

Concrete Also Used In Gardens

Being a plastic material, concrete can be made to take almost any form. Add to this its fairly low cost and ease of handling in small batches by the amateur, and you can see why it is being used so widely in residential work.

Concrete is a durable material. However, if not properly mixed and handled, it will crack. It some-

times buckles on a poor foundation. Some people consider it an easy material with which to work, while others consider it difficult due to its weight, the special equipment needed, and the speed with which it must be handled before it sets. This necessary speed means that many jobs must be done quickly, as is possible with brick surfacing. The material is not too expensive, although header boards and wood forms bring up the cost. Concrete may develop "bird bath" signs and is hard to patch. You can finish concrete in a smooth or rough texture. The smooth surface is easy to clean

and polish, and it is good for games as well as dancing. It has quite a bit of glare. The rough-textured surfaces provide more traction and less glare. However, they are harder to keep clean, showing food and oil stains quite easily.

Concrete gets hot in the summer, but it is porous and will remain cool for a while after hosing. You can add a variety of colors before or after the mix is laid. Special treatment is necessary if you want a broom finish, exposed aggregate, or other texture.

Perhaps concrete's biggest drawback is its hard, commercial look. Despite its many possibilities of color, form, and texture, concrete for that reason. But the continued appearance of concrete in the designs of some of our leading landscape architects is doing much to overcome this objection.

OUTDOOR LIVING

Give More Attention To Kitchen Designs

The kitchen is having its heyday. According to Paul H. Wallwork, AIA, never before has such attention been lavished upon the design and decor of this all important area of the home.

When it comes to planning today's kitchen, the prominent architect observed, modern homemakers are ordering their efficiency packaged in an atmosphere of warmth and beauty, a situation which has fathered the most exciting kitchen designing in the history of architecture.

The interesting point about the new look in kitchens, Wallwork said, is that efficiency and beauty now go hand in hand, neither is subservient to the other. In fact, one quite often produces the other.

For example, planning the kitchen in work centers—for baking, salad and sandwich making, and so forth—where everything needed for a certain cooking operation is located within fingertip reach is wonderfully time and step-saving. However, this type of arrangement requires careful, specialized designing.

Because no two women are alike in their approach to cooking and because no two kitchens are identical in dimension, work centers within the kitchen must be carefully plotted to meet the specific requirements involved. This has resulted in an ever increasing use of wood built-ins in the kitchen be-

Tone Quality

It has been found that wood floors in music rooms or family rooms with hi-fi equipment create better tone. West coast hemlock, a popular floor, takes a beautiful light finish which adds to the room's brightness.

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Sow Those Vegetables In Neat Rows

Most vegetables are best sown in rows. To keep the garden neat and orderly, snap a line between stakes to mark each row. Run the end of a garden tool handle along the line, leaving a shallow drill in the soil.

Fine seeds like carrots, onion and beets are sown half an inch deep. Scatter seed thinly, a few to the inch, cover with fine soil and firm with head of rake or hoe.

Larger seeds, such as green peas, are sown in a shallow trench. After marking the row, make a trench with the width of a hoe blade to the depth of an inch or two. Scatter seed thinly over the entire trench bottom, refill with soil and firm. After the plants are up, support vines with pea brush or string netting.

Quick-growing salad vegetables such as leaf lettuce and radishes can be sown broadcast in patches without taking the trouble to make rows. Sow thinly to give plants space to develop and harvest when first plants are of table size.

For a season-long supply of vegetables, sow seed every other week.

To get the most benefits from your vegetable garden, be sure to sow sufficient quantities for home canning as well as for immediate consumption.

Tile Still Popular For Garden Paving

Tile is a paving material that gives the garden area a dreary, finished feeling. Its smooth, hard surface has long been used indoors. Not too many people are familiar with it as a garden paving material. Yet, more and more, it is being used to give a professional, glossy finish to small areas of the garden. Use it in walks, combined in patterns with brick or concrete, or around swimming pools. It serves very nicely in an extension of the living room flooring.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

The tile itself is rather expensive. Because of the quality of the workmanship needed for a good tile

job, the installation cost is high. In addition, when serving materials, you can keep costs down by placing it yourself. It looks best in small areas or blended with brick or concrete. This provides a change in color, pattern, and texture. Its colors blend well with garden colors.

Flagstone is perhaps the best-known garden paving material. It is usually the first material people think of when a garden terrace or walk is mentioned. If you are willing to pay a good bit more for flags than for any other landscape paving, flagstones will give a high-quality very durable form of surfacing.

Flagstone costs five or more times as much as many of the other pavings, although the softer, thinner types are not much higher in cost (material only) than contractor-laid concrete. However, the labor cost of placing flagging is high; unless you have a good sense of color and pattern, the result can be disappointing. You must lay flagstone carefully to keep from getting a patchwork of colors or too irregular patterns.

Although some people feel that flagstone is too hard and cold-looking, many like it for its subdued, mellow tones that blend well with garden colors. It is quite durable and, the irregular pattern and texture add much to the overall plan. You can change the size of the flags to suit the scale of a small or large garden.

Because of its hard, permanent surface, flagstone does not absorb moisture or break down easily from frost action. It can be slippery in wet weather or in moist shady conditions.

Poorly-Styled Homes Become Obsolete Soon

Many poorly designed homes may become obsolete in the next few years.

Perry Franke, editor of House and Home magazine, questions whether 15 million of the 40 million family-owned homes of today will be the kind the average American family wants to live in for twenty years.

Well-styled homes designed in basic materials like wood, observes H. V. Simpson, executive vice president of the West Coast Lumberman's Association, are timeless in use.

Simpson observed that beautifully designed homes in wood are as wanted today as they were a century or two ago. Colonial, Cape Cod and other traditional styles never become obsolete, and neither will well designed contemporary homes built of lumber, for lumber is the heritage of America and will never be regarded as this nation's most popular and desirable building material.

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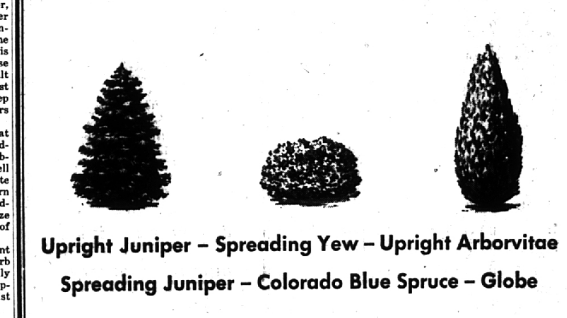
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