

## Graphics give an open effect

A personal space program that relies on foot-the-eye decorating techniques can provide new, open vistas to cramped-in-town living quarters.

Graphics, wall art, and lighting can be as effective in creating a feeling of open space as the veritable picture window.

This is the theory of Bill Marley, director of color and design for GAF floor products.

"Interior design can make a suggestion of what may lie beyond a wall with screens, backlighting, or hanging plants," Marley said. "What the eye is conditioned to believe is true, the mind will accept as fact."

As an example of this, Marley points to a simple remodeling project that turned a tiny, dark space in a 60-year-old divided townhouse into a bright, airy, and very contemporary dining room.

**THE ROOM HAD ONE** small window that opened onto an air shaft, yet there is no sign of this architectural defect in the remodeled version. Instead, the room seems flooded with sunlight.

The cracked and peeling plaster walls were screened with sheets of translucent frosted vinyl set on the bias and positioned in moldings at floor and ceiling.

Behind the panels, warm fluorescent lights were installed. Tubes were recessed behind the floor molding so that their light would be diffused as it washed up the walls. Stainless steel angles sold in lengths at building supply stores hold the vinyl panels in position.

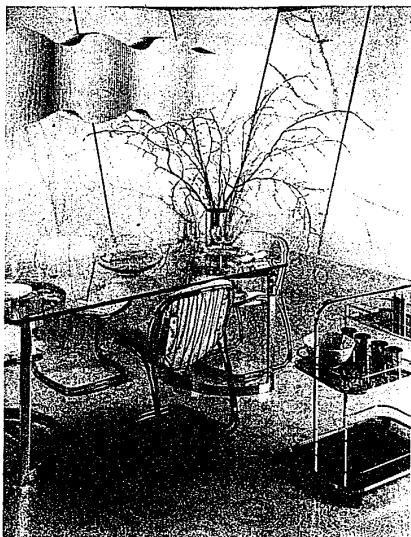
Arrangements of boughs cut from a buttonwood tree were placed behind the panels and raised along the walls. A more compact arrangement stands in a chrome and enamel cylinder in the corner of the room. This bit of nature brought inside creates a play of reality and shadow that suggests abstract sculpture.

The feeling of sculptural weightlessness is also seen in the ceiling-hung lighting fixture, which floats like a pleated paper cloud above the dining table.

The table is of glass and steel in a finely drawn, open design. The floor, styled by Marley for GAF, takes its design inspiration from the perfect geometry of snowflakes.

**THE ORIGINAL WOOD FLOOR** had seen better days. The choice was between carpet and resilient flooring. Gafstar's "Lace Circles" pattern won out, not only because of its easy care properties, but because of the cost savings — nearly \$100 — of do-it-yourself installation.

Marley's company furnishes a booklet with step-



Buttonwood boughs in the corner give the impression of reality and shadow. Decorating skills can turn a cramped space into a bright living room.

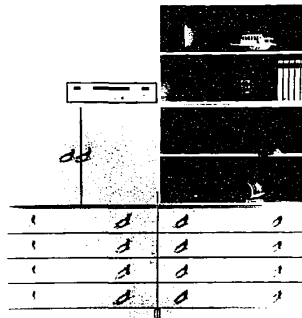
by-step instructions for installing tile. It isn't hard. The "Lace Circles" pattern, for instance, comes with a self-stick back.

**THESE VINYL TILES** have a no wax, high gloss urethane finish that resists stains and protects against fading. Texture contributes a soil-hiding effect, too. The tile's subtly dimpled surface helps hide dirt and scuffs.

If the suggestion of sunlight and the outdoors tends to open up this room, so do the colors used here. Along with many stylists, Marley believes that lighter colors help expand space visually. Walls and light fixture are bright white. The floor is white with pattern etched in pale brown. The upholstery fabric on the dining chairs is parchment. The smoked glass of the serving cart is the darkest tone in the room.

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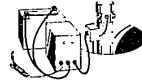
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### Update 1979 —

Skylights are advantageous in attic rooms to light up the darkest corner; in storage areas which tend to become musty and in bathrooms which allow natural light into the area.

### Update 1979 —

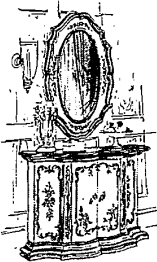
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### Update 1979 —

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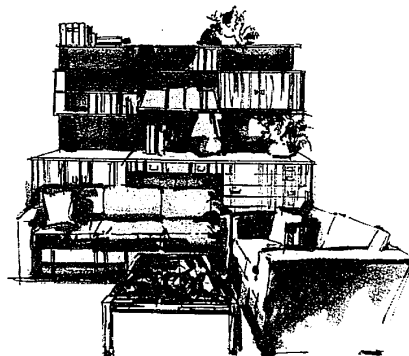
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