



The two-level deck off the dining room became a "summer resort."

Live-in Living room gets life

Turn about is fair play these days as more and more homemakers are eliminating living rooms in favor of live-in rooms.

Take the garden room pictured here, for example. For years, it served the family as a touch-me-not formal structure, rarely enjoyed—and admired less and less the more it was used.

A conversion was definitely in order, the owner decided. She departed from the usual family-activities area plan and opted for a real garden room complete with ficus, palm, jade and monkey trees and pots of bushy Boston fern.

Because of a seven-window arc, enough light is attracted to promote their astonishing growth. Many of the trees scale the ceiling and require regular trimming.

The room change-over called for little structural change. A fire-greased screen now camouflages the fireplace, and a white marble seating area replaces the raised hearth.

Otherwise, orange and green paint—lots of it—transformed the nondescript to dramatic realms in just eight coats.

For someone "not afraid of color," it took that much bright orange enamel on walls and ceiling to create the desired laquered look.

The brilliant green of plants and tree life was picked up in a circular skirted table and a cluster of small section tables that accent the wicker couch.

Windows and all walls including the mirrored one are framed in natural color lattice wood. Jumbo wicker garden chairs—upholstered in a green and orange floral pattern to match the couch—encircle a chrome-glass coffee table.

Ceiling track lights and a sweeping extension lamp brighten even more the already bright orange fantasy.

The blast of color here is bold to be sure, but its effect is the element that has delighted both the family and a steady flow of guests. There's enough room in the bay area for a small combo to perform, so the family often gives dance parties.

The once-carpeted floor is now covered with wall-to-wall textured rush. Circular area rugs are of natural fiber.

Often small tables are set up for brunch or late supper dining—so there's something for everyone here.

The owner probably summed it up best when she said: "I come in here when I want to be happy."

—MILLICENT WORRELL

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