

Old Front Porch Converted To Sunroom

If you think of the old front porch with fondness, chances are your present home doesn't have one. If it does, you also know that open porches collect dust and debris, and are unusable most of the year.

However, there is a way to have the charm of a porch with none of its problems. Enclose the area with windows and create a modern sunroom. You'll gain a substantial amount of living space, and be able to enjoy the outdoors in all kinds of weather.

Enclosing a porch is a popular home improvement. Certain essentials — a roof, floor, supports, and one wall — already exist. Additional walls, windows, heat and insulation will be needed.

Here are some remodeling hints: Porches generally have a pitched floor for rain runoff, and open areas underneath. In remodeling, you may need to install new joists over the old floor, shrimmed where necessary to make the new floor level. Install insulation before putting in the new floor.

Insulation. Install at least R-19 insulation in the ceiling and R-11 in the walls to reduce heat loss. Expansive views, sunshine and fresh air, and an outdoor "feeling" are what make porches popular. You can preserve these qualities by creating "walls" of windows that have large glass areas, good ventilation and welded insulating glass for year-round comfort.



WALLS OF WIDE-VIEW, operating windows can turn an old porch into a bright, new sunroom.

Wipe Clean

Only an occasional damp finished Marlite paneling wiping is needed to keep pre-looking like new.

Guest Room Should Do 'Double Duty'

Sometimes families should take stock of their homes as a plant manager does his factory — to determine its "production efficiency."

In short, are you getting the use out of each room that you should?

much use as other rooms in the house. This needn't be so. Even though the room is basically a guest room, it still can serve as a sewing center for Mom ... a home office for Dad ... a crafts work area for teens ... or as a "retreat" for younger children.

When remodeling a guest room, plan an interior that will withstand the years and eliminate periodic redecorating. A prefinished paneling can be installed over old walls or built-ins or selecting furniture that tucks into corners and opens up the room for other uses.

Since it is a quarter-inch thick, it can be used for sliding doors and other built-in components. This "mini paneling," only 16" x 8", has tongue- and-grooved edges to simplify installation. Planks come in modern colors; woodgrain reproductions, interesting textures, and eye-catching patterns.

If pipe and duct locations and furnace capacity permit, you may be able to extend your present heating system to the remodeled porch. If not, there are several other possibilities: portable or permanent electric baseboard heating, gas or electric space heaters, a heat pump that cools in summer and heats in winter; Or — for a suitably nostalgic touch — a woodburning fireplace.

Garden Chatter

Some of the earliest dahlias around must be those in Mrs. James Green's garden, 11450 Russell, Plymouth.

They started blooming in June and she has a yellow flower that is 7½ inches in diameter. "The flower is almost bigger than the plant," she said. The deep pink and darker tuchsia shades are blooming too. Mrs. Green said their bulbs came from her mother-in-law in Virginia. They were planted early, she thinks in late April, as soon as the ground was workable.

Eating Area Given New Lease On Life

If your eating area is a bit dull and worn-looking, now is the time to take steps to give it a new look.

Since your entire family spends a good deal of time at the table each day, it makes sense to give your eating area a decorative accent.

Judy Johnson, home improvement director for the manufacturer of Marlite pan-

eling, points out that some families prefer a bright, open atmosphere, while others choose a cozy, intimate decor.

Alternating harmonizing 16"x8" Marlite planks in several designer colors is one way to inject visual interest into a small area.

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