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WINDOWS AFFECT

Windows such as these are both attractive and functional. They admit daylight in desired quantities, and they provide an outward view. Baseboard heating unit eliminates cold drafts since glass and the air around the windows are warmed.

YOUR COMFORT



BECAUSE windows affect your comfort, both physically and psychologically, they deserve much consideration in the early planning stages of a house, according to the University of Illinois Small Homes Council in a recent study on windows.

The suggestions that have come out of this study should prove of great value to readers who are planning to build or remodel. They include the following:

Provide glass areas in excess of 20 per cent of the floor area of each room. This is a general rule-of-thumb. Most building codes recommend that the glass area be not less than 10 per cent, but much more is desirable to meet daylight requirements on cloudy days. On brighter days, the amount of light can be controlled by interior and exterior shading devices.

Place principal window areas toward the south except in warm climates where a northern orientation is favored in order to limit heat from the sun. The south sky is considerably brighter than the north sky. A southern exposure permits the maximum amount of daylight and also the greatest amount of solar heat in winter.

Group window openings in the wall to eliminate undesirable contrasts in brightness. Provide one large opening on a wall instead of several small ones to do away with dark areas between openings.

Use windows in more than one wall for greater admis-

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Copyright 1955 by BUILDERS PUBLISHING COMPANY 100 Stevens Ave., Mt. Vernon, N. Y. FEBRUARY, 1955 Harry Bernstein, Editor — Julian Wagner, Art Director — Dave Fleming, Production Mgr. — Mary L. Osborn, Plans Editor HOW WINDOWS AFFECT YOUR COMFORT

continued from page 3

sion and better distribution of daylight.

Select the window shape that gives the desired destributiton of light within each room. For a broad, shallow distribution of light use short, wide windows. Tall, narrow windows give a thin, deep distribution of light.

Place the window as high in the wall as possible to lengthen the depth of light penetration in the room. If possible, place the head of the window close to the ceiling. More sky is visible through the upper part of the window than the lower; moreover, the overhead sky is brighter than the sky at the horizon.

Being able to see out through windows is as important to occupants of a house as is the admission of daylight and air, continues the report.

The outdoor scene which the occupants will view from the house should be considered in the orientation of the house, in the determination of the size of the windows, and in the placement of the windows.

Problems in window placement may arise when a house is set on the lot to command a natural view on the east or west since it is difficult to shade the occupants' eyes from the sun early or late in the day. Devices to keep the sun rays away from the windows may obstruct the view. View windows on the south can be protected from the sun rays by a roof overhang; those on the north are not bothered by the sun.

Generally, the proportions of the window can be scaled to the view—a horizontal window for a panoramic view. such as a mountain range; a vertical window for a confined view, such as a terrace.

In selecting windows to frame any view, it is important to avoid those having obstructions which interfere with the view. The windows should be placed at carefully determined heights so that the sills and intermediate divisions do not obstruct the line of sight, either that of tall or short adults.

Use of large glass areas usually requires some controls for privacy, both in the daytime and at night. Obvious controls include draperies and blinds. Consideration must be given to the size and placement of these hangings so that they do not cancel the benefits of a breeze. The use of louvers or other opaque types of ventilating units which do not have to be draped is one solution to this problem of privacy with ventilation. Placing windows high in the wall is another effective means of obtaining privacy, especially in bedrooms.

The Council also suggested ways of preventing heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer through windows by the use of insulating windows, instead of single-glazed ones, placement of room-heating units below windows, and placement of the house on the lot so that the rays of the sun can be admitted during the winter but excluded during the hottest months of the summer.



Picture window offers view as well as admission of daylight. Window is placed as high in the wall as possible to lengthen depth of light penetration into the room. Drapezies hang above head of window and to side of window frame for daytime use, and are drawn at night for privacy.

WHAT'S NEW IN KITCHENS?





EVERTHING'S within easy reach in this modern step-saver kitchen. Unique built-in features in this compact work-island put everything at the fingertip of Mrs. Housewife. The novel built-in work island also includes storage space and a snack bar. Burners are recessed in the island and the stove is built into the brick cornice. Copper hood over the cooking unit is both practical and decorative, since an exhaust fan at the ceiling end of the hood removes cooking odors.

