

Popular Home

Oakridge Builders Supply Co.

The Remodeling Triumphs of 3 Families Like Yours A Library for Handymen

You're invited to a
year-long display of

Better Living Ideas!

See our name and address on the cover

Here's a show that will keep you interested all year long—and we're bringing it to you, in your home, through the pages of this magazine. Enjoy this display of better living ideas with our compliments. Remember, too, that we're always ready and more than willing to show how you can put these ideas to work yourself. Drop in to see us anytime!

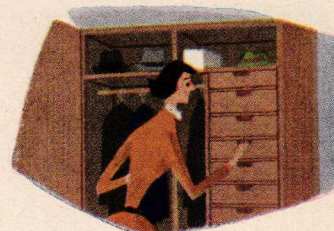
REMODELING



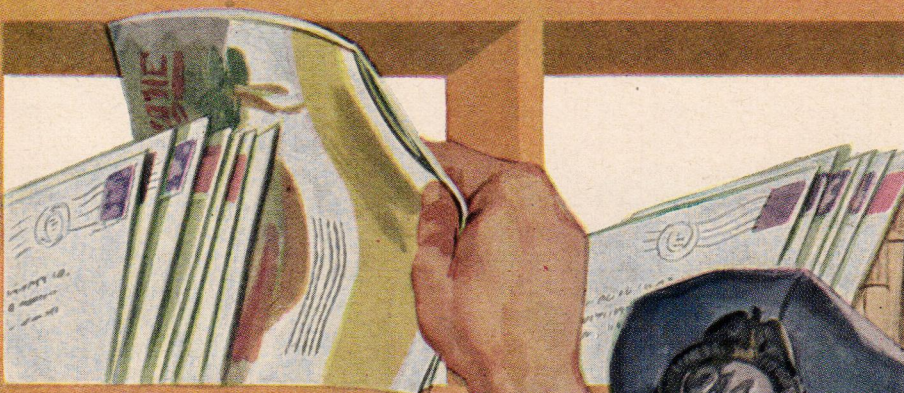
NEW HOMES



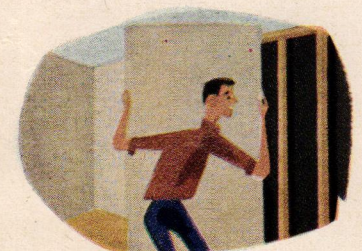
STORAGE



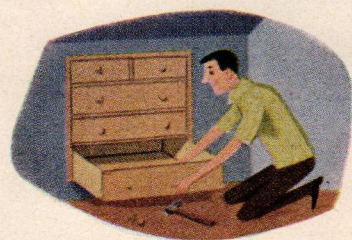
DECORATING



NEW ROOMS



BUILT-INS



HOME REPAIRS



HOME FINANCING



*There's been a big change in the
Home-Improvement Business. For your
next building or remodeling job,*

Popular Home

EARLY SPRING • ISSUE 1 • 1955

Here's how to find the help you need!

By Charles A. Wayman, Editor

THE RETAILING revolution of recent years has spread new shopping centers, drive-ins and supermarkets into every community from coast to coast. Almost from day to day it becomes easier and more enjoyable to buy the commodities used in everyday living.

In the face of this spectacular change, it has been natural for the average person to lose sight of the equally significant but less obvious progress made in one of our largest industries that serve the consumer: home improvement. The Big Change has come also to the retailing of building materials, decorating products and financing services.

Your own local home-improvement merchant, whose name is on the covers, has seen conditions change rapidly in his business in the past ten years. First, the demand for new

homes reached record heights. Then, the need for remodeling and modernizing of existing houses, aging and largely neglected through the war years, became overwhelming. Now, the sweeping do-it-yourself movement has given almost every family the means of improving its living conditions through its own efforts.

To serve the needs of his customers, the typical home-improvement merchant not only has modernized his place of business, but has streamlined and broadened the services offered to the public. An example is the new Handyman Library, illustrated below, which has just reached the counters of your POPULAR HOME sponsor, named on the covers. You step up to it and select from almost two dozen Free Handyman Plans of practical, low-cost home improvements—such as a Porch, Home Work-

shop, 4-Star Storage, BarbeQueen Fireplace, or 3-in-1 Table.

But what of the families whose ambition is general remodeling or modernizing around the house, or an addition or redecorating? Well, this home-improvement expert is prepared—even if his Saturday mornings resemble the scene shown on the cover of this issue.

For the man who has decided to completely remodel his outdated, too-small house (like the Johnsons, page 4), this local businessman may be able to suggest the names of architects who can plan the project, help to get bids from contractors specializing in this type of work, or recommend the best type of materials for the job.

For the family whose attic is to be converted into full-time rooms (like the Fargos, page 7), he has sound advice, too. He very likely can suggest financing plans to spread out the cost, perhaps over 36 months if desired. How to cut the gypsum board for the ceiling? He has the instructions, or knows how to get them.

To the lady of the house (such as Mrs. Woodman, page 10), the home-improvement merchant is likewise courteous and helpful. For a new basement recreation room he can show patterns of floor tile and recommend the paint or stain for woodwork—or direct her to the needed information.

And that's only the beginning, for these "better living specialists" are carrying on a continuing program of public education. Growing numbers of building materials and paint dealers now feature how-to-do-it clinics, self-service departments, interior decorating service, tool rental and hobby shops, model displays, and home planning centers.

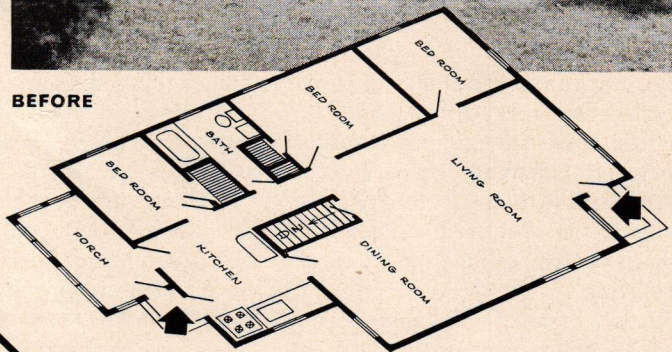
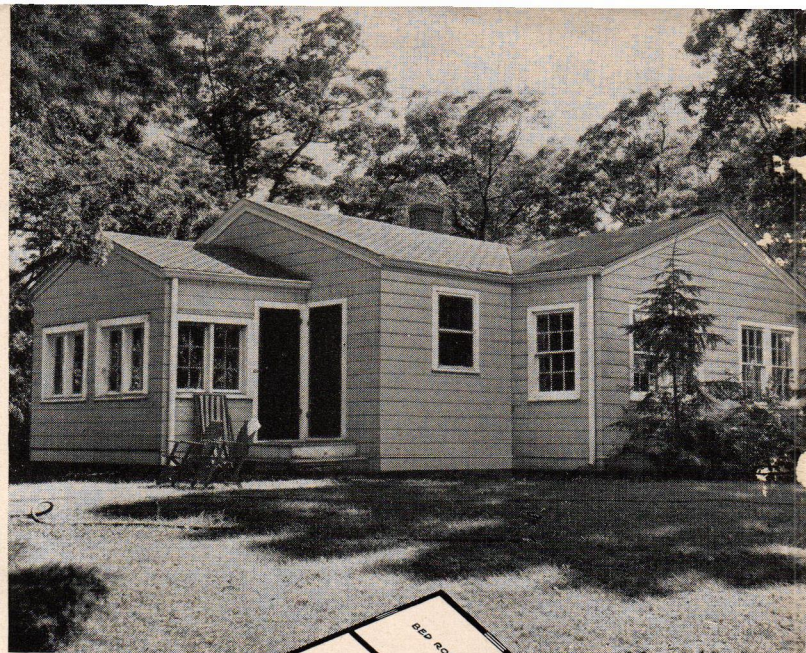
See what you can expect in the way of service? Stop in for a sample!



