

The House That Jackie Built

By Kathryn H. Bogle

Many women have decorated the interior of their homes. Some have made their own draperies, others have wielded a paint brush or have hung wallpaper to beautify their dwelling place. Only a few have started to build a house, beginning with an architect, blue prints and a plot of ground. Still fewer women have selected building contractors, then have planned and finished the interior decoration theme completing the process of making a house into a home.

One woman who has just done all that is Jacquelyn Brown, wife of Leonard Brown, a Howard University mechanical engineer employed by Portland General Electric Company for the past ten years. Brown has been with PGE at Boardman, at the Trojan installation and now he is in the downtown Portland office.

Mrs. Brown, a home economics graduate of Pratt Institute, says, "I have helped my husband through two experiences in building two other homes for us during our 18 years of marriage. We decided together that it is now my turn to take this responsibility."

The "house that Jackie built" sits in comfortable elegance in the center of 1 1/2 acres of green and leafy woodland - just five minutes by car from Leonard's downtown office.

"I wanted a house," Mrs. Brown told us, "that would give each one in the family complete privacy, and yet allow for entertaining too. When we found this land available in an established neighborhood of homes comparable to our plans, Leonard

turned it all over to me."

All of it, she was asked. "Oh, Yes. Well, nearly all," Mrs. Brown laughed and conceded. "He did attend to clearing the land for construction as the place was thick with spruce and maple trees and underbrush. I selected and ordered materials. I worked closely and regularly with the major contractors and I certainly was present for daily supervision of work done by workmen. I would not accept inferior workmanship and had them replace any work that did not come up to specification."

Exterior of the Brown's house uses wood, lots of double glass, rough stone and tile roofing. "We used a two-story format with decks on both levels to the rear. They overlook the little brook that edges our property," Mrs. Brown pointed out.

From the Brown's large private driveway and turn-around, a few steps take the visitor to a stately oaken double door, with handsome brass fittings, opening into a gracious entrance hallway. Inside, the simplicity and clean lines underscore an Oriental and African ambience.

The three bedrooms on the main floor all have use of outside decks. Placed at one end of the L-shaped house, the living room, with its beautiful fireplace of white Georgia marble, also has access to the deck.

The dining room and the kitchen, with its own family living room, form the heart of this expressive house. The family room has its own fireplace, shelves lined with books and plenty of comfortable



"The House that Jackie Built" - the home of the Leonard Brown family. Shurbs will be planted in springtime.

seating. This is the room where Derek and Patrick, the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Brown, often study while "mom" prepares dinner.

The kitchen affords the home economist full advantage of equipment to plan and prepare food for a family snack or for a banquet. Most appliances are built-in.

A thermador self-cleaning oven (big enough to cook a 26 lb. turkey) alternates with a microwave oven by a turn of a switch. There is a 4-burner stove with a barbecue grill and an infra-red lighting arrangement to keep foods warm for late-comers. Spice cabinets are spacious and fine china is stored in easy pull-out drawers. Dishwasher, disposal and trash compacter are all there, as well as the "cadillac" of refrigerators, a "Sub-Zero," built in to the service side of the kitchen. Utility room in the service center houses the big washer and dryer units. It also provides extended space for Mrs. Brown's kitchen office, as well as her sewing machine and ironing board. An inter-com over Mrs. Brown's desk keep her in touch with every room in her house.

In the master suite, attached dressing room and bath are in beige satin tile. The master bath in "Mexican sand" offers a sunken tub with gold fittings and a built-in whirlpool. Recessed lighting is used here. Color accents are coral and turquoise.

A spiral staircase, centrally situated, undulates in a long slow spiral to the lower level. Heavy carpeting and recessed floor-lighting gives security on the stairs.

