

'Doing It Ourselves' Apartment Described

By DENI SCANLON
Staff Writer

Did you ever look longingly at the "latest" in home furnishings in magazines? We do it often! My two roommates, Kath and Sal, read them religiously. You see, last year for the first time in our lives, we took up housekeeping in Birmingham, far from our families and furniture.

We have the neatest file of "things for the home" but as yet our ability to "buy, borrow, steal and construct."

SO WE FORGOT about our bank accounts and decided to test our ability to "buy, borrow, steal and construct." The Hugh Farrells of Lincoln avenue, Birmingham, came to our aid with a glass-topped lawn table and four chairs—thus the dining room was complete. Relatives heard of our plight and suddenly we had two sets of dishes, pots and pans, (nothing matches, of course) canned goods, two beds, an army cot, a grass mat rug, several lamps, two dozen glass peanut butter jars and scads of plants to accent our impenetrable jungle.

THANKS TO SAL, who made friends with a young artist, we now have pictures on the wall. Kath is handy with our hammer (donated by my Dad) and has finished off (and I mean it!) two chests of drawers, a planter and is now devising plans for bookshelves. I recently completed a mahogany table (started last September) with the guidance of several fathers, one uncle and an industrial arts major friend from college. Needless to say, next time I start to build anything, I'm the word.

I STILL CAN remember coming home late one night to find my roommates nearly intoxicated from the smell of paint they had been slapping on the walls. The twosome had used every bit of turpentine, paint thinner and nail polish remover in the house and were struggling to clean their hands. It was nearly midnight when we drove into our favorite gas station to borrow "anything that would get rid of all the excess paint!"

WITH THE WALLS now painted, colors and furnishings are beginning slowly to blend into a more polished version of "our very first home."

Storing Saw Blades
Power saw blades keep clean and rust free while stored if they are wiped lightly with an oily cloth and then wrapped in heavy waxed paper before they are put away.

Color-Tag
A dab of its paint on the outside of a closed can of used paint will identify its contents by color at a glance.

To Store Tape
Don't discard that old cellulose tape dispenser. It's just as handy to store and dispense your electrician's tape.

NEED SOMETHING FOR YOUR HOUSE? Then locate it by reading or using the Classified Ads in The Eccentric each week.

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Landscaping Is 'Showcase' Of the Home

What do neighbors think of the appearance of your home property? Is it pleasing from the street? Do people, in passing, think "I'd like to live there?"

Often the answer to this question is to be found in the character of the landscaping, which in effect provides the "showcase" of the home. Sometimes the planting of a single tree or a few shrubs can change the whole aspect. A flowering tree or shrub, well placed, or evergreens that keep their green all year add "life" to the property.

TEST THE "curbside" rating of your home by standing on the sidewalk and asking yourself the following questions as suggested by the American Association of Nurserymen:

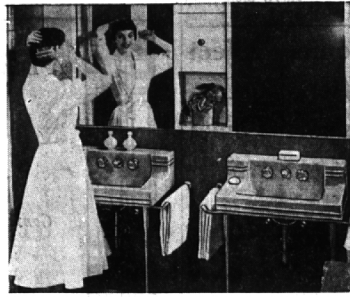
1. Is the home blended naturally into the landscape, presenting a pleasing aspect from the curb, both winter and summer?
2. Is the foundation of the home bare, or well-planted?
3. Are the foundation plantings well cared for, obscuring windows?
4. Are there color and variety from the use of shrubs or trees with different foliage and flower textures and forms?
5. Does the property as seen from curb "hail" the various seasons of the year?

IF THE ANSWERS to the above questions are in the negative, then it is time to call in your nurseryman for suggestions.

In some residential areas a walk along the street in the springtime is a delight to the eye with shrubs of various species aglow with different or even the same flowers on separate properties.

In summer and fall, as well as in winter, attractive plant contrasts can be shown. In winter, the dark green of coniferous and broadleaved evergreens are distinctive and beautiful against the snow. They add "life" to the property during the dormant season. For fall, various foliage colors (reds and yellows) will give the property a hospitable golden glow. Summer flowering trees and shrubs can add to the beauty of the property in the warmer months.

