"Yes, indeed," we’ll tell you, "home improvement is our specialty—from start to finish". If you’re planning a new home, we have more than 110 Family-Tested home designs and low-cost blueprint service—free plan books, too!

For virtually every type of home improvement, we have Free Handyman Plans to simplify the work you do yourself. And we follow through with the best building materials that you’ll need to get the job done. Why not give us a call? We’re more than a building materials yard . . . we’re Home Improvement Headquarters!
Unleash space by remodeling!

"Let's move the stairway", is a thought to stop many a homeowner's plans. But it didn't stop the Starrs—it started them thinking. The William Starrs' home was like many houses in suburban Evanston, Ill.—in excellent repair, good neighborhood, convenient location. On the minus side of the ledger were cramped rooms, many twists and turns, little storage space and a gloomy interior. The Starrs decided to remodel, and engaged the professional help of an architect. They told him they wanted more and brighter space, and a feeling of openness. His answer: "Move the stairway outside". So they did!

First, they built a new enclosed stairwell on the side of the house. The entrance became part of this new addition. The old stairway was removed and the center of the house was rebuilt—including the wall between kitchen and dining room. Remaining walls were resurfaced with gypsum wallboard and given a new coat of paint. The old fireplace got a face-lifting to update the living room. Now, the Starrs have the house they want, still in the location they like. Careful planning and top-quality building materials gave it to them.

Want remodeling results like these in your house? Stop at the lumber dealer named on the cover. He has the materials, and he can suggest competent and professional design and contractor help.

More on next page

BY FRANK J. TOLFORD
More space for dining and storage (right), as closet-accessible from either side-replaces stairway. Former wall between kitchen and dining room (below) became a pass-through serving counter and storage cabinets. Cabinets are built of 1-in. pine and hardboard.

Real do-it-yourself fireplace (right), was refaced with concrete blocks in which the Starrs imbedded stones (see drawing). Bookshelves of stock 1x12 lumber were added above. Old front entrance, located directly behind sideboard, was filled in with 2x4 framing. Red Top Insulating Wool and Sheetrock wall-board when new entrance was added.
New stairwell features an open stairway that winds from basement to attic (details at right). Center posts are 4x4's; steps are 2x4's fastened to 2x8 stringers with angle irons and lag screws. Easily-installed SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard provides unbroken wall surface in stairwell. For homes with small children, risers can be added to treads and open area boxed in.

Central locations: stairs irre 4r4's: steps irre 2rf's firstenecl to 2xB stringcrs rvith unglc irons antl lag screws. Etrsily-installed SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard provides unbroken wall surfirce in stirirrvell.

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SIDE VIEW CUTAWAY

How to cast blocks

Handy entrance closet on one side, cleaning equipment storage on other. Construction is gypsum wallboard over 2x4 framing, stock shelving, plywood and stock doors. Closet raised off floor permits better air circulation and easier cleaning. This all-round closet serves kitchen, living room, front and rear entrances.

Bright little alcove on second floor is sewing center with plenty of sunshine and view of yard. SHEETROCK walls are painted with white TEXOLITE paint. No longer does Mrs. Starr have to do her sewing in a bedroom—careful planning gave her this cheerful nook.

Like this unique fireplace? To gain this effect, you cast concrete blocks in a framework of 1x6 lumber. Place frame on flat surface and fill to one-inch depth with clean sand. Place objects to be imbedded face down in sand. Carefully pour concrete to depth required, after blocks have hardened, they can be laid up with mortar.
Want your house well organized?

**Built-ins do the trick!**

Ask the average housewife what her home needs more than anything else and she'd probably reply, "Built-ins!" Every room in every house can benefit in usefulness, convenience—and beauty—when there are plenty of built-ins. On the next four pages are two rooms with excellent ideas on how built-ins can help your house. One is a combination bedroom-office, the other a living-dining area.

