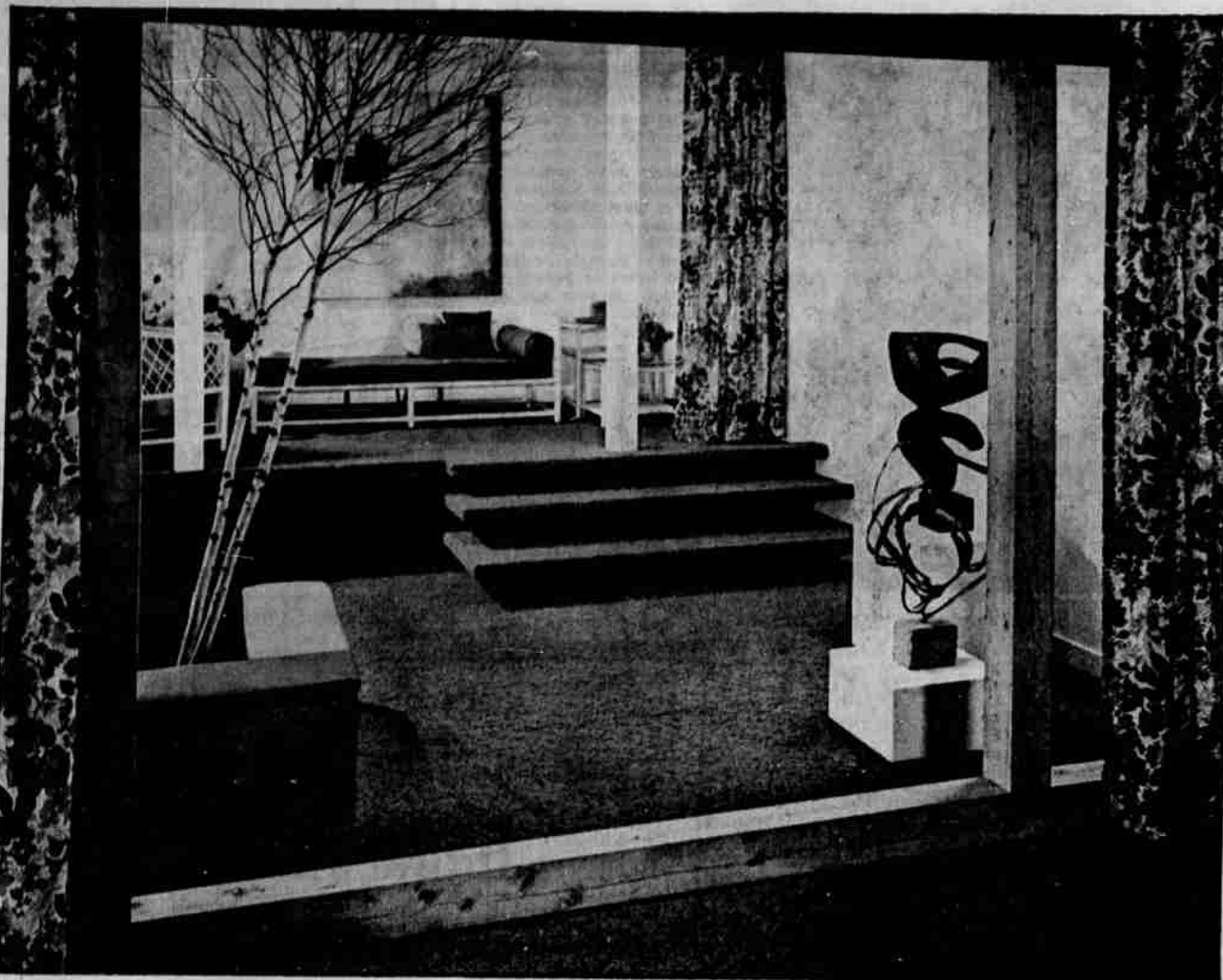


Home and Garden



Indoor Living Area Gets Look of Outdoors

When Evelyn Jablow, member of the American Institute of Interior Designers, came back from a trip to Greece and Portugal during the summer of 1962, she was obsessed with the simple beauty of the interior courtyard of houses in the Mediterranean countries.

