

Here's A Home Project Handyman Will Enjoy

Are you a would-be handyman who would like just one to be able to construct something from start to finish without calling for professional assistance? The answer for you may be lining your closets with aromatic red cedar. It may sound difficult but even the unhandiest of handymen agree the project can be com-

Observer GARDEN PAGE Page 10-A Wednesday, July 20, 1966

Realtors Pick Booth, Deremo

William E. Booth and Carl Deremo Jr. have been elected as directors of the Michigan Real Estate Association. The two Realtors will represent the Western Wayne-Oakland County Board of Realtors. Booth is currently the treasurer of the MREA as well as a director of the National Association of Real Estate Boards. He is vice president of Spencer, Booth and Bruton Real Estate Company, Detroit, Redford and Garden City.

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PARTICIPATING in the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new office building of the Harrison-Moore Realty are (from left): Everett Wilson, president of the United Northwestern Realty Association — Western Wayne-Oakland County Board of Realtors; Dan Harrison; Robert Knox, Director-Secretary of the Detroit Housing Commission and Chester Moore.

Play-Work At Cabin This Year

Consider this during the current National Home Improvement Month: Fix up your vacation cabin this summer for more comfortable living and have fun in the doing! Don't try to do everything in one season, though, suggests John Concord, home improvement consultant to Masonite Corporation. Start on the easiest part is good psychology, he says. Cover open studs of the cabin with factory-finished woodgrained board panels. They have an exceptionally durable finish that resists bumps and abrasion. Once a season wipe-down with a damp cloth keeps them in prime condition.

Putting up panels is like ABC with a new cartridge-type adhesive made especially for this purpose. Just squeeze out a small amount on the exposed studs and add the panels. No on-the-job finishing is needed. Chances are the cabin's exterior also needs a facelift. Adding new siding such as Rux-Ninety, which has a textured surface, is relatively easy for the amateur carpenter. The vacationing do-it-yourself family can "mint money" by doing the work themselves—not every day, but just enough to make their vacation pay off in a better investment and improved living. "Make a plan for the future," Concord says, "and work it out in one or more vacation periods. In keeping with the spirit of these vacation improvements, don't overdo; work a few hours and then swim, fish, golf or relax the rest of the day."

Break Ground for New Harrison-Moore Office

Ground has been broken for the construction of a new office building to be occupied by Harrison-Moore Realty. Located at 19640 Grand River, between Outer Drive and Evergreen, it is believed to be the first office structure in half a century designed and built expressly for real-estate brokerage purposes in northwest Detroit. Completion is expected by autumn. The building will feature large expanses of glass with redwood trim, and space is designated for sales offices, closing and conference rooms, and for a new electronic computer system. Lester Fader, professor of architecture at the University of Michigan, is the architect. Headed by Realtors Dan Harrison and Chester Moore, the firm is a member of the United Northwestern Realty Association—Western Wayne-Oakland County Board of Realtors. Harrison-Moore Realty presently maintains offices in Detroit, Livonia and Dearborn Heights.

Heavy Roofing Insures Long-Term Coverage

A growing interest among homeowners in the durability of their roofs has led to an increased use of heavyweight and self-sealing asphalt shingles, according to Building Supply News. The trade journal reported that a survey of building supply dealers showed a hike of up to 12 per cent in heavyweight shingle sales during the past year. Self-sealing sales averaged about 34 per cent of the market.

Children's Toys Need Lead-Free Paint Protection

When painting toys or children's furniture, be sure to use a paint designed for use on indoor surfaces. Paint made for outdoor use usually contains more lead than that made for indoor use. Outdoor paint should never be used on toys, woodwork, furniture, or anywhere inside the home. Young children are prone to chew on everything within reach, and lead is as deadly as it is tasteless. They are teething and some children continue the chewing habit even longer. It is of tremendous importance to apply only coatings that cannot be inhaled if they are chewed and swallowed. It's a good idea to check with your paint dealer if you're at all in doubt about the type of paint to use for children's toys and furniture. Start Tile in Center Before installing ceiling tiles, locate the exact center of the ceiling, say installation experts. Border tiles should be installed last.

The dealers noted that in many cases heavyweight shingle roofs were specified by homeowners, and that the primary reason given was durability. Heavyweights carry a service guarantee of up to 25 years, and are considered a low-maintenance material. Their selection, said dealers, was also due to the attractiveness of thicker shingles and the wider range of colors. New home buyers "often switched to heavyweights even though they had to pay above their allowance for 235-pound standard shingles."