Like to see what built-ins can do for you? Take a sheet of graph paper, and using a 4-in. square to represent one foot, sketch your room, adding built-ins where needed. Then take that sketch to your local dealer named on the covers. He'll be happy to help you with materials and ideas.

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**ON THE COVER...** remodeled bedroom-home office (above and right) in home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zurbach, San Marino, Calif. Space was gained by removing some walls, building others, installing ceiling beam. Two windows were plastered over to gain long wall for built-ins. Perforated hardboard doors screen supply shelves (under desk) from view; note handy pull-out shelf for typewriter. Colors—gray, white, gold and turquoise—were inspired by desert painting above desk.

**Like the Zurbach's built-ins?** You can copy them; drawings at right show you how. (Cost estimates are for materials only, and may vary with locality.) Numerals in plan locate the four units.
A bedroom-office... with 4 convenient built-ins

1. Wall shelves for about $14 give quick solution to storage needs. Your lumber dealer can supply you with 8-in. shelving, metal standards and bracket hardware for this unit.

2. Cabinet space for about $26—built-in 48-in. units from stock lumber and Duron Perforated Hardboard. Cost estimate is for each unit.

3. Built-in desk for under $37 consists of standard file cabinet set in wood frame; top is plywood covered with plastic laminate, edged with black walnut. The Zurbachs have twin “Mr. and Mrs.” units like this.

4. Self-standing bookcase for about $27. Zurbachs extended headboard across entire room to gain this valuable and close-at-hand storage for books, records and knickknacks. Built of 1x8 stock lumber to length needed.

DATA: ALMA BALL
ARCHITECT: WILLIAM L. BUDOLPH, A.I.A.
BUILDER: GEORGE W. BERTCH
PHOTOGRAPHY: GEORGE DE GENNARIO

More on next page
What housewife wouldn't give an arm for closets like these? Partitions came out, new walls were built and ceiling beam added. Double wardrobes—two units for each of the Zurbachs—have swing-out doors (hardboard over framing), shoe racks and storage shelves. Built-in chests (right) are ideally located between wardrobes and new bathroom.

Sound control and good lighting were top requirements in Zurbach remodeling. Noise-absorbing ceiling is acoustical plaster—choice of either Sarinité or Audicote (spray-on) plasters. Alternate method is to install Quietone wood-fiber acoustical tile. Circular grilles pin-point lighting over desks.

Adjustable headboard has piano hinge across top which allows padded backrest to adjust for comfort. Wood block keeps headboard in angled position. Like it? Follow the sketch above and build one for your home.
This is not necessary with . . .

**Expert detailing for a storage wall**

**BEFORE . . .** large niche in living room wall of Earl Graham's home, Evanston, Ill., was a natural for well organized built-in. The Grahams' requirements: a functional wall with highly decorative appearance.

**AFTER . . .** handsome walnut built-in contains elaborate stereo system and storage for records and tape. Ample cabinets for Mrs. Graham's party china, and a lighted center cabinet to display favorite pieces, are important part of it. Turn the page for a behind-the-scenes look inside.
Custom-built wall unit can easily be adapted to homes on a less elaborate scale. Cutaway shows construction and storage details. Let your lumber dealer help you plan a similar unit and arrange for cabinetwork, if necessary.

**DATA:** JESSIE WALKER  
ARCHITECT: EDWARD BURCH, A.I.A.  
DECORATOR: BETTY LOTZ, A.I.D.

**how to get it done**

1. Decide what you want to accomplish with your built-ins
2. Plan your built-ins on graph paper
3. Determine type of materials to be used
4. Measure areas carefully for amount of materials
5. Take rough sketch to lumber dealer
6. Let him recommend best materials and methods
7. Seek professional design and contractor help if built-ins are elaborate or structural changes are involved
8. Buy *quality* building materials—as the young men (at left) are doing—at your helpful lumber dealer’s named on covers of this magazine.
A BETTER HOME?
GET IT OFF YOUR WAITING LIST
AND INTO ACTION

Why wait for better living? For a new home, pick out one of our Family-Tested designs and let us order low-cost blueprints for you. For improving your present house, help yourself to our expert how-to-do-it information. Then get into action with the best building materials. We have them all!