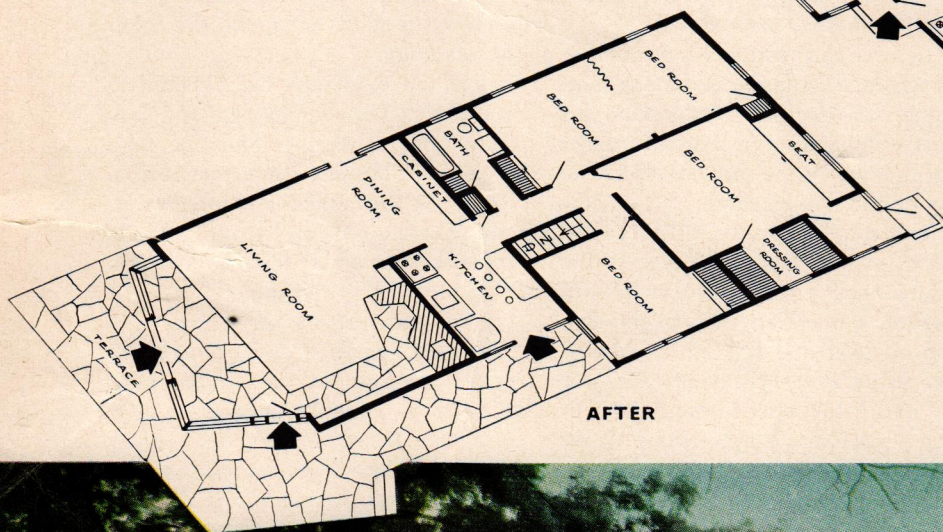
Life began at 30

FOR OUR NEW HOUSE

*Here's how to go "all the way" in
modernizing a too-small old house;
with ideas to transform any part
of your home that needs improvement.*



Before. Exterior presented chopped-up appearance, had almost useless porch on side with the view. Inside, the kitchen was a passageway, bedrooms opened into other rooms, and living room was located wrong for both sun and breeze.

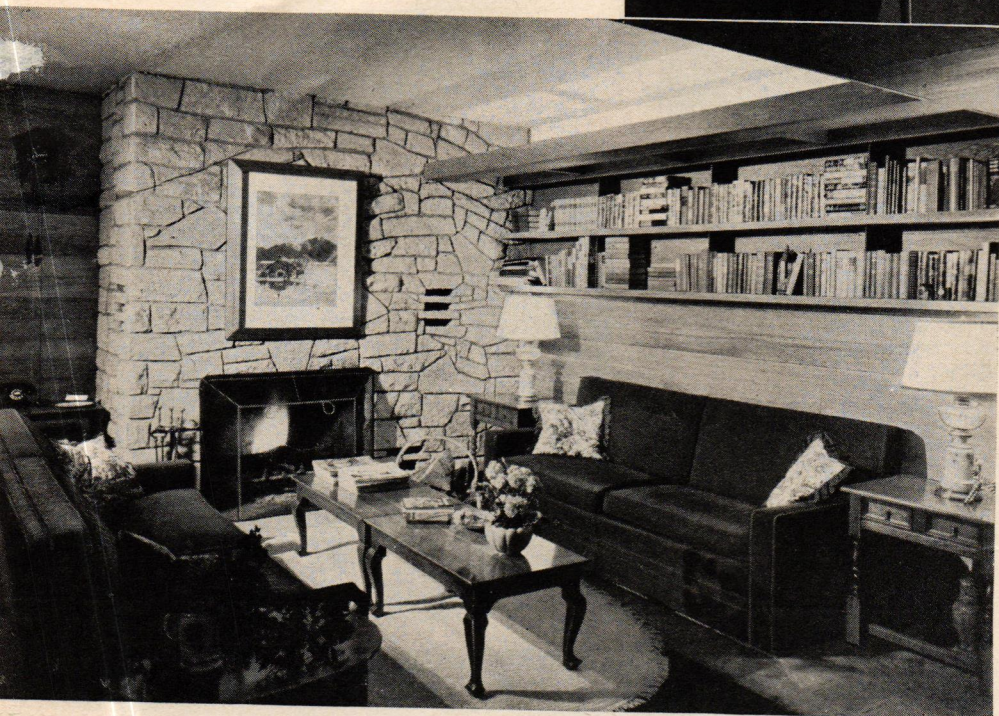
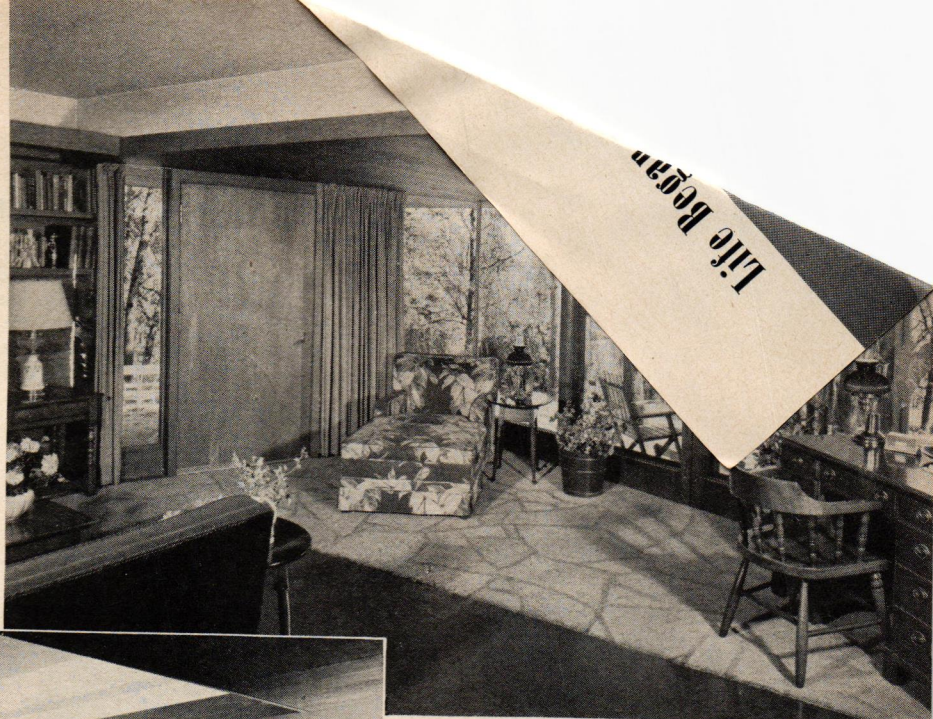


After. Inviting and efficient, remodeled house makes view easy to enjoy, with angled glass window wall in front protected by roof overhang. Inside, location of kitchen and bath was unchanged, but four bedrooms now appear where two were before.

PHOTOGRAPHY: HEDRICH-BLESSING



Expansion paid off with this area added to front of house for new living room. Front portion of angled glass wall parallels lake shore line in distance. Stone floor is carried out onto terrace to blend indoors with outdoors. Door at left is main entrance, doors at right slide open for access to terrace.



This is home—for quiet reading or a chat at fireside. Striking fireplace wall backs up to original kitchen partition, and stone work is continued in chimney above roof line. Projecting woodwork above gives unusual effect to bookshelves, contrasts beautifully with smooth plaster ceiling.

