

their guests, they said, "Oh, it's the greatest conversation piece you can imagine."

"We just tell everyone how eccentric our decorator is!"

BEFORE NEWLYWEDS DECORATE they ought to give some thought that a home should reflect the couple who live in it. It seems to me that if love, care, mutual respect and tolerance, and a sense of sharing and partnership are the elements of a good marriage, they will manifest themselves in the home.

Indeed, some places radiate such warmth that from the moment you walk in you feel comfortable. The tension generated by power struggles, one-upmanship, and other domestic games is absent; in its place is a kick-off-your-shoes openness.

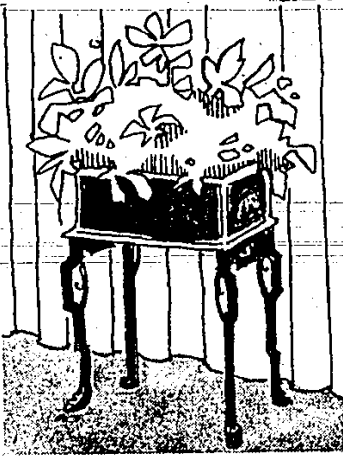
A warm and happy house has a lived-in quality. It is comfortably messy and cluttered. Soil and stains and worn spots don't jump out at you like bleeding wounds, but blend in with other lived-in features and seem to promise interesting stories.

Here one can see the accretion of past houses, past stages, past trips, past crises, furniture and other items that may not match a damned thing, but which our couple won't part with because of their sentimental value.

The cohesive element in the home is not coordinated colors or unified furniture suites or anything else you can find in a decorating magazine -- it is love.

The most important indicator of a happy home, from a decorator's viewpoint, is an aura of sharing. And by sharing I mean 50-50, not 90-10.

She will make sure he has his



great chair and strong reading light, large ashtray, and a hassock on which to put his feet in the living room; he will make sure she has a corner for her easel or loom, or that her taste in art is well represented on the walls.

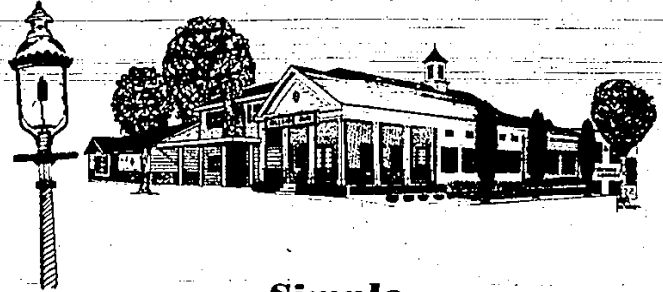
THE SMALL APARTMENT should give off a feeling that its occupants enjoy being together even while they're doing their own things.

If it's a large apartment or a house, with two people of strong and varied interests, each may have one or more rooms to himself or herself.

Some of your compromises may spoil the decorating effect, but if compromise is the name of the game in marriage, why not institute it in the most important place in your life -- your home?

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