Courtesy Makers of Armstrong's Lincleum

THE trend to "open-planning" in modern home design has meant the increased use of built-in features in kitchens. Above, the modern walk-around fireplace contains a built-in stove, storage space for firewood and the extending exhaust hood over the table-top burners. Burner unit, sink and storage cabinets are located in the L-shaped counter that angles out from the left side of the fireplace.

Right, unusual combination light fixture and utensil rack hung from ceiling is one of the features of this kitchen. The light fixture is counter-balanced, so the housewife can reach a favorite tool easily. Other ideas are eye-level oven units, an outsized table with a butcher block top, and window greenhouse that puts homegrown herbs within plucking distance.





"Our apartment had the usual disadvantages . . . the young man upstairs played first clarinet in a local band . . ."

MAYBE you are going through the same apartment pains that my wife and I suffered several years ago. I married Ruth just after I came out of the service. Being young—and naive—the thought of looking for an apartment months in advance never occurred to us.

After a fruitless three-week search for a large apartment at reasonable rent, we finally moved into one of the new apartment buildings that went up right after the war. It had the usual disadvantages; it was too small and too expensive. But at least staying home was not boring. Just by sitting in our front room—the one with the "in-a-wall" bed—we learned more about our neighbors than any decent person has a right to know.

There was the model, for instance, who lived in the apartment besides ours. She had a cream-colored convertible, six fiances, and a passion for sauerkraut at one in the morning. The young man upstairs played first clarinet in a local band. He practiced at home—and sometimes invited his drummer friend to play with him.

After a year in the apartment, Ruth and I decided that the only way to live was in a home of our own, even if we had to go into hock the rest of our lives. We had always talked about some day having a home in the country, and now we planned to get it. I immediately subscribed to Country Gentleman and Capper's Farmer; and the next Sunday we went shopping—for acreage. An amazing variety of real estate is listed under "Acreage" in the Sunday paper. We looked at country estates—were particularly taken with the \$35,000 ones. They seemed to be just what we were looking for.

The acreage we could actually afford, however, turned out to be a broken-down farm with a house badly in need of repair. "2½ acres, including a good fruit orchard, tenroom farm house and other buildings. Minor repairs needed," the ad read. Carpentry has never been one of my strong points, but I had bought a book: "1001 Home Repairs YOU Can Make." All I needed was a hammer, a saw, and a screwdriver. With a little practice—which I could get on the chicken coop—I ought to be able to do most of the repairs myself. So we bought the place.

The calamities began two weeks after we moved in. I remember the first one well. I was sitting in my easy chair in the "parlor" when suddenly Ruth screamed from the kitchen, "Jack! Jack! Look! Oh, Jack."

I rushed to her rescue wondering what demon had descended on our peaceful home. It was no demon. We were experiencing our first rainstorm. Water was pouring down from the ceiling. Since there was no plumbing on the second floor, I figured the roof must be leaking.



"I grabbed my '1001 Home Repairs' . . . it went on to say in 2000 words and three photos how to repair the roof . . ."

WANT TO BUY A HOME!



"Carpentry has never been one of my strong points . . ."

I rushed back to the parlor, grabbed my "1001 Home Repairs," "Leaks, roof, p. 92," I read. On page 92: "If you have a leak in your roof . . ." It went on to say in 2,000 words and three photos how to repair the roof. But I needed to know what to do until I could fix the roof. By the time I recovered and returned to the kitchen to comfort my hysterical wife, the water had miraculously stopped gushing from the ceiling. There remained only a large, very wet area that seemed suspiciously lower than the the rest of the ceiling. Ruth, ever alert in a crisis, had rushed to the third floor and distributed pots and pans under the leak.

A new roof cost me \$500, a new kitchen ceiling cost \$200. This I had not calculated in my \$1000 estimate of repairs. It was only one of many oversights on my part.

The furnace was another. On the first chilly fall day after we moved in I learned that it didn't work. I started a fire in it before leaving for work in the morning. That night, when I came home, Ruth met me at the door.

"Jack! Oh, Jack! . . ." and she started weeping. "The furnace," she gasped. "It blew up today."

It was a few minutes before Ruth became coherent enough to tell me exactly what had happened. "Big clouds of smoke blew out of the registers. And I couldn't even see down in the cellar for smoke. Oh, it was awful."

After Ruth had calmed down I went to the cellar to find out what was wrong. The fire had gone out. A few pieces of charred wood and unburned coal was all that was left. My inspection showed me nothing that looked wrong. But obviously something was wrong, so I called Mr. Jenkins, who ran a furnace shop nearby. He agreed to come out right away.

