

Homework help abounds in books

Sociological savants and economists in the know are all predicting that people will be spending more time than ever around their respective homesteads this summer.

That means this spring will be a good time to tackle those home improvement projects and plant that often-planned special garden because you'll have more time to enjoy them this year.

The shaping-up projects needn't involve a phalanx of high-priced professional gardeners and interior decorators. With the aid of the dozens of new home and garden books available at local bookstores and libraries any enthusiastic amateur can perform miracles with a minimum of expenditure of time and money.

If you are thinking of tackling a large-scale redecoration project and are looking for inspiration, you might check Alain Demachy's "Interior Architecture and Decoration" (William Morrow and Company). Demachy has exercised his talent for modern interior design in the homes of des Rothschilds, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg and Brigitte Bardot. So if posh is what you're after, his large color photographs will help you secure the proper "ambiance."

New York Times columnist Rita Reif's new book, "Home: It Takes More than Money" (New York Times), puts posh within reaching distance with chapters detailing "Big Designs with Little Cash," "France in Westchester County" and "What Others Put Out in the Trash."

If it's not the Ritz you're after, Barty Phillips's "How to Decorate Your Home Without Going Broke" (Doubleday) explains in full color how to choose the right carpet, create extra storage space and light a room effectively.

Bill Baker's "House of Ideas" is a how-to manual that anyone can follow. It starts at the entryway and takes you to the back yard with 275 pages of pictures and plans for new home safety and convenience features.

Most home projects are more limited in scope. One room that seems to wear out more quickly than others is the kitchen. Sunset has come out with a new manual

in this area, "Planning and Remodeling Kitchens." Local resident Patrick J. Galvin's "Book for Successful Kitchens" (Structures) is also an excellent remodeling guide. Even more particularly, Robert P. Stevenson's "How to Build and Buy Cabinets for the Modern Kitchen" zeros in on one of the most common problem areas in kitchen design.

Those figuring on spending a lot of time in the back yard will be interested in George Daniels's "Decks, Porches and Patios" (Creative home) and Stanley Schuler's "The Complete Terrace Book" (Colliers) which tells you how to design, build, furnish and landscape various outdoor living areas.

For the homes that just need a screw tightened here and there in the course of spring cleaning, Jim Webb's popular "You Don't Need a Man to Fix It Book" (Doubleday) is just what the leaky pipes ordered. Alvin Ubell's "Recipes for Home Repair" (Quadrangle) is another excellent fix-it guide.

To avoid having to fix it at all, you ought to read Hubbard Cobb's "Preventive Maintenance for Your House or Apartment" (Random House) — a new money-saving guide on how to spot approaching trouble and get it cured before it happens.

Some interesting new furniture books on the shelves include Diane Cleaver's "The Box Book — The World's Cheapest Way to Build Furniture" (McKay), "How to Make Children's Furniture and Play Equipment" by Mario Dal Fabbro (McGraw) and the second volume of James Hennessey's "Nomadic Furniture" (Pantheon).

Making the yard presentable is always a big job once the snow melts and reveals all the gouges. "The Gardener's Catalogue" (Morrow) is an oversize paperback that answers any and all questions on lawn and garden care.

If you dread the yearly tug-of-war with the recalcitrant lawn mower, arm yourself with Tom Cathbertson's "My Lawn Mower Hates Me" (Ten Speed Press), which is an original manual for hand and power mowers.

For those weary gardeners in tree-covered areas who have thrown down their trowel in de-



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spair of ever nurturing a blossom, help comes in the form of Helen Van Pelt Wilson's "Successful Gardening in the Shade" (Doubleday) which gives invaluable tips on how to keep the lawn up to par and also have colorful flowers without much sun.

Gardening is not only esthetically pleasing, it's also good for you. So says Alice Wessels Burlingame in her new book, "Hoe for Health." This book explains how gardening can be a therapy for both physical and emotional ills.

The use of plants indoors has expanded from the little touch of green on the windowsill to becoming an integral part of interior decor. William S. Hawkey's "Living with Plants" (William Morrow and Company) passes on numerous decorating tips involving plants, such as hanging them in glass globes at different heights as a room divider.

In "Bringing the Outdoors In" (Walker), H. Peter Loewer shows how to perform wonders with vines, wildflowers, ferns, mosses, bulbs, cacti and dozens of other plants most people overlook. With scores of lovely line drawings he illustrates how even a sweet potato plant can look

lovely indoors.

Jack Kramer can always be counted on to come out with three or four dozen interesting plant books each year. His "Plants that Grow on Air" (Simon and Schuster) introduces the amateur gardener to a host of plants that will thrive without soil.

In "The Pit 'n' Pot Grower's Book" (Thomas Y. Crowell), Kramer shows how to make a great indoor garden using pits and seed from everyday foods and wildflowers.

"How to Use Houseplants Indoors for Beauty and Decoration," (Doubleday), which Kramer wrote with Andrew A. Addikson, encourages home decorators to put palm trees in bathrooms, ivy over interior doorways and indulge in other dramatic plant arrangements, while also instructing how to keep them healthy.

For every book mentioned here there are scores left unmentioned that can provide aid and encouragement to anyone undertaking a home project, whether major or minor. For help with a particular problem, consult your librarian. She can put you in touch with an expert — fast.

— CAROL HASKIN