

Creative Living



Monday, June 13, 1988 OAE

(C)18



organizing

Dorothy Lehmkuhl

Q. Months ago you offered your book free to people who hurried to write about their difficulties in organizing. My letter (in part) appeared in your column but, alas, I have never seen your book.

A. Thank you for allowing me to clear up a misunderstanding. Following is a quote from my Jan. 13, 1988, column: "I will send a complimentary copy of my '36 Hot Tips' organizing booklet, which normally sells for \$3, to the first 20 readers who send the above information (irritants) with a long self-addressed envelope."

Although you were not among the first 20 people to write, my booklet will be in your hands by the time this appears in the paper, with my compliments.

Fulfilling this offer was an education to me. It was fun reading the answers from you and others who replied quickly in order to win the booklets, and I chuckled over some of the answers. For instance, even though I had not stated that envelopes should be stamped, every envelope I received had postage attached. Some sent irritants but no envelopes; others enclosed envelopes but no irritants. One sent neither.

The ability to read and follow instructions carefully is an important aspect of being well organized. Without reading the fine print, hours can be lost, frustration encountered and tragedies can even occur. Consider the consequences of not following instructions in the following situations:

Saving a file on the computer. Signing contracts. Jumpstarting your car battery. Applying for credit. Doing a special project for your boss. Making a new recipe. Meeting deadlines. Using electric appliances in the bathroom. Filing orders for merchandise. Collecting on coupons and rebates. Using airplane oxygen masks in an emergency. Filling out your income tax return. Driving California freeways. Tallying a suit. Assembling a Big Wheel after midnight on Christmas Eve.

"A stitch in time saves nine" is an adage which still holds true. Following instructions is a "stitch" we can take to alleviate nine times the consternation of not getting things right at first. All too often, we hurriedly scan information, "assuming" we know what is written. We are unwilling to take the time from our busy lives to patiently assimilate all the details.

Dream home

Survey results show what Americans want

Americans TEND to dream. A dream was what our nation was built on. Landmark Designs' 1988 Dream Home Survey has captured a small but significant part of that "American Dream."

The Dream Home Survey asked readers of 19 newspapers around the country what they would want if they were building their dream home. Landmark Designs received over 1,500 responses to this year's survey and will use this information for turning America's dream home into a reality.

Some believe that Americans dream of massive homes with white sparkling pillars and private tennis courts. Landmark's Dream Home Survey, however, points out that most of America's dreamers are more conservative.

AMERICA'S DREAMERS seem to be sleeping with their bank books these days. Sixty percent of the participants preferred a medium-sized house (1,500-2,500 square feet) and the average budget was only \$112,128. Past survey respondents have indicated desired space of 2,000 square feet with a less realistic budget of \$70,000.

People also seem to be waking from their dreams and actually acting on them. Sixty-seven percent of the participants said they will definitely build their dream home and 24 percent have already done so.

A good setting is always an important aspect of any dream. Most American's seem to be dreaming in color this year as 47 percent say they will build in the country, while only 26 percent would choose the city.

America's dreams are a bit hazy at times, often resembling an out-of-focus television flashback. Thirty-two percent of the participants chose the bold, clean lines of contemporary style when it comes to the exterior style of their homes, while 35 percent favored period architecture. The ranch style was preferred by 25

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percent of the total vote.

When it comes to where Americans dream (the master bedroom) things are more clear. Eighty-two percent want their closet transfer to be more comfortable and envision a walk-in closet. Sixty-five percent like the idea of a skylight and 66 percent dream of a private bath with two basins.

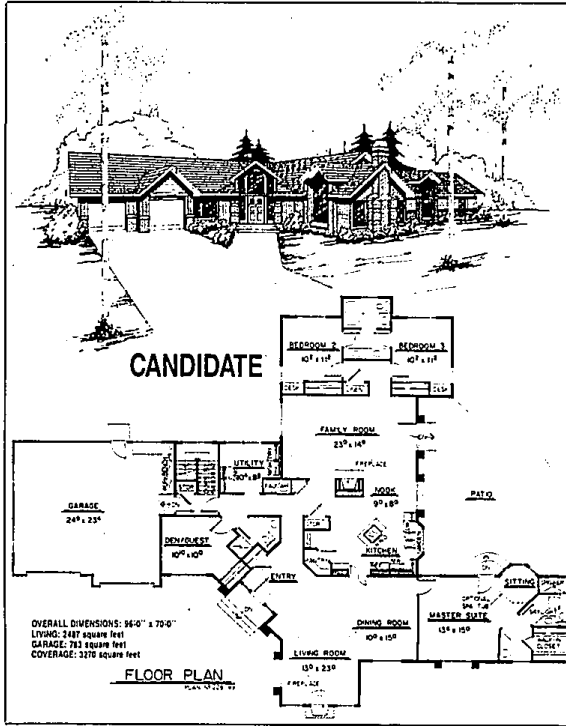
MORE COMMON SENSE has also pushed its way into the dreams of Americans as energy conservation has become a factor. Eighty-nine percent of the participants would opt for extra insulation, while 46 percent would go the passive solar route.