COME IN! OUR NAME IS ON THE COVER
Vital part of Huss workshop is this planning center. Pull-out drawing board fits beneath 5-in. plywood desk top; cabinet on casters under desk holds drawing supplies. Concrete block walls, painted with white Texolite Vinyl Exterior Masonry Paint, provide good light reflection; woodwork has been enameled.

Projects are easier when work areas are grouped and well-planned. Extra-large work bench pays dividends in convenience. Often-used tools and materials are stored where they can be seen, with drawers and cabinets for additional storage. You can build this work bench and cabinets of 1-in. stock lumber and plywood over a 2x4 frame.

When a professional designer turns his talents to his own workshop, the end result is likely to be highly efficient and well organized. Designer Ralph K. Huss, Mound, Minn., took a small, low-ceilinged basement space (plan, above) and into it he built storage for all shop equipment—even materials and plans. The important result—a room that is clean and workmanlike. Electric extension cord stapled to ceiling can be connected to equipment as needed. Overhead lights are supplemented by other fixtures at each work center. Ceiling, of Sheetrock gypsum wallboard, was painted pale green for maximum light reflection and minimum glare. And Mr. Huss didn’t forget the lady of the house! Mrs. Huss has a compact and well-lighted work area where she can pursue her favorite hobby of sewing.

Here are some ideas to help you equip your own shop—first step in your own home improvement program.
Plenty of work space, when power tools are carefully placed. Door (in corner) leads to garage; materials need not be carried through house. Larger pieces of plywood and hardboard are stored on shelf behind power tools.

Material storage a problem? Here's a good solution: long boards and strips of molding are stored on rollers (detail at right) in this rack. Large dowel rods, drilled and held in place with long bolts, serve as rollers. Smaller material is stored on shelves behind perforated hardboard. High half-door keeps visiting children out of harm's way. Built-in filing cabinet stores plans and written articles.

Ideal sewing center is easy to build. Shelves are 1x10's with 1x2-in. edging. Perforated hardboard hides piping, provides handy storage space for much-used items. Cutting and sewing table, made of ¾-in. plywood, hardboard and doorstop molding, folds out of way.
ALTERNATE IDEA:

Compact Workshop for Limited Space

If you’re short on space, it’s worth considering a workshop at one end of a family room like that of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hartwig, St. Louis, Mo. (below) . . . or in a garage, den or basement. Mr. Hartwig’s shop—he specializes in metalworking—is separated from remainder of family room by draw draperies. Because of the attractive styling of the work area, draperies need be closed only to keep dust or metal filings from getting into family room, or when Mrs. Hartwig wants to sew or watch TV. A counter divider between the two areas contains hi-fi equipment, bookshelves and storage for games or party equipment; it’s built of %-in. plywood with perforated hardboard doors and painted bright colors. Gypsum wallboard walls are finished in Spring Mist color of texture paint.
Young Paul Hartwig gets as much enjoyment from workshop as his father does; here he is engrossed in Handyman Plan instructions. Small storage drawers—147 of them—are wooden boxes purchased from government surplus. Hardboard fronts and brass handles were added. Framework for drawers is plywood, 1x2’s and 1x10’s, with aluminum angle strips for drawer slides. Swinging panels for tools are made of perforated hardboard mortised into 1x3’s.

Basic plan of an enterprising builder was changed to suit the Hartwigs’ needs. Circled area indicates where original plan of Harwood Hills development calls for double garage opening to front. The Hartwigs turned this valuable space into family room-workshop, opened garage to rear.

First step toward your own workshop...

