

Vacation Homes Give Architects Free Hand



ONE OF A SERIES of new vacation home designs, this "eagle's nest" is ideal for rugged hillside locations. It features observation tower decks and PermaShield gliding patio doors to take full advantage of the views.

Whether you own them or design them — vacation homes let you escape the routine.

An architect who specializes in residential and vacation home design says that most of today's housing "is not what people want," because its design is influenced by "routine" deterrents ranging from local zoning to the architectural preferences of the neighborhood.

According to Robert Martin Engelbrecht, AIA, head of R.M. Engelbrecht and Associates, Princeton, N.J., the

result is "homes burdened with criteria."

Vacation homes, however, allow "a freedom of design that is as much an escape from these restrictions as a vacation is from a daily job."

This "freer aspect" of vacation homes was evidenced in a market survey undertaken by Engelbrecht's firm for a group of some 20 major building product manufacturers.

A leading window manufacturer felt the character of vacation homes was changing radically — as were owner and builder demands.

The survey showed that "do-it-yourself vacation cottages" were giving way to sophisticated, high-quality leisure homes — some costing more than primary residences — and that owners were demanding "exciting" designs, comfort, and low-maintenance convenience features.

To meet these demands, Engelbrecht's firm has designed a continuing series of contemporary vacation homes.

When necessary, the present 21 designs will be updated, and new ones are expected to be added each year.

The houses are designed for all geographic locations, including beach and mountain areas. They tend to be spacious and lofty; feature large decks and wide glass areas; and have a wood look.

Modular construction is often used to achieve design flexibility. Quality building materials

are specified to assure that the homes will meet "contemporary standards."

For example, all designs call for low-maintenance PermaShield windows and gliding patio doors. These units have vinyl-clad wood-core sash and frames that won't require painting and will not pit, rust or corrode. Double-pane insulating glass — which eliminates the inconvenience of separate storm sash — is standard.

One of the most dramatic designs in the series is the

Olympic — a two-story eagle's nest perched on columns and "connected" to a hillside by a bridge. There's a spiral staircase between floors, and three "lockout" decks.

Gliding patio doors and casement windows open the house to sunlight and views. This home and other designs are depicted in the Series II Vacation Plan Guide, available for \$2 from V-PAC Council, P.O. Box 622, Princeton, N.J. 08540.

Green Thumb Writer Wins National Award

George ("Doc") Abraham, whose Green Thumb garden column appears in the Observer Newspapers, has been named America's leading horticultural journalist by the Men's Garden Club of America.

"Doc" and his wife Katy were given the top award for outstanding contributions in the horticultural field because of their work through

radio, television and newspaper articles.

The Green Thumb column is carried regularly in this paper. The gold award recognized Doc and Katy for their work with young people in schools, as well as many of America's 80-million gardening adults who follow their advice.

The Green Thumb family enterprise started back in 1917 shortly after "Doc" was

discharged from the Army after five years of military service in World War II.

Doc started writing the weekly column which has appeared in 135 newspapers in America and Canada.

During that period, Doc teamed up with his wife Katy to produce a question and answer feature, and conduct the Green Thumb radio program which has been carried

continuously over WHAM in Rochester, N.Y. for nearly a quarter of a century. Doc and Katy have conducted their own TV program over WOKR-TV, and ABC affiliate, for more than three years.

The Green Thumb team, as they are familiarly called, brought up their family in Naples, N.Y. where they conducted a commercial greenhouse and landscape business

for more than 25 years, making them well qualified to write and talk about indoor and outdoor gardening.

The special citation was presented for "outstanding contributions to the field of horticulture through their down-to-earth writings and informative shows which have provided inspiration, education and entertainment for so many of America's 80 million gardeners." This is

the fifth national honor to come to the Abrahams.

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The Observer Newspaper's other garden columnist, Betty Frankel of Farmington, was named top garden writer in the country earlier this year by the Women's National Farm and Garden Assn.

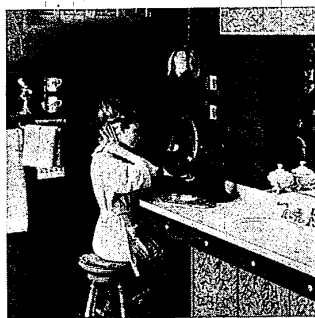
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Pinch Mums For Beauty

Pinching mums now will result in bushier plants with more flowers this fall, according to MSU horticulturists. You can remove the top half inch of each shoot by pinching it between your thumbs and forefinger and breaking it off.



BATHROOM DECOR has taken a long step toward developing a new style — one characterized by warmth and textures. In this bathroom a corner linen closet was removed so that a dressing counter could be installed. Necessary storage space was built in beneath the twin lavatories.

It Pays To Get Best Bathroom Equipment

As with everything else you buy, bathroom fixtures come in a range of types and prices. You'll get the most for your money if you buy quality equipment that will give you many years of trouble-free service. Your plumbing takes a lot of hard wear, so it pays to get the best.

These tips on ways to upgrade your bathroom come from the Plumbing - Heating - Cooling Information Bureau:

1. Buy a siphon jet water closet. It has the best mechanical function, is the quietest and is easiest to keep

clean. If you get the off-the-floor type, it will make cleaning the floor easier too.

2. Get a vanity lavatory with storage space beneath and counter space for your toiletries. It will dress up the room's appearance too.

3. Make sure the lavatory bowl is a generous size. It won't take up much more room and it will give you greater convenience when you do your laundry or shampoo your hair.

4. Tubs come in various sizes. One that's a few inches deeper, wider or longer will make your bathing more relaxing and enjoyable. You

can get tubs with slip-resistant bottoms, shelves for grooming aids and other special features.

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