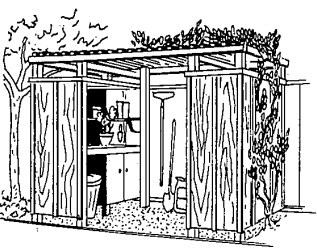


Forsaken Furniture Becomes Focal Point



GARDEN STORAGE center built adjacent to fence gathers outdoor equipment, supplies in central location, with potting shed on one side, storage shelves, cabinets on other. Framing is 4x4-inch posts, 2x4-inch cedar or fir; siding, shelves are western pine. Trellis of 1x2s adds decorative interest, shades work area.

Storage Unit Keeps Garden Tools Handy

Convenience is the prime ingredient when planning new garden storage—keep it handy to work areas and provide shelves and cabinets so everything has its own place, where it always can be found quickly.

Whether the unit is freestanding or built onto a fence, garage or house wall, it should be well-designed of materials that blend with the surroundings.

One simple but efficient garden work-storage unit adjoins a fence and is built of easily available western wood—4x4-inch cedar posts, 2x4-inch Douglas fir framing, and 1x2-inch boards for siding and shelves.

THE STORAGE unit consists of two 4x8-foot "boxes" at right angles to the fence, open sides facing each other and the two connected by an overhead trellis of 1x2s to support climbing vines.

One side is used as a potting shed, with work counter and shelves above and storage below for barrels of peat moss or potting soil, and cabinets for sprays and tools. Cabinets

Cast-off furniture, bric-a-brac, and other assorted paraphernalia sitting in the family attic may well be worth more than the storage space they take up!

Decorators around the country have been finding new uses for the hidden potential of furniture once considered to be too old or too out of style to be serviceable. Ingenious, ambitious do-it-yourselfers have caught on too, and are strengthening, scraping and staining in increasing numbers to convert forsaken pieces into what often becomes the focal point of the family living room.

This trend toward the resurrection of "new" antiques has gained enough attention to merit a write-up in a well-known financial publication which gave more than passing mention to the fact that inexpensive antiques have rapidly grown in popularity and value in recent years.

"Country" furniture and pieces of "Americana" which were once considered only good enough for the junkpile,

are now being fought over by antique dealers demanding startling, high prices.

Is it the return of sentimentality growing in our culture that precipitated this trend? Perhaps partially so, but probably not. The new-found popularity of country antiques is more clearly a reflection of the growing consumer uncertainty of the quality of some of the furniture mass-produced today.

ONE AREA of particular dissatisfaction that has become increasingly disturbing in the current wave of consumer awareness is the substitution of plastics for genuine hardwoods. Not only are some of the carvings on furniture these days made of molded plastic instead of wood, but more important, manufacturers are swinging increasingly towards the use of plastic parts and surfaces which imitate the look of wood.

To the consumer this means a chair, table or buffet which not only lacks the character and individuality inherent in

any hardwood piece, but it also implies a piece, which cannot be repaired or refinished should it break or scratch.

Other pieces passed off on the consumer may be constructed of hardwood which has been printed with a wood grain.

Because this imitation wood furniture so readily available on the mass market may often be characterless in style, too, the consumer is seeking the "unusual" antique in growing numbers. And because the life-span of plastic is considerably shorter than the longevity of genuine oak, walnut, pecan, mahogany or any of the other durable hardwoods, an old piece of hardwood furniture with promise is now considered to be the better investment.

THE SEASONED professional decorator is not alone in the appreciation of an old oak dining table, hall tree, or rocker. In a time of "do-it-yourself and save money with better results," lots of women as well as men are



ATTRACTIVE, YES! Expensive, no! The coordinated pieces in this bedroom, designed by Judy Lester, were found in second-hand furniture stores. All of genuine hardwood, they were easy to antique in perky white with Kelly trim once the old finish was removed.

Garage Easily Yields Attractive Extra Room

If you aren't using your garage, except for storing bicycles, garden tools and other bric-a-brac, convert it into a family room or apartment.

Here's what one family did to convert a connected garage

into a one-room apartment, complete with powder room, for a family relative.

AN OVERHEAD garage door was removed and the lower half of the space enclosed with light-colored stone to contrast with the red brick exterior of the home. A large picture window was installed above.

The enclosed space was 10 feet wide by 22½ feet long. First, the floor was raised to match the first floor level of the house. Then a partition wall was built to create the powder room and a closet along what had been the back wall.

The most dramatic change involved covering this dividing wall and the bare cinder block walls of the garage with a rich woodgrained hardboard paneling.

The family selected Masonite's sable walnut because of its color shading and grain.

The paneling was finished with matching moldings around door frames, ceiling and in the corners.

As a special touch, the old garage window was framed with molding, then fitted with inside louvered shutters stained to match the paneling.

A new ceiling of white and gold acoustical tile and a floor of red and gray marbled vinyl tile completed the renovation.

Dacts for the heating and

central air conditioning system which served the rest of the home were extended to accommodate the new room as well.

Because of the existing walls, such a garage-to-apartment modernization is relatively inexpensive.



Create Linen Closet

A SPACE-SAVING linen closet will make the home-maker's workload easier. As outlined in a free plan, the closet provides also room for a tank-top vacuum cleaner and a portable ironing board.

The plan was designed for an average-sized area, 24" deep with a standard 36" by 80" door.

If your space is larger or smaller, the specifications can be altered to give the best arrangement.

Linen will go into a battery of drawers, where they rest in small stacks till ready for use. Drawer construction features splinter-free Masonite's Pre-Ad-207. For a copy of free Plan AE-207, send a postcard to Masonite Home Service Bureau, Chicago, Ill. 60606.

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