

Room for Design

Plan ahead to avoid mistakes

The time is now, when you first start to build your home, that you should carefully plan every item, every convenience to make your dream home become a reality. It is inconvenient and costly to add extras later that you didn't think of while the home was built.

When planning the construction of your dream house, live with your own ideas instead of someone else's. Your home should be more than shelter for the body. It should be a haven for your soul.

An image of your spirit reflected in an environment which satisfies all the particular physical and emotional needs that mark your individuality.

Some people may want a living room with windows that soar 20 feet toward the sky, or walls curved rather than always straight. Others may dream of the sensuous feel of bare feet on hard slate floors in one room, brick in another and wood in a third. Someone else may long for windows in shapes other than rectangular or a bedroom with a big square skylight that permits sleep under the stars.

What ever you want in a home, the time to plan it is now. Plan the type of heating system and cooling system you will be comfortable with, the lighting in each room, appliances and their location, the built-in cupboards and cabinet space.

Consider bar units, not only in family living areas but in bedrooms, built-in units for stereo components and books, cedar closets and luggage racks.

This is a "what's new" column otherwise known as "what's available" for your pleasure and comfort. Take some of these things into consideration when planning your home and you may want to include one or two when you plan.

CYLINDER LIGHTS of seamless aluminum are ideal for higher than average walls, staircases and balconies in open planned contemporary

houses. Invisible mounting device simplifies installation.

CERAMIC COOKTOP incorporates four individual glass elements and operates like conventional electric units. Any utensil material may be used on the cooking surface which wipes clean with a damp cloth.

MULTI-PLY CONSTRUCTION of asphalt roof shingle captures the appearance of natural wood shakes. Designed for application over existing shingles or new construction it is impervious to high winds and comes in five earthen colors.

THERMOSTATIC MIXER VALVES eliminate sudden water temperature changes to insure safe bathing and washing. Temperature fittings are offered for shower, bath, lavatory and kitchen sink.

DUCT-FREE RANGE HOOD features a quiet, solid-state infinite-speed fan. Hoods are offered in four sizes and choice of colors.

SINKS WITH TRILE CONVENIENCE feature two large compartments which simplify food preparation and cleanup. Center section which is designed to hold a waste disposer unit, also for washing vegetables and fruits.

BATTERY-POWERED lock alarm is designed for use on patio and sliding glass doors, patio doors are secured by a heavy-duty dead bolt which activates a siren when pressure is applied.

SOLIDTONE LATEX STAINS are said to outlast conventional stains in color retention, adhesion and resistance to wear. More pigmented than semitransparent stains, they are recommended for rough-cut siding, shakes, decking and fencing.

PLYWOOD BEAMS have the look of solid timber for country-styled interiors. Lightweight, low cost, easy to install, they can be left in their natural finish, stained or painted.

COUNTER-CLUTTERING breadboxes and canisters are eliminated

by
Gloria
Cohen



with special bread and staple drawers. Drawers are equipped with removable, ventilated metal covers. See your cabinet-makers for these special features.

MICROWAVE OVEN is styled to match other kitchen appliances.

ELECTRIC GARAGE-DOOR OPENER provides the convenience and comfort of all-weather automatic garage door opening plus safety.

CUSTOM FLOORS can be created with an elegant hardwood parquet flooring called Double-Terrington. European inspired design comes in genuine Thai-Teak, Kerriwood or Karpa-wood.

DOUBLE-CYLINDER DEAD LOCK is designed for use with glass doors. Speaking of glass doors, whatever happened to the elegance of French doors to the patio, or are we so accustomed to "sliding" through life, we forget the beauty and convenience of days gone by?

Down to earth

Hints for growing from seeds

It is easy about the third week of May to bustle around and buy your plants in a flat and at a pretty price.

Many of our readers enjoy the pleasure of growing their own annuals, yes and extra house plants to spare under fluorescent lights from seed. Just set a fluorescent light fixture on two building blocks at each end. You would be smart to employ a timer so you aren't a slave to turning the fixture on and off.

From the Joseph Harris Company, a Rochester, New York based seed company, there comes advice for growing impatiens from seed. If you have lots of shade you can't beat the advantage of tucking impatiens into those areas which you feel need a dash of color. This particular seed needs lots of light

Seniors send request for garden seeds

Volunteers who work for the Pearl Wright Drop In Center for senior citizens need vegetable seeds so those who visit the center can plant a garden this spring.

"The seniors will be kept busy all summer with their garden and they will also keep their own harvest for their own use," said Helene Gottfried.

Those who wish to contribute to the gardening program should call Mrs. Gottfried at 336-1875.

to germinate so don't cover as you do most other seeds. After planting cover the seed with one eighth inch of sand or light covering.

Before you prepare your seed flat or flower pot, water the chosen medium very well, soak it, then water again, the day before sowing.

After planting, when watering is needed, soak the container in water—mistling isn't enough.

The Harris Company suggests that you always use warm water. That is a good idea for all seed forcing. Feed often with a diluted fertilizer and watch your ratio of nitrogen as you don't want weak, fast growth.

Our suburban communities have lots of parking lots on the surface as well as having many local residents on committees ready to beautify them. They will be delighted to know that Miles Laboratories has prepared a booklet which our readers identified with commercial or institutional parking lots can secure—"Parking Lot Landscape Development."

Environmental Design Press, Box 2187, Reston, Va. 22090, \$15. Interested committee members could encourage their local libraries to secure a copy for all to share. We need more attention to parking lots. You have to be guided in the development, space use and plant selection because of pollution. You can beat the problems.

Lots of material has been written through the years about the danger of keeping plants in a bedroom or sick-room. The University of Florida has



By
ALICE
WESSJELS
BURLINGAME

done some research in the matter, using as an example a room 8 feet 10 inches by 10 feet. It will contain 168 cubic feet of oxygen or 21 per cent. People have to have 16 per cent oxygen in the air they breathe.

Research at the university has shown that it would take 600 pounds of plants to consume 30 cubic feet of oxygen. Another way of saying it would be that 300 24 inch schefflera would have to be in the tightly sealed room in darkness to harm the occupants. The world is full of funny, old stories.

By the way, the Michigan prison at Marquette, 4855, would like any garden, landscape, and arboriculture books you might wish to share as the inmates rely on self-education.

Send them to Ronald H. Young, special fourth class book rate. This would be an excellent project for a garden club, even sending a subscription to a good garden magazine such as "Plants Alive." Collecting the garden catalogues such as the Wayside Garden book which is very educational, would be welcome.

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Watch for the Opening of a New Heidi's in Rochester

Heidi's Salon in Bloomfield Hills Is Happy to Announce the Appointment of Lori Palance, Hair Colorist, to Their Staff

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