

Building Improvements

SMALL HOMES • STORES APARTMENTS MODERNIZATION

BEAUTY with dependable DURABLE PAINTS

Did You Know?
That your home can be painted and decorated NOW—and that you can pay for the work over a two-year period—with no down payment.

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OLD ENTRANCES MAY BE CHANGED INTO NEW ONES

Modern entrance doors for old homes, in stock designs, cost little to install. Many older houses have an unattractive front entrance door which greatly detracts from the appearance of the home. Oftentimes the exterior of the house is not otherwise bad.

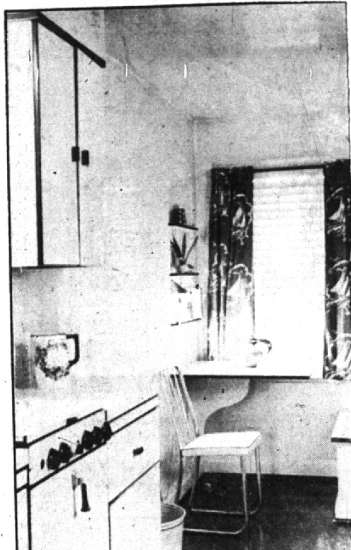
You may be able to recondition your home and bring it further up to date at slight cost by simply removing the old entrance and frame and substituting a new, fresh design.

There are some houses that seem to invite one to come right in, most always the effect of the entrance doorway is responsible for the hospitable air. But just any doorway will not do. The entrance must harmonize with the design of the house and be in perfect proportion.

One of the details by which you can modernize your home is by removing the present old entrance doorway which is probably outmoded, worn and better discarded and replaced with an attractive and correctly designed front doorway.

This is not such an expensive task as one would think, for there are any number of well-designed and nicely-constructed doorways available to the home owner from stock designs. Treat your house to a new entrance; it will help to make your home attractive and make better first impressions.

BREAKFAST NOOK



Small kitchens have a way of never providing quite enough room for all the necessary needed conveniences. Here is a small but efficient breakfast nook built into one end of a long, narrow kitchen that answers all the requirements of a hasty meal yet has the charm of a well furnished room.

HOW TO PLAN A BACK-YARD 'LIVING ROOM'

The back yard is coming into its own, for not only is it possible to beautify that space, but it has privacy and quiet and can be made much more than a place in which to hang the clothes and keep the garbage pails.

Back yards may be improved with many delightful adjuncts such as tables, chairs, sun umbrellas, sun dials, bird baths, an outdoor fireplace may be easily and inexpensively built in a small space. It may be of stone or cement or brick and will be a very convenient place in which outdoor meals may be prepared for a picnic lunch in the garden.

If you may have a garden pool or a swimming pool or an outdoor shower installed in the back yard, and playthings are great favorites with the children. The driveway may be turned into a play court, especially if it is of concrete and any number of sidewalk games may be played on the concrete and placed thereon as well as providing a place for roller-skating for the children.

Keep Sidewalks In Good Condition

Cracked sidewalks or driveways present accident hazards. In New York City alone in one year about 15,000 people tripped or fell on sidewalks and streets and were seriously or fatally injured.

By a system of reinforcing the concrete it is practically impossible for sidewalks to burst open when roots of trees grow under them or extreme weather causes the concrete to contract or expand.

Cold-drawn electrically welded steel-wire mesh is laid under the concrete. This invisible metal mesh offers resistance to strains which the materials of the sidewalk itself cannot give.

LAWNS AND GARDENS

Lawns and gardens are apt to suffer from not enough water rather than from too much. Good watering equipment such as sprinklers, hose and outlets will help.

REPAIR PLASTER CRACKS

When bad cracks appear in the plaster of the ceiling, they should be cut out and all loose plaster removed. Sometimes a crack indicates a loosening of a large section of plaster.

PAINT EDGE OF STAIR WHITE

A narrow strip of white paint along the edge of each tread on a dark stair will increase the visibility of each step. Many an accident occurred on dark stairs that is due to the poor visibility.

PERENNIALS

Perennials for edging and borders are the coral bell, the hardy candytuft, the coral flower. These are especially fine for neat and attractive foliage at all times.

Build That Home Now!

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Night Light Is Safety Precaution

How many bumps and abrasions might be avoided by a little light glowing in the darkness—not to speak of the falls or more serious accidents.

There has been developed recently a small lamp that is called "The Nite-Lite" which is just the thing to give a soft illumination to halls, stairways and nurseries or any dark spot in the house which is frequently used, and its operating cost is as little as a half cent per night.

It can be installed quickly by an electrical contractor and if you are now burning a lamp of great wattage, the saving in current consumption will soon more than pay for the cost of putting in the Nite-Lite.

Here's New Idea In Home-Planning

If you are to have a garden in the rear of your house, why not place the living rooms at the rear overlooking this spot of beauty and fragrance, and where your main rooms will be quiet and free from the noise of the street?

Planting against the front of your house with shrubs, closely massed, will make an interesting picture from the street and if the kitchen is so located as to have one wall toward the street, it will be a delivery of supplies quite easy.

