

Outdoor Room Meets Relaxation Need

Today's home architecture, and the communities in which homes are built, the pace of life of the people who live in these homes, and the quality of the environment surrounding them all call for a new approach to outdoor living.

The nursery growers, garden centers and landscape

firms which make up the American Association of Nurserymen are studying this fact of life, and have come up with a new "outdoor room" to meet what they identify as an important need.

They call it the "quiet place."

The working man or woman comes home from a noisy,

smelly, tense world with a need for quiet, fresh air, peace of mind, and comfort.

When the weather is at all acceptable, these should be found outdoors; but, too often, the outside part of the home is not designed to provide them.

Many homes these days are built with a concrete slab

somewhere at the back which is intended to serve as a patio. With some imagination and a bit of planning, it can be made into a useful additional room to add to the home-a party place.

But seldom does it serve as the place for retreat or intimate conversation today's hectic pace makes neces-

sary. Thus, the development of the new outdoor room: the quiet place.

Depending on the decorative bent of the family, or the creativeness of the garden center or landscape designer, the "quiet place" may take on any number of shapes and sizes and decorative approaches.

Common ingredients will

be a "sight and sound" barrier of shrubs and trees, splashes of color provided by flower plants and trees, a couple of comfortable outdoor chairs or lounges, or sometimes, a bird bath or fountain to add nature's music to the mini-environment.

The important element in the planning of a "quiet place," the association says,

is that it provide the small and private outdoor room for the home-the place where one or two or three tired and busy people can relax in a healthful atmosphere, in beauty, in release from the noise of traffic and industry, and in privacy.

Green, growing nature's gifts provide the vital ele-

ments for natural air conditioning, attractiveness, sound reduction, and sight screens. This is the right time of year to set aside a corner of the yard to design a quiet place.

It may be another room of the home-an outdoor room-to add a new dimension to family life.

24-Inch Stud Spacing Cuts Framing Costs

When you are building a house, space those floor joists and wall studs 50 percent farther apart - at 24 inches instead of 16 inches. You'll save from \$250 to \$500 on framing costs.

Test houses supervised by the National Association of Home Builders have proved that, in both NAHB's and the timber industry are promoting this technique for saving on lumber and labor.

All four of the major building code agencies, plus the Federal Housing Adminis-

tration, accept the 24-inch framing module, which involves floor joists, wall studs and roof trusses.

The number of builders who have swung to the wider spacing is growing, but a majority of the more than 100,000 house contractors continue to frame their walls at 16-inch centers, thus passing up sure savings.

In hundreds of communities, outdated codes still bar use of the 24-inch system. But local change is merely waiting for someone to

take the first step, observes the nationwide technical staff of Western Wood Products Association.

Often, no builder has asked the building inspector about it, and no home buyer has demanded it of his contractor.

A builder often is reluctant to change to 24-inch spacing for fear that his competitor

down the street will point out to prospective buyers that his framing looks flimsier than 16-inch.

Actually, controlled tests accepted by code agencies have proved the wider spacing to be fully adequate.

This system requires the next greater thickness for rick-resistant plywood or insulation aboard to be used

as sheathing over the framing skeleton.

Large builders who sell from completed models have no fear of visual comparisons of framing, and put the savings into more useful and appealing items, such as appliances, storage or a wood deck.

But the savings on both lumber quantities and man-

hours that are inherent in 24-inch spacing are equally available to the small builder. It may be up to the home buyer to demand it before construction starts.

A 16-page booklet, "Mod 24," which explains how the system is applied, is offered free by Western Wood Products Assn., Yeon Bldg., Portland, Or. 97204.

Nasturtiums Are Edible Bouquets

For a really delicious taste-thrill, snap off the spur of a nasturtium flower and eat it.

The combination of sweet nectar and mildly pungent flavor of the plant mingle to produce a delicious taste.

Actually, the entire nasturtium plant, including stems, leaves, flowers and seeds are great to eat.

The spicy leaves are good sandwiches and salads, imparting a flavor similar to garden cress. The seeds make a good winter snack.

They grow large as peas and are easy to handle.

Just clean and bottle them with freshly boiled vinegar. Then, seal and store for winter.

Of course, nasturtiums are beautiful in the flower garden. Choose dwarf varieties for low beds and borders, and tall types to climb up trellis and netting.

Flowers are mostly yellow, orange and red on long stems excellent for dainty flower arrangements.

Cultivate soil well before planting seed in spring after danger of frost. When planted in shade or a soil that's too rich and moist, they have a tendency to produce more leaves than flowers.

Children love to plant nasturtium seeds because the seeds are very easy to handle, and the resulting plants have other attractions.

For instance, hummingbirds love nasturtium nectar, and if you have never seen a hummingbird in your garden a bed of nasturtiums might well attract them.

Two popular varieties of nasturtiums are the gleam and jewel series. Flowers of gleam are extra-large and sweet-scented, growing three feet tall with stems long enough to make beautiful flower arrangements.

The jewel series are low-growing - just one foot high, each plant creating a neat dome of flowers and foliage.

Prevent Rust

To avoid rust stains, use galvanized aluminum or stainless steel nails for outdoor projects.

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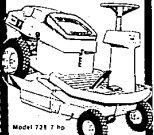
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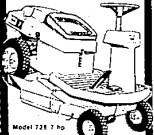
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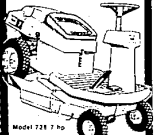
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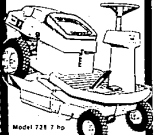
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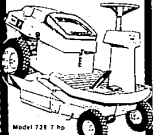
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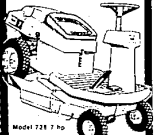
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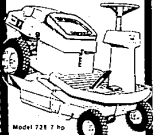
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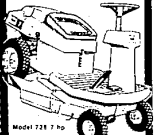
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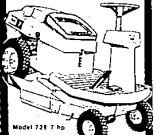
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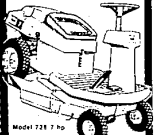
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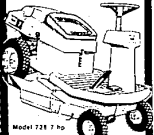
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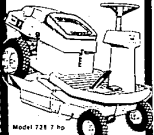
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