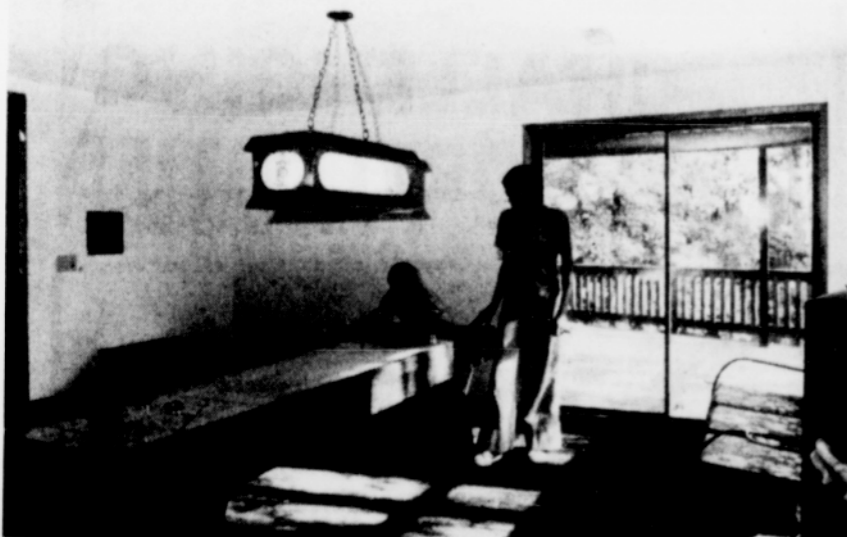
Downstairs are three bedrooms and three baths. Derek, who is a 14 year old student at Jesuit High School, has chosen one of these rooms and Patrick, aged 9, a 3rd grade student at Sylvan elementary school, has another. Nearby is a game room for the boys and their guests, and downstairs there is also a large party room with its own fireplace, mini-kitchen, and bar.

With 6,000 square feet to heat in winter, and to cool in summer, Mrs. Brown assisted in the building effort by installing his own generator, fibre glass insulation and a heat pump with a "back-up" gas furnace keep power bills under control. During the past severe weather, the Brown's power bills were kept to about \$100.00 a month for their first winter in their new home.

Would they do it again this way? Both nodded in agreement. Would she do it again? Is it likely to happen again? Mrs. Brown stepped closer to her husband's side and with his arm encircling her, she responded: "knowing my husband who likes to build, and remembering my own creative pelasure as the house took shape, I'd say 'Yes' - more than likely."



Mrs. Brown chats with guest, Constance Berry, in corner of spacious living room.



Derek Brown, Jesuit High School freshman, gives pointers to brother Patrick, third grader at Sylvan School.



Kitchen is arranged for easy preparation and serving.

(Photos: Richard J. Brown)

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Ray Baker makes up to a hundred talks each year priming the minds of young people who may have an interest in learning the carpenters trade. His time is available to any group that wants first-hand information about a craft of vital importance to the construction industry. Shop departments of this area's high schools regularly benefit from Ray's generous contribution of time. Practical discussions on just how to find opportunities in the carpenter's trade, what to expect in wages and many other details are helping many young people choose their careers wisely. Baker is a union business agent, typical of the many carpenters who donate time and expert advice for the benefit of the community.

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TRADEWELL

*Citizen
of the Week*

Rance Spruill has a commitment to youth, especially to those who are experiencing problems with the present education system.

Director of the Albina Youth Opportunity School for the past twelve years, Spruill has built the alternative school from a maximum of twenty high school age students to nearly one hundred high school and middle school students. The program, which provides education for young people who are not benefiting from public schools or who have been suspended or expelled, is funded through federal, school district and private money.

Spruill is a graduate of Jefferson High School and Portland State University. Community activities include membership on the Multnomah County Juvenile Justice Committee, the POIC Personnel Committee, the King Neighborhood Association Board, the MSD Criminal Justice Committee, and he is treasurer of the Sporting Life Gun Club.

Hobbies include hunting and sports.

Spruill is committed to the economic, social and educational growth of the community.

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