



Basement Becomes Sound-Resistant Recreation Area

HERE IT IS—"everybody's" basement (at left)—full of interesting possibilities. With a little planning, minimal expense, and a few handy remedies for concealing architectural shortcomings, poorly used basement space is converted (at right) to a quiet zone for enjoyment of music and games. Acoustical Cushionette ceiling and the Perky Print carpeting are from the Armstrong Cork Company.



Dry Air Harms Antique Furniture

Most antique buffs don't realize it, but it takes more than furniture polish to keep warping, cracking, and buckling as the moisture is drawn out.

Veneers can peel, joints become loose, and finishes crack and craze.

The answer is to maintain proper humidity with the aid of a good humidifier, one that keeps indoor relative humidity at around 30 per cent and cold weather.

Dry air seeks to regain a moisture balance by drawing water from everything it touches.

Since the natural moisture content of wood is from five to eight per cent, wood objects are quite susceptible to damage.

Other precautions to safeguard antiques include keeping them out of the direct sunlight, away from windows or doors which may be left open, and away from heating registers or radiators.

Plant Of The Week

The Chinese evergreen, *Aglaonema*, is among the toughest house plants, says William H. Michener, Michigan State University horticulturist. It is characterized by durable, leathery, waxy green leaves.

Ideal conditions include good water and light. The temperature should be warm, 62-65 degrees F. at night, rising to 68-70 degrees F. in the daytime.

The Chinese evergreen will, however, tolerate the reduced light of a living room or office with a dry atmosphere, says Carlson.

Place the plant in a shady area, away from the sun, preferably a north window. Fifty to 500 foot candles of light is adequate.

A commercially prepared house plant soil mix available at retail garden centers or a mixture of $\frac{1}{2}$ peat, $\frac{1}{2}$ perlite, $\frac{1}{2}$ sterilized garden soil is recommended. Keep the soil evenly moist but not constantly wet. The Chinese evergreen will also grow in water.

The Chinese evergreen can be propagated from stem tip cuttings, seeds, division, or stem segment cuttings.

CHINESE EVERGREEN

never be used to dispose of trash. And if the lid is kept closed, the chances of anything falling in accidentally are lessened.

A booklet that contains dozens of tips on plumbing maintenance, including how to clear clogged pipes, what to do about noisy plumbing, how to prolong the life of your water heater, etc., is available for 30 cents plus an eight-cent stamp. Write to: The Plumber, Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Information Bureau, 35 E. Wacker Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

In the bathroom, stoppages in the water closet are the most frequent problem.

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