



AN AREA WAS SCOOPED OUT behind the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Gordon on Spring Valley Rd. to provide for windows and doors for a new level family room.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon and their children have created an attractive patio with a stone retaining wall, a retaining wall banked with plants. Closely spaced grass grows between the retaining walls. Flagstone that are of several inches apart.

In a garden to the right of the patio, and in a garden to the left of the patio, which is in this protected location. The north wall is made of large flagstone growing from the trees are

"hens and chickens" and other sedum. At the base of the wall is a bed of agave with iris, peonies, and begonias for seasonal color.

The south wall, built of cement blocks, is covered by winter creeper, euonymus. At the foot of this wall is a shady area with ferns, and persian iris and impatiens blooming in the summer.

Many varieties of plants grow on the bank above the wall. These include hosta, lily-of-the-valley, cornucopia, petunilla, and a colorful assortment of daylilies. This grassy flagstone patio with its verdant enclosure reflects Mrs. Gordon's interest in gardening.

Patio Turns Outdoors Into A Living Area

A patio is a prominent part of most suburban and many city yards. It is the center of family activity in the summer months and is used as a play area and for relaxation and entertaining. It helps make the yard a real outdoor living area.

Patio is a Spanish word meaning "courtyard" and is derived from an architectural form brought to Spain by the Moors in the 7th century. The main features were a paved area enclosed by walls, with a central pool or fountain and groups of potted plants.

Spaniards developed their typical patios in Florida, California, Mexico and other areas where they settled, and the enclosed patio is still found in these areas. In other parts of the country, however, the traditional patio has been modified so that only a token enclosure is given by the adjacent house wall.

In order to be most useful, a patio should be level and firm, and built so that it drains quickly

after a rain. Materials for paving include brick, stone, concrete, wood, and imaginative combinations of these materials.

The patio should be located where it is convenient. Patios adjacent to kitchens or family rooms prove especially popular. They will be most useful if they provide maximum shade in summer and can serve as a "sun trap" at other seasons. Depending on the situation, patios can be located so as to take advantage of a lovely view, or tucked away so they provide privacy or seclusion.

STORY: Betty Frankel

PICTURES: James Hubbard



THE ATTRACTIVE PATIO at the Allen Ansell home on La Muro Rd. was a "do-it-yourself" project. Four-foot square cement slabs are surrounded by a bed of grey crushed stone with railroad ties providing an edge to hold the gravel. The contrast in textures is very pleasing and the large cement slabs provide a firm base for chair and table legs.

which the patio was built. A four-by-four foot form was constructed and placed in position and the concrete poured into it.

At the edge of the patio a small flower bed edged with railroad ties serves as a transition between the patio and the yard.

A narrow wooden deck leads across the rear of the house to a second patio area that is now partly completed. This type of patio can be constructed a bit at a time. The soil in the Ansell yard is sandy, so it was used as the base on



MRS. RAY EICHER, who lives in a beautiful country home on Nine Mile Rd., has used pink flowers to color as a decorative touch to the patio. The patio is paved with flagstone and has a low wall on one side. The wall is covered with pink flowers. The patio is surrounded by trees and shrubs.

way sweeps around the edge of the patio; for large gatherings, guests often spill over onto the drive and sit there as well as on the patio.

The patio was constructed when a living room wing was added to the house and an area that had been lawn was paved. Three large maple trees and a Chinese elm tree growing on the lawn were surrounded by the patio but left intact. The patio was built at the same level as the lawn had been, and large circular openings were left around each tree. These are filled with smooth white stones that allow water to seep down to the tree roots.



THE HOME OF Dr. and Mrs. Conrad Lam on Westbrook Rd. in Farmington is built on a lot that slopes steeply down into a wooded ravine. The patio, just outside their lower-level family room, is at the edge of the ravine and has a view of a small waterfall and a jungle of trees and wild shrubs across the ravine.

The patio is paved with a rectangular "poured" concrete slab that has been scored into two-foot squares to prevent cracking and frost damage. The squares give the patio an attractive pattern and are of a size that is in good scale with the house and the patio area.

A decorative black wrought iron railing edges the patio area, adding an unusual, personal touch. It is a special memento for the Lam's. Before they acquired it, it was used around the mezzanine of Henry Ford Hospital, where Dr. Lam serves as a staff member.

Flagstone steps lead from the patio to the upper level, the slope next to the steps is carpeted with agave. A gnarled old Hawthorne tree is an interesting accent plant at the edge of the patio area.

A FREE-STANDING yellow enameled fireplace with a tall yellow smokestack is the highlight of the patio at the Fred Ely home on La Muro Rd. It is the focal point for cook-outs and summer entertaining.

The poured cement patio is scored into five foot blocks. Originally the patio was 20 feet long and 10 feet wide. But the Elys have added an additional five feet to the width and feel that the new proportions are more pleasing.

A beamed roof covers part of the patio, and part is left open. Railroad ties extending the length of the patio lead down to the lawn area which is about a foot below the level of the patio.

Much of the Elys' yard has been left in a natural condition with wild flowers growing between huge old trees. A patio tucked into a corner of this area is made of wood rounds sliced from trees with the bark left on. Wood chips fill the spaces between the rounds. Although this type of patio is not long-lasting, it enhances the rustic character of this area of the yard.

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5
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6
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Wednesday
7
COLONIAL SENIOR CITIZENS, 11 a.m. - Community Room

Thursday
8
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9
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