

# Cozy house heralds holidays

Now is the time to begin stitching your Christmas ornaments so they'll be finished in time for the holidays. Here are little three-dimensional houses to decorate your tree, make a village street behind your chreche, or hang from wires on a Christmas mobile.

These houses measure two inches wide by three inches high. You'll need the following materials: 10-gauge plastic canvas measuring 53 threads by 10 threads. A tapestry needle and yarn or 40, 3 DMC pearl cottons in your favorite colors. The houses are formed as you stitch, so there's no final finishing. The basic construction is the same as for a house of folded paper. Cut out the house shape, carefully counting the number of threads labeled outside the house. Trim nebs from each cut edge.

**GROUND RULES** are simple. Fill in Roofs, Sides, Front, etc. to within



the lively needle

Mary Kay Davis

one thread of the cut edge. Leave that one thread unworked along the edge of each cut side. Leave two unworked threads wherever a dotted fold line is marked on the diagram. The number of threads to be covered by needlepoint is labeled inside the house.

The whole house could be worked in Basketweave, but mine used Flat Cushion for windows and doors, Upright Gobelin for shutters (and clapboards), Brick for bricks and shingles

and French Knots for flowers and doorknobs.

Stitch the windows first, then the doors and shutters. Then fill in walls and roof. Flowers can be placed beneath windows, beside doors, or around the foundation. Work them over completed siding.

Stitch the bottom as you wish. I put my initials and the date in the square, but it could be solid color, "Xmas," or someone's name.

WHEN THE HOUSE is filled in, bend sides double along the fold lines and work long-armed-cross over the two unworked threads thus exposed. This will make a sharp crease. Match colors to adjacent needlepoint.

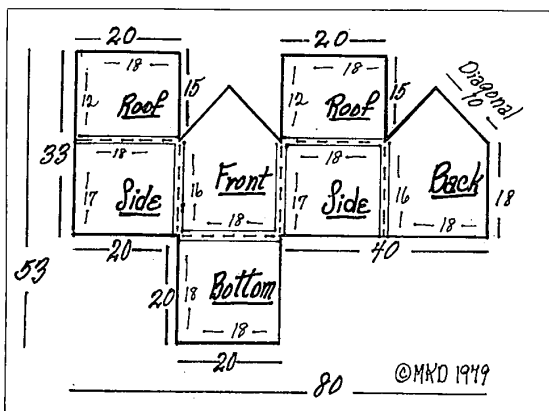
After all six creases have been folded and stitched, match edge threads of the remaining back and side. Baste and then long-armed-cross them closed. Fold the bottom in place and stitch its three open sides closed.

Long-armed-cross each side of the roof up the peak of Front and Back. Close the top ridge last and the house is finished.

Thread a bit of yarn or pearl cotton through the middle of the roof ridge to hang the house, or let it sit wherever it makes you happy.



A needlepoint house can trim your tree or sit beneath it. (Staff photo)



This house blueprint is a needlepoint pattern.

## Communication for couples is workshop topic

Bob and Nancy Hildebrandt of Pleasant Ridge will lead an evening workshop on Communications for Couples on 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., Friday Nov. 30, at the Continuum Center at Oakland University.

The workshop is designed as an introductory step in the improvement of communications between couples, married or unmarried. Structured experiences help couples explore their present level of communication and practice new ones.

Mr. and Mrs. Hildebrandt are work-

shop coordinators for the Continuum Center, an organization that has been funded variously over the years by the Kellogg Foundation, the National Institute for Mental Health and the Administration on Aging.

The Hildebrandts bring both professional and personal experience to this workshop. Mrs. Hildebrandt began exploring communications skills first as a participant and later as a professional at the center.

Her husband was so impressed by what she learned that he eventually fol-

lowed her into the staff of trained workshop leaders on campus.

They begin their workshop sharing some of the things they have personally learned about communications and the effect of good listening skills on their marriage. They follow this with short

structured exercises designed to provide participants with an introductory look at communications skills.

For information contact the Continuum Center at Oakland University in Rochester, or call 377-3933.

## Be an angel, buy an angel

Anyone heeding the slogan, "be an angel; buy an angel," will be adding emotionally disturbed children in the area.

Children from four centers for the emotionally disturbed have designed the Christmas angels for Crowley's 1979 holiday season. The angels are featured on Christmas banners, posters, gift wrap, shopping bags, and store trim. They have also been incor-

porated into a delicate ornament. All Crowley's customers will be able to purchase these items. Proceeds will be donated by Crowley's to the Mental Health Association of Michigan.

For more information call Mary Ellen Pastorek, Mental Health Association of Michigan, 557-6777, or Angie Bournias of Crowley's at 962-2400, ext. 247.

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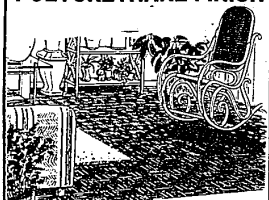
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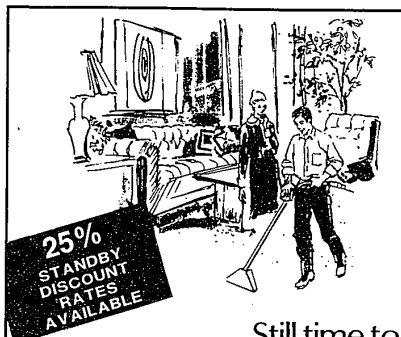
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