

Observer

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Do-It-Yourself • Decorating • Remodeling

Page ★ 4-B Wednesday, March 9, 1966

Make Plans for Swim Pool

Now is the time to start making plans if yours is one of the 60,000 American families expected to build swimming pools this year.

Pool design normally is determined by the style of the home, the contour of the yard, and the extent the pool is to be used. Equally important is the material used in a pool.


Most desirable, of course, are durable materials that require a minimum of upkeep. Ceramic tile is preferred around the water line because it is almost indestructible and easy to keep clean. It can't be harmed by water or sun. Just an occasional quick wipe with a damp cloth will keep it looking sparkling new.

At the end of 1965 there were nearly 650,000 swimming pools in the U.S. Of these, 435,000 are residential.

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Ambitious Handyman Can Fail Without Proper Preparations

Impulsive handymen are likely to get rambunctious come spring and that first crocus. By golly, they are going to make a winter dream or two come true. And those dreams are ambitious. It could take a house-wrecking crew, because what the do-it-yourselfer would like to do is reconstruct his castle.

Everywhere he may see room for improvement—terrace, deck, patio, remove porch, build porch, remove dining room, build new nursery.

When he thinks about removing a porch, he should be able to visualize his plans for a new facade.

One can put oneself back by going forward so fast. If the handyman artistic and can visualize results of these improvements, there is no problem.

A plan should be made before anything is done. One way to make sketches, but these must be accurate, realistic sketches.

Another way is to use large prints of photographs of the house as a guide. Draw or paint the new look on it. If the plan is to develop that look in easy stages, use several photographs with each stage depicted.

An architect is the answer for people with very ambitious plans. But many people shy away from architects because they feel the fee will break the bank.

Actually, a good architect can save you money. He is well worth his fee if you have long-range plans.

And the way to find a good architect is to observe a job that he has done. If it doesn't cost anything to ask an architect how much he will charge, what he will do for a specified sum and where you can see an example of his work.

Some architects work on an hourly basis. You pay for the time it takes him and his staff to draw up plans. The rest is up to you.

Other architects prefer the percentage fee based on the cost of the project. For that fee, they make a plan, give advice while the project is under way and see that the plan is carried out properly.

Architects say they prefer this method because some builders, carpenters and do-it-yourselfers have difficulty following architectural plans, and the bad results may reflect on the architect's prestige.

The difference between a smooth or a bodgepodge job can be in insignificant things. A great workman may not be an esthetic. It takes a trained eye to round off difficult corners.

Some houses are naturals for remodeling. You can't ruin their lines by putting up a



PROGRAMMING A customer's specifications Williamson, vice president of the company, and for a new home on the Automatic Service Komputer at the Gordon Williamson Co. are from Todd Mather, computer operator. The new machine, the first of its kind in the area, matches a customer's wishes for a new home with the more than 2,000 listings on file.

Computer Helps Find Right Home

In the age of technology everything is geared to the machine. However, contrary to the popular cliché, machines are still the servants of man.

A such is the thought behind the newest piece of equipment in the newly opened Gordon Williamson Co. real estate office at 33620 Five Mile Rd., Livonia.

It's a computer to match up one's specifications for a home with the more than 2,000 listings available to Williamson customers.

The formal name of the house finding computer is ASK (which stands for Automatic Service Komputer). Williamson holds the exclusive franchise on the machine for the metropolitan area. It's the first in Michigan and the seventh such machine in the country.

Although housed in the Williamson office in Livonia the machine is connected by direct wire to the other Williamson offices in Farmington, Dearborn, Birmingham and Detroit.

Daniel R. Williamson, vice president and treasurer of the company, told The Observer that the computer is designed to serve large, really firms. During 1965, Williamson's sales volume was \$15,790,174 in residential, commercial and vacant properties.

ASK is equipped with automatic file maintenance capacity that permits rapid file updating to keep pace with the fast changing area-wide multiple listings.

