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Smart Homeowner Knows When to Call in a Pro

If you're an average homeowner, chances are you've been faced many times with the question of whether to hire a contractor for that modernization project or to tackle it yourself. The answer is that some jobs

The Observer

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Do-It-Yourself • Decorating • Remodeling

September 29, 1965 (F 12, GCN 11-A), Page ★ 7-B

Dubbs Opens New 220-Home Sub In Canton Twp.

The newest addition to the rapidly growing Plymouth School district is the 220-home Dubbs subdivision between Dix Road and Haggerty Road in Canton Township will display three of its 10 models starting Sunday at 9720 Holly Drive at the corner of Joy Road.

The Dubbs subdivision will have three, four and five-bedroom homes in the price range of \$15,990 to \$19,600 according to President Harry H. Dubbs and Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer Ellis Brownstein.

Dubbs Construction Co. specializes in community developments and housing projects and was one of the first Urban Renewal builders in Michigan. It has had projects in Saginaw, Jackson, Lincoln Park and several other sections in the state.

The homes offer cedarized bedroom closets, colored bathroom fixtures, garage disposal, copper plumbing, oak flooring, formula counter tops, separate vestibule, overhead windows, California ceiling in a full bath, furniture finished cabinets, gas heat, large outdoor patio, outdoor gas barbecue and many other unusual features.

The models range from Lady Linda Colonial with four bedrooms and a one-car garage; Williamsburg Ranch with three bedrooms and two-car attached garage; the Leslie with three bedrooms, large kitchen and dining area; the Hollywood Ranch with three bedrooms, bath and a half, two-car garage and extra large living area.

Dubbs stamps this as a planned community with paved streets, city water and sewer, gas and electric service. It is convenient to schools, churches and shopping.

"What's completed," he said, "this will be one of the best low cost housing developments in this part of Michigan for quality homes."

All Women Seek Space For Storage

What does every woman want more of in a home? Storage space.

No matter how much storage space is available in most homes, it never seems to be enough.

If you're planning a move to a new home soon, or even if you'll be staying in your present home for the rest of your life, make it more attractive and practical with the easy and inexpensive addition of closet-lined with aromatic red cedar.

The fragrant aroma is delightful to humans, but it drives away moths.

Cedar-lined closets can be installed over a weekend. The process is so simple that even an inexperienced home handyman can turn out a highly professional-looking job.

If the idea sounds like a good one, but you think there isn't enough room anywhere in your home, look around! Consider building in storage behind doors, in dead corners, beside and below windows, in the hallway, across solid end walls or between rooms as dividers.

Cedar lining, besides being inexpensive and easy to install, requires a minimum of maintenance. In fact, all that's necessary to keep it in tip-top shape is an occasional dusting.

The lining is available in pre-packaged bundles at local lumber dealers everywhere. Complete instructions are included in every package.

Labor Cost Higher For Heavy Shingles

It costs little more in labor to use heavyweight fire-resistant shingles than it does to use standard-weight ones when re-roofing, according to roofing authorities.

Aside from offering greater safety and protection, heavy shingles will generally last twice as long as standard-weight ones.

Cape Cod

A good fence for a Cape Cod home is the horizontal siding style. It's built with bevel siding boards applied horizontally to 4x4 posts spaced six to eight feet apart. The siding boards can be nailed on just one side or on both. Western red cedar posts and siding will give top results.

are worth undertaking on a do-it-yourself basis, while others are best left to a professional. A recent Census Bureau report showed that contractors account for 20 percent of the money spent for residential repairs and modernization, indicating that if you yourself are choosing their jobs carefully.

Here are a few typical exterior home improvement projects, with comments as to their suitability as do-it-yourself projects.

Patio—Laying a simple patio doesn't require a lot of experience. Materials like flagstone, patio blocks or brick are easy to handle. Most homeowners can lay these materials in sand or can mix small amounts of concrete, if necessary.

Verdict: A good do-it-yourself job for weekends.

Siding—New materials such as pre-finished mineral fiber shingles can be handled by one man, need no painting or staining and can be applied directly over most old siding. However, an attractive, well-aligned application requires an experienced workman. Also, special precautions must be taken with scaffolding for hazardous above-ground work.

Verdict: It's a big job, and you'd do well to leave it in the hands of a qualified contractor.

Roofing—Roofing looks easy, but it isn't. It can also be hazardous. Even with improved materials like self-sealing asphalt shingles, skill and experience are needed.

Verdict: This job is best left to the professionals.

Fencing—With only a few simple skills and some muscle and post hole digging required, fence-building is a favorite project of do-it-yourselfers. There is a wide choice of materials available, such as mineral fiber flat sheets. In many cases, entire fence sections can be bought ready for erection.

Verdict: Don't be fazed in by dubbs; go ahead and try it.

Topsy-Turvy

An interesting and colorful overhead trellis can be made from mineral fiber shingles applied to a redwood frame with pre-finished color turned down. Since mineral fiber will not deteriorate or crack from exposure to the sun, the unfinished exterior will last without painting or sunproofing.

Panels Popular In Remodeling

Apartment builders often initiate trends that later are picked up by homeowners planning a home improvement project.

For example, today many builders are injecting a new note of visual interest into the bathroom by inserting a mural panel in the tub-shower recess.

These five-foot wide panels feature gold-leafed scenes and designs on a white background. Like all paneling, the murals have a washable plastic finish that is highly-resistant to heat, stains and high humidity conditions.

The plastic-finished hard-board paneling never requires refinishing, so periodic decorating is eliminated.

The decorative mural panels, which can be installed with wallboard adhesive over any solid backing, are available at local lumber dealers.

Matching white end panels can be obtained, too, that the remodeled tub-shower area will have a harmonious decor.

Harmonizing gold moldings provide an attractive finishing touch.

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Linen Chest Will Assist Housewife

Any average-sized closet without "wings" can be converted into a linen depository with provisions for a pull-out clothes hamper and other storage.

A free plan was designed for a space 24" deep and a door opening 34" by 80". If your space is larger or smaller, the plan dimensions can be altered to fit.

An important feature is the numerous thin, pull-out drawers that enable the housewife to classify her linens. She avoids high stacks that make removal of items difficult and cause wrinkling.

Drawer bottoms are splinter-free, grainless, pressed wood, perforated panels give the hamper ventilation.

Designed by Masonite Corporation, the "space-saving linen chest" plan provides a list of materials and easy-to-follow directions for the conversion.

The plan shows how to get 99 per cent utilization of closet space in an organized system which is a boon to the housewife. For a copy of free plan AP-207, write a postcard to the Home Service Bureau, Box 2, Chicago, Ill. 60690.

Adjustable Louvers

Want a patio screen that you can open or close according to privacy and ventilation needs? An adjustable louver fence will do it. Adjustable louvers are installed with a dowel or a pin through top and bottom edge and extending into the rails. Length of the louver is one inch less than the space between top and bottom rails to permit lifting and turning the louver by hand.

Paper and Paneling

Wallpaper and solid board wall paneling make a good team for Early American interiors. Boards, however, should be vertical grain and knotted to combine most effectively with patterned paper.

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