

PLAYROOM FOR CHILDREN NEED

Attic or Cellar Usable if Family Cannot Afford A Real Solarium

With science constantly giving us so many new ideas relative to the healthful development of our children, it is small wonder that even home construction is reflected in advancement in this field, and is concentrating on giving them greater freedom, without permitting them to interfere in the management of a well-ordered home.

Converting the Attic.
If you have no room for a solarium, convert your attic or cellar into a playroom. This is easily done, particularly in an attic, where treasures may be kept and imagination seems to find a harvest of ideas. Just be sure that there aren't any chinks in the roof or ceiling through which draughts may enter, and that the floor is sensibly covered.

If your room is high enough, you can hang a miniature trapeze from the ceiling, and have a climbing bar in the room, making it a sort of juvenile gymnasium. Both boys and girls benefit by exercise, and they have a natural aptitude for balancing themselves that should be encouraged before they reach adolescence. Modern high school and college curriculums demand so much athletic activity, that it is most intelligent to plan for the future by letting the kiddies get a head start in physical exercise.

Changing the Cellar.

Your cellar presents a slightly more important problem than the other parts of the house, because it is doubtless a damp, dull, place with odd fixtures lying around against which the children may hurt themselves. Have all sorts of plumbing, wires, rods and bars boxed in, or covered in some way, and have the wall covered with one of the new compositions that prevent dampness from penetrating through them.

Your floors, too, must be completely covered, and the most practical plan is a complete covering of linoleum in one of the cheering new designs that are so appealing to the kiddies. Have part of your cellar outfitted with symmetrical appliances, part of it with chairs and book shelves, as a library, and part of it as a playroom in which there is ample space for toys and games.

If your cellar opens out into a yard, or comes up above the ground level so that you can have a couple of windows, do so for the sake of better ventilation, and when having it reconstructed don't fail to look ahead and consider what will be done when cold weather sets in and your boiler has to be set going. It will be a worthwhile investment for you to have one of the modern type boilers which are scientifically accurate, and distribute an even type of heat.

Keep the children immediately away from direct contact with any heating apparatus, and avoid any possibility of draughts. It will be best when cold weather sets in, to scatter small throw rugs over the other floor covering, so as to keep the children safe from the damp floors.

Changes Easily Made.
You will find any of these changes comparatively easy to make, and if you happen to be fortunate enough to have a husband who is something of an expert carpenter and mechanic, you will be able to do almost everything yourselves. If you have to call in an outsider, however, you can get an estimate on the cost of the entire job, so that you can gauge your expense according to your income, and the value of

Make Your Garden a Hobby



What you can do with your spare time will amaze you in garden results as well as in your own health and attitude toward the world. Here is a suggestion as to how to proceed.

Gardening Fun Not Confined To People With Large Lands

Even Just Window Box Will Provide Thrill Of Making Things Grow, Discovered

Gardening fun is something no money can buy—it is the joy that comes in planting seeds, in nurturing their growth, and watching day by day the development of new life. That's why you will want to have your own garden, whether you're a city dweller who can get no farther than a window-box, or a country farmer who can plant acres of fertile fields far beyond your line of vision.

An Ordinary Example

Let us consider the average American home owner, with an average amount of ground which is free for cultivation. We want our garden to revel in naturalness of design and color, still for it to give this effect we must build it according to man-made plans. Let us start immediately in front of the house proper.

Converting Shrubbery

There is nothing more beautiful in England than its shrubbery and no matter what history is represented by the architecture of your home, you can use shrubbery to advantage.

On either side of the walk approaching the house, have an evergreen, but be sure that it is small enough not to dwarf the size of your house. To the back of these trees have the little Japanese dwarfs which are so attractive because of the little fringe of yellow-green on their branches.

Then, toward the side of the house, plant rose bushes so that as they grow, they will be in pyramid form—that is, higher toward the front of the house, and finally low, baby bushes toward the rear. Peonies, too, are very colorful, and in white, purple, or

crimson add effectively to the beauty of any garden.

Umbrella Trees Effective

Instead of the two large evergreens at the front of the house, umbrella trees are very decorative and are less frequently seen. It is lovely to build a flower bed around each umbrella tree, choosing such flowers as will grow close to the ground, at similar heights, in colors that blend beautifully, though riotously.

Have your lawn so well kept

that it looks like a continuous moss-bed, and your flowers will stand out more attractively than if they were submerged by odd lengths of straggling grass. Around the entire walk surrounding your property have a well-kept hedge. You'll find it great fun, and good exercise to keep it trimmed, and you'll add much to the appearance of your home's approach.

As you become more expert in hedge trimming, you probably won't be able to resist the temptation to try for some fancy shapes. If you do, you can choose either a scalloped effect, a spike effect, or a Greek-key effect.

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Grow sun flowers, snow balls

and iris and make a trellis on which you can have an ivy or morning-glory vine. These trellises are the simplest things to make, and consist of nothing other than a series of strips of wood about two inches wide laid one over the other in crossbar fashion.

It is a simple thing to start the vine following a labyrinth design,

and wherever you get your seeds or shoots you will be given accurate and detailed instructions as to how to train the plant's growth.

The Vegetable Garden

So much for the flowers—if

you still have room for planting, why not have a vegetable garden? Most vegetables are easy to plant, are hardy, and there's nothing so delightful as serving fresh-from-the-garden foods that the whole family has helped grow. Small white potatoes, sweet peas, lettuce, white cabbage, beets, tomatoes, and lima beans and yellow bantam corn seem the most popular vegetables among amateur farmers, and you won't find it difficult job, as long as you're sure that your land is not too dry.

Plow and rake your earth in nice even beds, so that as the plants grow they will follow a straight line, which may be gauged by a row of little sticks.

You can add beauty and comfort to your garden if you have little colorful corners here and there—all you need are a couple of wicker or reed furniture. If you can manage to have a fountain either at the side, or immediately in front of your house.

This, or a sun-dial (both have old world charm) may be used immediately in front of your home.

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