

Combine Efforts To Redecorate Room



BOY'S ROOM — It has built-in comfort as well as recreational, study and hobby facilities.

Tasteful but dramatic changes in an ordinary room can make a boy's bedroom an exciting adventure for the growing lad.

The accompanying photo shows how a family accomplished an extraordinary modernization because Dad could put up new walls and lay a new floor covering and Mom had a fair for furnishings and decor that were "just right" for their son. The lad participated in both the planning and the carpentry.

To add visual length to a squarish room, the family decided to cover the sleep wall with shale white paneling, but mounted the paneling so the grooves would run horizontally instead of the normal vertical direction. These factory-finished hardboard panels are easily applied over furring strips.

Other walls were lined with a light oak, a textured panel, which forms a scuff-resistant, attractive background for the

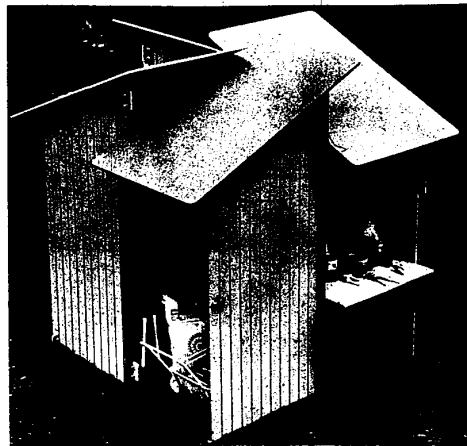
work-study area and the general lounging and closet section.

Once the vinyl floor was laid, Mom got busy with the furnishings. These included molded plastic chairs, large seating cushions for the floor, a shag rug near the bed, a transparent headboard behind which colorful art posters were mounted.

A ruggedly appealing red, blue, and beige bedspread and matching shade and cushions contrast with the bold blue area rug.

The warm brown wood tone and embossed texture of the oak paneling add a masculine touch. Here, the vertical grooves balance the horizontal accent of the white paneling on the adjacent wall and handsomely frame the white drop-down desk and store cabinets.

For more ideas on this boy's room and other ways to modernize your home, send a postcard to the Masonite Home Service Bureau Box B, Chicago, Ill. 60606, requesting a free copy of a 16-page color-illustrated booklet, "Living Ideas for Your World at Home," Form No. 7110.



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Your Trees Contribute To Over-All Ecology

EAST LANSING
Your yard may be a nice place to visit — perhaps it has a barbecue pit, a swing, an aluminum lawn chair and a basketball court — but would trees and other plants want to live there?

"Plants are vital to our comfort as well as our ecological health," says Joe Cox, extension landscape architect specialist at Michigan State University. "And it's well worth our time and thought to consider the needs of trees, flowers and shrubs when we landscape."

Trees soak up noise, break the wind and create cool shade. They provide a home

for wildlife and food for both man and animals.

Green plants also convert carbon dioxide and sunlight into oxygen and carbohydrates. This helps to reduce the "greenhouse effect" whereby excessive carbon dioxide increases the earth temperature by trapping solar radiation.

"So, it makes good sense to cater to the needs of growing things," the specialist suggests. "If you are landscaping your home grounds, keep both aesthetics and ecology in mind." No matter how small your contribution may be, it will have a

cumulative effect with others in your community.

FOR EXAMPLE, if you choose trees and shrubs with an eye for scale and proportion, they will not only be attractive, but they can be placed to create shade or be shaded as needed, he says. Your neighbors may follow your example.

Plan for diversity, too, because it helps to stabilize natural systems. Select different species which will thrive in your particular environment. Healthy plants resist unwanted insects while weak ones attract them.

If you live in a smog-ridden area, the specialist says, it's a good idea to know which plants are relatively resistant to pollution.

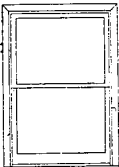
In general, locust, oak, gingko, maple and linden trees are most resistant to unhealthy air. Geraniums, petunias and gladioli are a good bet for a flower garden. "None of these choices is a suitable substitute for your commitment to work for cleaner air where all plants, trees and shrubs will thrive," he says.

Lumber

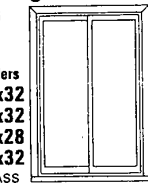
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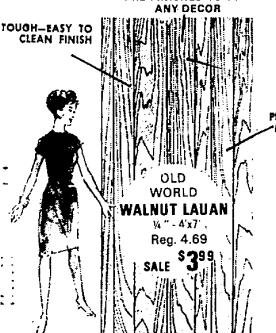
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Sharp Shearers, Short Stems Best

Cutting rose flowers is a important part of any total rose care program, says a horticulturist. Incorrect cutting not only results in poor cut flower quality, but can injure the rose bush and lower its vigor.

According to Dr. William H. Carlson, sharp tools are the most important part of cutting flowers. "By keeping your tools sharp you avoid breaking or twisting off the flowers."

Carlson recommends that flowers be left on the bushes in their first season of blooming. This lets the plant develop into a larger bush. "If flowers are cut during the first season, cut them with very short stems," he says. "Cutting long-stemmed flowers removes foliage that is essential to the

plant's ability to make food. This slows growth and future flowering."

Even on older, healthy plants Carlson cautions against cutting excessively long stems. "Keep at least two leaves between the cut and the main stem," he says.

If flowers are not cut for inside display, remove them when their petals fall. Cut them just above the top leaf on the stem. Removing withered flowers within a cluster gives the remaining flowers more room to develop, says Carlson. For the best cut flowers, Carlson recommends cutting just before the petals begin to unfold. "The flowers will open normally and last longer than if cut when fully open," he says. "The best time to cut flowers is in the late afternoon."

Bulletin Available

Homeowners who want to establish their own lawns can do so with the help of an informative bulletin written by Michigan State University lawn experts.

Titled "Lawn Establishment," the extension bulletin offers do-it-yourself tips to those who want to start their own lawns from scratch. These tips come from specialists in MSU's Department of Crop and Soil Sciences.

A chapter on "Steps to Success" talks about site preparation, soil modification, fertilization and liming, seedbed preparation, seeding,

sodding, and post-establishment care.

Blends and mixtures of turfgrass varieties and species are discussed in the chapter on "Selecting Adapted Turfgrasses."

The good and bad points of Kentucky Bluegrass, Red Fescue, special purpose turfgrasses, temporary turfgrasses, and grasses not adapted to Michigan are featured in the closing chapter titled "Lawn Grasses."

Single copies of the bulletin (E-673) can be obtained free of charge by writing to: MSU Bulletin Office, Box 231, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

First Aid For Flowers

The following tips on first aid for cut flowers are offered by Michigan State University horticulturists.

To revive cut flowers that begin to wilt prematurely, make a slanting cut an inch or so from the base of the stem and then place the stem in

several minutes is ideal).

After the hot water treatment, quickly plunge the stems into cold water. The hot water drives out any air bubbles that have formed in the stem and allows the cold water to rise and revive the flower.

This treatment can extend the life of many cut flowers by several days, but it won't save old flowers or flowers that have wilted for several hours.

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