Our furnace was badly cracked—too far gone to be repaired. The bill for a new gas furnace was \$700.

All together this inexpensive country home, with all the

advantages of a nearby city and the peace and relaxation of the farm, cost me \$2,500 I had not figured on. That included renovated kitchen, tools, roof, paint, more tools, liniment, bandages, chiropractor. Plus, according to my figures, \$3,000 worth of time and labor.

We concluded after two years in the country that it just wasn't worth it. What we wanted, we finally knew, was a little house on a little plot of land. And located in the city suburban area. We started shopping for one.

Once again the good houses were too expensive. We had just about given up on finding something suitable when I met an old friend of mine who was in the real estate business. I invited him to come out and see Ruth and the family.

When he visited us, we naturally got around to talking about my house troubles. He sympathized politely, then began telling us about a group of homes he was handling for a builder. They sounded just too good to be true. They had all the rooms we needed, and were just within our price range.

"Come out and see them," he invited.

We did exactly that—and we were delighted. They were well constructed, and mighty attractive, both inside and out. And, to Ruth and me one of the important things, the people who lived in the community were our kind of people: young families with growing kids like ours. They didn't have a lot of money to put into a house, but they wanted a nice looking, comfortable home without paying a fortune for it.

When we found, moreover, that the houses were easy to finance, we did not hesitate. We bought one of these homes. What we like about our house is that it's so easy to take care of. This is the thing that really sold Ruth.

As she says, "Everything is so compact and easy to handle. And the kitchen is modern and convenient. I couldn't ask for anything better."

We've been in our house almost two years now. Our landscaping is coming along nicely. Ruth has a flower garden, and I set off a section of the yard for the children to play in. Even have a small garden. We've finally found exactly what we were looking for.



"What we wanted was a little house on a little plot of land."





These IDEAS are PRACTICAL

FOR use with extra-long sofas, or where insufficient wall space in the home prevents the conventional end-tableand-lamp set-up, Edward Wormley has designed for Dunbar a pair of tables which interlock at right angles-shown at the right. The long, low table of the pair-seven feet long, 15 inches wide and 15 inches high-is constructed to slide under the shelf of the taller one, which measures 54 inches long by 24 inches in height and width. Frames of both tables are of striped zebra wood, with inset of black micarta on the taller top, and a white surface of the same material on the lower. The sofa, incidentally, is appropriately named the "Long John." Easily movable because of its two front casters, the sofa is kept from "scooting" by hidden legs at the back. It is 9 feet long with a comfortably slouchy 40-inch depth in contrast to the standard 34 inches. Three very thick rubber-and-down filled back cushions rest on equally soft buttoned seats.

Pictured below is a room divider of generous proportions designed by John Wisner for Ficks Reed. Feature of the divider is the handsome red lacquered shelf for magazines. Other shelves, including several of bamboo are perfect for displaying glassware and ceramics. The brass cuffs provide an elegant contrast with the teak brown finish on rattan.



RIGHTEN UP YOUR HOME WITH FLOWER BOXES

N OTHING can brighten up the exterior of your home more than tastefully arranged flower boxes placed here and there, on window sills, porch rails, steps, or along the sides of the house. So little care is required of these plantings, too, that they can always be kept fresh and lovely looking with a minimum of effort. However, you must plant the right kind of flowers in your window boxes if you are to create the desired effect.

Pansies are excellent for this sort of planting. These are planted direct in early spring and will bloom freely from midsummer until freezing temperatures. They are at their best in a rich, cool soil and need plenty of moisture. Pansies grow in a wide range of intense shades and twotones.

Petunias, too, can be highly recommended for the window box. Petunias need a rich but sandy soil, with full sunshine. They should not be watered too frequently. And Dwarf Marigolds, whose color range is mostly in yellows, orange and red. Or, if you prefer the vine type of flower, something that will spread from the flower box onto the porch rails, for example, try Morning Glory, which is a fast grower, and one of the most popular vines.

Ever hear of Ageratum? There are two types, Dwarf Blue Bedder and Midget Blue. They are both ideal for the flower box, particularly the former, which is a compact plant with large clusters of deep, rich lavendar-blue flowers. Another which you may not have heard of before is Lantana, a most beautiful flower which grows in shades of crimson, rose, yellow, and orange in the same cluster.

