

Proper Lighting Turns Drabness To Elegance

About the only environment you have any direct control over these days is your home. But it's surprising how many homes are not as light, bright, and appealing as they could be.

It's not due to a lack of expensive furnishings but rather a lack of proper light, according to one authority.

Textile designer and home fashion consultant Jack Larsen says, "We may be in the space

age with the moon in our grasp but we're hardly out of the gaslight era so far as our homes are concerned."

He maintains that light is the most available, reasonable and effective decorating tool we have, but that few homes use it wisely.

THE TRICK is to realize that horizontal surfaces reflect 10 times more light than vertical surfaces. Therefore, you

can almost consider your floor as a lighting fixture. Cover it with a rich carpet that reflects light and color in different degrees, and you can create a whole new mood for your room.

Larsen explains that in searching for new, non-traditional expressions of elegance he favors using contrasting textural surfaces on which light is played.

For example, lush pile rugs, polished metal and glass tables, plastic stools, and velvety chairs might provide one set of rich reflective surfaces. Low-placed lights will reflect from one surface to another in a flattering, glowing way.

In stating that we have not yet matured in our use of what the newest work is being done by young people today. They are delving into kinetic light, psychedelic effects, projected transparencies, strobe, neon and ultra violet lights.

"These same techniques can be controlled to provide harmony in homes where conventional furnishings seem destined to failure," he adds.

Corner Built For Sit Jobs

A plan-and-do-it area for the busy homemaker can be tucked into a corner in most houses and many apartments—in the family room or utility area—where she can be close to pots at play or the kitchen.

A well-planned corner will include a desk, sewing counter, and plenty of drawers and cabinets, all easily fashioned in western lumber.

Here the homemaker can concentrate her sit-down tasks: record-keeping, bill paying, meal and party planning and sewing.

The desk area will store records and correspondence and house a foldaway typewriter and perhaps an adding machine. Where it can be done, locate desk on an outside wall to utilize space under a window.

When it comes to sewing, the homemaker will enjoy working at a counter-like divider opposite the desk. The sewing machine might even be mounted on a heavy door which swings up into a wall cabinet to form its door.

THE PROBLEM of a closetless room was solved by converting one wall into an alcove for the bed. Space at both ends was used for closets plus overhead cabinets. For a copy of the room plan send a postcard to: Masonite Corporation Home Service Bureau, Box B, Chicago, Ill. 60690, requesting plan AE-214.



THIS HARDBOARD WOODGRAIN wall paneling which comes in oak, teak, birch and cherry, combines dignified decor with ease of maintenance. Each 4 by 8-foot panel features a hand-rubbed, veneer-like finish and is random scored for single-panel effect.

Suburban Gardener

Bird Feeders Brighten A Drab Winter Garden

By BETTY FRANKEL

Bird watching and bird feeding are increasingly popular hobbies that go hand-in-hand. Put out a feeder and the birds will come, adding grace and liveliness to the winter garden.

Joe and Rita Dodd, Farmington residents who are both on the Board of Directors of the Detroit Audubon Society, suggest that feeding should be started in late summer or early fall because birds are territorial and they stake out a personal claim to desirable areas. It is not too late to begin feeding now, though.

Also, birds are creatures of habit and they feed where they are accustomed to feeding. It may take them a while to discover a new feeder and to get used to feeding at it. Once they start using it, they come to depend on it as a source of food.

Once feeding is started it should be kept up, especially in late winter when the natural foods are depleted, or the birds may starve. The Dodds say that it is better not to begin feeding at all if you plan to take a lengthy winter vacation.

THERE ARE many attractive, well-designed bird feeders that can be purchased, but simple home-made ones can work just as well, even ones that children can make by themselves. A half-gallon milk carton can be converted into a feeder by cutting a window in one side and hanging it from a tree branch. If it is painted green or brown it will blend well with the landscape. Plastic bottle caps can also be converted into bird feeders.

Feeders can be made from a juice can with a full pan as a tray beneath it, or from a plastic peanut butter jar with a large lid for a tray. An attractive feeder can be made from two wooden salad bowls.

One is used for the seeds and the other is inverted and suspended for a roof. Even a simple shelf attached to a window sill can attract many birds.

Dodd says that it is best to have the opening of the feeder on the south so it will have maximum sun and protection from icing in winter. He also recommends installing some sort of windbreak on the north or west side near the feeder. Evergreen branches might be satisfactory for this.

He also suggests putting drainage holes in the bottom of

the feeder so water won't collect and cause the seeds to get moldy.

THE DODDS fill some of their feeders with sun flower seeds. In others they use cracked corn or mixed "wild bird" seeds. They also feed the birds unroasted peanuts, suet, and suet and seed mixtures.

Mrs. Dodd melts the meat fat and mixes seeds with it. The mixture can be poured into margarine tubs or cottage cheese containers to form into little cakes that can be hung from a branch or the roof overhang.

Mesh onion bags or grapefruit bags can be used to hang suet. Dodd cautions against using galvanized wire. It is dangerous if a bird gets its eye against it in freezing temperatures.

Mrs. Dodd says that the birds do like peanut butter, but just as a mouthful can be too sticky for people, it can also stick up the bird's mouth. She mixes equal parts of melted suet and peanut butter to make a mixture that is easier to eat.

The Dodds also suggest putting out some sand and grit for the birds. They need the grit to aid in the digestion of their food, but often have trouble finding it in winter.

The Dodds have landscaped

the grounds around their home with trees and shrubs that have fruits that the birds can eat. Among the trees they have used are hawthorns, crabapples, sumac, cherries, dogwood, basswood, oak, and evergreens.

SHRUBS they have planted include viburnums, cotoneasters, elderberry, pyracantha, and honeysuckle. They recommend leaving a thicket area because birds can find shelter in the tangle of branches as well as food.

The Dodds, who keep a record of all the kinds of birds that they spot in their yard, have charted over 60 different kinds there. Less dedicated bird watchers would miss many of the tiny migrants, but there are still many to be seen in area yards.

Neil Travis, another area resident who is on the Board of Directors of the Detroit Audubon Society and who conducts bird banding studies, says that winter birds in this area include cardinals, blue jays, juncos, chickadees, nuthatches, titmice, brown creepers, and downy and hairy woodpeckers. Other possible visitors to the feeder include grosbeaks, goldfinches, redpolls and several kinds of sparrows.

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