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Home Should Always Include Corner For Child's Playground

The old saying, "The grass is always greener in the other fellow's yard" need not apply these days. Let Dad fuss with the fertilizer, the seed and the lawn mower to his heart's content, but save a corner of the yard for a playground area and provide your children with an imaginative learning experience as well as fun.

Sound expensive? Not so, according to Frank Caplan, President of Creative Playthings Inc., Princeton, N.J., whose latest free catalog has an entire section on how to set up play areas for children. According to Caplan, a well planned play area can cost surprisingly little and for those parents who want as much variety as possible as

operative playground provides the solution.

A start can be made on your own block with an actively run backyard playground with each parent dividing up a part of his unused backyard. The important thing to remember is that play yards are meant for active, spontaneous play and should provide an adventure, discovery and activity.

Tunnels for crawling and climbing add adventure. Concrete or gravel blocks, piled in hills of earth provide the mysterious cavern-like darkness so intriguing to children.

Short trees, trunks, or large smooth rocks provide play for a variety of jumping games as well as for seats and tables. Every playground should have a sand and water play area.

Most sand boxes are so small, the child won't sit on one spot and make sand piles, but prefer to build castles, tunnels and trenches.

Other ways of providing water are to use tractor tires cut horizontally or large plastic basins at varying heights connected by funnels or hoses, with the hoses completed by a simple pump.

Children love running up and sliding down. Full advantage should be taken of this difference in levels. Earth shaping by a bulldozer can create artificial mounds for falling down and slides with great results, can be slid down or climbed up.

For active play without interruption, provide play facilities and equipment made for use in inclement weather or shelter from sudden downpours or burning hot sun. Covered sandboxes or roofs extend play in damp or hot weather. Swings and see-saws do not make a play space.

A climbing netter that is saw-saw. Opportunities to use sand and water, to work with construction and artistic media, to play with games, to dramatize with dolls and play houses, to use wheel toys, to sail boats or to garden—all these are important in any play yard plan.

Provision should be made for children to play by themselves.

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Observer HOME IMPROVEMENT
Do-It-Yourself • Decorating • Remodeling

Wednesday, July 21, 1965 Page 5-B

Wood Paneling Adds To Home Decorations

Once upon a time wood paneling meant an early American setting or an expensive book-lined den. Today, paneling is used in homes of every price range and in every room in the house.

Modern furnishings especially require a setting of sufficient warmth to give rooms a softened air, but one that does not conflict with the decorative scheme. Warm of tone, rich and expressive woods are ideal for the paneling of modern rooms.

News in the use of wood in modern home decoration is the upsurge in the use of color which can be obtained by blending finishes with the wood surface. Blues, greens—even golds—can provide beautiful wall effects and may be applied to Western Pine and other woods with excellent results.

Lumber responds beautifully to stains and clear or pigmented finishes that allow the grain and knots to show through. Thus, the lumber may be left with its natural tone, or even when color is added with a wipe-on, brush-off finish, the wood will display its qualities of beauty and interest. It also may be painted, but then the beauty of the wood is hidden.

The size of a room and style of furniture determines the type of paneling installation. An air of spaciousness is produced by use of boards 10 or 12 inches wide for paneling. Narrower widths emphasize the direction of line, as well as lending a natural and subtly-patterned effect to the wall.

In a modern living room where a formal but comfortable atmosphere is indicated, use 6-inch widths of paneling with simple V-joints and a light finish to blend with any color selected for furnishings, giving a sense of wholeness and harmony.

The fine patina of waxed paneling will complement a soft drapery fabric to great advantage, yet dramatize a loosely hand-woven material.

New Product Simplifies Patching Jobs

Nothing has been discovered to prevent the ravages of winter's freezes, thaws and extreme temperature changes that cause breaks in concrete and other masonry. But a new product, Dry-Latex Concrete, has been developed to make patching easier and the results more durable.

