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"BUILDERS OF QUALITY HOMES"
One of the most attractive things about America is the soft and sparkling beauty of its homes at Christmas time. The once-a-year preoccupation of its citizens with tinsel, evergreens and lights brings about a splendor transforming small and large homes alike into colorful jewels . . . warm and inviting.

Soft beams of candlelight flicker through miniature old English lamp posts in a Christmas centerpiece. The miniature lamp posts are mounted on plastic columns wrapped in white satin ribbon, with evergreen branches and red carnations around the base. Perfect for a buffet table.
PINE CONES and spruce on the front door . . . a poinsettia plant by the fireplace . . . red carnations in the dining room . . . these are just a few suggestions for your Christmas decorations.

The real holiday season — running from Christmas Eve on December 24 to New Year’s Day — is so relatively short that most flowers you choose will stand up well during the entire time. A blooming plant tells better than any other symbol the true Christmas story of the nativity and the promise of new life.

The Yuletide spirit should be evident from the time the visitor first sees your doorstep. Outlining the doorway with spruce is always a good idea or try wrapping the front door as if it were a large gift package. Another idea is to fasten a toy sleigh to the center of the door and load it with tiny packages (illustrated on Page 4). The miniature sleigh can be attached to the door-knocker with wire, then banked with pine cones, Christmas balls, a bow of red ribbons, and branches sprayed with white flocking.

On your Christmas shopping tour, don’t pass up the dime store for unusual accessories to use with your flower arrangements. For example, reproductions of old English lampposts, complete with a tiny candle inside a swinging door, are perfect for a buffet (see illustration on page 3). The lampposts can be mounted on plastic columns wrapped in white satin ribbon. Put evergreen branches and red carnations around the base. Green and silver Christmas balls and white flocked branches complete the Christmas color scheme.

The unique, the original, the unusual — all of these have their place in Christmas decorations to mark your home as a place of warmth and cheer. You can make some lovely ribbon flower decorations with nothing more than a pair of scissors and ordinary satin ribbon. For example, two little violet-colored shoestring bows tied together crosswise with a narrow strand of gold ribbon make perky little violets that look almost real. Or, you can even make attractive decorations with soapsuds. Whip up some suds to the consistency of thick cream and decorate windows and mirrors with a jolly Santa face, “Merry Christmas” lettering, snowmen, icicles, candles and many other signs of the season.

When it comes to lighting, strings, festoons, stars, projector flood lamps, molded plastic Santa faces and canes, electric candles, wreaths and signs are easy-to-use aids. Begin at your door where there is nothing more effective than a handsome wreath of Christmas greens. If you are fortunate enough to have some shrubbery or trees, they lend themselves to the conventional treatment with outdoor strings.
The James Cagney house in Beverly Hills, California, rings with laughter and music. Perhaps you didn't know it, but Hollywood's most famous star is quite a musician. In the photo at the left you see the Cagney family gathered around the piano for an evening of song, with Jimmy strumming away on his guitar. At the right is an informal shot of Jimmy and his wife on the stairs leading to the upper floor. The gay carpet pattern matches their smiles.

June Allyson tees off in the living room of her lovely California home, pictured above. Don't worry, though, the house boasts a rumpus room, and June is just doing a bit of showing off for the cameraman. The room, you will note, is furnished in a combination of modern and traditional. Walls are pine paneled, and hanging on the wall directly behind the famous Paramount star are portraits of her two children. In the photo at the left you see a close-up of that attractive table, with June arranging the flower centerpiece that takes the spotlight away from the actress — or nearly does. Guess how many people the couch will seat? You figure it out.

Art Linkletter, star of CBS Radio's "People Are Funny" and "House Party," groups his family of five children into a pyramid portrait. Seated are Jack 17, Mrs. Linkletter and Dawn 14. Behind them Robert, 9, Diana 5, and Sharon, 7, are topped by their popular Pop. The Linkletter home is a charming place, beautifully landscaped, with its own swimming pool. The living room, in which this photo is taken, is furnished in modern.
HOW CAN YOU divide a room, or break up a room into areas intended for specific functions, without causing claustrophobia? It can be done, and done beautifully, as well as economically. Illustrated on these two pages are a few of the various types of room dividers that are easily adaptable to any home and will add considerably to the charm of that home.

The famous architectural team of Frank B. Hunt and Robert S. Kitchen, for example, used obscure glass as the room divider in a home built to their design. This is shown in the picture directly above.

The pebbled glass, framed in simple wood, separates a hallway from the dining room and provides a dramatic entry-way as well as privacy for the dining room. The contractor who built this divider used vertical members of 2 x 3 Douglas fir, with the glass set 3/8" in wood stocks projecting 3/8" beyond posts used for supports.

This divider was left open at the top to permit the ceiling lines to “flow through” and to add to the feeling of spaciousness. The post shown in the photo is structural and supports the ceiling.

The four vertical panels of glass are divided by the ver-
tical wooden members. All of the wood used was painted to harmonize with the rest of the home.

The other side of this divider was made attractive by a space, recessed into the floor, for planters.

Frosted glass also was used by Architect Benjamin Lippold in another home, pictured at the right, first photo at the top. Lippold used the glass framed and inset with two shelves for plants.

The horizontal fluted glass is supported with 2 x 6 wooden framing on a 3 x 3 base. Cross bars of polished oak serve as shelves for plants and give additional support to the divider.

The Lippold divider separates the entrance from the dining and living areas. Here Lippold has also used a break through from the kitchen which combines a breakfast nook with an attractive counter top for passing food through to the dining room shown in picture below. The counter top is wide enough on the kitchen side to accommodate low back stools for quick snacks or a hurried breakfast. Lippold surfaced the counter with Formica continued around on the other flat surfaces of the kitchen.

