

*Through the town's center
A little stream flows, bordered
By weeping willows.*

Welcoming nature back

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Even aside from the environmental needs—which should have a pretty high priority—it is necessary for today's home to use its outdoor space in the most efficient manner, since that space has the lowest price tag.

Nature, once an adversary to be brought into captivity is now being recognized as a friend . . . a vital, life-saving, healing friend.

Our home planning must recognize that fact, and the places we live must include outdoor living in the family life.

The man or woman who has acquired some skill in home decorating can easily translate those talents to outdoor decorating as well.

Unfortunately, the same people who have very good skills in decorating the interior of their homes—either natural talent or acquired knowledge—seem to doubt their own ability when it comes to decorating the rooms outside.

Three important elements in the decorative planning of a patio

"party place" are privacy, beauty, and environmental health.

All three factors depend, to a considerable degree, on the use of growing plant materials placed properly for the most efficient and attractive results.

Privacy is an important consideration even for people who like big, open spaces around their homes.

The method for achieving the degree of privacy desired depends on the setting of the specific home and its surroundings.

A home next door to a two-story house that looks down on the outdoor party room probably wants a shade tree included in the basic plan.

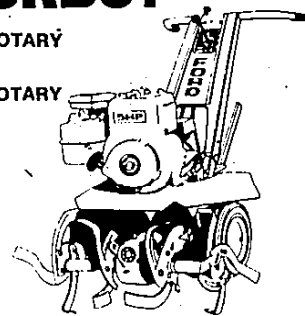
In another case, a hedge or shrub planting will offer the screening that is needed.

There must, in many cases, be a barrier against sun and noise. If the space is on the west side or exposed to the sun so the evening hour could be uncomfortable, then shade is important, and can be accomplished with the right kind of plantings.

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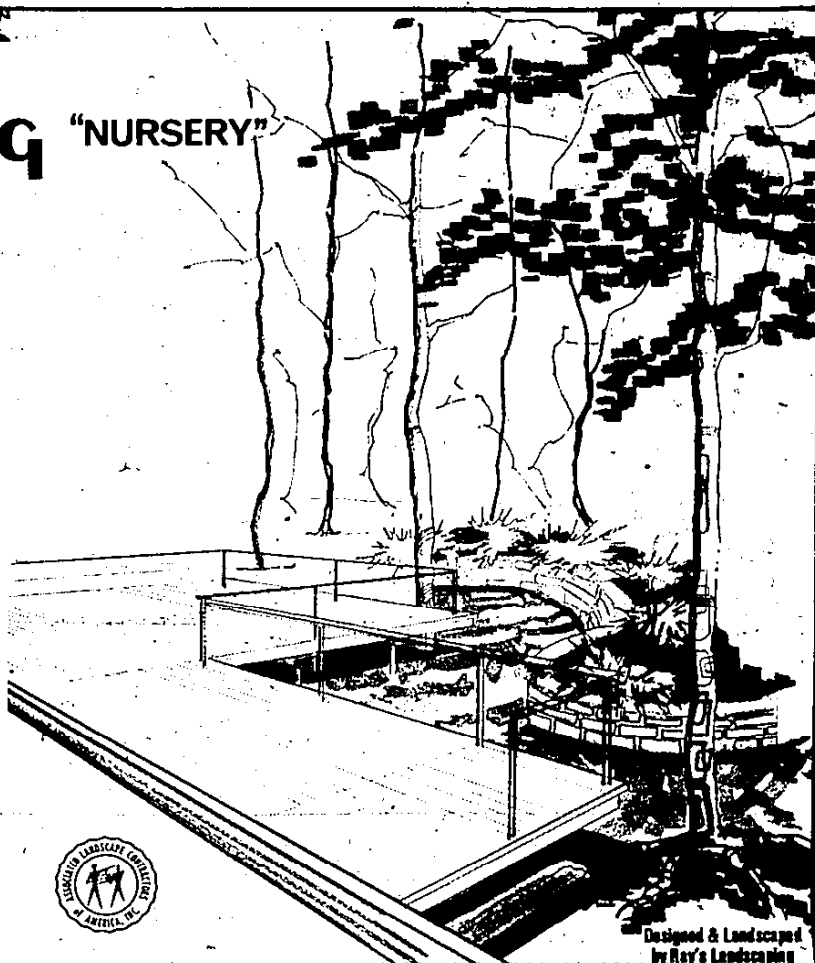
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