

Pare Food Budget by Planning

The homemaker who has a new electric refrigerator - freezer can save time and labor and pare down the food budget if she plans family meals in advance.

Here's how to find extra hours and save money:

1. Plan a week's menu and shop just once a week—preferably on Monday or Tuesday, the slower days—instead of making three or more weekly trips to the supermarket. Fresh foods stay fresh for a week in the roomy refrigerator compartments that are specially cooled and humidified.

2. LOOK FOR sales of frozen foods and freezable fresh foods. The freezing section will keep large quantities of them for weeks.

3. Double or triple recipes when making a casserole, stew, soup, spaghetti sauce, or baked goods. What isn't needed immediately can be frozen to make effortless meals later and add extra hours for enjoying unexpected guests.

4. Forget about defrosting the freezer, as frost never forms in many of the new electric refrigerator-freezers.

Houses Without Air Conditioning Becoming Obsolete

If you plan to build a home, here's something to keep in mind: A house without air conditioning will be as obsolete in a few years as a house without a bathroom is today.

This means that even if you don't plan to install air conditioning right away, you'd be wise to spend a little extra for proper mineral wool in walls, ceilings, and floors when you build.

IT'LL BE THERE to give you economical operation when you decide you can afford a cooling system.

Two Paychecks Helpful In Designing a Home

Much has been written about the effect on society of the two-paycheck family now that three out of 10 wives—a total of 13 million of them—work outside the home.

We've heard it cited as a cause of juvenile delinquency because the mother spends too little time directing her children. After it's cited as the cause of marital dissension because the man's place as a breadwinner has been partially usurped.

WE'LL LEAVE such problems to the psychologists and sociologists. For the moment, let's consider the effect of two paychecks on the living pattern and actual physical arrangement of the American home.

The home of a working wife must be easy to take care of, inside and outside. Not only is the wife's time limited, but the husband has less time for yard and maintenance work because he must share chores that the wife would normally handle.

AT THE SAME time, the two paycheck family generally has more money to spend on the home. It has more labor-saving appliances than its one-paycheck counterpart.

Despite our general prosperity, many homes are sadly neglected. The Insulating Siding Association

Square Foot

What is a square foot of lumber? It is a piece of lumber one foot by one foot and one inch thick. Lumber which has been surfaced in a planer is still considered a square foot even though it might be slightly thinner because of the surfacing operation.

Design Begins At Fence, Landscape Expert Says

When designing your home, start at the property line, not at the exterior wall of the house. Plantings, ground cover, fencing, patios, decks, paths and walkways are all integral parts of your home design, the well known landscape architect, Chandler D. Fairbank, advises.

TOO MANY homeowners, Fairbank reports, seem satisfied when they finally agree on an attractive design for their house. They put in a lawn and a few shrubs and think they have the ultimate in good living.

Actually, said this successful landscape architect, your design job has just begun when the house is finished. The entire lot, right up to the property line, is part of your home.

It can be made into something exquisite and livable without too much cost, but it requires considerable study and planning.

START WITH basics, Fairbank suggests. Plan fences to fit your home. Then lay out the large areas, like decks and patios, and, finally, arrange your smaller garden plots and flower borders.

The paths and walkways will be determined by the location of principal work and play areas in your yard.

Fence selection is most important, he points out. There is a wide range of fencing styles, but not all will suit every home.

FOR COMPLETE privacy, he said, you may use a high, solid-board estate fence which can be built either of western red cedar or of Douglas fir. You may also use a high fence with louvered boards.

For mere property dividers, any one of many open stylings can be used, he said, and they need not be very tall. Fences can be stained, painted, or left to weather to natural, silvery greys which either cedar or fir will do in a few years.

PATIO DECKS are becoming more and more popular, Fairbank points out, as families have more leisure time to spend outdoors.

Decks should be located and de-

signed early in any landscaping plan because of their large area.

Wood deck systems are among the most popular, he suggests, and are least costly to build. Sturdy Douglas fir dimension lumber can be used for both the framing and the deck boards.

A popular deck is made of 2x4s spaced slightly to allow water runoff, and the 2x4s can be laid either with the narrow or wide side up.

Deck boards generally are left unpainted and will weather, like the fences, to an attractive silver gray.

WITH THE location of fences and decks determined, Fairbank concludes, the arrangement of other outdoor installations, flowers and shrubbery should be carefully planned to fit into the predetermined landscaping scheme.

Landscaping is an art, Fairbank observes, and to get the most livability out of your homestead, all the skill and knowledge of the landscape architect should be utilized.

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has determined that one out of five homes needs a new roof, and one out of six needs new siding. The second paycheck often provides the dollars for such needed improvements.

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