The garage has always been the monster under the bed for many of America's dreamers. They know it's there but they don't want to deal with it. Eighty-five percent want to avoid the rain with an attached garage and 54 percent want space for storage or a shop.

The kitchen has always been one of the most talked about aspects of Landmark's Dream Home Survey. Concerning shape and style, 47 percent prefer country style, while 34 percent want to work in a U-shaped kitchen. As far as amenities go, 91 percent want a dishwasher, 87 percent the benefits of a pantry and 83 percent a microwave.

There are also many special requests this year. Eighty-five percent of the participants dream about barbecues on the patio and 20 percent want the luxury of a swimming pool. Fireplaces are still popular, getting 67 percent of the vote. Security systems have also become important as 47 percent want to feel more secure as they dream.

Thus are the dreams of the American home builder — for 1988 anyway.



Everyone's Candidate

A national dream home is a house designed by a committee of hundreds, each filling a separate proposal, with no chance for discussion among them.

Anyone who has ever built a custom home knows that the final building emerges only after countless discussions, arguments and re-evaluations, ranging from preliminary drawings to the final coat of paint. The national plan, therefore, is everyone's home, and no one's.

Still, it represents the needs and desires of many individuals from all parts of the country. General features — stories, square footage, number of bedrooms and baths, garage size — are straight statistical averages. They set quantitative limitations on the design.

The shape and arrangement of the house is more intuitive. This is what was read between the lines of hundreds of survey responses.

THE CANDIDATE is a contemporary home with traditional visual appeal. Dormers break the gable roofs on the front and side elevations.

In an older, one-story home, this would shed some light into a low attic storage area. But there is no attic. Instead, the dormers in the Candidate form high vaults over the entry, living room and master suite. There are essentially three wings to the house.

The two smaller bedrooms and the family room constitute the children's space at the back. The inside play area is close to the bedrooms, minimizing the cluster of toys throughout the rest of the home. A semi-private bath is shared by the two bedrooms.

THE garage/den/utility room wing at the left side of the house is primarily a service area. The utility has room for appliances, sink, and work counter. If the basement and basement stairs are omitted, this could be expanded into a substantial work room or hobby center.

With a formal living room, dining room and master suite, the front of the house is the adult sector.

The master suite includes a private bath, a walk-in closet and a sitting area with a bay window looking out on the side patio. The sitting area is designed to be adapted for an octagonal spa tub if desired.

A LARGE, U-shaped kitchen lies at the junction of three wings. The work area includes an island range/oven, built-in dishwasher and double sink with garden window.

Between the family room fireplace and patio window is an informal eating area.

For a study plan of the Candidate (228-99), send \$5 to Landmark Designs, P.O. Box 2832, Eugene, Ore. 97402. (Be sure to specify plan name and number when ordering.)



designing ways

Eve Garvin

THE SEASON I love the most is spring. To see the crocus peeking through the snow is a wondrous thing.

Gardening is therapy for me. Putting my hands into the earth puts me at peace with myself and the world.

When we moved from a house to an apartment, the one thing I thought I would miss is the garden. Not so, however. I have dressed the balcony into a veritable garden of flowering and foliage plants.

My balcony is off the breakfast room. This room has a large window that is divided into three sections.

On the outside ledge of each section, I have placed a container with a variety of petunias, pansies and ivy. By placing the containers on the ledge, the outside is brought in.

On the balcony ledge, containers are tied to the rail with picture wire. The wind can be very strong at the 18th floor. In these planters, boxes, ivy geraniums and impatiens grow together.

On the floor, large containers are nestled between rose trees that hold my kitchen bouquets of sweet basil, parsley and mint.

MY OUTDOOR room is ablaze with color. It is my favorite place for breakfast or dinner for two.

short takes

A huge "Last Day Furniture Sale" will close Homearama's Spring Sunday, June 19 in Clinton Township.

The sale will be the first in Homearama's six-year history.

Not every home will offer its furniture for sale, but many will take offers on both furniture and accessories from the model homes.

The homes in the \$125,000-\$250,000 price range, are at Dunham Pointe Subdivision on Dunham Road just east of Heydenreich Road, south of M-59.

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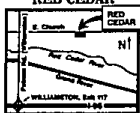
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