

Home & Garden

Rustic cabin is no more

Fully half the families in the United States entertain thoughts of some day owning a vacation home, the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan reports.

But "Walter Mitty" visions of panning for gold along the shores of an out-of-the-way creek or roughing it in a rustic cabin in the wilderness during Dad's two-week vacation may no longer apply. The days when a family's vision of a vacation home was little more than a covered frame or a poorly constructed bungalow have largely passed into history.

IN MANY WAYS today's vacation homes are more accurately described as second homes. They are built with heat and air conditioning systems for year-around living.

Since their owners often consider moving into them permanently when they retire, the ability of a second home to conserve energy becomes of prime importance.

Careful planning not only enables the prospective buyer of a second home to avoid pitfalls, but also lays the groundwork for years of comfort and relaxed enjoyment for his family.

Begin by selecting a building site in a geographical area that best reflects your family's needs. Most persons prefer an area about 100 miles from their permanent home, or at least within a day's drive.

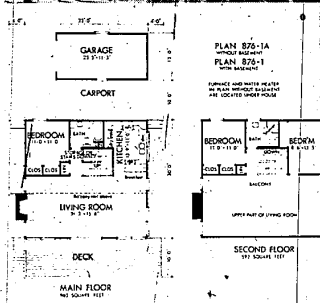
A VARIETY OF PLANS are available from the Home Building Plan Service of Portland Ore. Plans range for all locations, from mountainside to seashore.

One dramatic vacation home plan in the series features an open stairway and a balcony in combination with large glass areas to create a two-story living area that is both cozy and spacious.

The glass area makes it possible for the tenants to take advantage of natural light indoors while enjoying the view in all directions from both the first and second story levels.

The main floor consists of a living and dining area, a U-shaped kitchen area, a master bedroom with closets and adjoining bathroom and a winding open staircase to the second level. On the upper level, a balcony leads to two bedrooms and adjoining bath. Dimensions of the home are 32 by 62 feet including deck, carport and garage. A wraparound deck offers plenty of space to enjoy outdoor living.

A book containing 150 similar vacation home plans is available for \$2.50. Orders or inquiries should be addressed to Home Building Plan Service, 2225 N.E. Sandy Blvd., Portland Ore. 97222.



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Homeowners want easy-care walls

Despite all the talk about "getting back to nature" there's one modern advantage no homeowner is likely to give up. That is low-maintenance building materials.

Homeowners who no longer need to spend time and money on periodic house maintenance are not eager to return to the "good old days" of old-fashioned chores. Their preference for easy-care homes is reflected in increasing use of pre-finished wall covering, such as vinyl veneer paneling which requires no attention other than an occasional damp wiping to keep it looking new.

A leading paneling manufacturer reports that a recent remodeling survey by a national consumer magazine shows paneling to be the most popular wall covering for dens, family and recreation rooms.

IT IS ALSO being used increasingly in living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms and hallways. The suitability of modern paneling for every room in

the house stems from a combination of utilitarian durability and elegant good looks, as well as low- upkeep qualities.

Vinyl veneer paneling achieves long-lasting beauty by reverse printing a wide range of handsome wood-grain patterns on the underside of a tough vinyl film which is laminated to particleboard.

The sturdy finish is highly resistant to scratches, scuffs and most stains and can be damp-wiped clean. The manufacturing process also allows the panels to be produced at unusually low cost.

THE MODERN homeowner's penchant for paneling is also due to the ease with which panels can be installed.

According to the remodeling survey, 77 per cent of the homeowners did the job themselves.

A booklet of installation instructions is available free from: Permaneer, 201 Progress Parkway, Maryland Heights, Mo. 63043.

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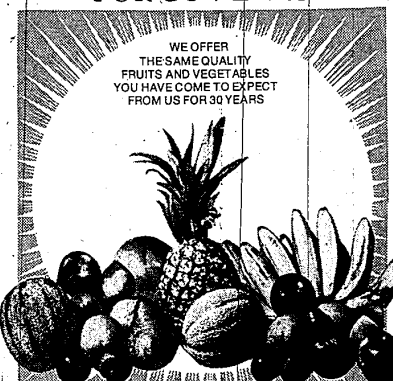
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