The equipment is designed to replace the tedious work of leafing through files of cards by hand searching for the right house.

Measuring about six feet in length, the machine's control panel has 165 buttons and knobs. One section is devoted to street addresses.

In the middle of the panel are buttons labeled with vital statistics including the number of bedrooms, baths, fireplace, den, type of construction, garage, basement, new or used, geographical area and style.

The latter category is broken down 11 different ways, including split-level, ranch, colonial, bungalow, duplex, investment, vacant or acreage.

At the right of the panel is a knob that selects the price range, which goes to \$70,000 or even higher.

The operator can handle as many as 1,000 house listings a minute.

If none is satisfactory to the house hunter, the operator may change any or all of the categories and send the cards through again. Or he may try a stack of different colored cards to see whether there is anything available in some other location. This is kept up until the house shopper finds the house that appeals—and then an appointment is made for personal inspection.

Williamson said that the machine would be a great time saver, but emphasized that it would not eliminate a buyer's personal contact with buyers and sellers.

Williamson did add, however, that the machine did everything "but make the down payment."

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(Excerpt from Criticism)

DON'T SIGN THAT CONTRACT

- If there is a percentage holding penalty cancellation clause—this could cost you \$200 to \$500
- Unless all verbal promises are written, as to type of lumber, door and all specifications
- Until you know the builder you are buying from, in one company, many builders own a garage company under a different name, when you have your bids from several you are still dealing with the same company
- If you are paying for high advertising and over-head costs



- Compare Price
- Compare Quality
- Established Location
- Custom Building Not Volume Production Type Building
- No Money Down—1st Payment September
- Estimates

KE 3-7070

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Size	Description	Was	SALE	Size	Description	Was	SALE
12x16.8	501 NYLON PILE, gold texture	\$98	\$59.95	13x11.2	NYLON PILE, gold texture	120	59.95
12x7.9	WOOL PILE commercial, gold & beige	169	59.95	12x12.4	501 NYLON PILE, gold texture	126	59.95
12x14	NYLON PILE, acrylic, parchment	140	69.95	12x9.2	COMM. NYLON PILE, gold	80	49.95
15x16.8	NYLON PILE, gold, parchment	217	99.95	12x7.9	WOOL PILE COMM., asphalt	170	59.95
15x12.6	NYLON PILE, grey tweed	260	119.95	12x8.2	501 NYLON PILE, avocado texture	77	39.95
12x11	ACRYLIC PILE, royal blue, tip shear	200	109.95	12x10.9	501 NYLON PILE, beige tweed	145	69.95
12x7.7	ACRYLIC PILE, Marten plush	160	89.95	12x8.7	501 NYLON PILE, olive texture	80	39.95
12x7.4	501 NYLON PILE, Moss green	70	29.95	12x12.4	NYLON PILE, parchment embossed	140	59.95
12x16.8	501 NYLON PILE, Sand beige	100	59.95	12x18.2	NYLON PILE, beige bedroom plush	70	39.95
12x9	Commercial WOOL PILE, Aqua bronze	200	79.95	12x11.3	501 NYLON PILE, and texture	105	59.95
12x6.5	ACRYLIC PILE, Avocado, Tip Shear Cordon	120	39.95	12x9.7	501 NYLON PILE, gold tweed	100	59.95
12x9.5	501 NYLON PILE, Avocado	80	39.95	12x3.5	WOOL COMM., red heavy	55	14.95
12x12.4	501 NYLON PILE, brown beige	144	79.95	12x4.4	WOOL COMM., avocado heavy	90	19.95
12x8	COMM., moss green	145	69.95	12x3	WOOL PILE COMM., gold-orange	50	9.95
12x15	501 NYLON PILE, with blue	140	69.95	12x1.9	501 NYLON PILE, gold tweed	45	9.95
15x12.8	NYLON PILE, beige brown tweed	130	69.95	12x2.6	WOOL PILE COMM., green	50	8.95

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