“Make the most of what’s already there” is lesson taught by this successful job

YOU’D SAY the possibilities were poor, indeed, that Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnson could ever make anything of the place. The cottage was too small for them, it was sadly lacking in bedroom and storage space, and its appearance showed every one of its 30 years. Surely, you’d agree, this house had far less to offer than do most candidates for modernizing.

There were only two good points, but they were enough to tip the balance: the cottage was solidly constructed, and it occupied a handsome wooded site overlooking a lake to the front. The results you see here took time and expense to achieve; but they produced a modern, comfortable home at less than the cost of a new one. Here’s the Johnson’s route to success — a guide for *your own* modernizing, be it large or small:

Plan it properly. The Johnsons retained Architect Martin S. Kermacy for design and supervision of construction.

On his advice, they put the living room with its big windows where they belonged—facing the lake.

Use experienced help. The use of a reliable contractor for major structural work made sure the job would be executed as planned, and finished on schedule.

Keep the partitions. It’s difficult and expensive to move walls. The Johnsons took out only one wall, part of that across the front, and had to add only one (see plans).

Make it fit the site. Instead of the hodge-podge effect of merely extending the old roof, the Johnsons rebuilt the entire roof to visually bring the whole structure closer to the ground.

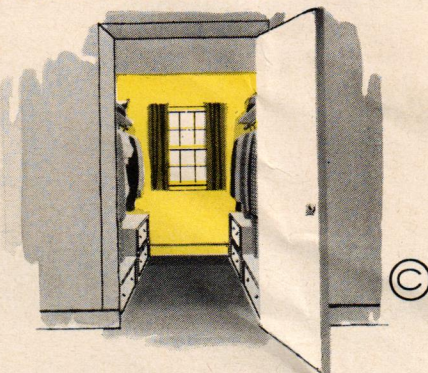
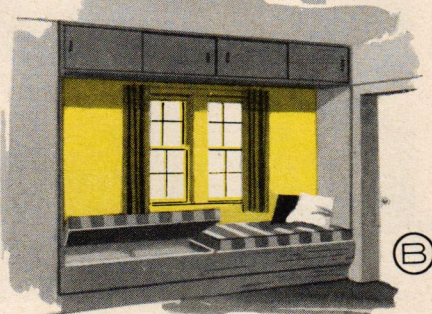
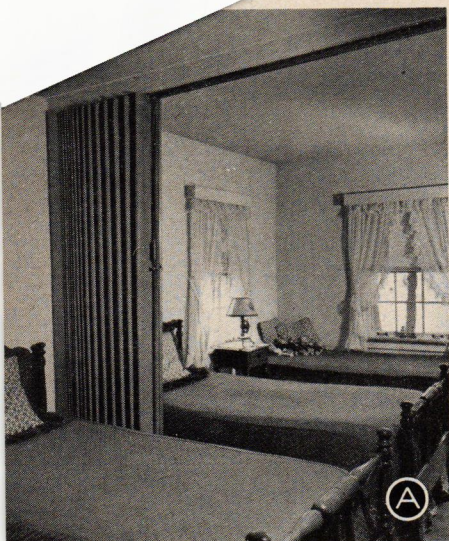
Make the space work. Handsome built-ins in living room, dining area, kitchen and bedrooms saved floor space and multiplied the storage facilities of the house.

(Continued on next page)

extra service from the bedrooms

Every foot counts in the Johnsons' modernized bedrooms. (A) Children's rooms get double use from folding partition which slides in ceiling track, allows rooms to be closed for sleeping or study, opened for play or ventilation. (B) In master bed-

room, waste space around window was turned into storage cabinets above, window seat below with hinged top—both built of $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. plywood and hardboard. (C) Tiny dressing room adds wardrobe space to bedroom, is equipped with built-in drawers.

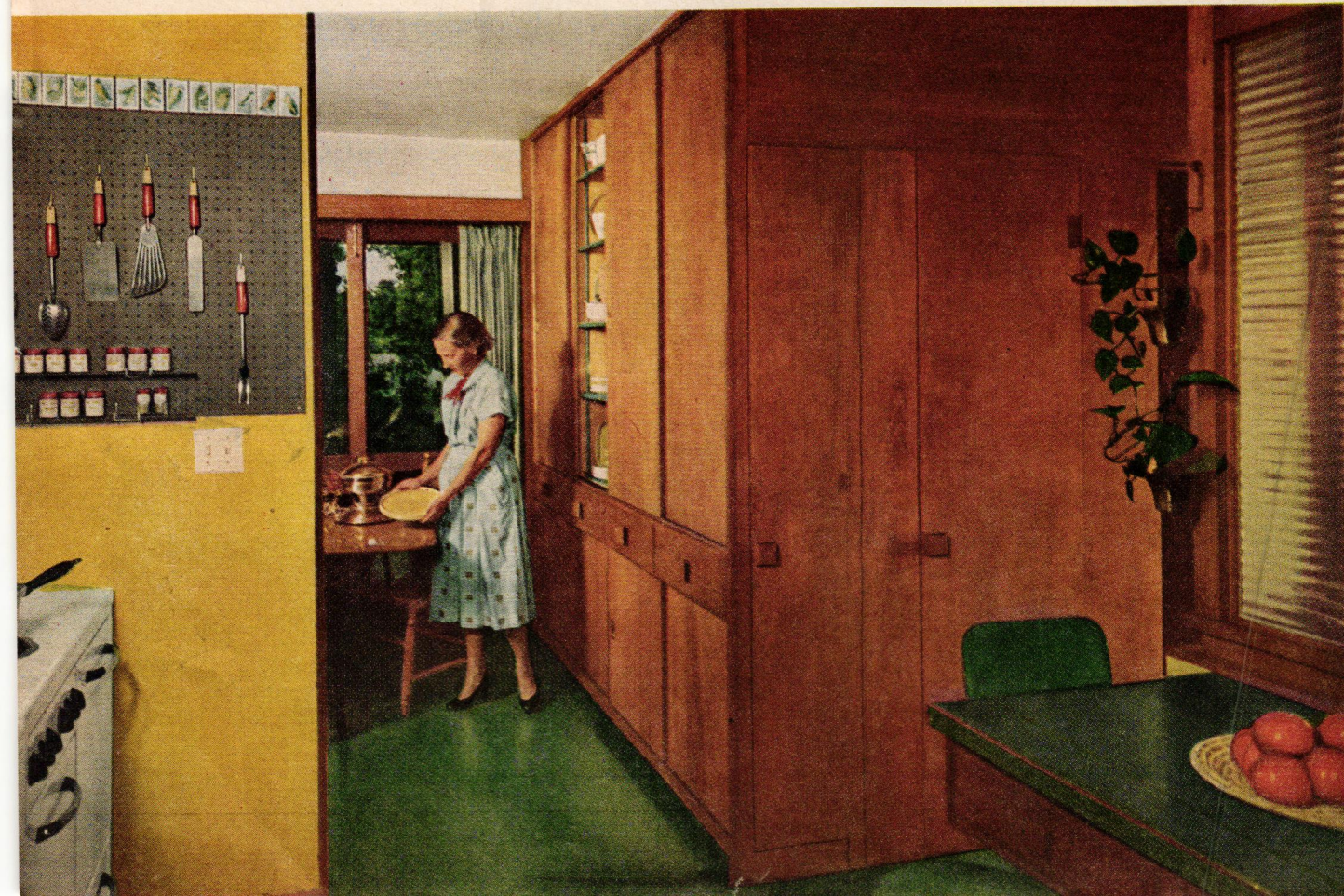


how to get pleasure from a kitchen

Another bright idea in kitchen is the easy-to-build breakfast bar added by Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Yates, who purchased house after Johnsons completed the remodeling. Obscure glass partition borrows light from kitchen for basement stairway. In action at counter are the Yates children, Nancy, Holly and Bobby.

