminum channels are nailed to framing, supporting each course of siding. Each shingle slips into place securely, surface nailing is eliminated. Alternate method is to use wood strips under each course. Striated shingle pattern gives appearance of a continuous horizontal surface, suits any house.

\*T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



Far be it from me to cast aspersions, cold water—or anything else—on the romantics. But our Signs Of Spring differ. For example—I'm looking out the kitchen window (we've just got to fix the screens and get them up). Do I see the first spring crocus, pushing its delicate green tendrils toward the sunny blue sky? I do not.



I see a crowd congregating and the promise of action, out where our new garage is to go. The concrete contractor (whose truck is stuck in the mud) just lost the race to keep Chips, our adventure-loving pooch, off his smooth, wet floor. I see Jill and the gang endearing themselves to the contractor by filling up the sandbox with his sand and gravel—or is it cement? And there's Willie (father) trying to put up the swings and act as peacemaker, while the laundry on the line flaps in his face.

Oh, oh—Willie is backing away from a madly waving pair of arms—and fists. The man behind them seems ruffled—maybe it's because he skidded on a roller skate and wound up in the sand box.

That reminds me—a wonderful idea! Beg or buy an old rubber

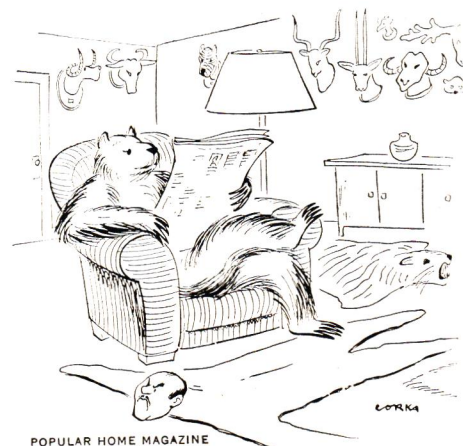
tractor tire, and it'll make an ideal sand box—a wide sitting surface, free from sharp corners and splinters. Just fill it with sand and turn the kids loose!

Speaking of laundry, Willie did the unexpected and made a vertical hardboard divider for the clothes hamper. Now, colored clothes go on one side and white on the other. And for a handy portable clothes dryer, we use the frame of an old umbrella—it's wonderful for hose and baby clothes.

Another space-saver in the laundry is a wire coat hanger (just about the extent of Willie's construction talents). Attach mittens, gloves, socks with snap clothes pins and hang over tub or clothes line. And if your family wash has as many buttons off, snags, rips and tears as ours, you'll like this idea: fasten a pocket of plastic or fabric to your ironing board for thread, needles, buttons, snaps—and aspirin!

Willie has just arrived with the latest bulletin from the back yard: it was cement that the kids put in the sand box; the ruffled man who fell in was the building inspector; we can't go ahead on the garage—we forgot to get a permit; and I must dash over and get one before the workmen all leave!

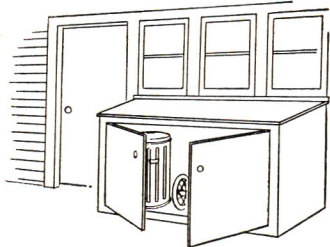
Cash! \$10 each paid for Original Household Hints used in this column. Address POPULAR HOME Magazine, 300 W. Adams St., Chicago 6, Ill. Selections included above were contributed by Thomas P. Ramirez, Fond du Lac, Wis.; Alvin W. Outcalt, Nutley, N.J.; Mrs. W. L. Burkett, Demopolis, Ala.; Mrs. Charles A. Farr, Canandaigua, N.Y.; Mrs. James H. Hall, Anderson, S.C.



POPULAR HOME MAGAZINE

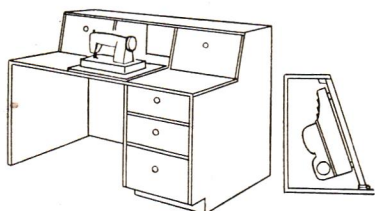
# THE HOUSEHOLDER'S

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**Best for bikes,** other children's play equipment, refuse containers or garden implements is this handy storage unit that fits below windows, attached to garage or house. Constructed of 2x4 framing and 1x6 tongue-and-groove boards or exterior grade plywood. Use hinges for doors, roll roofing on top.

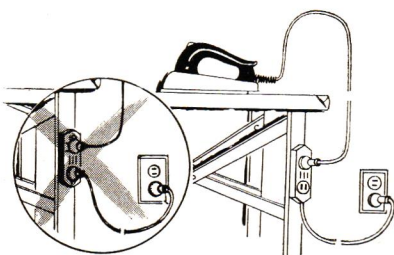
Mrs. A. W. Brown, Ridgewood, N.J.



**Double-duty desk** is both the family office and sewing center. Build of 3/4" plywood with drawer section of stock kitchen base cabinet. For durability and economy, back and work surface are of DURON\* Hardboard. Note detail of how slanting panels to which typewriter and sewing machine mount, are hinged to work top.

Mrs. R. A. Grant, Dallas, Texas

\*T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



**Watch your wiring!** The little lady can iron where she pleases with this arrangement, and far better than with the cord hookup shown in the Early Spring POPULAR HOME. Attach the receptacle box to her ironing board, but be **sure** that the connection of the extension cord is inside the box, and not made with a plug.

The Editors

### It's New for You!

**Shop Guide** is the Handyman's right hand. Puts at your fingertips shop data on materials, fasteners, finishing materials, tools and other subjects that you've always wanted. Now on sale—visit your local POPULAR HOME sponsor for your copy of this hang-up manual that's a one-piece library. Say "Shop Guide"!

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