

Spring '60

HOME IMPROVEMENT and SUBURBAN LIVING

Special Tabloid Section



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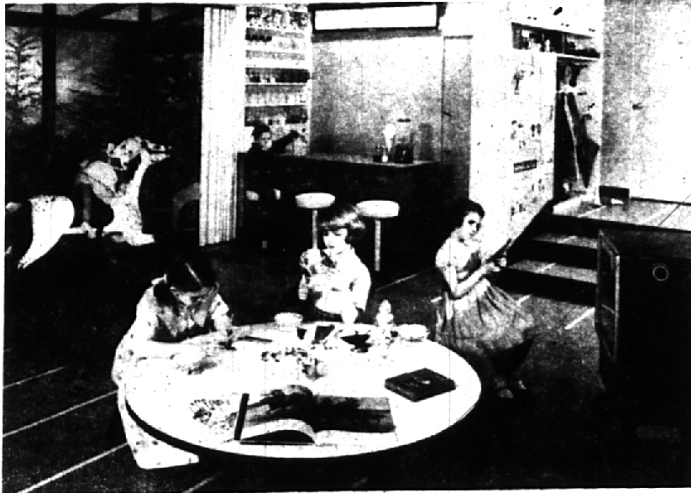
Re-Modeling
Outdoor Living

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Spring Is Home Improvement Time



Serves a Dual Purpose

With its built-in snack bar, this room is a playroom on rainy days and a family room anytime. An acoustical ceiling keeps noise from spreading to other parts of the home.

A well-lighted work area lets the children develop their imaginative talents. Note the bulletin board at the door.

Homes Need Inspection When Springtime Arrives

Houses, like humans, need a thorough physical examination at least once a year, and spring is an ideal time for it.

Harsh winter weather can bring on many "ailments" around the house. Frost in the ground can damage foundations, extremes in temperatures can open up cracks around windows and doors, and winds may have loosened shutters and television aerials, and caused damage to wires.

The area that deserves the closest inspection is the roof. It takes more punishment from winter ice, snow, rain, wind and temperature changes than any other part of the house.

Some homes need modernization, or additions to provide room for growing families.

PREWAR HOMES often need more extensive remodeling . . . new plumbing, new wiring, replacement of outmoded kitchens and baths, new siding, new roofs and a multitude of other improvements. But the final results can be a delight.

Architecturally, amazing changes can frequently be made in simply removing seldom-used porches and taking off outdated trimming.

It's easier than ever before to modernize. There are more dealers fully equipped to take care of the complete remodeling project . . . materials, labor, financing. The old home improvement bugaboo—finding someone to do the job—is fast disappearing.

ADDITIONALLY the building boom of the 60's makes a rise in improvement costs probable. By remodeling now many homeowners are striving to avoid those increased expenditures.

Materials are better than ever, offering the homeowner a range of new products, as well as improved products, that can make a modernized home sparkle.

New Bed Space When You Want It

Beds that fold into the wall, room divider, chest or cabinet, are a big improvement for small homes lacking sleeping space for guests.

These metal-constructed beds are easily installed, need about a 12-inch space when shut away.

New Stains Last

Paint manufacturers are developing new house stains which will last for many years, especially when applied to such durable woods as western red cedar or Douglas fir.

Landscaping Should Create A Picture

Professional advice in landscaping the home property usually is more desirable for the home owner, says the American Association of Nurserymen.

However, there are some simple rules which every home owner should know.

1 The purpose of landscaping is to tie your home into the surrounding land area in such a way that it will create a pleasing picture to you, and your neighbors.

2 Frame the house with plants and trees.

3 **FOUNDATION** plants should be low growing in order not to obscure picture windows as the plants mature.

4 Trees should be off the corner of the house so that they serve as a frame rather than obscuring the home. Stand directly in front of your house; then look at the corners of the house. Trees should be placed outside the triangle formed by your position on the sidewalk and the two corners of the house.

5 Garden living is a studied way of life. The garden "living room" should be planted for family dining and entertaining with privacy. This can be achieved with low plants in the foreground and higher plants in the background.

LANDSCAPE nurserymen are professionally trained in landscaping and perhaps can do the best job for you.

Many do-it-yourselfers working together with their nursery men can achieve proper and good-looking results.

It is an established fact that good landscaping helps increase the resale value of the home, twenty-five percent or more.

Cook Out or In . . .

Handsome steel fold-down cooking surfaces can be installed in a playroom or near the terrace for quick, informal snacks.

Vegetables and Flowers Make Decorative Garden

If space is limited but you want to grow both flowers and vegetables, just combine them in the same garden.

Such a combination garden is both decorative and useful and actually has been used commonly since colonial times, according to Fred Widmeyer, extension specialist in horticulture at Michigan State university.

LARGE VEGETABLES and flowers are usually omitted from this type of kitchen garden. Corn, potatoes and many of the root crops such as turnips and parsnips, as well as phlox, large zinnias and other bold plants don't fit in well.

Lettuce, parsley and radish combined with sweet alyssum, dwarf marigolds, ageratum and dwarf petunias can make a very decorative border for a small kitchen garden.

PLANT THESE in groups as in every other garden plan with masses of flowers between the vegetables, Widmeyer suggests. For example, sweet alyssum planted next to a mass of dark green parsley makes a very pleasing picture with good contrast.

In a small garden, radishes and carrot seeds can be planted in the same row or hole. About the time the radishes are ready for harvest, the carrots will need thinning, so both thinning jobs can be done at the same time.

SINCE CARROTS are classed in the medium-sized group, such flowers as petunias, French marigolds and snapdragons can be com-

bined with them effectively.

Towards the back of the garden, tomatoes can be grown on decorative trellises with lilliput zinnias and asters planted between them. Tomatoes are very effective and decorative when grown on trellises which can be easily made.

Widmeyer says a good type of bamboo trellis can be made by tying three cross-members to bamboo uprights approximately 18 inches apart. Trellises can be painted to match the house or surroundings or to contrast with the green tomato leaves.

ALTHOUGH corn is not recommended for these small gardens, some still insist on planting it. If so, then take a cue from the early colonists who used the corn to support other plants, particularly beans and peas.