

Greenery Instills "Life" in any Decorating Scheme

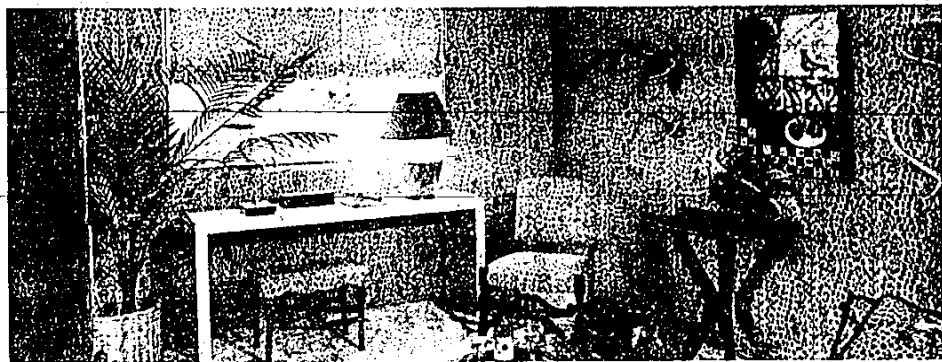
Whether your home is early American, country French or 1973 contemporary, it is not complete without greenery in the form of live, healthy houseplants.

Rooms which lack any living plants often seem sterile and lacking in warmth, no matter how artistically they have been decorated. On the other hand, rooms containing house plants appear to be full of vitality and intimacy -- though a piece of furniture may be missing or a rug is more than slightly worn.

FOR BEST RESULTS in decorating with plants, don't just plunge in. You wouldn't think of buying a picture or chair without a lot of thought as to size, styling and the mood you are trying to create. Plants, too, require a certain amount of thought.

For a large room, it's wise to choose large-scale plants, even small trees or medium-sized shrubs which are suited to the light conditions. Too many small plants dotted around in large spaces create an overly fussy effect. If you already have these small plants, group them together on a table or in a floor-type planter designed to hold several plants so that a mass of green is the over-all feeling.

A small room which needs intimate touches would probably be overwhelmed by a large rubber plant standing in the corner, but it might be just the spot for several favorite flowering plants if the light is good, or for pots of African violets, Chinese evergreen and baby's tears if the light is poor.



THE LIGHT AIRY FEELING of this studioroom is both heightened and toned down by the addition of living plants. Although the feathery floor plant and ivy on the table add to the ethereal feeling of the room, the printed scheme is relieved by the mono-chromatic tables and greenery.

COLOR OF FOLIAGE and flowers is important in choosing your plants. A canny selection can result in spectacular effects. In a room containing mostly plain colors and surfaces, the Paisley-like patterns of massed coleus can be stunning.

Or, if the decorative scheme is one of many patterns and colors intermingled as seems to be prevalent today, even more color and pattern can be contributed to the riotous effect by the very same plants. Of, if you want to "put out" the riot, a sleek variety of philodendron or feathery palm would be a choice.

If touches of orange are what you are looking for, a miniature orange tree set on the floor or on a low-topped table might be made to order. For a shimmering grape-purple touch there is the Hawaiian ti plant or the even more striking purplish-red tradescantias.

Plants are not limited to the living and family rooms. They can create striking effects when used in foyers, bathrooms and kitchens. A thin, tall cactus may be used as a piece of sculpture would

to dramatize a front entrance. In a bathroom, plants can be used as accents on counter tops or open shelves, or hung from the ceiling or wall in a hanging-basket arrangement.

A **KITCHEN** is the logical place to grow culinary herbs for winter use, or to begin avocados, sweet potatoes or citrus fruit seeds. The window of a breakfast room or dining area may be just the place for a vine, trailed on strings to frame the view.

Plants, too, can be used to solve some decorating problems. That ugly lamp cord and outlet can be camouflaged by a graceful floor plant. Non-curtained windows may be framed by plants, and still the light and outdoors comes in unfiltered.

Plant lovers have always appreciated their contributions to indoor cheer, and there really is nothing new in the idea of using plants indoors mainly for their decorative effect. But in this age, where we seem to be losing the atmosphere of greenery, woods and country air, the touch of green and nature a plant brings to a home is doubly appreciated.

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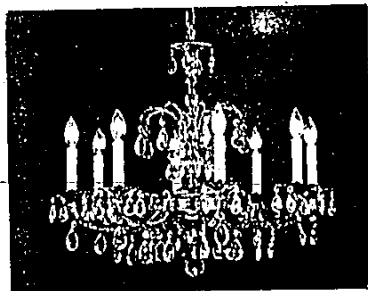
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