

Fencing Creates A Retreat

In landscaping, a surprise can be easily achieved. It's the little things that count: a little bit of raised decking and some planters; more ambitiously, a gazebo tucked into some shrubbery.

For a simple outdoor retreat, build a lacy patterned red cedar fence, extending a few feet out from the corner of the house.

Add a baffle parallel to the house wall, or plant a shrub that will grow to the same height as the fence.

Add some cedar benches and perhaps a table, and you have a delightful hide-away that also complements the house.

If this won't look right next to the house, try placing the nook at the corner of the lot, enclosed on two sides by fencing and screened and shaded by plantings.

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Suburban Gardener A Great Estate Garden Right On Your Doorstep

By BETTY FRANKL

When a gardener goes traveling, his itinerary is apt to include the famous gardens of the area he is visiting. Whether it's Italy, England, Japan, or the United States he inspects the gardens seeking inspiration and pleasure.

All too often, though, the treasures that lie at his doorstep are overlooked. Here in Michigan we have Cranbrook House Gardens, a great estate garden, that far too few gardeners know about. This garden with its sweeping lawns, spreading trees, beautiful vistas, terraces, fountains, and beds of bright flowers is a rare example of the art of gardening and landscaping.

Cranbrook House, Cranbrook schools, the Science Institute, and the Art Galleries are located on 300 acres of rolling land in Bloomfield Hills — all beautifully landscaped and cared for.

THE PROPERTY, on Lone Pine Road just west of Woodward Ave., was purchased by newspaper publisher George Booth in 1904 and the central part of Cranbrook House was complete in 1908. Each year the gardens were extended and new

features added. The home is now surrounded by 40 acres of beautifully designed, beautifully maintained gardens. Natural areas serve as a foil for the cultivated gardens, providing variety and dramatic contrast.

Cranbrook House and its gardens reflect the English heritage of George Booth. The name, in fact, commemorates the village in Kent from which Booth's family came.

The large rambling house is situated on a small hill. On three sides the land falls away in a series of terraced gardens, each complete in itself but interconnected by flights of steps.

On the fourth side, behind the "entrance" courtyard a flight of steps climbs a little wooded hill to a secluded garden at the crest.

ON THE NORTH SIDE of the house is a lawn grassy terrace enclosed by a low stone wall topped by carved balustrades and carved baskets of fruit. There is a striking tree-framed vista of the lake. Flights of stairs on the sides lead to lower terraces.

A circular terrace below the North Terrace is centered by a large round fountain in which water spurts from turtles and dolphins over handsome ponds and is finally collected in the hollows of large shells.

To the east of the house is a long rectangular sunken garden surrounded by high vine covered walls. A pair of gravel paths extend the length of the garden and the beds between them are massed with a continuous display of blooming annuals and perennials.

Henry Booth, the son of the founder of Cranbrook, explains that these are not the newest or most exotic varieties, but those that are most dependable in this climate and that can be relied upon to perform best.

"They certainly can serve as a guide to visitors whose own gardens might need some ad-

dional trustworthy plants. Extending along the west side of the house adjacent to the library wing is a narrow terrace featuring a pair of climbing English lead sculptures representing a young gardener and a young maiden. The statues are set off by bay trees in large tubs.

A DOUBLE flight of steps with delicate wrought iron railings leads down to the west terrace, centered by a long pool bordered by perennial beds. A small fountain in a semi-circular bay lures strollers to the far end where there is a magnificent view to the distant steps and sculptures leading to the art galleries. From here, the view back to the house is lovely, too.

Wherever one turns there are picturesque views, sculpture, fountains, pools, sweeping lawns, magnificent trees, billiards banked with evergreens, little groves and hidden nooks, and a pervading sense of serenity that brings a great feeling of spiritual refreshment.

The more recent structures are the work of Elial Savarin who was the first president of Cranbrook Academy of Art.

MANY OUTSTANDING fountains and sculptures are the work of Carl Milles, the renowned Swedish sculptor, who was a resident artist at Cranbrook for many years. The beautiful plantings around the Art Gallery, Lagoon and Science Institute were designed by landscape architect James Eichstadt.

The Cranbrook House gardens and grounds around the Science and Art Institutes are open to the public, for a small fee, Tuesday through Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to either the Art Gallery or Science Institute automatically includes admission to the gardens.



PROTECTED BY a melamine silicone coating baked on tempered hardboard, this plastic-finished paneling is completely scrubbable and impervious to dirt, grease, grime, moisture. Barclay random-scored tongue and groove "Spiced Cherry" woodgrain plank is used to create the dining bar. Walls of kitchen work area are "Jonquil Yellow" solidtone paneling. Decorative valance, above window and storage cabinets, is "Cardinal Red" solidtone and a plastic-finished peg-board holds frequently used kitchen items.

Long-Lasting Tile Converts Basement

If your basement is a catch-all, mainly for junk, why not make it over into something much more useful, the whole family can enjoy?

One of the great features of a downstairs living area is its isolation from the rest of the house; weekdays children can do homework in relative quiet and, on Saturday night, their record-playing and dancing won't disturb you.

Because this room gets a great deal of wear, the Better Floors Council recommends installing a flooring of tough, long-lasting vinyl asbestos tile. It is low in price, easily installed by a handy homeowner, and maintenance is minimal.

Because resilient floor tile is fairly permanent, the council advises giving careful thought

to pattern and color—choose one the family will enjoy for years.

Particularly suited for recreation rooms are the new embossed vinyl asbestos tile patterns. These designs are available in pebble, mosaic and travertine as well as wood and brick patterns. Colors include many shades of beige, brown, gray and off-white, which blend easily with other colors in the room.

Tile can be used to divide the room according to activities by installing different colors in different areas. A conversation grouping around a fireplace can be defined with darker or lighter tile. Some vinyl asbestos tile designs are made in as many as 12 colors, so your choice is vast.

Sodding? Fight Weeds Right Now

Start lawn establishment plans now, especially if you have quackgrass, bentgrass or tall fescue is a problem in your lawn area, says a Michigan State University expert.

If any of these weeds are present, you will need to apply Amtritol-T four or five weeks before your planned date of seeding or sodding, points out Dr. William Meggitt, MSU weed control specialist.

Information on herbicide application rates is available in Extension Bulletin 633, "Lawn Weed Control."

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White Pine Shelving

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