Lobelia is one we are particularly fond of. These are deep blue flowers with white eyes and are a favorite also for rock gardens. Then there is Coleus, with its many shades and combinations of red, green and yellow. Thunbergia—more popularly known as Black Eyed Susans will dress up your flower box very nicely too. The blossoms are white through buff to deep orange with a solid black center. They twine and climb.

Of course, let us not forget the ever popular Phlox, and the Snapdragon, or Yinca and Verbena. The latter, incidentally, is a scarlet flower of good size. You might also try to mix your flowers in the box, such as Petunia, Ageratum and Dwarf Marigold. One thing, though—don't mix your window boxes. Keep them the same size, design and color for best appearance.



"Jimmy, Go Out and Play...

Tall, short, chubby, scrawny, knobby-kneed, smooth muscled, fast, sluggish, awkard or skilled, all boys have a chance to play and enjoy themselves in the Lincoln School basketball clinic. It's part of a voluniary afterschool athletic program.

J IMMY'S mother was quite upset. Here they'd just moved into this fine suburb where there were lots of children near Jimmy's age. The air rang from daylight to dark with the shouts of ten-year-olds. But what was Jimmy doing? Nothing! Literally, nothing.

Why? It's a very simple answer. Jimmy didn't know how to play. He could swing a baseball bat, kick a football around . . . but he didn't know how to actually play in the games.

A mother can take just so much of watching her child being left out of the neighborhood gang, so Jimmy's mother went to the school principal to find out why the other children were so well versed in sports. She found that she had been fortunate enough to move near a school with a Physical Education program designed to teach all children how to play with others and to use the basic techniques of American sports.

When school started in the Fall, Jimmy became one of the class. He was taught to play . . . to handle himself in sports, and to take his place in the games.

Jimmy's experience is identical with that of dozens of youngsters who have moved near the Lincoln School, in Highland Park, Illinois. Vincent Viezbicke, Lincoln's Physical Education instructor, is a young man who believes that just teaching exercises and marching is not enough... that children become bored with calisthenics and that all too often the Physical Education program is just an excuse for a half-hour break in the day to release pent-up energy.

About five years ago Mr. V. began an after school voluntary-participation program in football in the Fall, basketball, ice-skating and hockey in the Winter and baseball and track in the Spring. Then Mr. V. shifted the emphasis of the school athletic schedule from an inter-scholastic to an intramural basis, designed to meet the abilities and requirements of all the 5, 6, 7 and 8th grade children . . . not just those with exceptional athletic ability. Because in the inter-scholastic set-up, only a few . . . those who make the team . . . get the benefit of the coach's instruction, Mr. V. prefers a program where all the boys have equal opportunities to take part. There is no star system at this school.

The basketball clinic is typical of these after school programs. During the season, teams are chosen, leagues formed and names selected. The most ferocious names find favor . . . Wildkits, Invincibles, Globe Wonders, All-Stars and so on.

Each boy has, during the season, equal opportunity for instruction, to play in every position, to act as official and timekeeper, and to be a team captain and manager.

Parent's night climaxes the clinic. On this great night, at the end of the basketball season, proud mothers and beaming fathers, who are sure that Johnny is a chip off the old block, line the wall of the school gym to watch some sixty boys perform . . . boys who are overweight and sluggish . . . boys with poor sight . . . boys who are poorly co-ordinated and retiring . . . but boys who have gained a knowledge and understanding of athletic competition and who put a really remarkable performance, while the crowd cheers.

When boys of exceptional skill compete with and against boys of average or little athletic ability in this truly American game it is a source of satisfaction to all . . . the observers as well as the participants. Some of these boys will go on to make their mark in the high-school, college and professional athletic world. Others will have the satisfaction of having played on a team at this one time in their lives. But the knowledge of the techniques of the game will last through their lives and make them more intelligent spectators.

Mr. V. stresses that his clinics are not feeders for the High School athletic program, nor are they the entire Physical Education program at Lincoln. Rather, they are the outgrowth of the daily routine based on the sound educational principle of educating the child mentally, physically and emotionally.

Vincent Viezbicke is typical of the modern career-minded athletic instructor. His program at Lincoln is not unique though his clinics are his own invention . . . there are many similar plans in many other schools all over the country. The Athletic Institute points out that it is not enough to keep a child busy and active . . . his mind must be interested. These youngsters at Lincoln are learning to meet the tensions of modern, everyday competition.

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