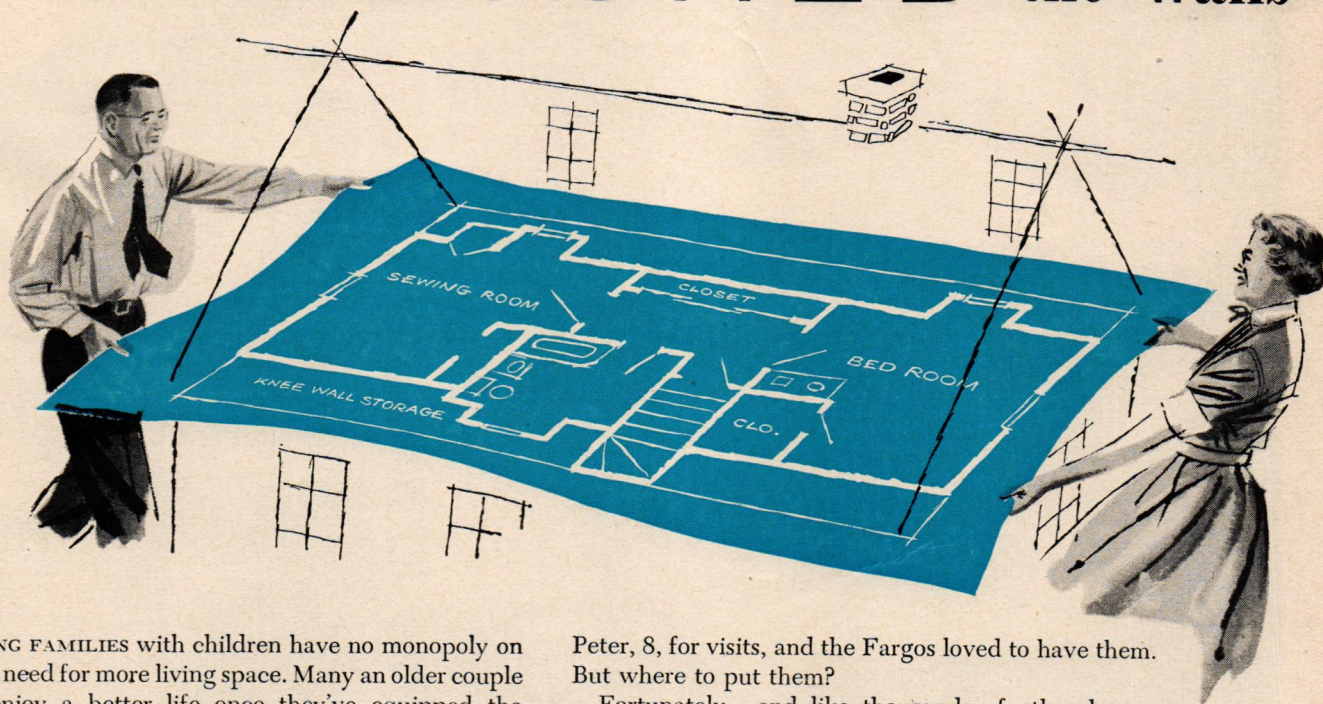
Four good features for any kitchen-dining area were added in remodeling. In view toward dining area (below), new cabinet wall that goes around corner provides storage for china, table accessories, and even coats. The built-ins make full use of space from floor to ceiling, with drawers separating two rows of sliding doors. Handy hang-up board on kitchen wall employs USG* Perforated Hardboard with kitchen kit of Handy-Hook fixtures, both available from building material dealers.

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



*Our upstairs remodeling gave us
space for all the family. Without
adding a foot to the house,*

We STRETCHED the walls



YOUNG FAMILIES with children have no monopoly on the need for more living space. Many an older couple can enjoy a better life once they've equipped the house to accommodate the hobbies they love and the guests who come to visit.

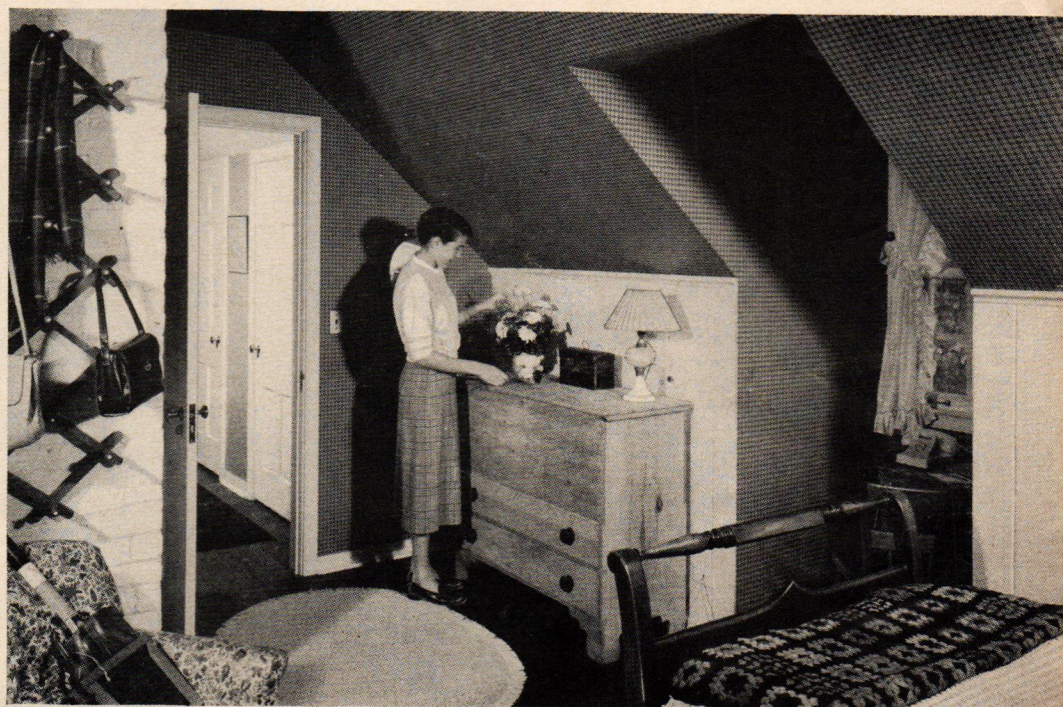
Mr. and Mrs. George Fargo prove the point. Soon after they moved from their old-fashioned ten-room home into a modern but much smaller two-bedroom house, space became a problem. Their younger daughter, Martha, was in college and living at home. Their son, Allen, and wife Carolyn loved to bring young

Peter, 8, for visits, and the Fargos loved to have them. But where to put them?

Fortunately — and like thousands of other homes built in recent years — the Fargos' house had an unfinished second story. Well-planned remodeling added two bedrooms, a bath, and the storage space and sewing corner that were needed. "Do-it-yourself is for young men?" Don't tell Mr. Fargo, because much of the job was his own fine handiwork. Why don't *you* borrow a page from his book?

(Continued on next page)

ARCHITECT: RALPH D. HUSZAGH



Martha took over this attractive room in finished attic as result of remodeling, and it's a happy haven after a busy day at school. Dormer brings in light and adds width to room, and the brick chimney, painted white, becomes an interesting asset with addition of simple pine hat-rack. Sloping ceiling is minimized by use of medallion Provincial wallpaper. Tieback curtains are made from white sheeting.