Let your dealer—named on the covers—help you build a workshop in your basement, garage or unused ground-level room. You can make it elaborate, or simple—but the basic thing is to get a workshop where you can work. Tools should be close at hand, and storage adequate. Here’s how your dealer can help—he has Handyman Plan No. 347 on “How to Build a Home Workshop.” It shows in detail (below) the “how to’s” of construction and arrangement that you can use in your own shop. See him soon for your free copy, and get his advice on the best materials to use. Then . . . when your shop is completed . . . see him again for Handyman Plans on all types of home remodeling projects—garages, fences, storage, room additions, and 16 other subjects!
PREPARATION
With steel tape, measure area to be covered, and mark cutting lines on SHEETROCK Gypsum Wallboard. For straight cuts use wallboard knife to score paper on face of board. Snap away from cut, then run knife through paper on back. For rectangular cutouts (below, left), cut along one line with keyhole saw, then score along other line and snap. Smooth the edges with sandpaper block.

WALL APPLICATION
As a finished wall material, SHEETROCK may be nailed directly to wood studs (1), applied with adhesive (2) over BAXBORD gypsum backing board, or applied with nails or adhesive over existing wall surfaces (3).
CEILING APPLICATION

In new construction, SHEETROCK wallboard is nailed to ceiling joists. Over old, uneven surfaces, 1x3 furring strips shimmed level (4) are required. Usually two men work on ceiling (5), nailing from center, outward, but home-made T-brace (6) can make it one-man job.

CEILING SURFACING

Here's bright, white beauty for any "living" room. Popular USG Custom Tile has a special Bone White finish that offers an unusually high light-reflectance—over 80%. It insulates too, so it keeps your family more comfortable and also saves on fuel bills. USG Custom Tile is available in 12 x 24-in. Twin-Tiles, center-scored for square tile effect, or 12 x 24-in. Panel Tiles for interesting rectangular ceiling patterns.

JOINT FINISHING

Woodgrained and Panel SHEETROCK need no joint finishing. Standard wallboard with tapered edges requires joint treatment—an easy, effective way of creating an unbroken surface. Steps are covering nail heads (7), finishing outside corners with PERF-A-BEAD corner reinforcement and PERF-A-TAPE cement (8), reinforcing inside corners (9) and joints between panels (10) with PERF-A-TAPE.
Two-story living on down-to-earth budget

Popular Home's two-story Budgeteer offers a lot of living on a modest budget. The two-story house is making a strong comeback because it offers more floor space per dollar—and this home of the James Raglins, Lincoln, Nebr., is an excellent example of value and appeal. It has four bedrooms—one ideal for use as guest room or study—two baths and garage. A first floor family room can be added by extending the garage roof line to the side.

This compact beauty looks and lives big. Complete low-cost building blueprints—No. PH 17-6A (without basement) or No. PH 17-6B (with basement)—can be ordered through your dealer named on the covers. Why not start planning soon, and be in your new home by summer?
Mealtime's a pleasure in this handy kitchen-dining area. Easy-upkeep wood cabinets provide at-the-fingertip storage space; "floating" bank of cabinets is supported by wall and a birch-veneered 4x4. Walls painted Heavenly Blue accent ceiling painted Gardenia White.

Warm and traditional... walls of Sheetrock gypsum wallboard are painted Blue Turquoise to add color to living room. Adjustable shutters—a common lumber dealer item—control light and privacy. Windows above sofa are located high in wall to simplify furniture arrangement.
Another fine home... your local dealer can order blueprints for this house, too

**POPULAR HOME'S**

**House of Hospitality**

This is a house that spells "welcome" all over. In this house from Baltimore, Md., four areas devoted to entertainment serve either the junior or senior set for anything from a family dinner to a class reunion. There's a formal living-dining area, open terrace, screened-in porch and ground-level playroom. But there is no skimping on work space in the large kitchen and laundry areas. Bedrooms are off by themselves, away from busy areas.

If you like a house where you can stay in circulation, now's the time to see your Popular Home sponsor. He will be happy to order low-cost blueprints—No. PH 14-7A (without basement) or PH 14-7B (with basement).

