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AUGUST, 1957

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"BUILDERS OF QUALITY HOMES"
When the owner of this house realized that his family was outgrowing it, he looked around for a practical method of providing needed room. The best solution appeared to be the utilization of the attic, which, until then, had been used mainly as a storage catch-all.

Realizing that experience is the best teacher, this homeowner decided to consult others in the neighborhood who had similar homes and who had undertaken similar projects. The result was a collection of do's and don'ts that proved very helpful. One adviser ruefully admitted that in building a bedroom in his attic he had made the mistake of closing off all access to the area under the eaves, so when a leak developed in the roof he had great difficulty in finding and repairing it. Another consultant had planned to use that under-eaves area for storage, but made the mistake of putting in such a small door to the area that it was almost impossible to get such items as trunks into the space.

Armed with the best available advice, the family decided that the next step was to make a rough sketch of the proposed room. They wanted not only a bedroom, but a study, and a playroom where their son could entertain friends, and where he would have ample room to store his toys.

They decided to make as the focal point of the room a wall containing a recessed bed on casters; a built-in chest of drawers; a bookcase on casters, to hide the entrance to the trunk-storage area under the eaves; and a removable baseboard in the bed recess to conceal an aperture for storing a four-foot by six-foot track platform, mounted on casters, for a toy train.

The bed recess was designed for the middle of the largest wall area. So the bed could serve as a sofa in the daytime this recess was made 13 inches deep. Pushing it in this far gave more room area for play. When pulled out at night, the full bed can be used for sleeping. Since the young occupant of the room enjoyed playing with his electric train, it was set up permanently on a platform. To provide hidden storage with easy access, the baseboard behind the bed was made removable. The platform was equipped with casters, so it can be pushed through the aperture into the area under the eaves.

A dormer at the front of the room was utilized as a study nook, since there was adequate room for a desk, and it provided a semi-detached air for serious pursuits. Flanking the dormer on either side two large closets were laid out, one for clothes and one for toy and other storage. The final sketch showed an open rectangle (12'-9" x 8'-6") in the center so that, even when the bed was pulled out to use the train, there was ample room for play.

After the sub-flooring had been put down, it was decided to mark out the plan with chalk on the floor, exactly as it would be when completed. This presented a chance of better visualization and resulted in a change

The small dormer in unfinished attic may seem to be useful for little. But it was transformed into a study alcove. Closet at right and one at other side of dormer give ample storage for toys and clothes.

Photos by Western Pine Association
Bottom photo shows bed pulled out of recess, so its full width is available for sleeping. Excellent planning enables wall of attic bedroom, playroom and study to yield a maximum of utility. Among the features of the wall are an aperture at floor level, exposed by lifting the baseboard, through which a 4 x 6 track board for toy train slides on casters.

Top photo shows bed made and pushed back into recess in morning. Recessed bookcase at left rolls out on casters to expose a large enough opening to the under-eaves storage space for easy access with trunks and other bulky objects. Note also recessed chest of drawers at the right. Idaho white pine paneling was chosen for the wall.
that might not otherwise have been made. The planniers saw that by angling one of the closet walls slightly they could increase the size of the storage area without detracting from the open feeling that they wanted to maintain.

Now it was time to select the materials. After shopping around and consulting their lumber dealer, this family concluded that for long service and easy maintenance, economy and attractive appearance the best choice for the paneling on the lower walls was knotty western pine. Random widths of Idaho white pine, one of the ten popular paneling varieties from the western pine forest, were chosen. To give a feeling of spaciousness, a wall paper with a pattern of space ships was chosen for the upper walls and ceiling.

With careful planning completed, actual work was started. A plate and studs of 2 x 4's were installed for the walls, leaving an opening for the bed recess and train board opening. The inner wall serves as a stop for the bed when it is pushed in. However, the train board, which is six feet long, passes under that inner wall through the opening revealed by the removable baseboard, and extends almost to the eaves. A horizontal 2 x 4 was carried across the plate of the inner wall, high enough to allow the train board to slide under. Another 2 x 4 was carried across at the top of the bed opening in the outer wall. Then the interior of the recess was closed up with plaster board. Then the enclosures for the bookcase and chest of drawers were framed up.

When the framing was in, they tackled the problem of wiring. Local regulations were checked to insure compliance, and the utility company was queried to make certain that there were a sufficient number of circuits in the house for such future projects as air conditioning. Since it is well to allow wood to adjust to the particular atmospheric conditions in which it is to be used prior to installation, the knotty western pine boards were stacked in the attic in such a manner that air could circulate through the stacks. During the week that the wood was stacked plaster board was installed on the upper walls and ceiling.