"I thought the idea had real possibilities for adapting to homes over here," she admits. "After all, the appetite for indoor-outdoor living is well established in every section of the U. S. All we lack is the design idea which adapts it to our climate," she said.

With this as her inspiration, Mrs. Jablow put her talents as an interior and industrial designer into a plan for an atrium or indoor garden room. It gives the same open-sky look but eliminates the penalty of bad weather by use of a translucent plastic roof. The same idea could even be adapted to an apartment, too, she points out. Instead of the sunlit ceiling, the same effect could be achieved by using wall-to-wall fluorescent ceiling.

The floor covering of the atrium, as adapted by Mrs. Jablow, is unique. She uses a bronze green carpet on all floors, on the vertical facing of an upper level and even as a lush wrapping on

the cantilevered steps. With a pile of nylon, the carpet is at home with hard use.

The two-level design helps segregate different activity areas—the upper area for reading or lounging; the lower for children's games or adult groups.

The upper area is equipped with a piece in the Recamier style. Together with a matching chair, it adds an outdoor note with rattan bindings and colorful nylon cushions.

Heavy wood timbers give the room an architectural look. They provide a contrast to the soft curtain fabric of "Dacron" polyester fiber. The colorful floral print is the new sheer "Caribe" style.

On the main level, a live birch tree is surrounded by a bench fitted with bright colored cushions. It makes a comfortable place to use for viewing the sculpture along the opposite wall or the abstract painting to the rear.

This was the spot where Mrs. Jablow paused to give her unusual design a last critique. "When you walk into the atrium from a darker more crowded part of the house, the contrast should be relaxing," she said.

Mark Taylor

Magnolias Win New Friends

Magnolias usually are thought of as beautiful shrubs or trees of the Old South, so that their hardiness in more northern climates may come as a surprise to many. Actually, there is some species or variety of Magnolia that can be grown successfully in practically anywhere in America except the very coldest regions.

Two distinctions are accredited to Magnolias not usually found in plants: They always attract attention when in bloom under favorable circumstances and they are considered to be one of our most ancient group of trees or shrubs. The flowers of all species are as a rule white, large and showy. Many are fragrant.

Of all of the species of Magnolia the first to flower is *M. stellata*, a large shrub or small tree to 15 feet. Its flowers appear before the leaves, are white, almost star-shaped, (hence its common name, Star Magnolia), and are fragrant. It is hardy throughout western Oregon and Washington and quite widely used.

Next in importance in Northwestern gardens is *Magnolia soulangeana*, probably the most widely planted Magnolia of all. A taller growing species, it sometimes reaches a height of 30 feet. Its flowers, too, appear before the leaves, are large, cup-shaped. It is in reality a hybrid, the flowers being whitish with purple tones and base. It is often mistakenly called tulip tree because of the tulip-like flowers. It, too, is distinguished by having a number of varieties.

Most generally associated with the Old South is the Southern Magnolia, *M. grandiflora*, an evergreen tree to 100 feet, and often said to be the finest of all broadleaved evergreen trees. Its leaves are a light green and the flowers are large, white and fragrant. It blooms in April or May, its flowers resting above the leaves. Its one most unfortunate fault is the brittleness of its wood. Here in the Valley where snow and ice is the exception rather than the rule, these trees suffer greatly, not so much from the low temperature as the weight of the snow and ice on the limbs, for the weight may break a limb unless shaken off as soon as possible. While *M. grandiflora* is, primarily a southern tree, it is adaptable to use in practically all parts of Oregon and Washington, west of the Cascade Mountains.

Of rather recent popularity in the West is *Magnolia kobus*, one of the hardiest of the Asian Magnolias. It grows to 30 feet, the flowers appearing before the leaves and the flowers are large, white and lily shaped. It is hardy throughout Oregon and Washington.

The Chinese Yulan, *Magnolia deudata*, is a Magnolia held in high esteem by the Chinese, as it has been for centuries. Frequently it is rated as the most beautiful of all of the flowering trees introduced from the Far East. Its large, white, goblet-like flowers, pleasantly scented, make an impressive June showing. Reliably hardy only to ten degrees, once established in the Willamette Valley, it should be safe, barring lower temperatures while it is reaching maturity.

