

Dressing Your HOME



How to fit in a hobby center

Looking for room in the home that can be turned into useful work or hobby areas can be a challenge. Where a child might invent a magic kingdom with trunks and piles of suitcases for walls, an adult is more likely to search for a place to organize an interest.

The object is to contain the clutter that goes with pursuing a business activity, since work goes more easily when conditions are right. Lighting, file storage and a writing surface are arranged to accommodate a work flow.

Short of adding a room or remodeling to make an office-in-the-home, what is possible?

Tom Doherty, design director for Naugahyde vinyl fabric, has some ideas.



LAURETTA REGAN

"First, survey the house," he says. "To see how traffic patterns and conversational groupings interact."

"Look for ends or corners of rooms that get little use. Consider minor structural changes. Maybe a door can come off a closet and, with the addition of shelves and a work surface, the closet can become a mini-office."

DOHERTY MAKES the point that very little space is often enough to serve the purpose, making the addition or conversion of an entire room unnecessary. As little as 35 or 40 square feet in an existing room can make an ideal office.

Doherty developed his theories on exploring for special spaces in the home while researching performance standards for Naugahyde. An example of an office-in-a-closet is one designed by Gerri Levin of Cheltenham, near Philadelphia. A large, walk-in closet with a window was a wasted space, so the designer laid a forest green and cream ceramic tile floor, then added a storage chest covered with red cushions as a window seat. She repositioned the existing shelves to put more storage and work area at arm's reach, and for a softening effect, warmth and acoustical control, she covered the walls with green Naugahyde.

THIS DESIGNER'S theory on traffic patterns and conversational groupings is illustrated in a living room designed by Dana Noble of Boston. Noble tightened the furniture arrangement in front of the fireplace, moving the wing chairs closer together to balance the black and tan sofa. This freed a small space along the window wall, enough for a desk and an open armchair. The carved fruitwood bench before the fireplace is upholstered in rich Spanish suede. Noble matched the camel color and the texture of the suede in Naugahyde for the wing chairs, and the outside of the chairs is upholstered in fake leopard for contrast. Total space required for this office-in-the-living room was less than 30 square feet.

Volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of agencies needing volunteers. Further information about these agencies and over 200 others that need volunteer services may be obtained from the volunteer bureau, 646-7272.

GATEWAY CRISIS CENTER in Madison Heights assists its residents in coping with substance abuse and life adjustment problems through peer support, counseling, and professional treatment. Para-professional counselors are needed for both telephone and face-to-face crisis counseling.

Volunteers must be over 18 and need a sense of commitment, a non-judgmental attitude and the ability to listen with sensitivity. There will be a personal interview with the coordinator of volunteers followed by a training course of 30 hours, 20 of which will be completed on the weekend of May 20, 21, 22. A commitment of two evenings a month for four months is asked.

ST. JOSEPH MERCY HOSPITAL in Pontiac is looking for volunteers with an interest in plants to work with the

horticultural therapy program. This is a new concept that uses plants as a tool with people under stress. Currently two volunteers are needed for the rehabilitation unit program, Monday or Friday morning. Training is provided but a background knowledge of plants is necessary.

CORRECTIVE GUIDANCE in Pontiac is looking for volunteers to work at the Oakland County Trustee Camp. Clerical and typing volunteers are needed in the office, and there is a place for an instructor in auto mechanics. The latter should be a high school graduate with three to five years of experience willing to spend two three-hour periods a week on the job.

AMERICAN RED CROSS needs help at the Armed Forces entrance and examining station, 426 Clinton near Gratiot to assist new recruits with the induction process. Volunteers 18 and older provide refreshment, simple entertainment such as games, reading materials and conversation, and give information to the inductees about Red Cross services.

Hours can be selected between 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Berkley new home of Youth Hostels

The American Youth Hostels, Metropolitan Detroit Council, will move from its present location at 14335 W. McNichols, Detroit, to larger facilities at 3024 Coudage, south of Twelve Mile, in Berkley.

The new location will house growing Detroit Council activities.

The council is a member of the American Youth Hostels, Inc. (AYH), a national, nonprofit organization that provides programs of outdoor activities and recreational travel to persons of all ages. Programs include hiking, bicycling, canoeing, skiing, sailing, horseback riding and camping in the United States and other countries.

The AYH sponsors youth hostels across the country which provide low-cost sleeping accommodations to members traveling under their own power—on foot, or by bicycle, canoe, skis, or horseback.

The purchase of a two-story building in Berkley by the Detroit Council was made after a two-year search for possible relocation sites. A recent survey by the council showed that membership is growing, especially in the northwest area.

An anonymous contribution of \$5,000 by an AYH member greatly helped in the purchase of the larger quarters.

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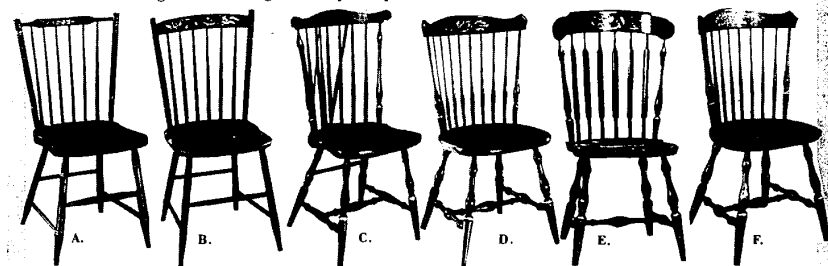


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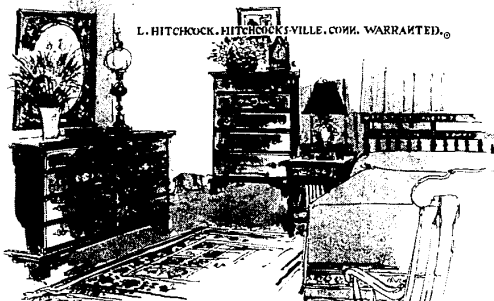
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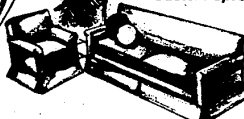
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