Before the installation, the paneling was rubbed with steel wool to insure a smooth surface and cutouts were made in those panels covering electric outlet boxes. To make the most economical use of the random-width panels, each section of the room was measured carefully and panels were shuffled until a proper fit was achieved. The panels were then blind-nailed for neat appearance.

To give a finished appearance, a strip of moulding with a routed circle design was installed at the top of the paneled portion of the wall. Half-round moulding was used around the doors to minimize the dusting problem. To carry out the unit of feeling, a tongue-and-groove pine flooring was then laid. The natural warmth of the knotty pine paneling was preserved with a finish of clear varnish and paste wax, while the floor was treated only with liquid wax, which was buffed.

All of the work was done by a local carpenter at comparatively little cost.

The finished room is light and pleasant and rugged enough to withstand the punishment that a boy and his friends can inflict. The decor is such, however, that while sturdy, it provides a touch of luxury. The success of this project highlights the advantages of careful planning that is the best insurance of a satisfactory conclusion.

After school, recessed bed makes a fine place for reading and as a center for listening to the latest records.
Perhaps you are wondering where to place that new built-in stove, which you are considering for your kitchen. A comparatively recent innovation, the separate oven, as it is sometimes called, owes its popularity to the fact that it can be installed at a height convenient for your use, and in a spot that will add to the efficiency of your kitchen layout.

Strangely enough, this first mentioned feature was once found in the high-oven ranges of yesterday. You may not remember it, but Grandma can tell you she could use her oven and clean it without stooping or bending, as is the case in the cabinet-type range. Fortunately, we have regained this advantage with the built-in, and there is still further advantage in the fact that the oven and surface cooking unit do not have to be used at the same location in the kitchen, thereby reducing heat in the main working area.

Scientists, who are always trying to make life easier for us, have found that the most desirable locations for the built-in stove are: opposite the mix counter and sink; at the extreme end of the kitchen arrangement next to serving counters; in any work area that is isolated from the others; or in a corner between any two centers.

In addition to making life easier for the cook, these ovens usually allow for that precious commodity—cooking space—underneath both cooking units. The hard-to-clean area between the counter and the range also vanishes because the burners can be built right into the counter.

Separate ovens can be installed in wood and metal cabinets, or they can be built into a masonry wall.

WHERE TO PLACE YOUR BUILT-IN STOVE

Above, a big advantage to the separate oven is that it can be installed at a convenient height, eliminating all stooping and bending. This feature once was found in high-oven ranges, but later gave way to the streamlined kitchen with its cabinet-type range. Below, a small kitchen benefits from the built-in oven in two ways. It does not require precious floor space and, at the same time, its wall position actually enhances the appearance of the room. In this kitchen, the counter burners are located behind the brick wall at the left.
Your Garage or Carport can lead a double life

If your garage or carport serves merely as a shelter for the family car, you are wasting valuable space. According to today's concept of house planning, the garage or carport can easily be designed to provide:

The most convenient and cheapest storage area for garden equipment, porch and lawn furniture, bicycles, baby carriages, and general bulk storage. (Storage units can be installed at the side-walls and end-walls of a garage or a carport.)

Utility area for laundry equipment.
Clothes-drying space.
Workshop area.
Play space for children on cold and rainy days.
Terrace space or porch for outdoor living.
Shelter for the house against winter winds.
The multiple purposes, for which the shelter for the automobile will be used, will help to determine whether the shelter will be a garage or carport, its location, and its size.

In regions of cold weather, drifting snows or driving rains, there is little choice—a garage is the logical shelter. A garage is also preferred if the space is to be used as a protected clothes-drying area, a cold weather play area for children, or a workshop.

A carport should be considered if sheltering the car from the sun is the primary objective, if the solid walls of a garage would cut out light and summer breezes from the house, if the solid walls of a garage would appear to block the approach to the house or crowd it, if the carport can also serve as a porch or terrace, or if the cost is a consideration.

Instead of a double garage, this house has a carport and a single garage. The carport also serves as a covered outdoor living area. Storage space is provided in one wall of the carport.

Space over the hood of the car can be utilized for storage of screens, garden equipment, etc., in a minimum garage.

Storage units form one wall of this carport. Raised sidewalk and roof of carport provide pleasant covered outdoor area.

This double garage is arranged so that there is a raised laundry area along the wall which opens into the kitchen. Storage units are built into the opposite wall. Two 9-foot garage doors are used for convenience.
WIRING YOUR WORKSHOP

The problem of correctly wiring your workshop is important. The installation of branch circuits that will conform with your electrical code is, however, a simple job and one easily done by a licensed electrician. The first step is to check with the electric company in your own locality for their requirements. All work must be done according to their service rules and the local electrical code.

