

For Outdoor Living:

Gardens, Patios Take On New Importance

Porch, Window Boxes Beautify Modern Homes

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
There is no denying it, a modern functional type house is rather a "plain Jane" to look at from the street, compared with the attractively symmetrical and ornamental facade of traditional design.

It may never have the dignity of a pillared southern mansion, but its informal air and spreading lines can be made home-like and inviting by growing flowers in window boxes and plantings such as the architects often provide.

If your architect forgot this detail, it is a simple do-it-yourself job to make them and fill them with floral color during the summer, and evergreen boughs in winter.

For a standard single window, a box 3 1/2 feet long, 8 inches deep and 10 inches wide is a good size. But measure your windows and make boxes to fit. Even longer porch planters need not be deeper or wider for good results.

Think of the box as a decoration to the house; make it of a suitable size and a color to match the house color or trim.

Rich soil, of the type which florists call potting soil, must be used for window boxes. Because there is so little of it to feed the flowers, it should be well fertilized. A tablespoon of balanced plant food for each square foot

of soil should be used. For most annual flowers, at least six hours of sun a day is necessary and this requires a south exposure. The best subjects are those of dwarf or trailing habit, the latter drooping festoons of bloom from the boxes. Petunias of the balcony type are excellent, as are the tall nasturtiums, the giant morning glories. Dwarf petunias, marigolds, ageratum, calliopais, annual pinks, lobelia, dwarf morning glories, phlox and even zinnias do well in the window box.

Boxes which spend most of the day in the shade offer a special problem. If the shade is that of a building, perhaps only foliage plants can be grown, such as the lovely, colorful caladiums, or crotons, rubber plants and even ferns.

Divide Bathroom For Double Use

Dividing your bathroom into compartments is an inexpensive way to obtain the usefulness of a second bathroom. When space permits, one compartment can enclose the toilet and another compartment, the bathtub.

The addition of twin lavatories equipped with countertops and cabinets and sufficiently large mirrors will permit two persons to wash at the same time.



RON BLUNDELL, 2910 Pioneer Drive, spends his evenings, when the light hours grow longer, in his yard—as do many other homeowners in Salem's growing residential areas. Here he is studying the landscaping plans and trying to imagine what all that brown soil will look like when it turns into a bright green new lawn. (Joe Tomokins Photo)

Build Fish Pool in Garden

Plastic pipe of the semi-flexible polyethylene type which does not burst if water freezes in it, has opened new fields of garden improvements for the do-it-yourself home handyman.

Because this pipe can be laid just under the sod at a depth of no more than 3 to 4 inches, and calls for no complicated draining system, outdoor plumbing projects are made easy for the amateur.

Pools and Waterfalls

Goldfish ponds for the garden can be kept constantly supplied with fresh water, miniature fountains and waterfalls can be constructed, underground lawn sprinkling systems can be laid, bird baths can be erected and convenient hose outlets can be provided in far corners of a property.

Deep trenching of 2 feet or more is eliminated in the use of plastic pipe. The material is handled similarly to regular garden hose. Lengths of this material can be joined with plastic couplings and stainless steel clamps. A screwdriver and a sharp knife are the only tools required.

An easy way to build a garden fish pool is to run plastic pipe from a nearby hose bib to the selected location for the little pond. Excavate and shape a depression for the pond. No concrete form is needed. The soil will give you a shaping that will be even enough.

Ready-Mix Is Handy

The quickest way to line this pool is use ready-mixed dry concrete available in hardware stores and building supply houses. This mixture of cement and sand needs only the addition of enough water to make it workable. If you prefer to mix your own concrete, a mixture of 3 1/2 parts sand to one part of Portland cement should be adequate.

Line the hole with about 2 inches of concrete, sloping the bottom toward a drain hole. Connect the



DIAGRAM for an easy-to-build goldfish pond, using plastic pipe.

drain with a dry-well or other disposal with a length of plastic pipe. Use another length, connected to the dry-well for an overflow to keep the water in the pool at a desired depth.

A fringe of rocks around the pool will give you an attractive rock garden.

Remodelers Still Favor Wallboard

Gypsum wall board has become a basic material for most home remodeling projects. For adding a room to a house, whether finishing an attic, enclosing a breezeway or porch, or converting a garage into living quarters, this material provides virtually prefabricated plaster in easy-to-handle sheets 4 by 8 in size.

High in fire resistance, gypsum wallboard can be used in either single sheets or double. When doubled one layer is installed with the panels running horizontally and the other vertically.

The use of gypsum wallboard is known as drywall construction. You can paint or wallpaper immediately, instead of waiting for months for walls to dry out.

