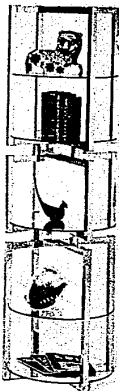


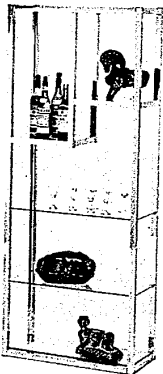
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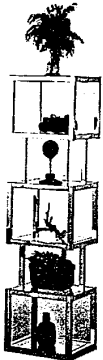
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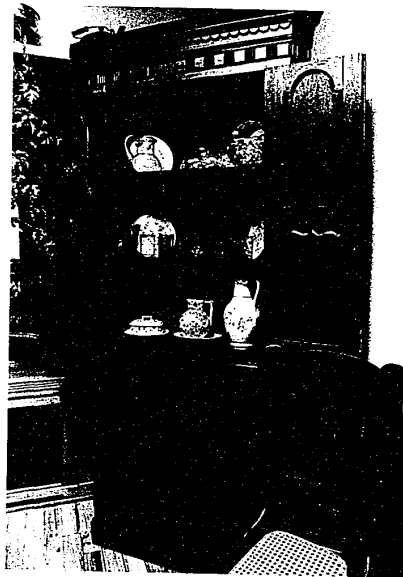


Cupboard beautifies an awkward corner

If corners threaten your decorative equilibrium—try something new. Use the unusual for visual effect, then fill it with usables. Delphine Sternbridge experimented in her Connecticut barn home—and it worked. Instead of camouflaging an awkward corner, she accentuated it with a handsome piece of furniture.

The cupboard she chose is 18th century English—a treasure from another era when furniture craftsmanship was considered art. The dish display within is a mix of porcelain, hand-cut crystal and glassware and English bone china.

In effect, an oversized antique—never to be parted with—filled the yawning need of the ugly duckling corner. Never mind that it juts out a little too much. Its interesting angular position actually beckons admirers and invites acclaim. Not only that—but it has become a workable showcase utilized ever the more because it is within the dining area, easily accessible.



An ugly corner can be transformed into an interesting area of the house with the addition of an unusual cupboard.

Improvement tips can cut remodeling costs

Modernization may be cheaper than moving, but with inflation driving up prices, many a homeowner is looking for ways to keep improvement costs down. The Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association offers these suggestions:

When remodeling, it's obviously simpler and less expensive to convert existing space, such as a garage, basement or attic, into a finished room than to build a new addition.

If a new addition is required, however, building it out from an existing wall should help reduce the cost and amount of material required.

Horizontal construction is usually cheaper than vertical construction requiring a new second or third floor.

Before hiring a contractor, draw a sketch of what you want the addition to look like or discuss your ideas with a contractor and have him come up with a remodeling plan.

Stock items and standard sizes, wherever possible, make for efficient and economical modernization.

Odd-sized components have to be custom-built and are expensive. The use of standard items on the other hand usually result in lower installation and labor costs.

Get at least three bids on your remodeling project. This is often the only way you'll have of determining what a fair price is. Don't be misled by the lowest bid, however, especially if it is considerably lower than others.

When asking for bids, be sure all contractors are bidding on the basis of the same specifications and quality of workmanship and materials.

Once work has begun, don't request a change in plan or materials unless you are prepared to pay extra.

Careful planning before giving the contractor the go-ahead avoids this problem.

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