

Planting Can Help Control Home Climate

There are many ingenious planting devices to help control the climate around the home by use of trees and shrubs, according to the American Association of Nurserymen.

By use of such plantings the home owner and his family can be warmer in winter and cooler in summer. Nobody likes to be any colder in winter or hotter in summer than he has to be, and these extremes can be moderated to considerable extent with plants.

In many areas of the country the coldest winds come from the north, northeast and west. By

planting windbreaks on the windward side the cold winds can be moderated. The plantings will break the force of the winds for a distance up to ten times their height. Thus solidly planted rows of trees 15 feet high will reduce the winds for a ground distance of 10 times their height or 150 feet.

IN A NORTH central state test of a perfectly planted windbreak, fuel cost in the protected home was reduced 22.9 percent. It is outdoor wind which causes the fuel bills to shoot upward, rather than

Decorative Cupolas Set for Installation

Decorative cupolas designed to add a finishing touch to any residence or garage are offered in cartoned, prefabricated units.

Sold through lumber dealers, the cupolas come in four styles that fit the conventional hip roof. Each is copper crowned, over aluminum.

quieter and more private, as well as cleaner.

Nurserymen know many other ways to use plants for more comfortable living. The home owner can have plant awnings, cool pergolas, planted with lovely climbing vines and roses, as well as walks which keep much cooler than solid pavement.

Women Want Better Floors

Of the caveman was probably the first human being to discover how uncomfortable rock can be to walk on all day long. He quickly found that bear skins took up some of the shock.

But it remained for some of his later and more sophisticated descendants to invent the wood floor as the ideal walking surface for a home, school or store.

The Romans were long on culture and so were the early Greeks, but they never got away from the marble slab floor, probably because there was a shortage of wood in their regions.

There is no shortage of wood in the United States, and the only reason for the flurry of slab floors built in houses after World War II was convenience for builders who could lay a slab floor quicker than a good wood floor could be built.

Now that competition in the home selling field is becoming tougher, the lumbermen report, builders are being forced to listen to their customers. They now must give them wood floors, the lumbermen observe.

One Portland, Oregon, builder reports such a resistance to slab floors that he has now switched all of his newer models to wood floors with joists.

This beautiful layout proves that a modern recreation room can be as stylish and attractive as any other room in the house. It has facilities and work space for various members of the family, and the handsome woodgrain divider provides privacy for those using the room. The hardboard paneling on the divider, as well as that on the walls, has a washable plastic surface that never needs refinishing.

Put New Style in Rec Room

One of the easiest ways to restore order in a disorganized recreation room is to install a divider wall, according to architects.

Many families, disturbed by the distractions generated in a large "rec" room, have found that a divider wall increases the versatility of the area.

FOR INSTANCE, a free standing divider wall at the doorway can shield the entranceway from the rest of the room. Storage cabinets for clothes and supplies can be located here. A long work table for hobby activities also could be located along this wall.

A desk can be located on the other side of the divider wall. This might be used by Mom for correspondence or by Dad for reports and other paperwork. Since it is separated by the wall from the children's hobby area, considerable privacy and quiet is gained over the conventional recreation room with an open floor plan.

A handsome divider wall can be built with woodgrain Marlite planks, which have vertical score lines at random intervals to increase the paneling's visual interest. The planks have a washable plastic surface that is highly resistant to hard wear, stains, abrasions and other causes of deterioration.

Other features that can be incorporated into a "compartmented" recreation room to further divide the floor space into areas are a refreshment bar, music center and built-in couch with storage compartment.

Not all research happens in a white-tiled laboratory full of test tubes.

In the home building industry, the research specialist is more likely to be found out on the building site, stop-watch in hand. His objective is to help the home builder to build a better house at a lower cost.

Here are some of the things that can be done first on an experimental basis and then, in home building throughout the country:

Reduction of the total amount of on-site labor.

Cutting the total construction time.

Lessening the total weight of the structure.

Improving production engineering management of the construction process.

Improving the handling of materials.

Increasing the use of component construction, that is, use of large parts instead of small pieces.

In the last decade, more change has been made in the character of home building than in all of history. Even greater changes are due in the next 10 years.

Many of the improvements are not readily apparent to the eye of the home buyer. But they are there, for his benefit and comfort.

THE RUGGED hardboard base of this paneling is much more durable than wood. Refinishing is never necessary because of the plastic surface. Marlite is available at lumber dealers in plain colors and patterns, as well as the high-fidelity woodgrains.

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Research Produces New Homes

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Plate glass trays are used in drying pottery because their smooth surface minimizes friction and allows uniform drying.

Gaslight Goes Outdoors; Adds Charm to Garden

The enchantment of a garden needn't be wasted when the sun sets. Outdoor gaslights turn the garden into a charming place for nighttime relaxing, dining and entertaining.

Gaslight heightens the enchantment, too, with interesting silhouettes and a soft golden glow.

But gaslights have utilitarian as well as decorative purpose. They will continue to operate when other lighting sources fail.

They can also be controlled manually or automatically with special dimming devices.

For conversation and relaxation on the open terrace, wall bracket lamps are unobtrusive and pleasant. The distinctive golden light repels insects and keeps the entire area safely lit.

They are equally useful and decorative when used for driveways, front walks, porches, patios and garages.



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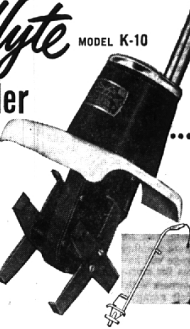
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