

He Has Ideas For (Patios) (Terraces)

By JULIE CANDLER
Staff Writer

If you think you want a patio at your house, you could be wrong. That was the first thing Jonathan M. Ball pointed out when I talked to him the other day. I was asking the lawn supply company president about patios and terraces.

A patio, he said, is one of those inner courtyards, open to the sky. It's usually surrounded by balconies. Like the Mexican balcony on which the distinguished-looking Mr. Ball once sat sipping wine and watching the stars.

You might want wine and stars, but who would want a courtyard inside the house?

BUT IF YOU want a terrace—Jonathan Ball has ideas. That's what most people around our suburbia want, he claims—an unroofed, paved area immediately adjacent to a house.

He's a terrace lover himself, this bespectacled gentleman who writes ads which people love to read. He has a terrace outside his home on Shirley drive, Birmingham.

Ask him how to plan a terrace or patio and he'll probably tell you to see a good landscape architect or designer.

IF YOU TELL him you're a "do-it-yourself" (patio) (terrace) (take your choice) builder, he has other suggestions.

He'll tell you he's no expert on building, designing or planning a (patio) (terrace). But since the one at 381 Shirley gets a heap of use, he has ideas about what you will want.

First of all, you want to be away from strong breezes when you're charcoal-broiling the steaks. So, says Mr. B in sailor lingo, "build to the leeward side."

PUT IT NEAR trees, if you aren't going to put a roof or awning overhead, so you'll have shade. But remember, he emphasizes, if

or borders among the blocks for flowers, or evergreens, or little outdoor mushroom lights.

He believes in decorating with the big colored glass bottles he calls demijohns, or with trellises (this year they'll have a climbing strawberry plant on the one at Ball's).

He favors bird baths, little fountains and statues of bronze or lead for some outdoor art.

And for furniture, he recommends the type that can stay out

in the rain. When you're through, you can call it patio or terrace. Or you can label it your "outdoor livingroom", as some of the "how-to" books call it.

Then you can pour yourself a

nice, cool drink, take a portable TV, a good book or family and friends outside. Stretch out on your chaise lounge beside the chicken turning on the barbecue spit—and LIVE!

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you're going to use this paved area for dining, don't stray too far from your door (kitchen, that is.) Build where there's a view to look out on, recommends this garden sage of suburbia.

If there's no view available, you're probably in a neighborhood where homes are close together. In that case, you want privacy. And for that, he especially likes a bamboo screening that comes in wide rolls. Just build a frame, then unroll it, he recommends.

OR PLANT some trees and shrubs to grow fast and hide your T-bones from the neighbor's hungry eyes.

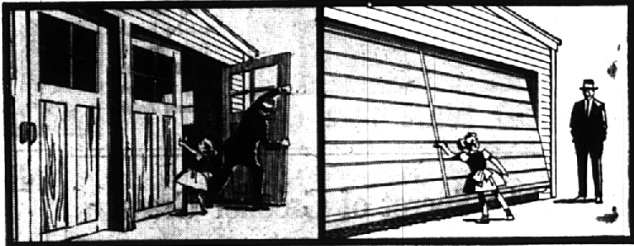
Before you begin the installation, check the drainage. If the spot you've picked slopes two inches down to your house, you'll need a mop in your basement, he predicts. But if it slopes two inches away from your house, says Mr. Ball, "you're fine."

You can choose slate, flagstone concrete flooring to place your umbrella table and deck chairs upon.

BUT TO THIS MAN who can make it interesting to read about fertilizer and peatmoss, eight by 16-inch masonry patio blocks are an ideal foundation, because they are light and easy to handle.

He likes open garden patches

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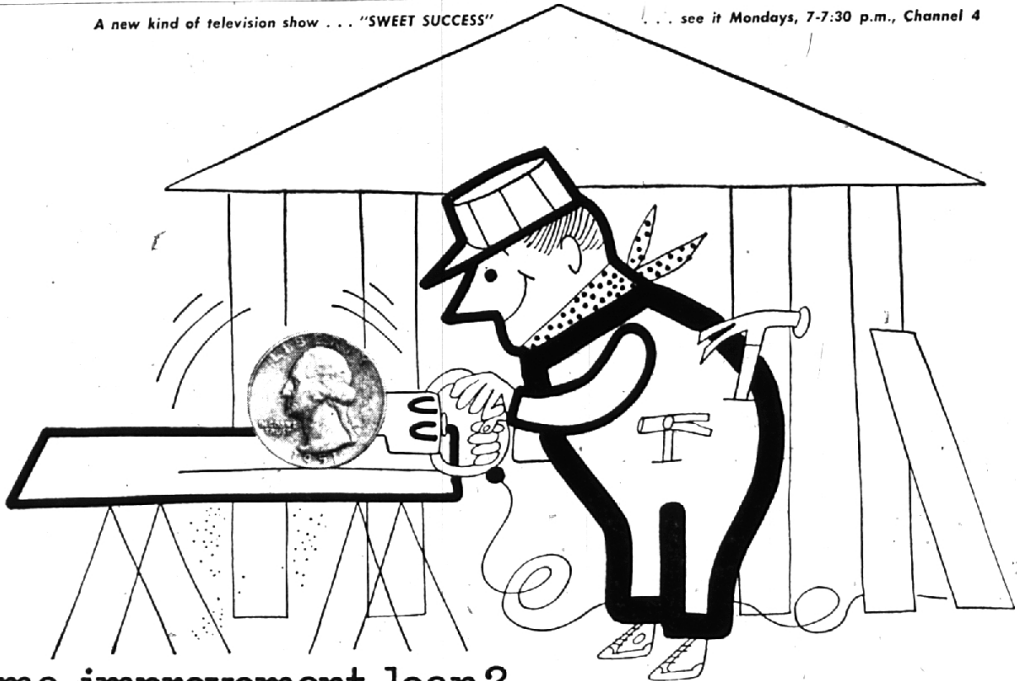
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