Cutter Shield
To protect the wheel of a glass cutter from becoming damaged by being banged around in a tool drawer, make a shield for the glass cutter. A short piece of rubber tubing slipped over the wheel end will do the job.



Twin lavatories double the usefulness of the bathroom, and are especially recommended for large families with morning traffic problems. Shown here are streamlined vitreous china fixtures with spacious wash bowls.

New Beauty Brought to Bathrooms

Just what can you do to have an attractive, remodeled bathroom? There are many important factors to be considered. First, plan very carefully before remodeling your bathroom since this room remains completely furnished with the same fixtures in the same arrangement for many years to come.

Therefore, you should select clean, simple room designs that will give privacy and convenience and you should use well-designed quality fixtures that will maintain their appeal and durability.

Cost can be kept down by placing the bathtub, lavatory and toilet against a common wall. This way, all three fixtures are close to waste and supply pipes, which means less costly piping is needed.

SINCE A NEW bathtub is installed for a long time, it is wise to select a tub made of long-wearing materials. Tubs constructed of cast iron with a thick coating of

enamel in white or color are recommended for easy cleaning and smooth appearance that will not change in continuous use. Acid-resisting finishes protect against stains and discolorations.

STANDARD RECTANGULAR tubs come in lengths of 4 1/2, 5 and 5 1/2 feet and heights of 14 and 16 inches. If you have only four feet along one wall, you want to consider the 4 foot x 4 foot square "Neo-Angle" bathtub. The roomy diagonal bathing area offers convenience and safety in its corner seats, low sides and flat bottom.

If only a very limited area is available for a tub, the small "square" bathtub is ideal as it measures as little as 38 x 39, yet there is enough space to combine adult showering and bathing facilities. In fact, since this tub takes little more space than a shower stall alone, it is suitable for converting a roomy old-fashioned closet into a semi-bathroom.

IF YOUR BATHROOM measures at least 9 x 12 feet, you may increase its usefulness by adding an extra lavatory. The installation of twin lavatories can go a long way to solving traffic jams in this all-important room.

The lavatory with combined dressing table and bowl, has be-

come increasingly popular as it couples the usefulness of the washing area with the beauty and storage capacity of a vanity.

NEW LAVATORIES feature anti-splash rims, shelf back, cast-in soap dishes and towel bars in graceful designs. A particularly attractive lavatory has off-center styling which provides greater work area and space for grooming

articles—having supplies or cosmetics. Its 24 x 20 inch dimensions give maximum convenience in a small area.

IN SELECTING new toilets, sanitation, comfort and quiet operation must be considered. Recently introduced is a toilet that hangs off the floor.

Ladder Guard

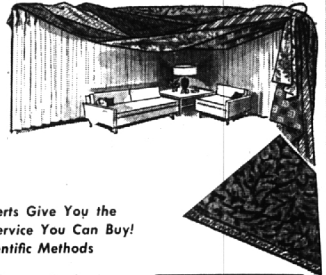
It's possible to lean an extension ladder against a wall where a window occurs if a guard of soft wood is nailed across the ladder ends. The guard must be a board at least as long as the window is wide.

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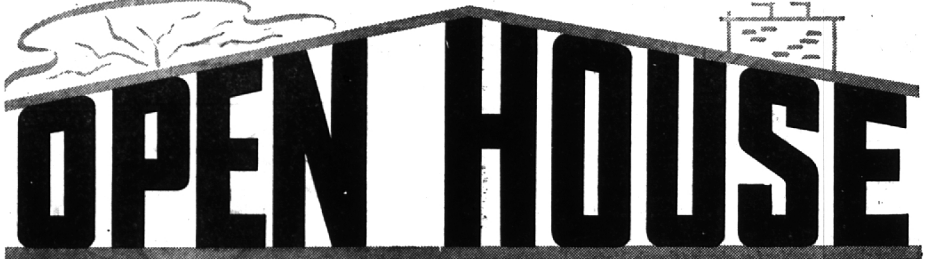
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