Figure 1 shows an ideal arrangement for the typical workshop. This wiring scheme consists of two branch circuits, each independent of the other. One line is used for shop lighting, while the other furnishes outlets for the power tools. Two reasons for these separate circuits are: if a machine is overloaded and blows a fuse, the lighting circuit is unaffected and you still have light in your shop to see to make your repairs or adjustments. The second reason is to avoid dimming of lights when operating your power tools.

The two lines should be rated at 15 ampere lines. Since you use only one machine at a time, the total load on the power line will be no greater than the rated amperage drain shown on the motor. If more machines are operated at the same time the total current drain should not exceed 15 amperes. Installing fuses of larger than 15 ampere size will probably subject your wiring to more current than it can safely carry. If your equipment blows 15 ampere circuit fuses, you need more circuits, not heavier fuses.

The installation should be started as shown in Figure 2. Attach the two extra leads to bring the current to the extra fuse box, Figure 3. This box is equipped with a breaker switch and should be located high above the floor. The breaker switch should be equipped so that it may be locked in the open position. It is located near the ceiling so that you must stand on a small ladder or box to throw the switch, then no unauthorized person can operate any of the machines. This is an excellent safety measure where there are small children who may inadvertently start one of the machines. This switch makes such an accident impossible.

The two circuits are encased in conduit and fitted with outlets at convenient intervals. The ceiling light fixtures should be fastened securely in place and wired as shown in Figure 4. The sockets should be of the pull chain switch variety. This will enable you to economize in efficiently lighting your shop. There should be a wall switch mounted near the door to your workshop, see Figure 1. A utility box equipped with a toggle or push type switch having a steel cover should be used.

The conduit or armored cable (BX) is fastened securely to the walls and ceiling with straps or staples. In connecting the cable to the outlets a fiber bushing should be inserted between the end of the cable and the wire. The cable is set in connectors and tightened by means of the clamp.

The most frequently used tool in this homecraftsman’s shop is the scroll saw. Therefore, it’s placed conveniently between the workbench and sander/jointer. In this position it is equally convenient from the other work positions. Ample wiring is provided.
In some localities the law requires that all wiring below ground level be encased in conduit. In others BX is permissible.

The wire used in the lighting circuit should be no smaller than No. 14 and in the circuit for the power outlets, we recommend using No. 12. The wire which carries the extra circuit to your workshop box should be No. 8 and should be as short as possible, preferably only a few inches.

The main switch shown in Figure 2 should be turned off so that the entire service line from the meter is dead. Finish the necessary connections and insert the fuses and then the switch can be thrown in.

This magazine comes to you through the courtesy of the builder whose name appears on the front cover, in cooperation with the qualified firms listed in other portions of the magazine. It would be greatly appreciated if you would drop a note to the builder, telling him how you like the magazine. Any suggestions which you may have for the contents of the magazine will also be welcomed.
THIS YEAR, when you are considering gifts for your friends and family, why not think of one for your home? Gifts for the home are practical—and most wanted. Suggestions are endless and the decision depends entirely on the needs and the budget. You may select anything from a wall rack to a new roof.

And speaking of new roofs, why not? If your present roof has reached the stage where it can no longer be repaired economically, check with your roofer about replacing it with a new one. You will find that it is not as expensive as you think.

Another good suggestion for your home gift is an extra room. If your family is growing, if you are crowded for space, why not turn that old attic or the basement into a finished room? Your money will be well spent. Not only will you be relieving the crowded condition in your home, but you will be adding to the value of the home.

Does your home need a new driveway? How about a new bathtub? Hardware and plumbing fixtures in the home often wear out. This is a good opportunity to replace them. There are new lighting fixtures on the market, new types of lamps that offer scientific illumination. Perhaps your windows need venetian blinds or new curtains and drapes. Perhaps, too, your home could stand a new set of storm windows and screens.

The various members of the family may have their own ideas as to what the home needs. Mother may want a new boudoir chair, or the more luxurious chaise lounge. A dressing table is another suggestion that is equally suitable for either mother or the daughter of the family. Any gift for the home is a gift for mother.

Dad will be thrilled with a new easy chair, a valet stand or a new chest-on-chest that will accommodate his shirts and other personal belongings.

Just one more suggestion—a little additional fire insurance. You may not have adequate coverage on your home and furnishings. Your home would be highly pleased with some extra protection.

A new modern bathtub, a driveway, a reading lamp for the youngsters, a remodeled kitchen. make ideal gifts for the home.
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