Vegetables Add Beauty to Garden

A vegetable garden can be beautiful. Professional gardeners, who devote their lives to maintaining the beauty of private estates, take pride in their vegetable plantings.

The beauty of a vegetable plot lies in its order, with crops growing in straight parallel rows, plants properly thinned to give them room, rows squared with plot boundaries, and not a weed to be seen.

Not only beauty, but efficiency is gained by such a layout. One quick trip with a wheel hoe down the straight aisle between two rows will destroy hundreds of weed sprouts, in a fraction of the time required to cultivate a disorderly garden.

Rows should be spaced with varying distances between them, depending on two factors: The needs of the crop, and the convenience of cultivation. In rich soil, vegetables may be spaced more closely than in poor; but when spaced too close together, it is difficult to cultivate between

the rows. Crops growing twelve inches tall or less may be placed 10 inches to a foot apart if cultivated with hand tools. For a wheel hoe, eighteen inches is likely to be a minimum distance to avoid disturbing the roots of the vegetables.

Taller vegetables, and those that make vines, large bushes, or have a sprawling habit, must be given more distance between rows. In small gardens, 4 feet will usually be the maximum distance, given only for such crops as bush squash and cucumbers.

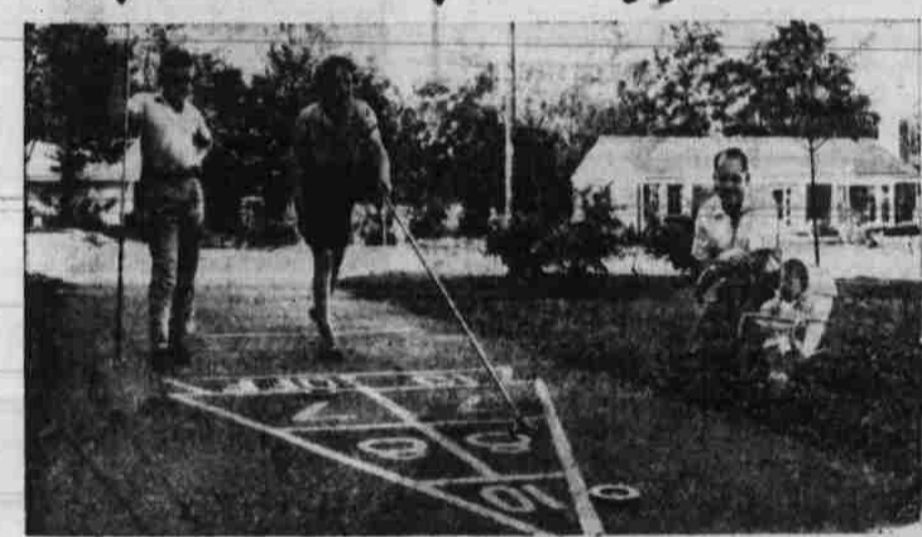
After you know where the rows are to be, a line should be stretched to mark the first row.

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Play Driveway Shuffleboard



A level concrete driveway can do double duty by serving as a shuffleboard court for the outdoor season. Some painted lines and numbers to mark scoring areas and a few items of equipment—hard fiber discs and aluminum cues—are all that it takes.

To build an outdoor shuffleboard court on a specially constructed concrete slab may cost as much as \$250. A second-best is to use a flat section of a driveway.

A regulation size court will measure about 52 feet in length,

but if space is lacking the court can be scaled down. Special home-size equipment includes discs and cues about two-thirds regulation size for use on a shuffleboard court 39 to 45 feet in length.

The game, incidentally, is more than 500 years old.

Paint Ceiling Without Laps

In painting a ceiling you can go to town with a roller if you paint the edge first with a two-inch brush. Experts recommend rolling forward and back, overlapping the strip you have painted with a brush. Roll a second and third strip in the same way, overlapping each strip slightly. Then to level the paint, roll across the strips. Continue over the ceiling in this manner, but be sure to do the entire ceiling at one session. This will prevent lap marks from showing.

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Why New Survey Is Important

An Atlanta man bought a lot on a curving street in a subdivision where frontages averaged 70 feet and lots extended some 350 feet in depth. He built a house without having engineers check his boundaries. After the house was completed, he found that he had used the front corners of his lot and the rear corners of the adjoining lot in placing the house. Both his mortgage and title were in jeopardy, with the house being too close to his real boundary. He was required to buy the adjoining lot.

George E. Anderson, legal expert of the National Assn. of Real Estate Boards, in citing this case, observed: "Not to get a survey before building is nearly always a pitfall. The man was lucky to be able to buy the adjoining lot, as I assume, at a reasonable price. This situation is a perfect setup for extortion."

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down to answer the phone.