We STRETCHED the walls *(Continued)*

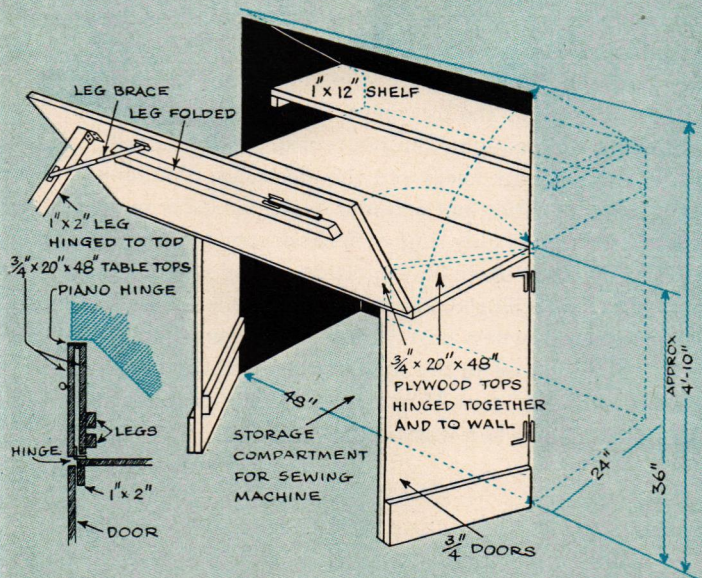


Grandson Peter moves in here when he visits, and when Allen and Carolyn are along they spread out to rest of house. It's the Fargos' new combination sewing-guest room in converted attic. Note how

Mr. Fargo made structural feature of existing collar beams, then finished ceiling, walls with smooth, fire-resistant gypsum wallboard. In right corner is Mrs. Fargo's built-in sewing center.

Father's got the place to store bulky, seldom-needed things in new room, too. Wooden panels form the knee wall, and lift out to give full access to all space back to eaves. Simple bar latches hold panels in place. Wardrobe closet at left is one of three included in Fargo attic (plan, pg. 7). Louvered doors of this type are stocked by many lumber dealers.





Mother's prize in new room is cleverly-planned sewing center—recessed into knee wall. Drawing shows how easily you can build it, with fold-down 40x48-inch table surface that rests on cabinet doors



and folding legs. Mrs. Fargo puts cutting table to work (above) with cabinet open below for storing her sewing machine. Entire unit also can be built out from wall as single cabinet.



Do your own upstairs remodeling— with a Free Handyman Plan

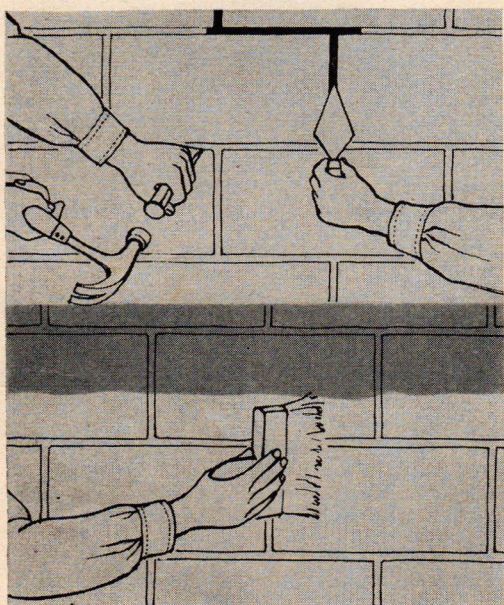
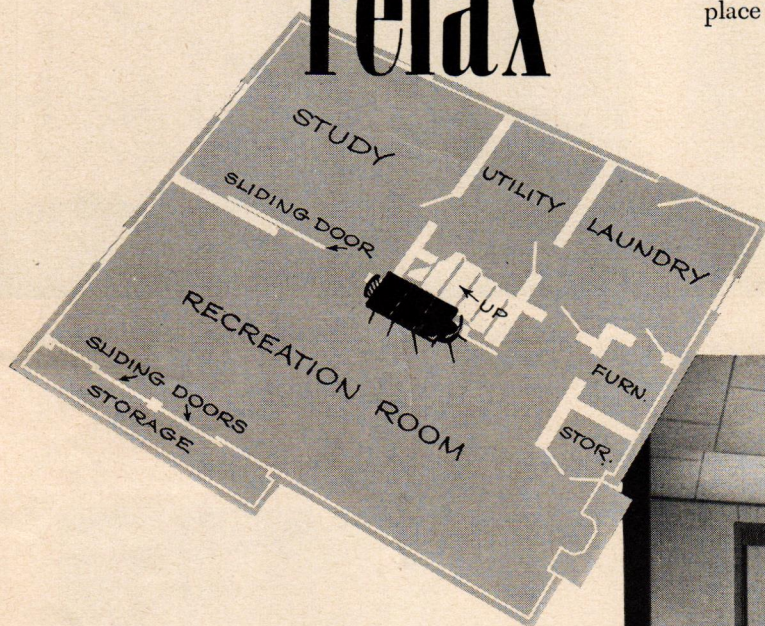
Think it's beyond you, converting an unfinished upstairs into livable rooms? All you need are time and energy—and the help of your local firm named on the covers. There, in a counter-top Handyman Library you'll find the new Handyman Plan on Upstairs Remodeling—to save you money as you do the job yourself. It takes you through each major step: planning, installing built-ins, insulation, finishing of walls, ceilings and floor, and doors and trim.

One of steps shown in Plan is building closets, as Mr. Fargo is doing (left) with SHEETROCK® gypsum wallboard. Get your Free Plan—and get going!

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

*For family fun... from
children's play to Mom
and Dad's parties,
remodeling gave us...*

room to relax

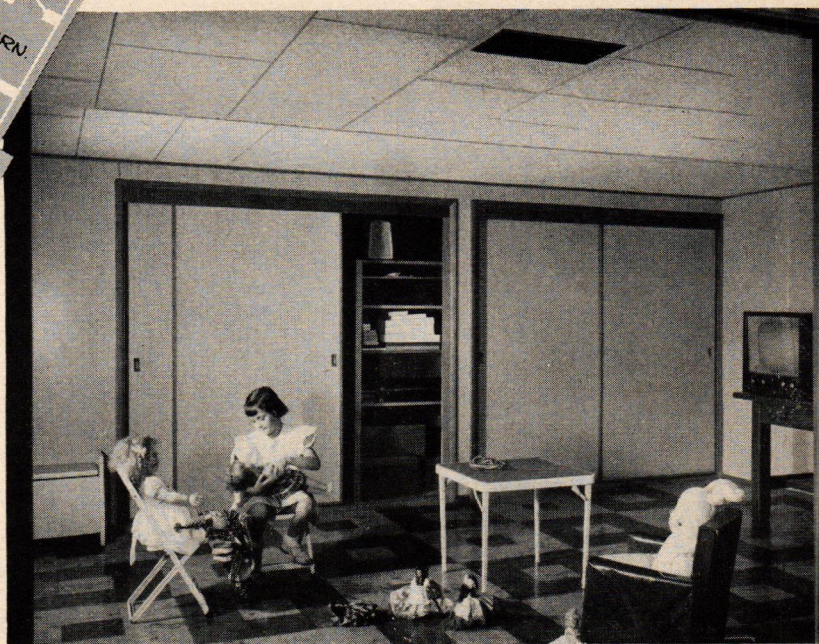


IF THERE'S ANY single formula for more pleasant living, it's to give everyone in the family plenty of room for favorite activities. Play-time, party-time and just space to relax can put a strain on almost any house — but with a little ingenuity, it usually isn't hard to relieve the pinch.

The secret in most cases is to remodel the house. Just visualize how your attic, porch and garage might be fitted out for full-time use. Or if you're like the H. R. Woodman family of Seattle, Wash., your "room to relax" may come from finishing the basement.