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Your 1961 Popular Home issues will be loaded with these features to help you hit the target in your remodeling:

6 *Idea Rooms*—series on remodeling for every room
6 *major home remodelings*—ideas for your house
6 *new Feature Houses*—with low-cost blueprints
6 *Home Carpenter features*—spare-time fix-up tips

PLUS... special features on fireplaces, steps, window treatments, porches, outdoor living and decorating.

Be sure your dealer knows you want to remain on his mailing list. See, write or call him soon. He'll be glad to know you appreciate his magazine and other helpful services.
HOW TO RECLAIM OLD BATHROOMS

A little planning and imagination can lift your old bathroom out of the ordinary and turn it into a room of beauty. What one Missouri homeowner did with a bathroom is shown at right. Drawers were built of birdseye maple, installed under marble counter, with brass hardware. Framed mirrors cover medicine chests, are hinged toward each other to provide both front and back views of person standing between them. Stock shutters, paint, wallpaper and good lighting add finishing touches.

1 Frames large enough to cover medicine cabinets were made of the same wood as drawers. They can be made to fit existing medicine chests, lending effect of framed mirrors.

2 Soffit was framed with pine 2x2's and covered with 8-in. SHEETROCK gypsum wallboard; PERF-A-TAPE joint system conceals joints.

3 Drawers can be made of 5-in. pine or plywood, with ¾-in. hardboard bottoms, front covered with hardwood veneer.

4 Firm support for marble counter is provided by 2x4 framework. Cabinet front is 1-in. hardwood. Large drawers provide ample storage for supplies and linens.

Careful planning and construction went into this bathroom remodeling. Important details, to help you in your planning, are shown here. For ideas and top-quality materials to improve your bathroom—or any other room—see your dealer named on the covers. Ask him for free Home Improvement Booklet No. 3, "Work-savers and Space-makers", with ideas for every room in your house.
Simple Window Repairs

Most older homes are equipped with wood windows of the double-hung variety. If you have them, you'll want to know how to replace broken sash cords, and how to make several other simple repairs.

Replacing sash cord

To install a new cord on a lower sash, first pry off stop strip (Fig. 1) with a thin, wide-edge tool. After removing weatherstrip from channel (done with sash fully raised), open weight pocket by removing insert in channel. Examination will disclose its position and how it is secured. The ends often are beveled to keep it in position.

New sash cord is first knotted at one end, and other end is pushed over sash pulley into weight pocket and tied to weight. Pull edge of sash out of window frame to remove broken cord and attach new one (Fig. 2). Raise and lower window several times to check cord length before replacing stop strip.

If cord on upper sash needs replacing, it will be necessary to remove narrow center-stop strip (which usually sets in a groove) in addition to removing first-stop strip. Cut through paint film where strip joins window frame before attempting to pry it loose.

If you want to do away with sash cords permanently, substitute a spring-type counterbalance (Fig. 3). These come in varying strengths for sash of different weight.

Loose, rattling sash

Loose sash not fitted with weatherstripping permit much heat to escape and also tend to rattle. Simple remedy is to install compression-type weatherstrip (Fig. 4). Stop strips may have to be shifted to correct clearance.

Tight, binding sash

When sash fit too tightly, paraffin or commercial “slipping” compound, rubbed into channels, may ease them. For more clearance, dress down wood surface with sandpaper. Sometimes bent weatherstrip of the inserted type makes sash hard to move. Occasionally, stop strips require resetting to provide more clearance; sometimes sash just needs planing.

Sash that are “cemented” to a window frame with paint can be freed by cutting through paint at joints with a sharp knife. Then open sash and scrape paint off runs on stop strips.

Repairing loose corners

Sometimes sash corners loosen. On upper corners this may be caused by applying force to the parting rail of lower sash instead of using pulls on lower crossrail. Looseness of lower corners may be caused by water soaking into wood repeatedly, destroying glue. Simple cure is a brace (Fig. 5), fitted into a chiseled recess flush with wood surface. Four screws will hold brace securely in position.

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