

CHILDREN LOVE TO PLAY in sand, and this exceptionally practical sandbox gives the children a place to dig and build, protection from the hot summer sun, and storage space for all their road-building equipment and pie-making utensils. Plan No. 54-440 can be obtained for 10 cents from the American Plywood Association, 1119 A St., Tacoma, Wash. 98401.

## Landscape Design Must Stand Test Of Time

EAST LANSING Planning a home landscape may mean sacrificing the immediate for the ultimate. But the sacrifice can be a delight, according to Joe Cox, Cooperative Extension Service landscape architecture specialist.

"Your landscape should grow on you," said Cox. "And it will if beauty is balanced with function."

In planning home landscapes, the landscape architect urged homeowners to keep in mind many of the factors that affect the particular site. Then the actual design becomes just a matter of putting thoughts on paper.

What you need in a landscape design will be geared to what resources you have available. You'll want a certain uniqueness in your home grounds that makes them a little different from every other person's home. You will want to

create compositions of materials that add to the pleasure of the property without adding greatly to the time and effort needed to maintain it," Cox stated.

"START WITH AN inventory of your resources. This will include land space and physical qualities of your property—climate conditions, winds, other forces of nature. You'll want to think of existing plants, shrubs and trees, utilities and drainage," he continued.

Cox added that in actually working out a design, a homeowner should consider the pattern of movement—paths, side-walks and driveways—the layout of areas of use, and definitely, several alternative plans.

He continued, "The design process itself should include some experimental planning. You may plan several times

and not come out with what you want, so you'll have to try again.

"A helpful thing is a 'cool-off' time," Cox suggested. "Even though the design is skillfully put together, if you can set it aside for a short time, then go back to it, some of the problems may not seem so difficult."

## Tips For Pool Heat Units

To get the safest, most dependable service from the new compact outdoor swimming pool heaters, pool owners should observe these installation pointers:

- For fire protection, allow a minimum clearance of six inches from combustible fences and shrubbery. For ease of servicing, allow adequate working space on all sides of the heater.
- Never install an outdoor heater in any covered area which has access to living areas unless a vent modification kit is used. Do not place the heater under any kind of roof or overhang structure that is less than three feet above the top of the heater.
- If the heater is installed under a roof or overhang, at least two sides of the structure must be completely open to outside air from floor to roof. These precautions are necessary to make certain that flue products are carried outside for safety and that fresh air is available for proper combustion and efficient operation of the heater.

## Homemakers Want Central Vacuum System

Recent lists of most-wanted home improvements are showing something new. Now, homemakers yearn for a central vacuum cleaning system.

For such a system, the motor and canister holding a multi-gallon disposable dust bag are installed in a convenient location outside the living room—usually basement, garage or attic. Pipe leads to room outlets that look like electric outlets.

To vacuum, the homemaker inserts a hose that flicks a switch.

AMONG the advantages claimed for built-in vacuum cleaning systems are:

1. Since motor and dust bag are never brought into living area, there's no recreation of dust.
2. The motor is a heavy-duty one and therefore does a better job of removing dirt.
3. There's no tank to drag around.
4. There's an almost total absence of noise.

Central vacuum systems may be installed in existing homes or those under construction.

For more information, write Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Information Bureau, 25 Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60601.

## Pool Keeps Family Fit, Happy

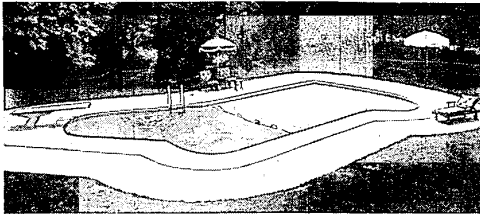
It takes some families almost two years from the time they come to the conclusion that they would be happier with a swimming pool to the time when they take their first dip.

This was one of the findings of a motivational research study just completed for the National Swimming Pool Institute.

Cars, which generally cost what a pool does, are bought with very little advance study by the family. Yet the car purchase has a built-in depreciation in value, while a pool adds to the value of a home, as well as to family pleasure.

A pool is considered a home improvement, and can be financed either through a bank loan, or through the contractor who builds the pool.

FAMILIES with members who love to swim make their decisions more quickly and easily, according to the study. They know the benefits of



AT A COST UNDER \$4,000, interestingly-shaped pool was built in the backyard of a Maryland home. It was placed in a corner of the lot, so that the tall trees of a neighboring lot form a screen for privacy and scenic beauty. A picket fence encloses the entire family property, acting as a deterrent to uninvited guests. Deck space is provided for lounging.

being able to take a dip at their own pace, at any time of the day or evening.

The women queried in the survey said they breathed easier at the thought that the

children are in a place where they can have fun and be supervised, without intruding on their feeling of freedom and relaxation. Mothers also liked the idea of knowing the children's friends when they are

invited over to swim.

Families responding to a question about the changes in their lives since owning a pool said most frequently, "It's such an easy way to keep fit, and such fun."

## New Printed Carpets Are Decorative, Practical

A utility room, sun porch or basement that's never amounted to much takes on a peppy look with the addition of one of the new printed carpets.

The carpets come in a rainbow of colors and patterns to blend with every decorating scheme.

These carpets are completely practical, too. They are made of durable, stain-resistant fibers and are backed with high density foam rubber so that no separate carpet pad is needed.

Here are some "themes" an imaginative homemaker can apply.

An enclosed sun porch makes an excellent potting shed, and the plants and flowers add to the visual decoration. A built-in bench holds the plants—and wall shelves the gardening supplies.

If POTTING soil is dropped on the carpet, it is easy to brush or vacuum away.

A laundry room is another good place for a potting shed arrangement, because the humidity in the air is good for the plants. Since the carpet and its foam rubber backing are mildew proof, the moisture won't affect them.

If her interest in gardening is limited, a homemaker might turn the laundry area into a small home office or even into a private gym. The carpet makes a good mat for exercising, and while the clothes are in the dryer she can tune up tired muscles.

In a basement turned playroom, printed carpet is doubly attractive. It goes down right over the concrete, providing warmth and comfort for the children.

Look for these new printed carpets in the following categories:

- **NEW OZITE SHAG CARPET TILE** \$89.95 (100 sq. ft.)
- **VINYL ASBESTOS** \$3.99 (100 sq. ft.)
- **KITCHEN CARPET** \$2.99 (100 sq. ft.)
- **MILK TILE** \$2.99 (100 sq. ft.)

Norman O'Brien, Hazel Park, Talks About Electric Heat



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