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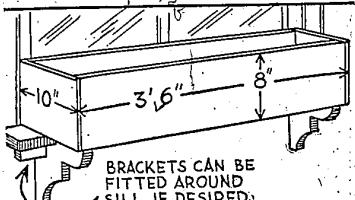
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Planting Boxes Can Play Important Role In Improving New Home Design



Working drawing for window box can be adapted to any length.

Planting boxes play an important part in the design of contemporary homes. They are used in many ways to contribute an ornamental touch to the exterior lines of functional architecture.

In constructing all such boxes the needs of the plants to be grown in them should be considered. They should be sturdy, because the soil which they must hold is heavy. The material of which they are made must be capable of withstanding cold and moisture. Most popular of all is the wood, because it is the easiest to provide quick drainage and crowded trees. Lawns aren't likely to be damaged while the ground is frozen.

Winter is the time to get in some good hints on tree problems in Michigan towns. William B. Love, extension municipal forester at Michigan State College, stresses that point. With leaves off, he explains, it's easier to tell the condition of trees. And, he adds, it's the best season to remove dangerous dead or crowded trees. Lawns aren't likely to be damaged while the ground is frozen.

Window boxes, which have been widely used for the last century in Europe and this country, provide experience both in constructing the container and in selecting the plants to be grown.

Window box plants can be grown successfully in boxes at least 10 inches wide and 5 inches deep, with its length to fit the space allotted. A box of these dimensions is large enough to hold the roots of annual flowers, and small foliage plants. If larger subjects are to be grown, proportionately larger root space should be provided.

Concrete and metal boxes are satisfactory, but the do-it-yourselfer, I suppose, can easily build one of wood. White pine or cypress are preferred because of their moisture resistant qualities, and no boards less than one-inch thick should be used. The diagram herewith shows how to put the boards together and provide brackets to support the box, where needed.

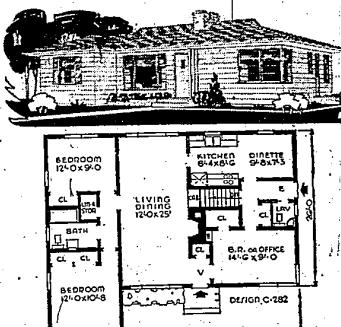
This is the plant box as a decoration of the house. It should be painted to match the house color or trim. The flowers should be chosen to furnish a contrasting yet harmonious color accent. There is a wealth of suitable varieties from which to choose. Rich potting soil must be used for window boxes, because there is no soil to feed the flowers. It should be well fertilized.

For annual flowers, at least six hours of sun a day is necessary and this requires a south exposure. The best subjects are those of dwarf or trailing habit, the latter drooping festoons of bloom from the boxes. Petunias of this type are excellent, as are the tall, stanchioning, the bluish morning glories. Dwarf petunias, madagascarpur, callopis, annual pink, lobelia, dwarf morning glories, phlox and zinnias can be grown.

Boxes which spend most of the day in shade offer a special problem. If the shade is that of a building, perhaps only foliage plants can be grown.

Don't let other animals get the birdseed feed you're giving the fattening cattle, caution MSC specialists.

House Plan Of The Week



A unique feature of this plan is the third bedroom, which is placed in a separate wing and used for den, study or office. The other two bedrooms are separated from the rest of the house by a spacious living room - dining room combination. For further information about this plan, Design C-282, write The Small House Planning Bureau, St. Cloud, Minnesota.

MORE EQUIPMENT NOW INSTALLED IN NEW HOMES

Builders equip 997 new homes out of 1,000 with kitchen cabinets. They install water heaters in 828 houses, kitchen ventilating fans in 527, and garbage disposal units in 415.

These statistics resulted from a survey by American Builder magazine, which calls them evidence of an "increasing trend among builders to provide complete equipment in the new houses they build for sale."

The survey showed that 37.9 per cent of new houses come equipped with automatic dishwashers, 30.5 per cent with an electric range, and 22.6 per cent with automatic washing machines.

The average family living under one roof consists of three persons. The family occupies an apartment or house of about five rooms and pays an average rent of around forty dollars a month. In the case of families that live in their own house, the average house is worth about seventy-five hundred dollars.

The heating engineers, who work for Minneapolis-Honeywell, also came up with some interesting statistics that are quite startling. Michigan homes. They say only 76 1/4 per cent of the families in Michigan have their own inside bathtub or shower installation. About 77 1/4 per cent have hot and cold running water. That's a little better than three out of four families in each case.

The Honeywell experts found that only 68 per cent of the houses in Michigan are kept warm in winter by central heating equipment. A little over two-thirds, that is, But they add, even so, that is a tremendous advance over a year ago. There's also been a big increase in thermostats and automatic heating controls. In fact, an especially large number of Michigan homes have electronic controls that were completely unknown a decade ago.

All in all, it looks as if the average Michigan family is keeping pretty comfortable this winter.

SURVEY DISCLOSES COMFORTS FOUND IN MICHIGAN HOMES

Do you think you are a typical Michigan family? A group of heating engineers just released some figures on the state which will reveal how your own family and home measure up.

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A MESSAGE TO FARMINGTON MERCHANTS

The Farmington Enterprise
Farmington, Michigan

February, 1955

Mr. Farmington Merchant
Farmington, Michigan

Dear Sir:

You have an investment in the Farmington Community... an important investment that is well worth protecting. But how can it be done with the greatest results at the lowest cost?

First, if you have something to sell, you have something to advertise. Second, if you have a growing trading area, you have new potential customers. Third, if you have an advertising media that is covering the area, you have an opportunity to tell your story.

More and more people are moving into the Farmington community. During the past five months your "Home Community Newspaper" has realized the largest single increase in circulation in its history. These new residents are anxious to know all about their schools, their township and their city, and they are finding the information in THE ENTERPRISE. They also want to know more about what their merchants have to offer in merchandise and services. We know, because they have told us so!

You have something to sell, you have a growing market in which to sell it, and you have a media that is not only being welcomed into more and more Farmington homes each week, but that is being read by every member of the family. Couple this growing readership with the low cost of ENTERPRISE advertising (as little as 65¢ per column inch) and you have a combination that spells real value. Become a regular ENTERPRISE advertiser this week. Remember, if you want people to shop at home — advertise at home!

Yours very truly,
THE FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE

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