Building a recreation room is a typical "do-it-yourself" job. Let the experts check out the electrical, plumbing and heating facilities, but consider doing the other work yourself. You'll probably start with minor structural framing of walls, then move on to putting up the wall materials, installing ceiling tile and laying floor tile — all jobs at which home-owners have proved to be competent.

Be sure to get off to the right start — with the advice of your local POPULAR HOME sponsor. His is the *first* place to stop, and he's waiting to serve you!



Rainy-day playground for the youngsters is one of the two new rooms in Woodmans' basement. Large sliding-door closets in rear accommodate toys and household storage, as well. Closet doors are simple wood frames faced with Bleached Mahogany SHEETROCK Wallboard to match walls. Doors glide on rollers in floor track, are guided at top of casing. This is a standard type of sliding-door hardware.

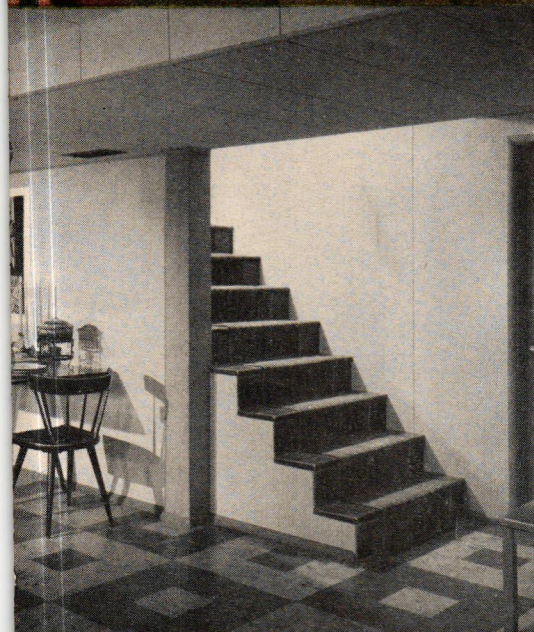
Essential first step was to waterproof basement walls with two new products: DURA-STOP Compound and DURA-DRI Cement Coating. How it's done: remove loose mortar, open cracks and holes, fill openings with DURA-STOP, wet down walls with water, and apply two coats of DURA-DRI. This system controls water penetration and also decorates, is effective both above and below ground, on interior and exterior. You'll find it featured by TEXOLITE* paint dealers.

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



Party's certain to be a success, in friendly atmosphere of Woodmans' large recreation room, and tomorrow's cleanup will be quick and effortless because of easy-to-clean surfaces. USG Panel-Tile in 16x32-inch panels went up quickly on ceiling furring strips, made simple job of boxing ducts like one above table. Other features are recessed lighting fixtures and cabinet for firewood and books to left of fireplace.

Private sanctum off large room is Mr. Woodman's study, with walls finished in knotty pine wallboard. It also does duty when Woodmans entertain—at a moment's notice by opening large sliding door that separates rooms. Door operates on "barn door" hardware, is merely a wood frame covered with matching wallboard. Knotty pine pattern is available either in 4x8-foot sheets of SHEETROCK Wallboard, or in easy-to-handle 16-inch widths of Panel SHEETROCK. Two other woodgrained finishes also are available.



Neat, simple way to enclose stairs is this, using cut-back partition for opening into room. Partition is located along line of structural posts, each concealed by square column made of four boards. Plan (opposite) started with existing stairs, used structural features to advantage in layout. Basement is 36x28 feet overall.





HOME OF MR. & MRS. JACK D. ROBINSON

PHOTOGRAPHY: JOSEPH MOLITOR

In step with nature, house has simple lines and rectangular plan that make for construction economy. Exterior siding, of cedar, enhances low, horizontal look. Entrance is from drive, next to jalousie windows in kitchen. Carport has large storage compartment in rear.

POPULAR HOME'S

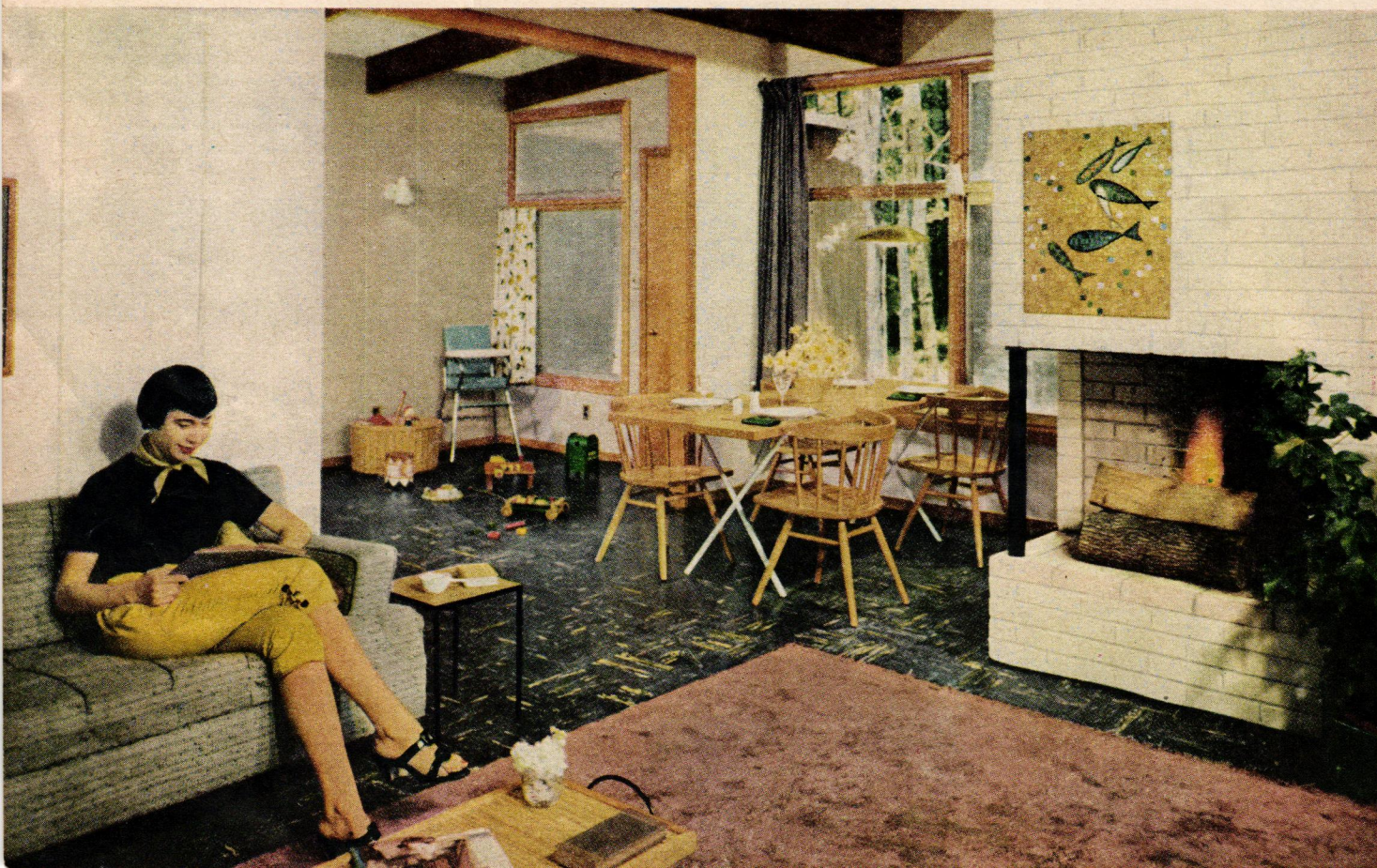
Smart Suburbanite

... for forward-looking families

No traffic problems in this interior, looking toward rear of house. Beyond fireplace is cheerful dining spot under big double windows, and convenient to kitchen. Rear corner is play or hobby area just across counter from kitchen, under Mother's eye. It can be closed off from dining area by a folding door. Dramatic wall colors were achieved with TEXOLITE DURAVAL* rubberized paint.