The parachute cloth method, second from bottom, has also proved popular in many homes. The cloth is hung from a track fastened directly to the ceiling. The aluminum track can be recessed into the ceiling, but it is less expensive to attach it to the surface. The cloth itself is attached to a standard curtain pull. When it is open, the cloth separates any area and can be used to divide any room in the house. In this illustration it divides the dining from the living areas.

This type of divider gives privacy while at the same time permitting the entry of natural light. When pulled way back, the cloth also serves a double purpose as a window hanging or a drape.

Architect Frank Robert has, in effect, used three dividers in the hallway living room area of a home he designed, pictured at the bottom of Page 6. Near the entrance is a folding screen, used to block off a small side room. The sliding accordion door seen in the photo conceals the entrance to a bedroom and the divider separating the hall from the living room is a simple wooden frame with frosted glass inset. Plant boxes on the top add a touch of color.
ZONE your HEATING

The growth in public acceptance of automatic heating during the last five years has itself been matched by tremendous engineering advances made in automatic controls. The thermostat is without doubt the "key" to the heating system.

The cost of automatic heating control is small as compared to the cost of the home — normally less than one per cent. Yet heating controls are extremely important. They automatically start and stop the burner to control the heat for comfort, saving costly fuel through efficient operation of the furnace. A standard thermostat is usually included with the furnace or boiler. The important thing is to make sure that it is the type of thermostat you want. Is it adapted to the needs of your particular house and household? Does it have proper control features with most up-to-date improvements? Any heating contractor will gladly explain the type of thermostat best suited to your individual needs.

Homes that are small and compact usually do not need more than one thermostat. But in the case of a larger home zone control is the more efficient method of heating. Each area or zone is provided with its own electronic thermostat and automatic control system which rations out the heat.

This new system has many advantages over a single thermostat in the large home. It can supply less heat to the sunny side of your house while increasing the supply to the cold, windy side. It can supply extra heat when necessary to basement amusement rooms or to any other special selection. It can automatically lower the temperature in the bedrooms for your sleeping comfort at night and then have the rooms cozy-warm for dressing each morning. It will keep glassed-in areas and second floor rooms comfortable in all weather. It will offset the effects of kitchen and fireplace heat. It will allow you to save fuel by reducing temperatures in zones not in use.

Take the basement recreation room, for example. Because it is below ground level, this room is somewhat special in its heating requirements. It is practically unaffected by the weather conditions which determine the need for heat on the main floor. Instead, its heat requirements are determined by the temperature of the surrounding earth. In the early fall when the ground is still warm, the basement is quite easily heated as compared with conditions in the spring when the soil is cold. Quite obviously, the thermostat upstairs would be very ineffective in controlling the temperature in this part of the home.

Zone Control is the answer for this and other heating problems which arise in a home of more than an average number of rooms.
What was it that Shakespeare said about names? What's in a name? Well, there's plenty these days and if yours is just plain ordinary good American Smith, Brown or Jones, it can add individuality to your home when used on one of the new name markers that front so many modern homes. The same thing goes for numbers. Taken off the front door and displayed on one of these markers they become more than mere numbers — they're decorations that add a sparkling new note of distinction to the home.

Visit your local hardware store one of these days and look at some of the latest designs in house markers — comic figures, animals, carriages, automobiles — variety enough to please all tastes. Several are shown in the photos below. No. 19 Hilltop Road stands out boldly against a rich background of shrubbery, visible to all who are interested. A funny little waistcoated Negro holding a lamp takes the spotlight in the next photo at the right. A somewhat similar figure is pictured at the lower left, holding the number 82, and at bottom right there's a quaint old surrey with the number suspended from it on a wooden shingle.

Photos by Robert Wallach
A HOME Office

Here's an idea which can well be adapted to your home. It is a simple and comparatively inexpensive, yet entirely functional and highly efficient "home office" built in the space which nearly always is completely wasted area beneath the stairway.

Kenneth R. MacDonald, who specializes in writing articles about homes and home construction for national magazines, decided to experiment with his own home, working with a builder.

This home, a two-story structure, has a space off the hallway and under the stairs to the second floor. For some time this space remained just that . . . unused space with the beams still exposed and nothing but rough wood floor and open studs. It was quickly transformed into the cozy little nook shown in the picture above.

Such a room under the stairs could be utilized by the housewife as a private nook for her kitchen records, telephone, etc., or as a sewing room. Or it could become a very special room for the hobbyist or simply an attractive and comfortable place to do the telephoning.

The area of the room, typical of many beneath the stairs catch alls, is slightly less than 8 feet long and 5 feet wide.

The contractor used the underside of three stair risers for shelves, adding pieces of \( \frac{3}{4} \)" lumber \( 9\frac{1}{2}" \times 38\frac{1}{2}". Braced with quarter rounds nailed to the sidewalls, these become shelves to hold the odds and ends of supplies a business magazine writer requires.

The contractor purchased two wooden transfer cases at an office furniture supply store for \$2 each; nailed one atop the other and raised both approximately 5" to create a single 30" tall two drawer filing cabinet. A piece of half inch plywood \( 30" \times 24" \) was nailed to one side of the cabinet and two pieces \( 12\frac{1}{2}" \times 18" \) were nailed to the drawer fronts, after which new and attractive brass drawer pulls were added.

The completed file cabinet was used at one end of the 8 foot area as the base for the custom built desk top, with the other end of the desk supported by strips nailed to the walls.
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