

Big Splash!



IT'S WORTH THINKING ABOUT

She has the lowdown

Do It Right Or Not at All

There's a lot more to building a home swimming pool than just piping water into a hole that's been dug behind the house at a cost of so many dollars or so much time per cubic yard.

One summer's splashing is fine—but isn't it better to assure your family that the same kind of fun will still be there 10 or 20 years from now?

When you build a below-surface home swimming pool, you're really counting on a "permanent" improvement. That's why you can profit from the best counsel that can be handed out by experts.

And it's this:

The best way for a homeowner to avoid building the costly mistakes of inexperience into what should be a lifetime luxury is to deal, right at the start, with a pool builder whose reputation and engineering skill are attested by scores of local owners.

Such established pool builders are usually members of the National Swimming Pool Institute, pledged to observe rigid standards of quality in materials, construction, equipment and service to their customers.

THEY EMPLOY design and landscaping specialists, engineers and excavators, who have planned and built pools for schools, colleges, motels, hotels, and for homes in big city sub-divisions and in jewelry-like settings on suburban hillsides.

They'll discuss the project thoroughly with you long before they present the necessary building contract. They'll caution against costly over-designing. For example, they'll suggest money-saving economies such as:

Thinking twice about installing a diving board unless a youngster in the house is trying to perfect competitive diving technique, and

CONSIDER PUTTING in water heating equipment only if 9-to-12-month outdoor patio living is your family's way of life in a section of the U.S. where winter months are always mild.

The well-equipped pool builder supplies an estimate and furnishes a designer's concept drawn to scale and specifications fitting your pocketbook and your site's size and contour—even keyed to your home decor and yard landscaping.

The company's basic pool contract will specify the materials to be used—such as concrete (poured, pre-cast, or pneumatically-applied), concrete block, masonry, metal, and so on—tilling, walkways, ladders, railings. The list may include filter, aerator, test kit, coping, wall brush, leaf skimmer, and even the steps wherein the builder will proudly embed his nameplate.

MANY HOME handymen also keep one of the laundry tub sets in the garage. It comes in handy when washing the car or preparing the screens for summer time use.

Many families have found that laundry tub sets also come in handy at summer cottages where appliances are not available.

They are particularly useful for a large family because bathing suits can be washed and rinsed quickly in the tubs.

Ceramic tile, with its stainproof qualities, suffers no lasting marks from cooking oils, spilled beverages or cigaret burns.

Are Old Neighborhoods Worth Saving, Updating?

Some one-time exclusive residential districts are beginning to show the effects of time, as well as the changes in architectural style.

The big question mark facing present owners is: are these fine old homes worth updating?

In order to intelligently answer this question the home owners in such a neighborhood should proceed in an orderly manner to decide in a dollars and cents fashion what should be done.

The first step is to put down all the asset values of these homes. Is the neighborhood still desirable by reason of being close to town and transportation? Are schools and shopping facilities handy?

ARE THESE homes well-built, sound and worth remodeling and face lifting? Would the land be more valuable for other purposes? Finally, would the cost of remodeling add that much value to the home, and would others in the neighborhood join in the project?

Still on the asset side in favor of the older home is the fact that the rooms are large, and generally plentiful. This makes it ideal for large families and assures good resale value.

Also, remodeling often need not amount to more than an exterior face-lifting, with modernization of baths and kitchen the only really must item.

What are the debit factors? Actually, if you have satisfactorily answered the questions of good site, proximity to schools, shopping

and work, soundness of 40- or 50-year-old home and how it will lend itself to modernizing, you get down to basics and that means cost. Can it be financed?

YOU MUST also answer the question: how much remodeling should I undertake?

Some of the charm of the older homes stems from the beauty of their traditional design. The lovely Colonials and Cape Cods and the Georgian and French Provincial designs are much sought after, and often the exterior of these homes needs only some good painting and repair.

These wood-sided homes, when properly maintained and painted, will serve for another 50 or 100 years. Many 100-year-old homes sided in western red cedar or Douglas fir still are in top shape.

So, most of the remodeling will be done inside. Generally, the bathrooms need to be updated with new

fixtures and new decorations. They are spacious, which adds to their charm.

KITCHENS NEED special attention, for it is in this area where the greatest changes have occurred in the past half century. Often the older kitchens will be wood paneled, so this wood should be preserved and new appliances and fixtures and cabinets designed to complement them.

Or, you may wish to start fresh with the new kitchen and install completely new wood cabinets and wall paneling to match because you can then have popular light colored woods such as west coast hemlock or Douglas fir to create a dream kitchen.

Often the other rooms need little more than a good redecorating to be comfortable and attractive. Sometimes old plaster walls which are pretty much the worse for wear, can be paneled with any desired wood, like the cheerful west coast hemlock.

PANELING CAN be applied directly over the plaster, reducing costs.

Yes, the fine old home is worth some extra attention and expense to bring it up to modern tastes, so the large and gracious rooms can serve growing families for more generations.

Good Mixer

A thermostatically controlled shower mixing valve permits you to set the exact water temperature you want without further need for adjustment while you bathe. It automatically compensates for any drop in water pressure, thus eliminating the possibility of a sudden flow of very hot or cold water.

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LOW-CALORIE PICNIC seems impossible but weight-conscious parents can stay slender and still take the kids on cookouts during warm summer months. Let the adults

sip on liquid dietary and low-calorie wares while children munch happily on cheeseburgers, potato chips and other traditional picnic fare.

Picnics Can Be Pleasant, Even for Adults on Diet

Pity the poor picnicker who already has too many bulges. That sizzling hamburger, by itself, is practically harmless, but put it on a bun and serve with all the other picnic goodies—potato salad, baked beans, chocolate cake—and the diet is shot. Or is it?

Not if you plan your summer-time menus so you can really enjoy those picnics without worrying about adding weight. Such tasty items as fresh fruits and vegetables, together with formula dietar-

ies, make the planning easy, delicious and nutritious.

WHEN YOU PLAN the menu and pack the picnic lunch, be sure to include plenty of carrot and celery sticks, both for you and non-dieters. A can of liquid dietary and some of these crunchy vegetables will make a slimming lunch and won't keep you away from the fun. Or, if you prefer a hot lunch, you can heat dietary soup while

the children are grilling their cheeseburgers and hot dogs.

If you need a little help in removing temptation, don't pack that rich cake; fresh fruit is actually more healthful for the entire family.

Picnics don't have to be fattening, and dieting is easy when you use calorie-controlled formula dietaries that provide proper nutrition. You and your family will both have the best fun, but not in the calories!