

Home Project Often Needs Expert Touch

In deciding how much, if any, of the work involved in a home improvement project should be done by the home-owner, it is important to make a realistic distinction between the type of jobs that may be well within his scope and others which had better be left to the professional.

Included in the latter category are replacements or repairs of columns which support roofs or canopies, work on window or door flashings, footings, etc. as well as such hazardous operations as roof, gutter or chimney work.

PLASTERING is another job that the amateur should hesitate to tackle. The proper technique of spreading plaster, especially on ceilings, is one that usually requires long years of experience to master.

Wiring is definitely "out as a do-it-yourself project. There are so many factors, such as local building codes and insurance regulations involved, to say nothing of the element of danger to family and home, that this type of work should be left to the licensed electrician.

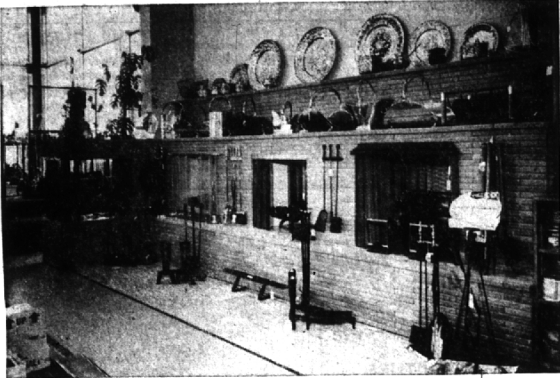
MAJOR PLUMBING projects, too, are not for the amateur. Getting skilled help in the beginning will usually save him money in the end.

Same thing goes for heating. The proper repair or installation of a heating plant calls for so much specialized knowledge and experience, that the services of a competent heating engineer afford the only sound assurance of safety, dependability and operating economy.

What, then, is left for the do-it-yourselfer to do?

AMONG THE PROJECTS that many home-owners can reasonably undertake are interior paint jobs; attic insulation; simple repairs in screens or storm sash; minor repairs to exterior walls, such as can be made by re-vening wood siding or refilling masonry joints with prepared mortar; patching holes and filling cracks in interior walls and ceilings; laying concrete walks which can be built a square at a time.

On many remodeling jobs, a sensible division of the work between the professional and the home-owner works out well. The former takes care of the structural changes while the home-owner supplies the finishing touches.



Lots and Lots of Fireplaces

Fireplaces, fireplaces and more fireplaces. All styles, models and fireplace accessories can be found at the Federal Hardware store, 12 Mile and Southfield roads. Federal Hardware also has a representative that will call at your home to help you decide on the type of screens and fixtures needed to decorate your fireplace.

Judicious Planning Is Important

You don't have to start from scratch with a brand-new house to have an efficient, attractive kitchen. By judicious planning it is often possible to create a modern kitchen in a house that's twenty-five, or even seventy-five years old.

You can take that statement on the authority of Montgomery Ferrar, noted industrial designer, who in cooperation with his partner, Carl Sundberg, has probably had a hand in the development of many labor-saving appliances for the modern kitchen as any man kitchen in a house that's twenty-five, or even seventy-five years old.

ing it is not one to be undertaken lightly. Furthermore, there is no such thing as "the" perfect kitchen. Ferrar points out. Every family's requirements are different, and the kitchen that would be perfect for the Joneses, who live across the street, may prove completely inadequate to your needs.

FOR EXAMPLE: Do you use mixers and blenders often? Do you do much or very little baking? Are you left or right handed? Do you prefer your cutting board exposed or hidden? Do you use a lot of small appliances?

After you have considered each of these points, and discussed them with the other members of your family, you'll be in a position to write out the prescription for a useful, livable kitchen expressly suited to your needs.

IN MODERNIZING your kitchen, there are three basic floor plans that you can follow. They are: 1) the galley, or back-to-back arrangement; 2) "L" plan; and 3) the "U" plan. Each has points to recommend it.

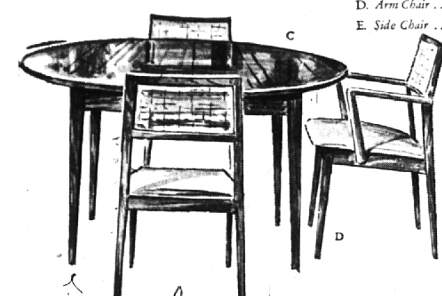
The "galley", in which the appliances and work spaces range along opposite walls with a corridor between, provides the most complete utilization of space. On the other hand, it tends to become a traffic route.

The "U" shape quite frequently adapts itself most easily to the physical characteristics of the room area available. The appliance arrangement in this shape is generally good, although it does tend to result in more steps and by-passing.

THE "U" SHAPE is generally preferred by architects and modernization experts because it reduces steps, eliminates cross traffic and results in more continuous work surfaces, with work areas adjacent to each appliance. One objection to the "U" shape is the lost storage area in the corners; however, "Lazy Susan" revolving shelves successfully overcome this handicap.

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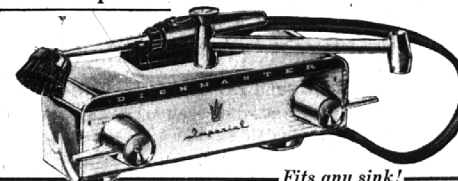
Look over your home carefully to decide on the repairs that should be taken care of now to save spending a lot of money later on. Also you may have some ideas for modernization that will add to the value of your home and increase its livability for the whole family. Use the handy list below, inserting the estimated cost of labor and materials.

| Roof | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| LEAKS REPAIRED \$ | RESHINGLE \$ |
| Downspout & Gutters | Chimney |
| REPLACE AND REPAIR \$ | REPAIR \$ |
| COMPLETE INSTALLATION \$ | CLEAN FLUES \$ |
| PAINT \$ | Parches & Steps |
| | REPLACE ROTTED WOOD \$ |
| | CARPENTRY \$ |
| | MASONRY \$ |
| | Foundation |
| | MASONRY WORK \$ |
| | OTHER \$ |
| | Floors & Windows |
| | REFINISH \$ |
| | SCREENS \$ |
| | WEATHERSTRIP \$ |

| Inside Decoration | |
|-------------------------|--|
| PAINT \$ | |
| PAPER \$ | |
| PLASTER \$ | |
| Add a Room or Modernize | |
| BEDROOM \$ | |
| BATHROOM \$ | |
| KITCHEN \$ | |
| RECREATION ROOM \$ | |

| Outside | |
|------------------------|--|
| PAINT \$ | |
| SIDING REPAIR \$ | |
| REPAIR WINDOW SILLS \$ | |
| COMBINATION WINDOWS \$ | |
| Garage | |
| ADD A NEW GARAGE \$ | |
| PAINT \$ | |

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