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Modern Techniques Enhance Paneling

Modern finishing techniques apply color to paneling in a way that enhances the natural character of the wood.

This has created a pleasing flexibility in design.

In rooms where darker shades are desirable, pine can be given an ebony tone that seems scarcely less authentic than its actual golden color.

Such finishes are transparent to existing wood grain. Some types tend to subdue the texture while others bring it into bolder perspective.

Lighter wood can be given any shade that circumstances require — be it light or dark — dull or brilliant.

In sleeping quarters, for example, a relaxing atmosphere can be created with a finish which applies "cool" colors and also subdues the wood grain. In entertaining areas, the opposite would apply — "warm" stimulating hues in a finish that brings out the grain texture.

If the user is added to the texture of one species but prefers the colors associated with others, he can "have his cake and eat it too." It's not uncommon to see hues widely identified with certain species reproduced with remarkable clarity on other woods.

Still other areas where this flexibility is useful are the new patterns of "Southern Pine" paneling, the "reverse grain" and "fish scale" and "flame" techniques.

With these patterns, the full thickness of the panels projects from the room walls. The three-dimensional effect is enhanced by a slight spacing between panels which may be given a paneled appearance by the projecting boards. A grey color for the panels and golden for the intervening batten strips is an effective combination.

In general, color finishes for wood paneling are identified as "stain" types to distinguish them from the basic color of the wood unchanged.

Color variations are achieved with waxes, penetrating sealers, chemicals or oils. Several samples of the run of the wood should be finished to the desired shade before applying finish to the basic color of the shade, on a large area appears darker than on a small sample.

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Peg Board Will Keep Tools Neat

An orderly arrangement of tools in the basement, garage, or workshop can save time and frustration of family members.

One way to achieve this arrangement is to mount pegboard on the back of the workbench. You can group tools according to their frequency of use. Such a grouping also helps you remember where each tool is located.

Put such tools as hammers, screwdrivers, pliers, saws, utility, and screw drivers will find them easy to see and reach. However, plan storage so that young children cannot reach tools.

With the proper arrangement of less frequently used items, such as gardening, hobby, and yard equipment, it's easier to see and reach those used most often.

Other ways to improve storage in the home are suggested in a publication of the College of Agriculture Extension Service of The Pennsylvania State University. For a copy send your name and address with 35 cents to STORAGE, Box 6000, University Park, Pa. 16802.

Outdoor Carpeting May Dust Movers

The days of the lawn mower may be numbered.

A national building magazine reports that outdoor carpeting which simulates grass is being used on balconies, patios and around swimming pools.

Kitchens Are High On Remodeling List

The one room in most homes that's most likely in need of improvement is the kitchen, whether the need be for modern appliances or for additional countertop working space.

You can gain color for the kitchen as well as trouble-free working space by surfacing the counters with ceramic tile. Real tile is both heatproof and scratchproof.

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Observer HOME IMPROVEMENT

Do-It-Yourself • Decorating • Remodeling

Wednesday, August 25, 1965 Page 13-A

Plan Four Big Steps In Basement Fixup

How does one panel a basement room?

First, waterproof the walls; second, install furring strips; third, do all the electrical work; fourth, add panels.

This procedure, outlined by John Concord, home improvement consultant to Masonite Corporation, assures a trouble-free installation.

Furring strips will give you reduced condensation, as they set up an air barrier between the paneling and foundation. They provide a level surface and a place for positioning outlet boxes and electrical fixtures.

Furring strips of 2x2 or 2x4-inch lumber are spaced 16 inches apart, measured from center to center. They may be attached to the foundation walls separately or assembled ahead of time on the floor and then fastened to the floor plate and the joists.

Selection of paneling is important, too. It should be resistant to moisture so that panel movement won't be noticeable. Preferably, it should be factory-finished and easily maintained by damp-wiping. It should be attractive.

"Royale woodgrain panels fit these requirements exactly," Concord points out. "A wide selection of colors and patterns is available, including wood-grained, Pearl-Board in three shades of walnut."

"These panels are designed to go up quickly. Use either color-matched nails or an adhesive cartridge. Joints are hidden in vertical grooves. Panels, molding and fasteners are available at lumber yards."

Always Be Prepared For Visitors

You can be prepared for an unexpected guest even though your home has no spare bedroom.

The guest will think nothing of it if you put him on a fold-away cot in the living room or porch, and provide privacy with a screen made in your workshop.

You can buy a sofa bed or one built into a bookcase or wardrobe to be pulled out when needed. These have inner spring mattresses and are quite comfortable.

Your folding screen can be attractive and functional. Cover the framework on one side with a woodgrained hardboard in an exotic pattern such as teak or pecan.

On the other side, attach paneling which the guest can use as a wardrobe by placing his clothes on hangers and suspending them on fixtures placed in the perforations.

New fixtures and shelves of white plastic stay in place without jiggling; they're good looking, too.

Stop Paint Skimming With Waxed Paper

Store leftover paint in screw-top jars, such as instant coffee or peanut butter jars. Fill to the brim to exclude all air.

Place a piece of waxed paper, larger than the top, over the jar and screw on the lid over the paper.

Air causes paint to skim over. By sealing out the air, the paint will remain fresh and ready for use.

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Seed Your New Lawn Right Now

Seed your new lawn by Labor Day is one of the suggestions made in a Pennsylvania State University correspondence course on home lawns. Grasses you plant in late summer develop strong plants with good roots before winter comes.

Grasses like cool weather. They grow best in spring and autumn. But dry, hot summers are hard on them.

You'll find many advantages to seeding lawns in late August instead of May. Lawns come with more certainty in autumn than in mid to late summer. Your soil is readily worked into a fine seedbed. And weeds have lost their early summer vigor.

The array of grasses and seedling mixtures offered for sale may perplex you. Bluegrass is the basic lawn grass, but several of its selected varieties, as well as other grass species, produce first rate turf, according to the Penn State correspondence course.

If you want to learn more about starting new lawns and caring for established turf, study the Penn State course. You enroll simply by sending your name and address \$2.75 to HOME LAWNS, Box 5,000, University Park, Pa. 16802. This is the only charge for the course.

Choose Paint For the Job

Whether you're planning to paint wood, cinder block, stucco, brick or prime a metal gutter, choosing the right paint for the job is important.

The paint industry produces a variety of coatings for specific surfaces. Which paint do you need?

Contact your local reputable paint dealer or painting contractor to be sure you select the right product for the surface to be painted.

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