

CONTEMPORARY commercial waiting area highlights geometric forms. Blue and pumpkin accents serve as a foil against the Marlite hard-board paneling. White is the contrasting color and the lighting emits a bluish tint to blend with the white and blue color tones on the wall.

Lounge Bench Plays Several Roles In Garden

Benches do not a garden make, but they certainly add to the enjoyment of outdoor living, on a deck or patio, at poolside, or under a shady tree.

One bench that can be built for lounging as well as storage combines good looks, utility value and ease of construction. Its 12-foot length and two-foot width, combined with a built-on five-foot western wood screen make it unusually useful as a yard divider.

Just a few other possible uses include: a sundeck, with foam rubber cushions; potting

shelf; buffet or snack serving table, and as a game and garden gear cabinet, with two hinged lids.

Building the bench requires only moderate handyman skills, using sturdy outdoor lumber. Favored softwoods for this type construction include Douglas fir and western pines, hemlock or cedar.

The 12-foot length adapts to the average-sized outdoor living area and is suited to stretched-out relaxation for two persons. The same structural system can apply to

a shorter, longer or wider bench.

The frame of 2 x 4-inch lumber is supported by at least three legs on each side. The legs also are 2 x 4s, notched into the frame and secured with flat-head stove bolts.

Facing for the bench is optional and can match the house siding, such as board and batten. Height of the screen and spacing of the slats are builder's options.

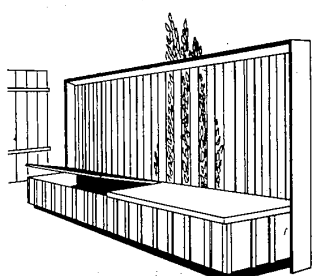
Design Kept Simple

Another quite simple, but distinctive bench can be built by setting 18-inch sections of 4x4-inch posts into the ground,

with 16-inch cross pieces of 4x4s notched in and fastened with wood screws, about four inches from the top of the posts.

Two sets of these post-legs, about six feet apart, support a seat of two 2x8-inch planks secured to the cross pieces. Treated western red cedar is ideal for this type of permanent outdoor furniture, subjected as it may be to continued dampness or ground contact.

Set against a house, fence or wood divider screen, this type of simple, artful bench makes an attractive display area for bonsai trees or other potted plants and bushes.



VERSATILE PATIO BENCH — Lounging bench for sunworshippers also serves as storage area for garden or play equipment, service table for buffets, snacks. Bench is built on frame of 2x4-inch western wood; facing and screen can blend with house siding, fence. Seat is two hinged lids. Twelve-foot length allows relaxing room for two.

Inspection Now Saves Woes Later

Now is the time to start looking for home repair problems that may plague you this fall and winter. During the clear, cool days of early fall you can take a leisurely

assessment of your home and uncover potential problems before they become emergencies.

Look at those areas where problems are likely to be developing. Check siding for peeling, chipping, cracks or breaks. Take a careful look at gutters and downspouts; if they show signs of failure, replace them before other parts of the house are damaged. Storm doors and windows should be inspected to be sure they can do the job during the winter. Repair or replace them where needed.

IF YOUR inspection shows that any of these items—siding, gutters, downspouts, storm doors or windows—need replacing, the Aluminum Association suggests that you call your local building contractor or supplier. All of these products are available in a variety of aluminum styles and provide durability and beauty as well as low maintenance performance.

If the repairs are the kind you can do yourself—like fastening or re-fastening siding, gutters or roof shingles—aluminum nails would prove very satisfactory. These will not rust, so that you can be confident that the home exterior will not be marred by ugly rust stains.

Legal Holiday Switch Spurs Construction Of Vacation Homes

One out of every 10 new housing starts in 1971 will be for vacation homes, University of Michigan Prof. Karl G. Pearson predicted at the Management Briefing Conference on Vacation Housing.

"This means the construction of almost 200,000 new vacation homes this year," he said. "Over and above this, at least 10 per cent of the 450,000 new mobile homes in 1971 (45,000) will be vacation homes."

"There will be over twice as many vacation homes built during the 1970s as were constructed in the 1960s. In addition to conventional structures, they will be A-

frames, mobiles, condominiums, apartments, modulars and pre-fabs."

Pearson is professor of business administration and director of the University's program in real estate education. The conference here is sponsored by the U-M Institute of Science and Technology and Graduate School of Business Administration.

"We are now in a totally new ball game in vacation homes," he said. "By moving legal holidays to Monday, we now have a minimum of five three-day weekend holidays a year. We are on the verge of a breakthrough to a four-day work week the year around in many industries. We now enjoy three, four- and five-week yearly vacations in contrast to the old-fashioned two weeks."

"WITH ADDED leisure time, rising incomes and living standards, more children between the ages of five and nine, more adults over 60, more and better roads giving access to recreational areas, and more dissatisfactions with the frustrations of urban living, there is an inevitable groundswell to vacation homes."

As the camping problem becomes disgruntled with lack of reservations, crowded campgrounds and lack of facilities, they buy vacation homes instead, Pearson continued.

Pearson pointed out that middle aged couples are seeking second homes in quiet country spots that may eventually become their retirement homes, where they can entertain children and grandchildren on weekends and vacations.

Accessibility is an important factor, Pearson indicated.

"About 70 per cent of the vacation homes are within four hours travel time from the primary home. This is the short vacation zone for a typical weekend. Most of them are within a half mile of a principal highway, and accessible by air within 30 minutes of a population center. They are accessible to a wide range of recreational activities within 15 to 30 minutes driving time. There is a decided preference for orientation toward water, woods, or hills."

THE BULK of the market for second homes today consists of middle income families who prefer moderately-priced and well-giving access to recreational constructed housing which will provide a refuge from smog, traffic congestion, suburban sprawl and polluted environment of urban life, the U-M authority said.

Desired features are: easy maintenance, maximum sleeping space, good drainage, safe water, adequate utilities and modern appliances, and central heating with multiple bedrooms and baths.

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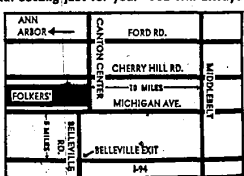
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