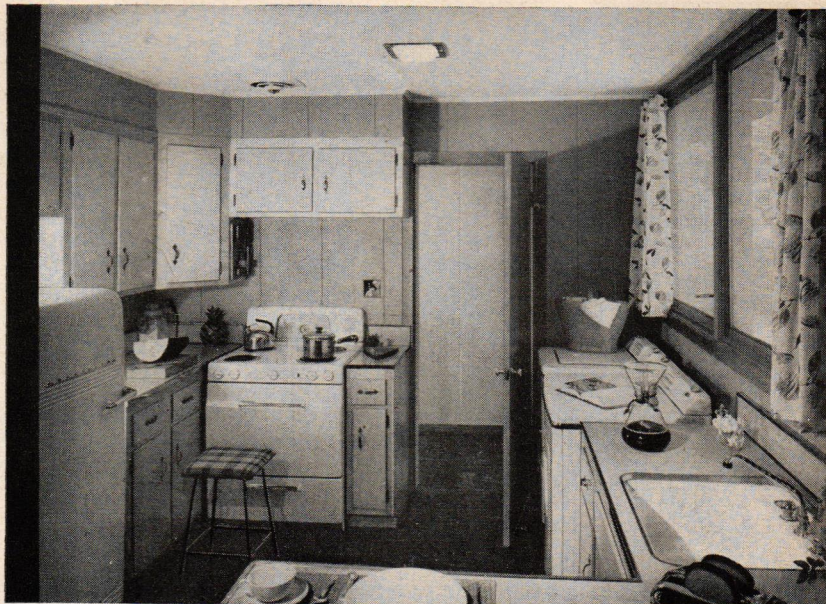
*T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

HOME OF MR. & MRS. KENNETH L. CURTIS



AN ENTERPRISING BUILDER took New England by surprise, last year, with a development of handsome new homes that were a sharp departure from the region's Cape Cod and Colonial traditions. But the experiment was a smashing success, for today beautifully wooded Five Mill River Hills near Norwalk, Conn., is the home of 30 happy families.

Most of the families have small children, and many of the husbands commute to New York City, 41 miles away. This house is ideal for them—and for anyone who likes clean, contemporary architecture and the open feeling of space inside the house. The activities area off the kitchen, three bedrooms, bath plus lavatory—these are the features. You can build it now, from complete building blueprints available through your POPULAR HOME sponsor. Smart Suburbanite!

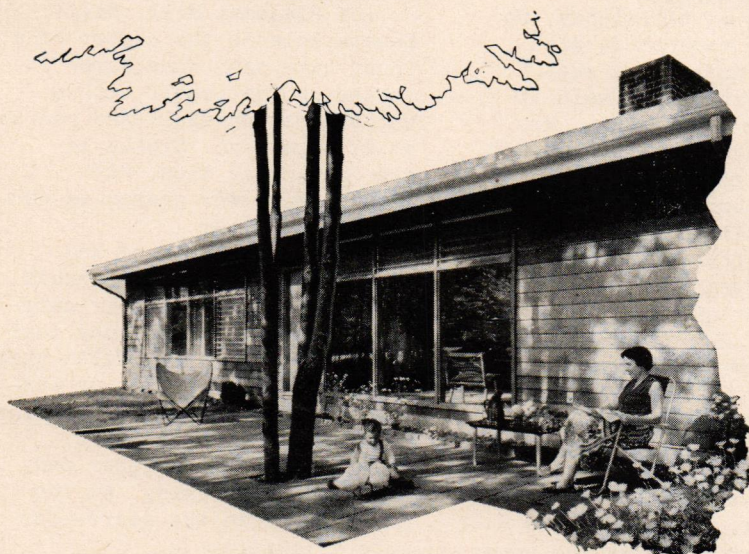


Not an inch wasted, compact kitchen of Smart Suburbanite house has good counter, cabinet space. Breakfast counter in foreground separates kitchen from play area. Laundry equipment is under windows beyond sink. As throughout house, walls have handsome vertical joint effect of Panel SHEETROCK* Wallboard.

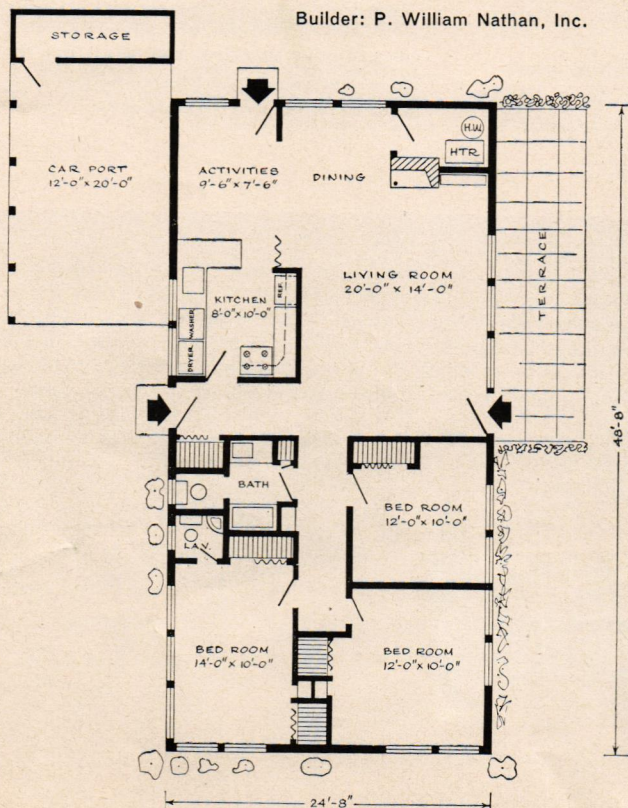
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Here's How to Get Building Blueprints

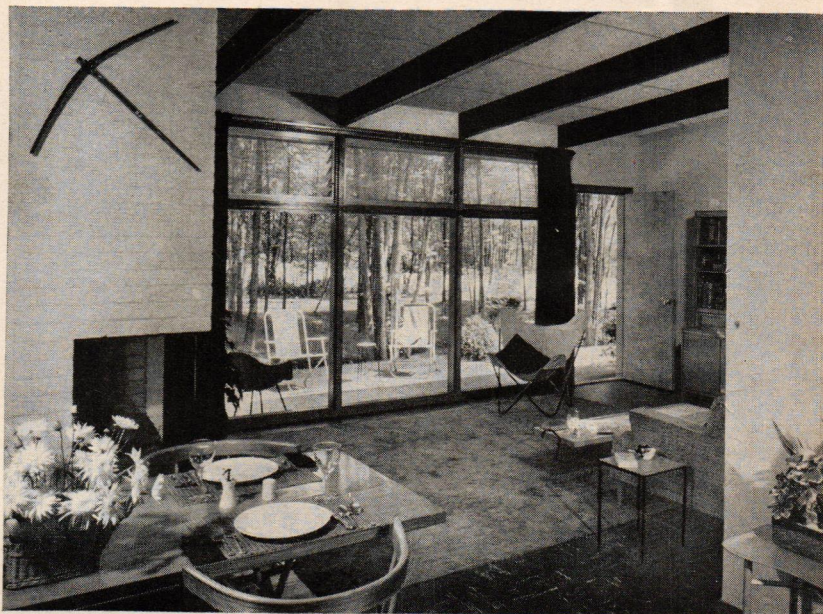
If you're ready to build the Smart Suburbanite, ask the local firm named on covers to order Plan No. PH 12-1A (without basement, as shown here), or PH 12-1B (with basement—stairs replacing lavatory). Size of house: 1,200 sq. ft., 12,900 cu. ft. (excluding carport). At left: Scott Robinson, 2, feeds pet ducks on side patio of house, outside living room.



