

## Room for design

# Mirrors reflect designing flair

What could be a more natural to recent decorating trends than a revival of man's eternal fascination with mirrors?

Silvery, shiny foil, polished chrome and gleaming stainless are all a resurgence of the look of the 30's. Mirrors are definitely back in—if they've ever really been out.

The origins of the first mirror are buried along with the first man who saw his own image looking back at him in a pool of water. And we have enjoyed seeing ourselves ever since.

We know the French introduced plate glass in 1691 and that true silvering of glass followed. Mirrors were considered then to be primarily functional. Their decorative value was dependent on the style, quality and material in the frames around them. Now though, mirror is a magical decorating tool.

Mirrors have a depth that foil lacks, a softness missing in wood, an elegance that chrome and steel can't quite reach. Mirrors can complement, compound and give relief from the great graphics, and fit into any color scheme.

Mirrors may break, but they won't peel, fade, rust, soil or shrink. A new process, coating polyester film with aluminum, is said to produce mirrors that are shatterproof.

Mirrors come in practically any size, shape and style. They can take on almost any mood, and seemingly work architectural miracles while doing so.

Mirrors must be used carefully, so you don't look as though you are opening a restaurant in your home. They must be properly fitted and installed. Many installations that seem per-

manent can be moved if the mirror is affixed to sturdy plywood instead of to the wall.

There are infinite ways to use mirrors to achieve attractive decorative effects:

A. To emphasize a particular area. For example, a bay window lined with mirror can catch the sun's brightness and assist in plant growth.

B. To give interest and depth to a small area, use a mirror dado and chair rail of chrome stripping.

C. To spotlight a particular piece of furniture, use a mirror-on-mirror combination that combines two uses to enlarge a room visually and to accessorize with a hanging mirror.

D. Build a flight of mirrored stair risers and carry their brilliance straight to the top—something like the stairway to paradise.

E. Line a bookcase or a wall unit with mirror, everything will look twice as impressive.

F. Create a focal wall with square mirror tiles in a checkerboard or other pattern against a dark surface.

G. To double the depth of a narrow foyer mirror one whole wall, or have fun with light switches made of mirror.

H. Put a three-fold door mirror where it looks most unusual—in front of a small window that hasn't an interesting view, for instance.

I. Mirror all three walls around a closet bar.

J. Frame a mirror yourself with feathers, fabric, shells, embroidery or whatever to tie in with decor.

I could go on and on, but so could you if you give it some thought. Why don't you discover the world of mirror?

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