The essential for success in raising Magnolias lies first in good drainage. Although some natural fertilizer incorporated into the soil is beneficial, some authorities contend that natural fertilizers such as well rotted stable manure should be applied every three or four years to assure vigorous growth and flowering. It has been our own experience and observation that commercial fertilizers containing a balanced formula and fortified with all mineral trace elements are equally effective.

Pruning of Magnolias is an easy task for generally little or no pruning is advised. Pruning might be necessary, if the plant becomes overgrown or assumes an awkward shape. The tree or shrub should be pruned, if you must, only after flowering.

Another factor that makes Magnolias desirable trees or shrubs for the home garden is their relative immunity to disease and insect pests. The principal pest found troublesome is a scale insect readily controlled by a dormant miscible oil spray. Mealybug sometimes bothers, but the same oil spray checks it.

The propagation of Magnolias is accomplished by the usual methods—from seed, by grafting to *M. kobus* stock in January, and by layering.

There are but 15 species of Magnolias commonly grown in North America of which six are native Americans. There are, of course, a great many hybrids and varieties so that one who wanted to specialize would be able to amass quite a collection of outstanding ornaments.

Questions and Answers

Q — How should I prune Wisteria? I have lots of vine but few flowers. Mrs. M. K.

A — Trim out all straggly growth. In mid-summer shorten shoots to five or six leaves. Next spring, shorten shoots to two buds. Use nitrogen fertilizers sparingly. Bone meal is sufficient.

Q — The Magnolia we planted last year was fed carefully with an acid fertilizer but has not flowered this year. —Mrs. B. W.

A — There is really nothing wrong with the Magnolia. Just give it time.

Q — We planted a fig tree which grew nicely, but fruit stayed hard until the leaves had fallen. Last fall the fruit remained hard and green. What's wrong? J.H.C.

A — Your fig trees, apparently lack pollination or the trees may be worthless wildings. Plant at least two trees of recommended varieties to insure good pollination.

Q — How do you raise a Hawaiian Tree Fern indoors? —Mrs. A. A. S.

A — The most important thing is to keep the trunk moist. Plant the tree fern in a soil mixture with plenty of

peat moss or leafmold. The pot must drain well and the soil kept reasonably moist. A temperature between 55 and 70 is best. Keep in a light spot, but not in the direct sunlight.

Dining Room Returns to Favor in New Homes

By MARGERY McELHENY
CHICAGO—A survey compiled by the U.S. Housing and Home Finance Agency shows that the dining room again is being included in new homes.

One of the first rooms to be scratched off blueprints when building costs began to rise after World War II, the dining room is returning because of consumer demand, builders said.

Until recently, most families in the middle and lower income brackets had to look for older homes if they wanted separate dining areas. In the

newer models, meals were served in the kitchen or a "dining nook area" somewhere between the kitchen and another room.

Building costs have not gone down, said the builders, but the new interest in dining rooms probably came about because of the big success of the "raised ranch" or "split ranch" style house.

This style is very economical to build—a simple rectangle, with two stories, the lower one half below grade. It provides twice the square footage of living space of a

ranch style home, at not much more cost, so it has space for a dining room.

Why do buyers want a separate dining room?

Bernard L. Copeland, president of Basic-Witz, a manufacturer of dining furniture, points to the resurgence of the traditional trend. Copeland's firm participated in the survey that showed more than half of all families interviewed wanted separate dining facilities.

He said the family may be satisfied with informal meals in the kitchen, but it likes to have a more formal place to entertain a mealtime.

Families with children also believe the formal atmosphere of a dining room is conducive to better table manners, Copeland said.

Storage space was another reason cited. Silver, table linens, dishes and glassware can

be stored in a buffet, which rarely fits comfortably in the living room or kitchen, Copeland said.

Copeland said a recent survey by Home Furnishings Daily, a trade publication, showed sales of dining sets up as much as 17 per cent over a year ago. Sales were higher in suburban rather than city areas, he said, reflecting purchases of new homes.

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