



Grand old porch is updated for modern living

*First dream of the year...
I kept it a dark secret
Smiling to myself*

Growing up with nature . . .

When today's elder generation—even the middle generation—was growing up, nature, with woods and swamps and gravel roadways, was often an enemy.

Escaping from nature's threats was a major challenge, and the major role of the home was to provide escape from her forces.

Homes were built large and strong to give protection from nature, and were designed to accommodate most of the activities of family life within their walls.

Not so today. Now the problem we face is to bring America's families back to a natural environment in the face of all the concrete and asphalt and glass and smoke and mechanism and noise and congestion with which we spend our days.

That's the position being taken by the nursery growers, garden centers, and landscape firms.

Since we have subdued the of nature we have to do battle with our own technology to bring nature back into our lives.

There was a need, a few decades ago, for residential architecture that was primarily intended to provide a barrier against nature.

Now we have to open our walls and welcome nature back into our cities with all her gifts of order and form, rhythms, and spacial relationships—gifts in short supply in modern urban conditions.

What is needed, the people of the nursery industry say, is a new kind of architecture.

The plan of the house, itself, must be "exploded" to meet the environmental needs of the whole family on all the space available in the residential lot.

It's a concept that sees the walls of the home moved to the property line by using trees and shrubs and plants and grass to create additional rooms—outdoor rooms.

Some of the new "rooms" which might be included in any home plan are logical extensions of already-familiar outdoor facilities.

A "party room," for example, is

a well thought-out decoration of the traditional patio.

The "play room" is the recreation area, but with a new use of plants and shrubs and other landscaping materials to provide the best conditions for each game the family might wish to enjoy.

The "quiet place" is a sort of outdoor "study"—the small and private area removed from the sights and sounds which intrude so often.

And somewhere at the front of the house there can be a sort of outdoor "foyer"—a place that says "welcome" with plantings that create a friendly greeting room.

There is an economical imperative in this kind of planning for the family environment.

Today's costs of building and land make it impossible for most families to have the kind of large house which used to be constructed, with room inside for just about anything any member of the family wanted to do.

(See NATURE, Page 47)