

This house plan exudes elegance

Of the 2,397-square-foot Spectacular is one house that lives up to its name. The beautiful exterior, elegantly faced with brick and scalloped siding, is a perfect mate to the equally handsome interior floor design.

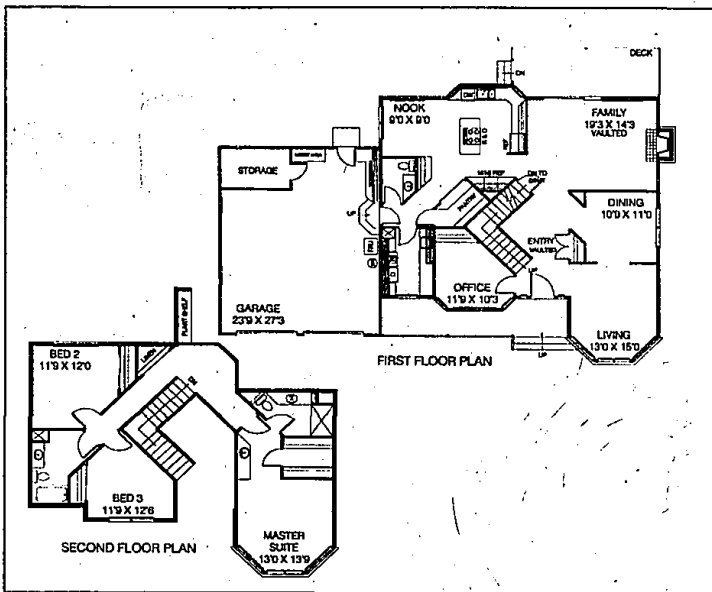
An old-fashioned front porch, covered and boasting attractive ornamental railing, is the first sight to greet your visitors. As they step into the vaulted entry, which reaches to the second floor, the openness of the Spectacular becomes evident.

With all the sleeping areas on the second level, the first floor is completely functional and allows ease of movement throughout.

An enormous bay window extends the living room to the front, affording an excellent view and a green spot to spend an afternoon with a good book. Adjoining the living room is the formal dining area.

To the right of the entry is a good-sized home office. Whether it is to be used for conducting business or managing household accounts, your seclusion and privacy are assured. There is room here for a personal computer, filing cabinets, chairs, etc.

To the rear is a spacious family room. It has a nice cozy fireplace, vaulted ceiling and sliding glass doors that lead to a raile



deck. The walk-through kitchen and breakfast nook provide a great place for informal meals and morning get-togethers. Kitchen features include a built-in mini-refrigerator, island cooktop and a utility room with a sink, sewing table and laundry chute from the second floor.

Upstairs the isolated master suite occupies one side of the top floor. Amenities here include a huge bay window, walk-in closet, vanity and private bathroom. Step outside on the raile

ized storage section, hobby area and a long, built-in workbench.

For a study kit of the Spectacular (335-050), send \$10 to Landmark Designs, P.O. Box 2307.

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Painting wallboard: a challenge that can be met

Q: I have just finished renovating my living room and am now at the stage where the wallboard work is completed. Can you give me some advice as far as painting is concerned?

A: Decorating newly finished wallboard can present a challenge for the amateur, because wallboard presents a problem surface for the painter. When painting wallboard you are actually painting two materials: the paper covering of the wallboard, and the compound that was used

to treat nail or screw heads, seams, and corners. The paper face has a slightly rough or "calendered" surface, while the taping compound is glass-smooth. These two surfaces also present unequal absorption rates, and will soak up paint or primer unevenly.

Because of these problems, wallboard manufacturers have always advised that you use a latex or water-based primer as a first coat on a new wallboard. Oil primers may dry slowly, soak into the paper face of the panels, and cause the paper nap to raise. Oil primers on wallboard will often cause very smooth spots where there is compound over

seams or fasteners, and very tough areas where the nap of the paper has been raised. Thus all wallboard manufacturers and the Gypsum Association, a trade organization that represents all wallboard manufacturers, recommend a heavy-bodied latex paint as a first coat over new wallboard.

One major manufacturer, United States Gypsum, makes a special base coat for new wallboard, called, appropriately enough, First Coat. It is available premixed, or you can buy the primer in powder form and mix it with water. It is cheaper than ordinary primer, and will provide the coverage of primers and sealers, without the disadvantages of either of these two paint products. First Coat will seal the surface, and contains enough fillers to act as a primer, so it equalizes the action on both the taping compound areas and the bare paper areas.

The Gypsum Association advises professionals to shear coat the entire surface of the wall and/or ceiling with compound, so no bare paper is left. In effect, one just plasters the entire surface with painting compound, so there is no difference in texture between paper and compound. However, troweling a complete room can be a messy job if you are not skilled

with a trowel, so we advise using First Coat as a wallboard undercoater. Once the surface differences have been eliminated with First Coat, you can then recoat with any type of paint finish.

Q: Can you give me some tips on how to wash painted walls?

A: If you are interested in just cleaning a dirty wall, you can use soap and

water. A gentle liquid soap, such as Ivory, is good.

Rub the wall down lightly with a towel or a sponge. Don't scrub too hard, or you will create a slight gloss by removing the pigment.

Plan out a project before you start doing the work

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You'll save time, money and a lot of frustration if you think a project through and carefully plan each step before beginning.

For almost any undertaking, large or small, you'll benefit by drawing up your plans on paper. A good set of plans lets you see what tools you'll need and aids in estimating the amount and cost of the materials you'll use. It also helps you see the complexity of the entire job, so that you can decide whether or not you'll need professional help.

When planning a large project, break it down into a series of small, manageable projects. This allows you to make timely purchases, organize your time and spot any work that requires a professional.

Begin by making a sketch or diagram of the project. It needn't be elaborate or artistic - simply clear enough to illustrate what you mean to do, showing all the parts and indicating the materials you plan to use. You can make simple outlines of the parts and use heavy dots of X's for the nails, screws or bolts.

Then, to ensure accurate results, transfer the sketch to graph paper, letting each square on the paper equal 1 foot or some other clear-cut measurement.

For large projects, if you don't want to draw your own plans, you can alter existing ones. Purchase ready-drawn plans at home centers, or copy plans

from books or magazines. If your project is elaborate, some home centers offer personalized computer planning.

Once the plans for the project are drawn up, think the whole job through and make a list of the major steps. Put the steps in order, break them down into substeps, and number the steps and substeps.

Checking through the steps, make a list of all the tools you will want to have on hand. Then examine the steps and plans to determine the amount of materials you will need, including fasteners and the hardware.

Line up helpers if the job is going to require working with materials that are heavy or awkward to handle. Also, set up a space for working on the project and storing the materials.

If there will be a lot of waste material, decide how you will recycle or dispose of it. Remember that materials such as gila, paints, lacquers, varnishes, thinners, strippers and other solvents are flammable or toxic. Some are hazardous to the environment.

Follow label directions for disposal. Or contact your local government to learn how to dispose of them properly.

Before finalizing any building or renovation plans, review them with your local building inspector, so that you are familiar with any related codes, restrictions or requirements and have complied with the law if a permit is necessary.

Get a permit if you need one, and schedule any necessary inspections. Permits are usually required for major renovations, such as turning a garage into a guest room.

But they also may be required for small jobs, such as walling in a patio, building a barbecue with a high chimney, breaking through a curb to install a driveway, and many plumbing and electrical jobs.

When working on a project that requires digging or excavating, such as putting in a sidewalk, ask your local utility and cable companies to mark the location of underground cables or pipelines before you start digging.

This will protect you from possible injury, liability and disruption of service.

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