

Home Improvement Guide For '65

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THE FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE

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Siding, Veneers Give Exteriors New Life

When it's time to give the exterior of the home a new lease on life, both the possibilities and the advantages are many. With any of a wide choice of sidings and masonry veneers, old walls can be re-covered and renewed, and the result is that the home becomes more attractive, is better protected against the elements and increases in value, too.

For the older home, re-siding provides an opportunity for basic changes that up-date the exterior by eliminating objectionable architectural details. More recently built homes, in developments where the houses are all pretty much alike, can take a distinctive, custom-styled appearance with a wise selection of siding colors and textures.

Many modern low maintenance materials are available for exterior renewal projects—sidings such as aluminum or asbestos cement, masonry veneers such as brick, stone or simulated stone.

Mineral Fiber
Factory-finished mineral fiber siding offers a number of benefits.

Mineral fiber siding is color-coated with acrylic plastic, an extremely durable finish. The siding itself, to which the acrylic coating is bonded, is fireproof, warp-proof and rot-proof.

It can be installed right over old walls—over brick, stone, stucco, clapboard or shingles. Installation is done with non-staining nails in colors to match the siding. When properly installed, the wall needs no attention or

servicing other than perhaps an occasional sanding to remove surface dirt. Mineral fiber panels are available in 12 inch by 24 inch and other sizes, with a choice of deeply embossed colors and textures ranging from brilliant pastels to deeper decorative shades.

Rigid Vinyl
Home renovation with a new rigid vinyl siding provides low maintenance and safety features and insulating qualities, along with attractive appearance. Made entirely of tough, rigid vinyl, this type of siding will not chip, corrode, wear away, blister or peel.

Among the advantages provided with this siding is that no painting is required. An occasional water hosing to re-

move dust and dirt is said to be sufficient to maintain the siding.

One type of rigid vinyl siding on the market is a complete system of .045 gauge white rigid vinyl fiber panels which clip onto one-half-inch thick pressed fiber backer boards, without nailing. The siding overlaps to an eight-inch width exposure.

Preformed vinyl corner caps and J-strips for vertical trim at openings are part of the builder's package. Important safety features of this siding are that it will not support fire or conduct electricity.

Its high insulating value helps to reduce heating and air conditioning costs.

Brick Veneer

Although brick as a construction material is at least 9,000 years old, men are still discovering new ways to use it around the home. Today, brick veneer is mounting in popularity as a means of refurbishing and renewing home exteriors.

Brick veneer offers qualities of durability, permanence of color, variety of textures and low maintenance. Cost of veneering over old walls, with brick, is often lower than a homeowner may suppose.

Since brick is primarily a locally-produced building product, some varieties and colors may be available only in certain areas. However, in most sections of the country, there is a wide range of brick veneer colors, from white to black, and a great variety of textures, not to mention the many patterns that can be created in the way brick is laid.

For savings on heating and cooling bills, brick veneer adds substantial insulation to a house. It doesn't bend or dent, and doesn't require painting.

A masonry contractor, or local brick dealer or distributor, can provide information on the type of brick veneer available locally, the different grades and qualities and, of course, how much each costs.

Ease Paint Plans With These Tips

When a can of paint is being stirred by an electric drill with paint mixing attachment, prevent spatter by making a temporary lid of heavy cardboard. Push mixing rod through hole punched in cardboard.

Spinning the handle of a paint brush between the hands after cleaning will remove excess solvent or thinner effectively.

Lighting Can Make Changes

Homemakers can modernize and improve the appearance of their homes simply by replacing obsolete and inadequate lighting fixtures.

"Homes that appear dingy and gloomy at night because of insufficient light can be transformed dramatically with the addition of a few up-to-date lighting fixtures," according to the American Home Lighting Institute.

The relatively low cost of re-lighting can be one of the best dollar-for-dollar investments in home modernization. Inadequate lighting deprives you of the full measure of beauty you expect from your furnishings and decorating scheme and restricts family activities at night—work or play.

All visual beauty—color, patterns, textures and wood tones—needs soft, even lighting to stay rich and vibrant. There is no way to retain the beauty of furnishings at night with the typical lighting arrangement of two or more widely scattered pools of light such as you get from using only portable lamps. The results are a few concentrations of light surrounded by dimness and shadows which swallow up the decorative highlights.

The results of such a lighting pattern are:

1) Except for those few areas, at the top and bottom of a shade, that get full concentration of light, furniture, walls, draperies and floor coverings tend to lose their color and texture.

2) We lose space in our rooms. Research has proved that rooms which are not evenly lighted with wall and ceiling fixtures supplemented by local lighting for close-seeing tasks appear much smaller than they really are. The eye tends to "lose" the darker areas.

Since we congregate around light, we group furniture around our light sources and away from darkened room corners. The use of off-center lighting fixtures by many homemakers today actually liberates floor space. Many a dead corner has been transformed into a cozy conversation center by lighting up.

3) Inadequate and improper lighting restricts nighttime activities and is a liability on those we attempt. For example, most homemakers have experienced extreme difficulty trying to sew dark fabrics with dark thread under the light of a low wattage lamp. Visual fatigue builds up so quickly

they give it up. The results of many seeing jobs that require concentration—like a student's homework—are the same.

Finally, new lighting fixtures are designed to enhance and complement any decorative scheme.

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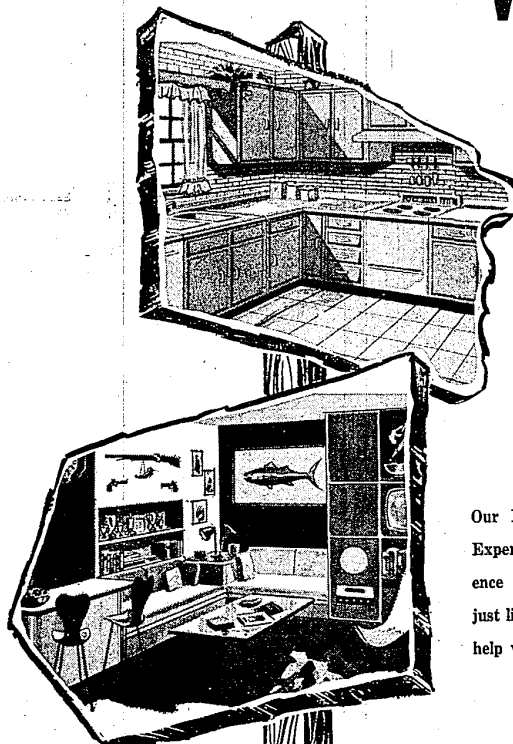
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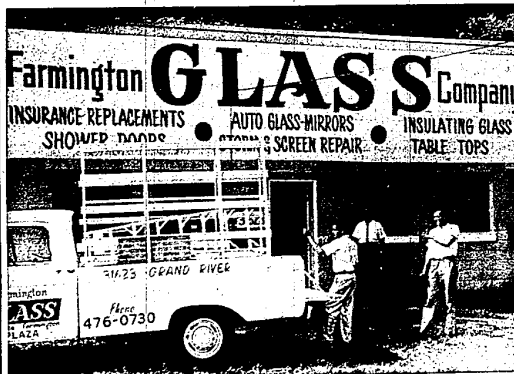
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