

Evolution In Chair Shapes

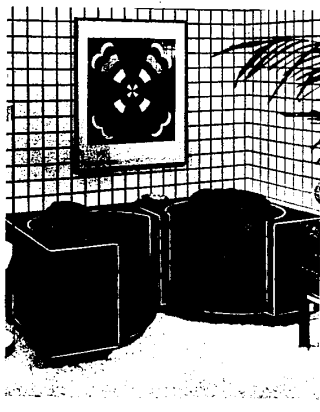
The human body appears to be changeless, but contours providing for its comfort by evolving into new shapes have come a long way from the klismos, an early Greek chair. Along its road from antiquity to now, the chair acquired comfort at the hands of the French. Springs, changing the upholstery principle, appeared during the reign of Louis XV.

In England, the Morris chair also put in a strong bid for comfort in the nineteenth century, although it did not achieve overwhelming popularity.

It took the 20th century collaboration of engineer and artist to raise the chair to its present level. The bent tubing of Marcel Breuer brought it a radical step forward, followed by the bent plywood chair of Aalto. Decades later, both are considered classics; both are much copied in principle.

The evolution continues. Chairs became bubbles—absurd, colorful and comfortable to a point.

The square chair has a new angle. The circular opening is cut on the corner instead of the straight edge. Placed side by side, a pair of square chairs bring sitters conversationally together in individual comfort. They have the advantage of arm rests at elbow level, and of facing each other at a comfortable oblique angle, possibly an improvement for many on the conventional loveseat and visually more interesting.



SQUARE PAIR—Chairs with their opening on the diagonal may be an alternative to the love seat, and visually more interesting.

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Suburban Gardener

Shrubs Should Have One Last, Long Drink

By BETTY FRANKEL.

Enthusiastic gardeners are always reluctant to admit that the gardening season is over, but when snow lies up on the patio table and hides the garden hose lying neglected on the lawn they must face the fact that the season is over — for this year.

Finish all planting chores as soon as possible. If there are bulbs that didn't get planted, pop them into the ground and they will still bloom next spring.

Trees and shrubs can still be planted, but the cover is better. The exception is large trees. These are sometimes planted late in winter when the ground is frozen hard and a truck can deliver them to planting site without making ruts in the lawn. The planting hole should be prepared in advance and filled with leaves or straw that can be removed easily at planting time.

Before putting the trees away give all newly planted trees and shrubs a long slow soaking, and do the same for all evergreens, both old and new. A thorough soaking will insure healthy fresh looking evergreens next year.

WINTER MULCHES are put on only after the ground freezes. Their purpose is not to keep the ground warm, but to keep it frozen — to prevent alternate freezing and thawing that might cause the plants to be heaved up with damage to the roots. Leaves, straw or evergreen branches can be used. Newly planted

perennials should be mulched, and a winter mulch is desirable for newly planted trees and shrubs, too.

Roses should be mulched. The tried and true method is to pile a cone of soil around each plant to a depth of about six inches. The bed is tidier if the canes are cut back to about a foot high, but this pruning can be done in spring. Make sure that climbing roses have all long branches securely fastened so they will not whip about in the wind.

Both swimming pools and garden pools should be prepared for winter. Small straight sided garden pools are best drained, but pools with slanted sides will not suffer ice damage. Logs or chunks of wood can be floated in pools to absorb the pressure from ice. A secure cover adds to winter safety.

PROTECTION from winter winds may be necessary if tender evergreens are planted where northern or western winds buffet them. This is especially true for rhododendrons. Stakes can be put in the ground now where protection will be needed, and later in the winter burlap can be lashed to the stakes. There are also plastic sprays now available in aerosol cans. They are easy to apply and effective. Follow directions carefully, however.

The vegetable garden should have the soil turned over and left in rough clods over the winter. Moisture can easily penetrate and

frost and moisture act to condition the soil.

Bring in a box or bucket of soil or compost to use for potting house plants during the winter.

To tidy the garden and as an important sanitation measure, cut off the stalks of perennial flowers now left in the garden, pull up all old annuals, and rake up fallen leaves. Do not add these to the compost pile, but burn them or dispose of them in some other way, because they may be harboring insect and fungus pests.

Rake all the fallen leaves off the lawn for the final time. These should be composted.

AFTER ALL the chores are completed, give the tools a thorough cleaning and coat them lightly with a little oil to prevent rusting.

Drain gas from the power mower and drain the oil from it, too. The ecologists suggest that the best way to dispose of this is to take it to the gas station and have them add it to their store of drained crank-case oil that is used for road oiling.

Indoor gardening is the consolation prize that the gardener has to turn to during the next few months. Put some bulbs of paper white narcissus, crocus, hyacinths, or even bulbous cacti for indoor bloom, and try your hand with some exotic foliage plants. Dwarf marigolds could be raised in a sunny window, and herbs are always useful.

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The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Rubber plant stretches: What can be done with a rubber plant that's grown so tall that it touches the ceiling?

Your best bet would be to cut the top out and root it in a jug of plain tap water. The rest of the plant will look rather leggy so your only choice is to let it grow a new top. If you don't want to do this, then cut it back to within three or four inches from the pot and let all new growth come up.

It takes a rubber plant about two months to root so be patient. Best potting mixture consists of 1/3 each of sand, peat and loam. Rubber plants need good drainage so put a few pieces of pottery in the bottom to help water drain fast. If drainage is poor, the bottom leaves will turn brown or black — tell tale evidence there's too much water around the roots.

SAVING TREES: When a new lawn is being built, good many trees are killed when soil is graded over the root area. An established tree cannot tolerate more than a few inches of soil piled over its root system.

If deep fill is needed, it's a good idea to build wells around the tree. Many builders put a layer of crushed stone and gravel over the original soil level to allow air and moisture to reach the root system. If you've got the time, you can build a tree well and while you're at it place some tile so that it runs from the well, just like spokes from a wheel.

For those of you who put a lawn in this fall, keep this winter in mind: it takes a well planned lawn to reach its peak the second and third years after planting.

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