Builder: P. William Nathan, Inc.



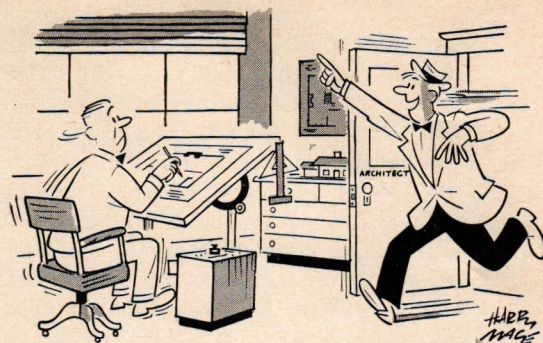
Great benefit of open plan is sweeping view like this, from play corner through living room to patio. Jalousies are used for ventilation in upper panels of living room windows. Floors are asphalt tile on concrete slab, ceiling construction employs exposed insulating roof deck over 3x10 wood beams.





Pride and Joy

by madge



"Add a nursery!"

POPULAR HOME MAGAZINE

I began this new year with high spirits, a bottle of vitamin pills (given to me for Christmas by the children) and a sheaf of resolutions in case the vitamins ran out. Then I took a good look at the house and in less time than it takes to say, "Put your galoshes away," my high spirits sagged. I even tried to turn over the New Year's resolutions to Willie, but he promptly turned them back.

While building up steam for housecleaning, I've decided to go at it slowly. Let's call this the "get organized" period. Mrs. J. D. McDowell of Stratford, Conn. has a good starter—the idea of pasting guarantees and instructions for household appliances in a looseleaf notebook. How to adjust the vacuum? Who made your pressure cooker? How to wash blankets? It's all in your big black book, and new instruc-

tions can be added when equipment is replaced.

Speaking of efficiency, do you wonder what to do with bills? (I had a good suggestion, but Willie said it would ruin our credit). Mrs. Eunice Souder of Augusta, Kas. keeps her grocery bills and other statements safely clipped together with a mousetrap! She suggests, however, a little decal or design on it for appearance's sake.

And Mrs. Harry Bullock of Nashua, Iowa, uses another kind of clip for kitchen filing. You drill a hole in a snap clothes pin and screw it to the inside of a cabinet door. The ones attached to the lower cabinets hold plastic food bags and bowl covers, and those on the upper cabinets take coupons, notes and clippings.

If you've just washed your cupboards and can't do a thing with 'em, consider a homemade

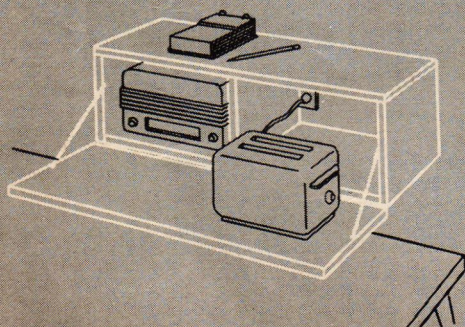
revolving spice rack, compliments of Mrs. Arthur Lewicki, Jr. of Pleasant Hill, Calif. Make a hole in the center of a round cake pan, then screw it to the cabinet shelf with a washer between shelf and pan so it will revolve. Stores 14 standard spice tins, with center space for seasoning and extract bottles.

Mrs. Norma Slatin of Red Bank, N.J. tells us we should switch spices from their cardboard boxes to empty baby food jars, or the small bottles that bouillon, powdered tea or coffee come in. Keeps 'em tidy and much fresher, she reports.

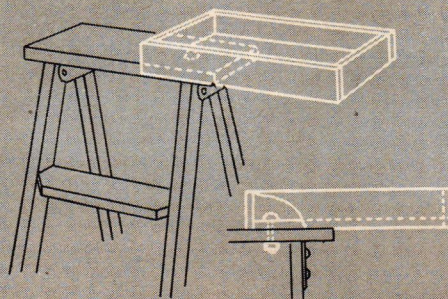
Well, here's to bigger and better housecleaning. As for me, I'm off to the store—for more vitamins!

POPULAR HOME MAGAZINE: Early Spring Issue, 1955, Vol. 12, No. 1; Mailing Date: January-February 1955. Copyright 1955 by United States Gypsum Company, publisher, 300 W. Adams St., Chicago 6, Ill. Sent to you eight times a year through the courtesy of the firm named on the covers of this issue. Printed in U.S.A.

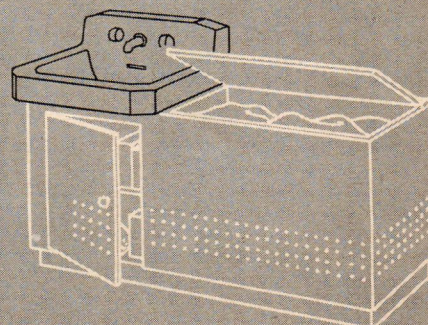
Clever cabinet for wall over kitchen table is a real work and space saver in the Bernard J. Alfred home, Pensacola, Fla. It has compartments for radio and toaster, and a drop-down front cover. Top is good spot for telephone, note pad and what-nots. Build it about 12 inches high and 32 inches long, of 1x12 lumber. Fasten to wall with small angle brackets and Molly bolts.



Father's helper in his household tasks is this ladder-top box for tools and equipment, by Earl Krause of Anoka, Minn. A 1x8 board makes the bottom and 1x3 scraps form the sides. It is simply bolted to the stepladder top, and pivots to suit your need for space. When open, box should overhang top by about 12 inches.



Bathroom storage cabinet and hamper built by Ed Albers, Jr. of Knoxville, Tenn., is constructed of 3/4-inch plywood and strip lumber, glued and nailed or screwed together. Door gives access to storage space below sink and hinged top covers clothes hamper and also serves as sink counter. Drill ventilating holes (1/4" dia.) in sides and front, and use linoleum for hamper top.



This new room
came out of a
paint can!



see how quick...
see how easy



MAYBE YOU'VE A ROOM LIKE THIS: all kinds of possibilities, but lacking in warmth and charm. Here's your first easy step to new beauty; pick an exciting decorative scheme from 126 gorgeous TEXOLITE* DURAVAL Paint colors.

the material to use is USG

and this sign tells you the dealer to see

EASY-ON WITH DURAVAL PAINT! It flows on "smooth as melted butter" with either brush or roller. Spreads far; no brush marks. Dust-free in 20 minutes with no "paint" odor. Brushes and rollers rinse out clean in plain water.

DURAVAL GIVES YOU a sparkling-new room that *stays* colorful, because this is the *rubberized* paint you can scrub again and again. See your TEXOLITE dealer or write Dept. LY-4, 300 W. Adams, Chicago 6.



*T. M. Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

The greatest name in building

HOW TO

Work a Wonder in a Weekend!



1.

COME IN, see all the colors we have to give your home new beauty; our big supply of brushes, rollers, enamels, varnishes, outdoor and indoor paints, everything else you'll need.

2.

PUT ON YOUR OWN color—a snap with the new “miracle” paints that flow right on with brush or roller, dry quickly without “painty” odor, may be scrubbed repeatedly.

3.

ENJOY A BRIGHT “NEW” ROOM—have company in Sunday evening if you want: the job's so easy you won't be tired, and everything will be dry. “Work a wonder” this weekend!

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“Everything for the Builder”

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