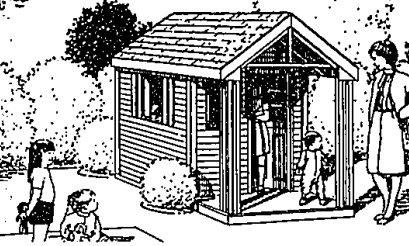


The Weekly Do-It-Yourselfer



Children's Playhouse

Wouldn't this playhouse be a great diversion for restless youngsters? The project plan is for a 4-foot by 8-foot playhouse. The instructions are complete and easy to follow. The columned front porch is accented by a Dutch door with decorative window grids (no glass), giving little ones a grown-up look. The plans include rafter-cutting templates, door construction details, 3-D cut-away drawings and floor, wall and roof framing plans. Two complete sets of the plans are included:

- Send me the Project Plan #90033 Construction Package (ready-to-build blueprints). Includes 2 prints and complete materials list . . . \$22.
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2-floor house has 3 bedrooms

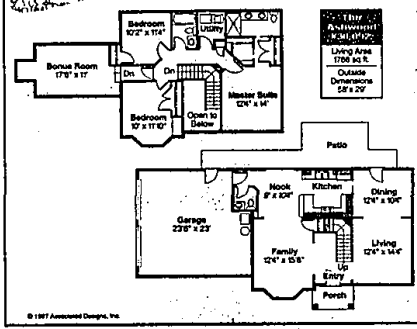
Intriguing roof lines and window treatments draw eyes to the Ashwood, a two-story midsize home with three bedrooms and three bathrooms. Bold masonry pillars, brick veneer and stately shutters add to the visual appeal.

The main floor is devoted to family living. Formal rooms are on the right, informal rooms on the left. The two sides are connected front and rear by the entry and kitchen, providing young children the option of running circles when bad weather keeps them inside too long.

Fully two stories high, the impressive entry creates a first impression of spaciousness. Light spills down through a small round window, high up in the wall. In the family room, the bay window that expands and brightens the space is a great place to put a cozy window seat. Sliders in the main open onto a patio. The kitchen is designed for efficiency, with sink, dishwasher, refrigerator and range all within steps of each other. A short eating bar is handy for snacking, or chatting with folks in the nook. The small bathroom next to the garage is handy for quick pit stops as well as washing up after working outside.

Bedrooms are all on the second level, along with utilities. The master suite boasts two closets, one larger than the other. The master bath is small, but it does have twin lavatories and a larger shower. A pocket door separates the bathroom from the dressing area. Secondary bedrooms share a bathroom with a tub.

For a review plan, including scaled floor plans, elevations, section and artist's conception, send \$15 to Associated Designs, 1100 Jacobs Dr., Eugene, Ore. 97402. Please specify the Ashwood 30-092 and include a return address within one week. A catalog featuring over 170 home plans is available for \$12.



Decorative ceilings friendly to environment

(NU) - Can a ceiling really be environmentally friendly while being aesthetically pleasing at the same time? You bet it can.

That's the word from the National Association of Home Builders Research Center, which recently constructed a 3,800-square-foot, two story "Resource Conservation House." It is located in the Washington, D.C., suburb of Bowie, Md.

According to NAHB officials, the house, built to test a demonstration building products that conserve the nation's material and energy resources, reflects the public's growing interest in homes that contribute to a continued, sustainable environment.

The ceilings were selected because they contained 22-percent recycled newspaper and they added decorative appeal to the house.

Three different Armstrong Industries ceiling styles were used to demonstrate the variety of options that are available to home builders, home buyers and homeowners.

Country Classic Plank, a six-inch-wide by four-foot-long plank with a wood-grain texture, was chosen for the home's living room, dining room and foyer.

Wellington, a 12-inch by 12-inch tile that emulates the elegant charm of old-fashioned tin ceilings, was used in the den. Raised Panel, a two-inch by two-inch panel with a distinctive repeating pattern that "hides" the suspension system, was selected for the recreation room.

While the Resource Conservation House is considered a house of the future, all the ceiling used in this feature home are already on the market and have been for a number of years.

Dressing up your home

1. With the right color paint and proper tools, a homeowner can improve the appearance of a room for as little as \$20.
2. Sponge or rag painting is a great way to change the appearance of the walls, adding texture and detail to an otherwise flat surface. "Similar effects can be created with cloth and even plastic bags," says Doreen Veach, an interior design expert with The Home Depot.
3. Wallpapering a room is no longer a job for a professional. With the creation of self-adhesive wall paper, offered in numerous colors and styles, the do-it-yourselfer simply needs to wet the back of the paper and hang it with a rolling brush.
4. If wallpapering an entire room is out of the question, add a wallpaper border or stencil a design on a wall. Bordering and stenciling are economical and easy to do.
5. New carpeting or area rugs soften a room and give it a fresh look.
6. Installing a new light fixture in a hallway or above the kitchen table can change the lighting and overall feel of a room.
7. Window treatments, such as custom-order blinds or curtains, can really dress up a window.
8. Changing kitchen or bathroom cabinets does not necessarily mean installing brand new cabinets. A homeowner can change the appearance of cabinets with self-adhesive enamel that can be easily applied over most cabinetry.
9. Although a bit more expensive, installing new windows or replacing doors can dramatically change the feel of a room.
10. New ceramic tile or flooring in a foyer, bathroom or kitchen can improve the look of a home and is less expensive than most people think.

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