The handiest extension phone is portable. It can be plugged into jacks in various rooms. A permanent phone may be in the kitchen, while jacks for a portable phone can be provided at writing desk or at a bed table.

One phone in a house must be stationary so that its bell will ring even if you fail to plug in your portable phone.

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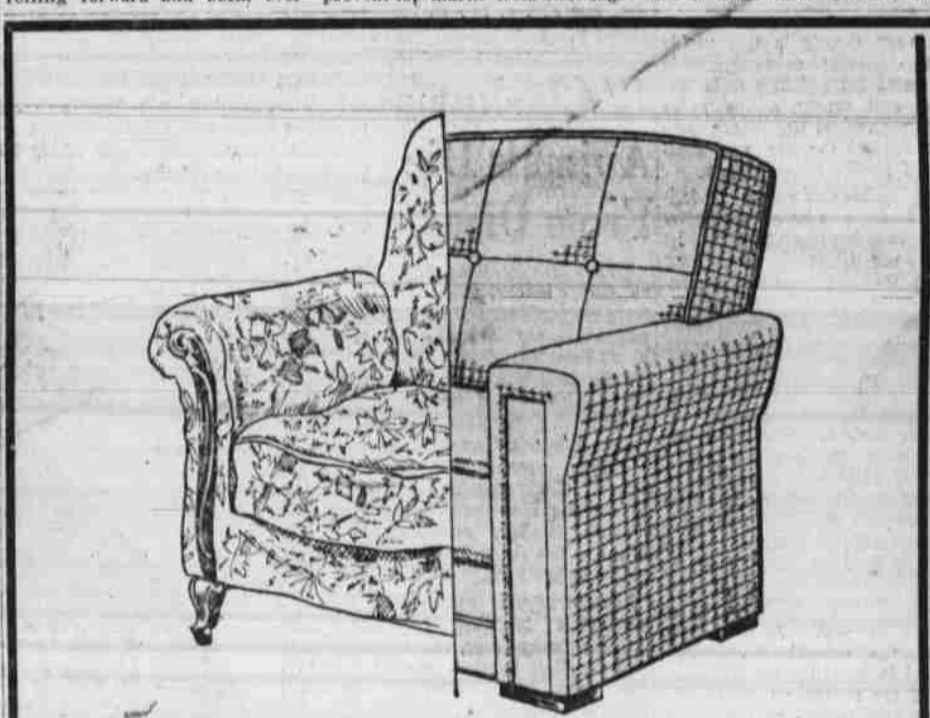
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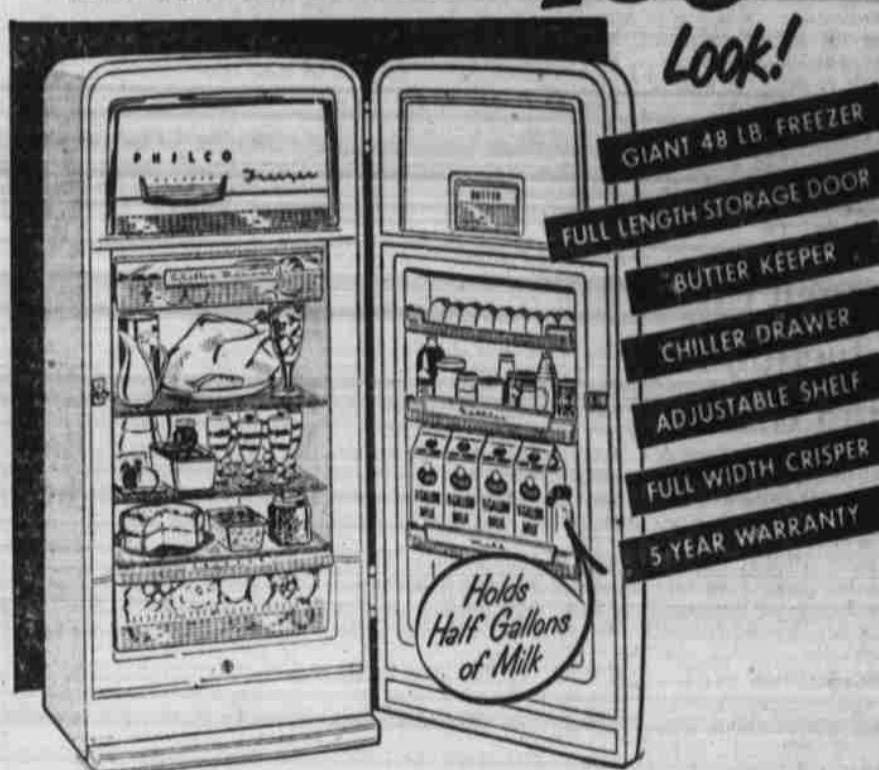
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