NEW PLASTER WILL DEADEN SOUNDS

Sound absorbing plaster with its air pockets that prevent the deflection of sound waves, thus deadening them without excessive reverberation, controls the sound within the room. It comes in white and colors, and its finished surface is normal wear and tear and reflecting without loss of efficiency.

Acoustical plaster may be used with good effect in bedrooms, parlor rooms, and other sections of the household where sound control is desirable.

PHLOX

Phlox is an easily grown annual. There are two distinct types, the grandiflora which is large flowering and grows to the height of four feet and the compacta or dwarf types which grow about eight inches tall. The grandiflora has the finest cluster of clusters but does not produce the flowers so lavishly. The compacta is easy to grow and bedding and are much freer of bloom.

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PROVINCIAL STYLE HAS CHARM AND PERMANENCE

The French Provincial style, simple in its outline and very domestic in its treatment, is greatly admired by many people. The walls are usually of stone or brick and have an almost universal appeal.

Stone as a building material gives to the person who owns a home the feeling of great permanence and security. Stone is one of the oldest building materials and until quite recently has been considered one of the most expensive, but today there are certain stone materials available and new methods of laying them which will lower the cost of this type of construction.

Stone veneer backed up with concrete for an exterior of a house, with insulation behind the stone, results in a well insulated building and greater all-year-round comfort than most types of construction. Insulation does not add to the cost of a home in the long run, for it is a fact that the owner who does not have insulation pays for it anyway.

In laying up stone veneer on the outside walls of a building the concrete is poured around them. The flat side of the stones is flush with the exterior wall face. Then when the forms are removed, the joints of the stone are pointed up with mortar.

ATTIC SHOWER

Why not install a shower in the attic? There are many corners where an extra shower can be placed to advantage.

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Glass
BLOND WOODS PROVE POPULAR FOR INTERIORS
The vogue for blond woods continues unabated and has resulted in many interesting developments among the light finishes. It was modern furniture that first made extensive use of the pale woods, and the natural or bleached maple, the gray English hardwood, and the straw-colored acacia, have become quite familiar to us in contemporary styles.
Now many of the time honored cabinet woods have been given light finishes. Oak appears to be a silver gray tone that gives it a less austere look. Walnut has been bleached to a very light brown tone and comes also in a golden finish that strikes a medium between the natural and bleached shades.
The most interesting experiments in light finishes, however, have been in mahogany—sometimes called sun-tan, the soft beige of the pickled finish, and the creamy colors of the bleached wood.
Both the pickled and bleached finishes are very light but there is a difference in tone and the method of producing them is different. The bleached woods have had practically all the natural color removed before the final finish is applied. The pickled woods, on the other hand, generally have delicate stains applied to them after bleaching, so that a certain amount of color is restored to the wood. They are softer in effect than the bleached finishes and more attractive for some types of furniture. The pickled finishes, for instance, are used more frequently for furniture in the traditional style such as 18th century pieces in pine or mahogany. The bleached finishes are more often found in furniture in the contemporary style.
BUILDING OF CHIMNEY INFLUENCES HEATING
Sound chimney construction is essential to the efficient operation of any heating plant. Many complaints regarding inefficient heating plants are traceable to faulty chimney construction. Attention given to this important matter assures the home owner of a comfortable house during the winter months. Protection against fire is afforded also.
ROLL THE LAWN
A lawn should be rolled after every cutting if one desires the ultra in a velvety lawn.
For as little as 25 cents you may have a **GLASSIFIED** ad in the Birmingham Eccentric. Try one when you want extra exposure for your ad or for hiring a maid. Telephone 11 before Wednesday noon each week. (A.S.)

Paint Adds To Beauty And Protects Surface
Not only will paint protect the surface, but it will give new character to your home. Old houses may be completely transformed simply by painting and decorating the house—both inside and out.
Try a new color scheme the next time you paint. Charts on the failure to produce walls and exteriors may be obtained, from which you may develop ideas.
Furniture responds just as quickly to a new dress, and you can do wonders with a little lacquer or paint in changing color schemes and indeed the entire character of a room.

Attic Makes Snug Den for Man of House
Why not utilize the space under the roof for a room for some member of the family who would like privacy? Possibly a dark room for photographic purposes, a sewing room, or a study room.
The attic is also a splendid place for the man of the family who craves a room of his own. If the attic is to be used by the man of the house why not furnish it in a more or less club-like manner, with dark painted wood floors—possibly with walls and ceilings of pine planks softly stained. Bookcases may be built-in which will fit in between the windows or in odd spaces.
POOR CARPENTRY IS FLAW IN BUILDING
The most common defect of cheap and careless carpentry is the failure to produce walls and partitions that are truly vertical, plumb and straight, and floors that are really level. It is not uncommon in cheap work to find rooms where the floors are over an inch out of level, since this variation is not perceptible to the eye.
The pity of poor carpentry is that after the plastering, painting, etc., is completed, faulty frame work cannot be corrected without great expense.