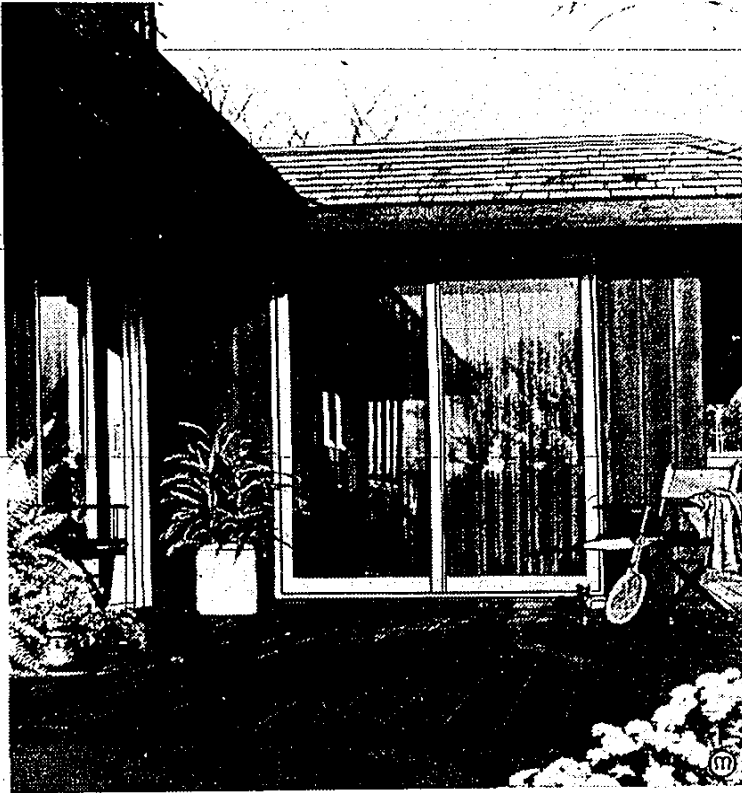


# Bring Your Garden Closer To Home With A Patio



Add a patio and gain the outdoors.

Expanding your home? With a patio or deck, you can "add on" the whole outdoors.

Patios are one of the most pleasurable home improvements possible. They give visual spaciousness to the home interior, provide ready access outside, and encompass the splendors of seasonally-changing landscapes.

But be sure to plan your patio for maximum enjoyment.

Here are some suggestions for getting the best from a patio:

- Don't be limited in patio design. Square-shaped flagstone patios are fine. But rectangular, triangular, circular or freeflowing patios of concrete, gravel or bricks, may suit your home-site better.

- Consider using the patio to expand more than one room. For example, run it the length of the house, or extend it round a corner. Then use gliding patio doors to open each room to the outdoors and provide access to a host of backyard activities--al fresco dining, sunbathing, entertaining, or just relaxing.

- If the patio faces west or south, shade can be provided by an awning--although this may darken the interior and obstruct the view. A popular alternative is using gliding patio doors with special glazing to reduce glare and heat.

- Provide the patio with whatever extras will make it more fun for the family. These can range from a built-in barbecue pit and outdoor lighting to

comfortable, easy-care, weather resistant furniture. Outdoor electrical outlets and some covered storage space are also handy.

With careful planning, the patio can be a year-round success. In good weather, it allows you to step out into nature. In cold or inclement weather, it brings a bit of nature indoors.



## The Secret Of Expert Flower Arranging: Don't Be An Expert --Do It Naturally

Nature is gloriously unstinting in spring. The home with fresh flower bouquets shows this same spirit of beauty and generosity.

Happily, the extravagant look is possible for very little money. The secret lies in selecting cut flowers that will make long-lasting bouquets. Four of the very best are daisy and pompom chrysanthemums, carnations, orchids, and lilies.

Don't labor over your arrangements! Learn to make them quickly. There is great charm in bouquets arranged as naturally and unpretentiously as a child's handful of flowers.

Even the natural look, of course, has its own special formula. If you seek to perfect it, you will need a few essential props.

Start with containers. You'll need tiny ones for little bouquets, and it's good to have a modest variety on hand. Remember that the best vases are unobtrusive. Quiet in color and simple in line. This directs full attention to the beauty of your flowers.

Next, get needle holders, crushed chicken wire, and florists' clay. Again, a variety of needle holders will prove useful for smaller flowers. Chicken wire, placed inside your vase where it cannot be seen, is especially handy in arranging large, long stemmed blossoms.

Now you're on your way. For the simple, plump and rounded look--and what is more natural--start with the tallest center blossoms and gradually work out, arranging flowers in either a loose or compact circular line. Stems are shortest at the outer rim of the bouquet.

That's it! No other pointers are necessary, except, perhaps, one vital reminder: most arrangements depend upon accompanying foliage as much as the flowers themselves for their effectiveness, so don't forget to use greenery. Possible choices would include baker fern and rhododendron, magnolia, and huckleberry leaves.



Simple and Natural: the secret to floral arrangements.

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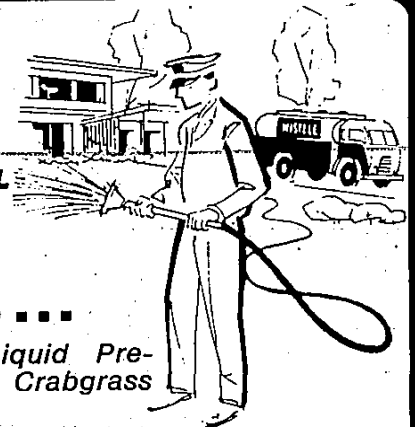
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