

Versatile Room Tops 'Want List'

In Homes For Young Families

Top on the list of wanted features in a home owned by young families is the family room. To be a good, the family room must offer space designed to serve many purposes and to permit lightning-quick changes in function and character. It must be able to work as an informal dining area. It must be a playroom, a home office, hobby center, party room, TV den, and sometimes even laundry, all rolled into one.

It must have as many facets as a well cut diamond and be equally sparkling to the eye.

Top-notch design and cabinet work are the keys to success. To work as a playroom, for example, the family room requires on-the-spot toy and game storage.

A generous double-door closet shelved top to bottom divides the room. Here youngsters can stow everything from Barbie dolls to the Old Maid deck and keep them in relatively neat order. Best yet, playtime litter can be cleaned up in a whisk when storage is so close at hand.

Working as a home office, the room requires a desk, which can be built into one corner, perhaps under a window. Plenty of drawer space is needed, including one file drawer, plus an adequately long and deep writing top, for the desk will also double beautifully as a buffet counter for informal entertaining.

It's also possible, and in many cases extremely practical, to design the desk to work as a sewing table, with machine head that drops below the writing counter or one that slides into a side cabinet when not in use.

Bookshelves in the office corner are another must for reference works such as cookbooks and dictionaries as well as for leisure reading and the children's library. Modern hardware makes it easy to hang shelves on the wall and to space them imaginatively.

As a dining area, the family room demands china cupboards as well as drawers for flatware and table mats. Ideally, these cabinets should be built in conjunction with the kitchen, with cupboards and even drawers that can be loaded on the kitchen side and unloaded from the family room side.

All that's required for this space-saving design are front and back doors on the china cabinets, and drawers built to pull from either direction.

Laundry equipment, if needed, can be installed on another wall and concealed from view with folding doors. Shelves built over the appliances will keep soaps handy but safely out of children's reach.

Last but not least is the requirement of beauty in a family room, but it's an easy one to fill. When cabinet work is designed in a richly colored wood, like vertical grain Douglas fir,

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Humidifier Helps In New Homes

You can minimize many of the problems of "breaking in" a new house if you install a furnace humidifier at the start.

"Dry air is often responsible for warped doors, windows that stick, moldings that pull away, and cracked walls in new homes," advise engineers.

These things happen because the materials used in new homes lose much of their moisture. The loss is especially rapid when the heat is turned on.

To avoid this, your new house should be equipped with a furnace humidifier that will keep the indoor relative humidity between 35 and 45 per cent.

In many houses, new and old, the indoor air in winter can have as little as eight to 12 per cent relative humidity.

That's dryer than the air in Death Valley, which has 25 per cent relative humidity.

Air this dry acts like a sponge. It pulls moisture from woodwork, plaster, drywall, paint, wallpaper — anything it touches.

Result? You complain to your builder and wait for the service man to arrive.

With a proper humidifier, you're less apt to have this trouble, which means fewer service calls for you and the builder to worry about.

The best kind of humidifier has rotating bronze discs in a stainless steel water reservoir.

As the discs turn, they pick up water and hold it for evaporation in the warm air stream from the furnace.

With this type of humidifier, maintenance and hard water problems are reduced to a minimum.

Automatic Washer Makes Job Easy

A few years ago, the control panel on an automatic washer was a delight for any science fiction fan.

There were enough dials, knobs, buttons and flashing light to suggest that the washer could be launched into orbit. If you only found the right combination of switches.

The average homemaker, with so much other things to do, just didn't have time to experiment each time she put the clothes in the washer.

The importance of these washers in the evolution of modern laundry equipment was to show that the American homemaker wanted automaticity, but she wanted it without complexity.

She wanted simply for the washer to do all the work for her that it should while still giving her sufficient flexibility to handle special problems herself.

This demand resulted in the simplicity of automaticity that distinguishes today's laundry appliances.

Modern automatic washers need only a push of a button to do completely any of nine washing procedures.

In this genuinely modern laundry, automaticity is underlined by simplicity.

Technology has combined several functions into one, giving greater dependability and longer life to the washer, and making its operation one of ease in a job where you have a right to demand it.

Extra features on modern washers are designed to fit and fill extra necessities of the individual homemaker.

Some deluxe models feature automatic pre-wash and soak cycles for the homemaker whose laundry includes heavily soiled clothing.

A feature such as the automatic fabric softener dispenser is designed to enable you to have optimum results from this most popular new laundering aid.

Other features, such as special cold and wash-and-wear cycles, rustless ball-hinged and full cycle safety lid that stops action in seconds when opened are conveniences fashioned to meet genuine needs.

On the lawn

WITH LARRY LAWRENCE

I am often asked what to do about summer crabgrass. I usually reply, "Are you sure it's crabgrass? Better take a sample to the local Scotts dealer and compare it with photos of the various wild grasses on his Weedrama. Then you'll know what to use."

If it is crabgrass, two applications of Scotts Clout, a week apart, will stop it dead without harming the desirable grasses. If you don't get around to using Clout control by the end of August, seed heads have formed and are ripening rapidly. You then will likely need only one treatment of Clout to stop ripening of the seeds. A second if you want to get rid of the plants as well.

By the middle of September, crabgrass has gone to seed. No use worrying about it. Instead, give your lawn a thorough raking (rent a power rake if you can) and plant grass seed. Then early next Spring, use pre-emergence salts to prevent crabgrass from getting started again.

Septic Disposal

A septic tank demands good drainage and should be constructed to carry waste away quickly.

It is most important to have a good disposal field which allows even seepage from drain tile in the ground.

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New Look Possible On Budget

A home is as old as it looks. Millions of owners of older homes are recognizing this fact as the fall modernization season approaches.

Recognizing the desires of those homeowners to give their homes a "new" look on a limited budget, the following low cost modernization suggestions are passed along.

- Replace faded or worn window shades with custom aluminum venetian blinds. The new look on your finishes of the venetians will add lustre to a room and they retain their finish for years.
- Repaint wall and ceilings with bright colors or employ striking patterned wallpaper to give life to drab rooms.
- Have rugs cleaned by a professional cleaning service.
- Add books and bookcases, bright new picture or floral arrangements to enhance wall areas.
- Rearrange furniture to focus attention on a room's most interesting feature — chairs and coffee table, the piano, a favorite arm chair, etc.

All of the above can be done for a few hundred dollars and when you're finished you won't recognize the old place.

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