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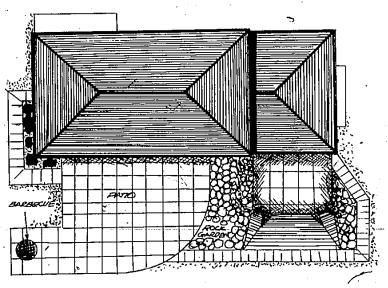
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TO PLAN A PATIO allow an area for your barbecue, remember electrical outlets, take advantage of the beauty of existing trees and the natural terrain of your property.

PLANNING YOUR PATIO. CAN BE PLEASURABLE

It used to be called a patlo. These days, when more and more of the family activity and entertainment takes place there, it has become an extension of the home itself, and is the "party place."

According to the American Assoclation of Nurserymen, the planning of an outdoor living area can be every bit as much fun as enjoying it later on. With outdoor living gaining prominent stature over recent years, the right kind of advance planning and preparation can be very worthwhile.

As one nursery industry leader puts it, "So many homes now-adays are built with a bare slab which serves as a patio. You can grill on it, you can sit on it, but it doesn't create any atmosphere which tends to expand the home. And that's where decorative planning usually begins. He's Robert Siebenthaler, an Ohio landscape expert who has had much experience in planning and

installing outdoor living areas.
"The fact is." Siebenthaler says, "the same people who are very good at decorating the interior of their homes seem to doubt their own ability when it comes to decorating the room outside --the patio or terrace

THREE IMPORTANT ELE-MENTS in the planning of a patio "party place," Siebenthaler thinks, are privacy, beauty, and environ-mental health. He suggests a simple and common-sense approach to accomplishing all three objectives.

"Even people who like blg open spaces around their home seem to require a bit of privacy when it comes to decorating their patios or terraces," he says. "The way this is achieved depends on the setting. If you're sitting next to a two-story house that's looking right down on your outside party room, perhaps a shade tree is the best idea for the basic plan. In another case a hedge or shrub planting would provide the screening you need."

Along with the privacy, most people appreciate an open vista permitting a view of the more attractive areas of the yard or neighborhood surroundings, and this should be a part of the decorating plan.

'A part of the plan must account for the location of the patio or terrace party place," the AAN spokes-man points out. "If the space is on the west side or exposed to the sun so the evening hour is sundrenched to make a little oven there, then shade is much more important than if the area is situated where the sun is not a factor. These are the things the amateur decorator can handle," he says. "The need for particular kinds of privacy, shade, view --all are accomplished by planting the right materials in the right places. And it doesn't have to be difficult or expensive."

COLOR SPOTS are a major consideration in decorating the outdoor party place. Potted plants or flower boxes of annuals or perennials often fill this need. Some may prefer the planting of flowering trees or bushes. "Maintenance should be considered in this connection," the Ohio landscape planner and installer says, "Frankly, if a homeowner's design is within his ability to maintain easily it's going to be better, in the long run, than a more elaborate design which may eventually look unkempt."

The members of the American Association of Nurserymen are talking a great deal, these days, about the effect of plantings on the health of our environment, and this is a major point in the decorating of the outdoor party place. "Trees and bushes and plants are nature's gifts to improve the part of the world in which each of us lives," they say.

"Plant parts act to capture the impurities in the air, contributing to a breathable, livable atmosphere. They screen out noise pollution They feed the earth."