As defined by the Asphalt Roofing Industry Bureau, heavyweight shingles are those which weigh 290 or more pounds per 100 square feet of roof. This added weight gives more weather protection and longer life to the roof. Self-sealers have a factory-applied adhesive backing which is activated by the heat of the sun and bonds each shingle to the one below. They carry an Underwriters' Laboratory label for wind resistance.

No Great Skill Needed Floor Finish Can Brighten Your Home

Making old wooden floors look like new can make an old, rundown house look bright and inviting once more.

No great skill is needed, only care. The equipment can be rented, so that the only investment is in a new floor finish and your time. Floors will need sanding before applying a new finish. But before sanding, prepare the surface. If nail heads show, set them with a hammer and nail set and fill the holes with wood putty. Cracks should be filled with putty also. To make sanding around the edges of a room easier, remove the molding along the baseboards. Pry up carefully to avoid splintering and cracking. You can then bring your sander right to the edge of the floor without damaging the molding or the baseboard. Occasionally, a floor will have a bulge or high spot. Plane these smooth, since the sander would just ride over such an area. Clear the room of all furniture, shades, pictures, mirrors. Open windows but close doors to adjoining rooms. Floor sanders can be rented from tool rental agencies, most hardware or paint stores. Have the dealer show you exactly how this model works. Buy enough sandpaper for the machine and get three grades—coarse, medium and fine—which you will use in that order. Start with coarse grit paper and sand the floor boards, straight to the opposite wall. Come back along the same path. The next pass with the sander should overlap the previous by two or three inches. The coarse grit paper cuts through the old finish. The second sanding with medium-grit paper is to get rid of the roughness left by the first sanding. The final sanding with fine paper is to make the floor properly smooth for finishing. Although the second sanding leaves the floor smooth, it is the final sanding that will give the finished floor a mirrorlike surface. Dusting is the next step. Use a vacuum to pick up every speck of dust. Be sure to dust window sills, shelves, baseboards—any place that dust may have settled. Nothing will ruin your new finish more quickly than dust. Clear finishes are used on floors to protect the surface while permitting the attractive grain patterns to show through. The usual finishes are shellac, plastic finishes and wax. Shellac goes on easily, dries quickly, does not chip or crack but is not as durable as varnish for long-wearing use. Shellac is too thick to use as it comes out of the container and should be thinned with an equal amount of alcohol or commercial solvent. Apply several thin coats. Varnish is hard and brittle but wears well. It goes on easily but dries slowly, about 24 hours between coats as compared with four or five hours for shellac. Two or three coats are needed. Sand in between. Finish both shellac and varnish by waxing. Penetrating sealers are oil-based, penetrate the wood, leave nothing on the surface. The sealer, because it has soaked in, lasts under heavy use. Use wax as a finish coat. A variety of plastic finishes go on easily, dry rapidly, wear well, need no waxing unless desired. These are more expensive than shellac or varnish but could be worth it. Special penetrating wax-seal and finish the floor at the same time. Use several coats; polish with floor wax.

Furniture Fashions Are Fickle

Dame Fashion is as fickle in the furniture field as she is in the dress industry. This is apparent in analyzing survey figures of furniture styles compiled for the last 32 years by the American Walnut Manufacturers' Association. In 1934, for example, 24 per cent of the bedroom and dining room suites displayed at the major furniture markets were Modern. Another 24 per cent were classified as miscellaneous. English Styling was next with 23 per cent, followed by Early American-Colonial with 14 per cent, French with 11 per cent and Italian-Spanish with 4 per cent.

Today Modern is second to Early American-Colonial and just a shade ahead of Italian-Spanish styling which has shown great gains in the last 8 years. From only 8 per cent in 1934, Italian-Spanish groupings have zoomed to 27.2 per cent of the market. Early American-Colonial is today's style leader with 32.4 per cent, more than double the 16-15 per cent figure it stayed at from 1934 to 1958. Modern furniture is nearly back where it started, 28.4 per cent today as compared to 24 per cent in 1934. It reached highs of 59-60 per cent of the market through the 1954-58 period.

These figures are based on Chicago and Grand Rapids market displays checked by a team of furniture experts for the walnut association. Semi-annually more than 2,500 suites at each market have been analyzed. These surveys have been acclaimed in the trade for their objectiveness and thoroughness. That American families have become furniture style conscious through the years also is evidenced in the survey by the drop of the miscellaneous from a high of 24 per cent in 1934 to less than one per cent today. English styling also lost ground during the same period, but it is now showing a rebirth of interest. The only constant style has been French which has alternated between a high of 19.5 to a low of 6 per cent.



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