

Door score?

Compute your own decorating quotient for doors

What's your score on door decor? If you use doors as decorative assets, you get high points for creativity. If any door will do so long as it opens and closes, your decorating quotient is low.

The National Woodwork Manufacturers Association, whose members supply residential doors, says homeowners don't always realize how essential doors are to overall room appearance.

A sure way to enliven a dull room is with a visually interesting wood-panel door, says the NWMA. Conversely, a nondescript door detracts significantly from an otherwise elegant setting.

In the days when doors were

painstakingly hand crafted, designs had special meanings.

Often they reflected religious beliefs or superstitions. Original panel patterns and fine wood details are authentically reproduced in today's manufactured units.

For example, the Cross and Bible has six panels. The upper four form a cross; the lower two depict an open book. They are often used with HLL (for Holy Lord) hinges.

Originally believed to ward off evil spirits, the design is now considered standard for Colonial and Early American architecture.

The St. Andrew Cross has glass panes or wood panels above an X-

shaped cross. It's a Dutch door original, with top and bottom halves operating separately, that is used today in "country kitchens" and rustic-styled family rooms.

Beautiful Old-World designs are also duplicated in manufactured wood doors.

Called Mediterranean, the doors are multi-paneled and elaborately detailed. Many feature intricate carving and ornate grilles.

Picture these doors as backdrops for saddle-back furniture, vivid colors, and big ferns in burnished copper pots!

Contemporary door designs have a

clean-lined, distinctively American look.

For example, the three-panel door, with large deeply grooved panels set vertically down the center suits modern room settings—glass, brass, and light-toned furniture.

To heighten the visual effect, all door styles can be obtained as double-entries—duplicate units set side by side in a wide opening.

Wood panel interior doors, as well as entrance doors, come in stock sizes at local lumber dealers, home centers and building supply stores.

House entrances are available as preassembled packages that include a wood panel door and appropriate decorative features such as columns, sidelights, side panels, pediments, fanlights, and cathedral lights.



Modern doors are designed for a clean, distinctive American look.



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Remember when we all had halls

Before entryways were banished into oblivion by cost-conscious builders, the hall was all—and then some.

In medieval castles, the hall was the most important public room, serving as the site for festivals as well as feasts.

By the time of Louis XIV's Versailles, the hall had become greater and grander—so large that it was a stage for promenades, the popular entertainment of the day. Even then, in smaller homes, the foyer was all important as evidenced in the many definitions of the word in French vocabulary.

To the French, the word foyer connotes home, hearth, family, source and focus.

Is it time now for a new focus on foyers for the contemporary American home? Yes, says noted design authority, author and editor Arthur Leaman, who feels foyers are as vital today as they were in the early days.

"There's something ultimately civil-

ized about a foyer," said Leaman, "no matter how small the space may be. The foyer is like a decontamination center—the place to get yourself together, don or doff your coat and galoshes and check-out your appearance."

"Even in homes without foyers—such as many modern apartments—I like to create them. Depending on the size or shape of the main room, I may use shelves, screens or some type of divider to partition off an entryway."

Designers agree that staging your entrance requires a thoughtful consideration of props, especially if space is limited. The mirror is a must for easy exits as well as entrances, in the opinion of Patricia Gaylor, a designer who espouses decorative mirror magic in the hall and throughout the house.

How does your foyer measure up? It's time to take another look. With little effort, grand entrances can be staged. And first impressions do count—at home as well as on the social scene.

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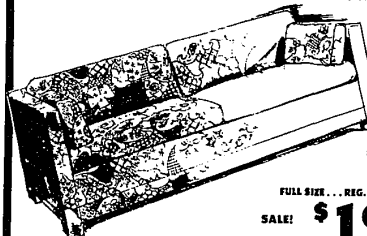
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