

DOWN TO EARTH

Discuss Modern Garden Design

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

At this time of the year when we do considerable armchair planning for garden or new land development, we appreciate sturdy good visual aids to help map a course of action.

Recently I reviewed many fine ideas in the new book, "Gardens Are for People," by Thomas D. Church. The review was only partially completed, so you may be excited to learn more practical ideas from this book.

Modern garden design is based on the Japanese concept of planning.

WHILE PLANNING, driveway design, more and more home owners plan on having it possible for a car to come right up to the doorway from the official garage driveway. Less lawn to cut, men, and this detail would be very welcome at times of unfavorable weather.

Raised flower beds are an important "detail" for any garden. At least one such detail in the total garden is a good rule to follow.

It is fun to poke around and execute impromptu gardening when it is elevated.

The flower bed becomes more important in the design, therefore the contents should be well chosen. Remember to have plant interest every season which will call for some evergreens which are slow growing and small.

THE RETAINING WALL is very important. Be sure to plan on its being wide enough to sit on. Terraces are for entertaining, so plan on a large surface with electrical outlets established before heavy construction begins.

If you have a small square now, you can use this as a core and increase the size by similar construction. Or use the concrete formed

of a wash tub painted black with pink geraniums. Redwood benches and furniture are practical. Terraces constructed as decks for difficult topography assignments are generally shown, with construction explained. This idea is widely used on the West coast. They easily incorporate existing trees and allow ample moisture for the tree's welfare.

IF YOU HAVE acreage, you might like to have a snooting terrace under a tree where you can get lost with a book. A detail could be nicely executed by using railroad beams cut to six inches for a flooring.

Such an area should be informal in design and blend appropriately with the setting. This book shows many ideas for terrace furnishing. I liked the idea

of a swimming pool, designs, and ideas for affording privacy to the owners are generously shown among the 500 illustrations in this handsome book.

After carefully thumbing thru "Gardens Are for People," you will agree that modern design is really just using common sense in garden planning with an eye to maintenance hours.

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One is Melvin Frank Reuter, 1816 E. Lincoln avenue.

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Mrs. Burlingame

We Heard It Said By:

ELMER HAACK, Southfield Township Supervisor, 1932-33, now Birmingham city assessor, at Fannie Adams Silver Anniversary Dinner. "As the twig is bent, so is the tree inclined." When Fannie first began her public service, Southfield township was a figuratively speaking, just a twig. The township now has grown into a fine tree and Fannie Adams has had a great deal to do with the fashioning of that tree."

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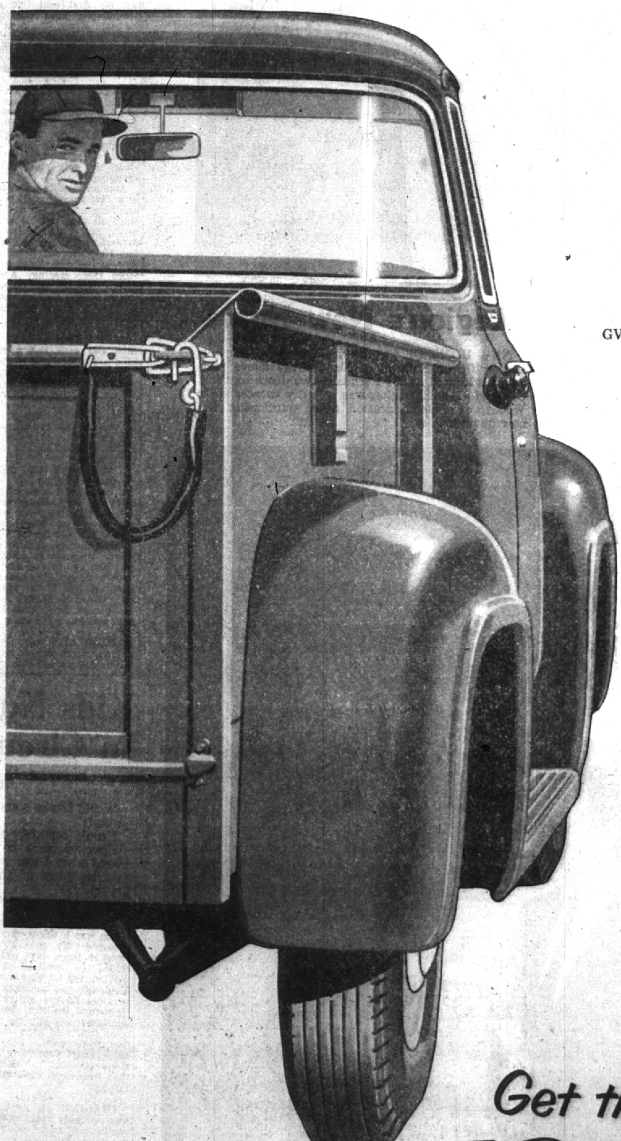
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