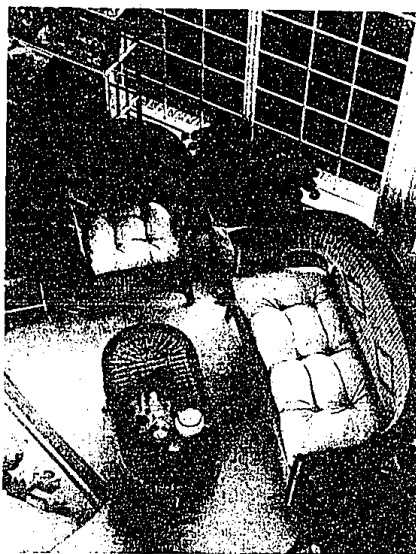


Let the sun shine — indoors



With today's sun rooms you no longer have to step out of doors to enjoy the gentle, lazy streams of light that warm both body and soul. Large windows, skylights and casual furniture help maintain the mood.

Welcome to the decade in which you can sun worship from your sofa and garden high and dry in a downpour. Or swing in the shade on a scorching afternoon.

Solariums, porches, gazebos and greenhouses all but erase the dividing line that separates what's inside and what's out. Through architecture, they allow homeowners to commune with Mother Nature, while steering clear of her stormier side.

Acquiring such an addition doesn't mean you have to buy a new home, take on a night job or suffer through months of painful renovation.

Here's a rundown of what's hot in rooms and spaces built for prime exposure or shelter from earth's largest star.

• Porches: The porch is affectionately known as the apron of the house. Or the piazza. Or the portico. Or veranda.

No matter what the name, this famed wooden facade is a timeless as lemonade. And today, it's trendy — the perfect addition for the new breeds of couch potatoes and homebodies.

Because they offer a classic way to protect the indoors while taming the outdoors, porches are enjoying a mini-renaissance. A Builder maga-

zine survey showed readers ranked the porch with the ever-popular deck.

From Queen Anne wraparounds to plain farm platforms, porches are popping up on new homes.

• Gazebos: With their lacy latticework and curved eaves, lattice-gazebos are popular now as they were in Victorian times.

While its charm elevates it to focal point as status, the gazebo also provides shelter, a place for the homeowner to escape the April shower or an era in styling, but lacy latticework and harsh July sun. The there are countless designs to choose from, a sign available with the breakfast nook, napping most modern featuring garden ornaments but and lookout.

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work, turned finials or scrollwork brackets, pattern panels to create greenhouse effect with walls around a patio or the charms of grand-

for deck. The result? An airy, mother's sun porch. indoor-outdoor room that

lets homeowners move furniture in and out with ease and weather. could grow tomatoes and Solariums and tulips indoors.

A 1990s twist on the greenhouse. The quintessential sun space — or so-called open-larum — combines the greenhouse effect with the charms of grand-

Yesterday's homeowner wanted it so he or she could grow tomatoes and tulips indoors.

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