All you need to do is add water, mix and apply directly to any sound masonry. No time-consuming preparation of chipping or roughing, no priming and curing are necessary.

The product, the first dry latex concrete to be introduced on the market, is sold in 5, 10 and 40-lb. bags ready to use. It makes an immediate, perfect bond to any surface, and can be applied to damp or dry surfaces, either indoors or outdoors, since it is not affected by weather. In fact it is tougher than the concrete itself and won't dry or crumble.

Uses include repairing rough, cracked and rain pitted, freeze-cracked sidewalks, driveways, foundations, floors, swimming pools and garden masonry. Seaf-proof and resilient, it is also used for smoothing or repairing large floor and wall surfaces in industrial work.

Latex-Concrete was first available in a powder form which required a special latex liquid for mixing. Now in its dry form, it is available at local building supply dealers, hardware and paint stores or lumber dealers.

Leaks May Mean Roof's Worn Out

Once a roof shows definite signs of wear, don't put off replacing it until heavy rains or melting snow seep into the house and cause costly damage to walls, ceilings and furnishings.

Roofs tend to wear out uniformly, so that a repair job is rarely the answer. If there is a leak, the chances are you'll have others soon. Some leaks, in fact, are so hard to find that a damaged ceiling or wall is the first sign.

A new roof of heavyweight asphalt shingles applied over the original roofing will protect against the worst weather and will improve the appearance of the entire house.

Because they are heavier and thicker, these shingles can be expected to give long service. They are warranted, guaranteed or bonded up to 25 years by their manufacturers.

Weather-Colored

Western red cedar acquires a distinctive "bleed" with color. Douglas fir attains the soft luster of pewter. Both are top the lumber species for garden use.

Gate Brace

When building a gate, give it maximum strength against sagging by installing a Z shaped brace facing the hinges. The direct line of stress would then run from the upper corner on the latch side of the gate to the hinge side at the lower corner.

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Get rid of weeds which spoil the appearance of your patio, driveway, brick walks, garden paths, etc. TRIOX not only kills weeds, it makes them barren, prevents plant growth from 1 to 2 years. Follow label directions and cautions.

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Houses Getting Bigger But Prices Are Stable

Houses and lots are getting bigger, but house prices remain stable.

A recent survey by the National Association of Home Builders' Economic Council revealed that half of the new homes being built in 1965 will contain more than 1,370 square feet, with 11 per cent over 2,000 square feet. This is an increase of approximately 100 square feet over 1964.

The typical lot size among respondents this year is expected to be 9,720 square feet, as compared to 9,644 last year.

Today's "typical house" sells for \$19,374, up only slightly from last year's \$19,269, in contrast to larger increases in recent years. The typical house is most likely a one-story brick. Survey respondents said 28 per cent of their homes have brick exteriors, 15 per cent wood siding, and 30 per cent a combination of two or more exterior materials.

They expect about 62 per cent of their homes to have one story. In 1964, two-story homes accounted for 17 per cent of the total, and split-levels 21 per cent.

The typical house has a garage or carport, a family room, and two bathrooms. Forty per cent of the respondents' new units have two bathrooms, while 23 per cent have 1½ baths.

A third of the houses have a fireplace, and a third are air-conditioned, although the figure rises to three out of four in the South. Three-fourths of new apartment units are air-conditioned.

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Economical Way To Multiply Rose Supply

Want to increase your rose supply by layering? Select a low growing branch. Notch it a little more than halfway through. Bury the cut in the soil with the branch still attached to the mother plant. Bent clothes hangers will help hold the branch under the soil.

When the new plant appears to be rooted, cut it away from the mother with a sharp downward thrust of the spade.

Let it continue to grow in this location for the balance of the year. Next spring, it can be moved to its permanent place in the garden.

Shadow Divider

Interesting lawn divider can be built of sheets of translucent plastic set in heavy Douglas fir frames painted black. Shrubs planted behind will cast good shadow patterns on the plastic.

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