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Basementless Home has many Advantages

A question of long standing is whether a basementless house is preferable to one with a basement.

Among advantages of the basementless house is the saving in excavation and construction costs. Basement stair-climbing is avoided and the stair accident hazard eliminated. Modern heating units are cleaner, quieter and more compact, and do not demand basement housing; while deep-freeze equipment makes old-fashioned cellars unnecessary.

Gardening tools, baby carriages and storm-sash and doors are more conveniently and safely stored on the ground level than in the basement. Family laundry is done more satisfactorily under good ventilation and lighting conditions provided on the first floor; and the labor of carrying heavy loads up and down stairs is saved.

Modern storage ideas, including storage walls, call for organized storage space distributed throughout the house. The attached heated garage can be used as workshop, hobby room or greenhouse. It can include storage space and makes a good rainy-day playroom. Convenient, Flexible

By adding to the length of an average rectangular house in order to include a ground-floor utility room, the small basementless house gains flexibility of design and convenience in household operation, say architectural designers of the Small Homes Council, University of Illinois.

The basement offers the advantage of ample storage not only for all household equipment and appliances, but also for out-of-season articles such as storm windows and screens, porch furniture and sports equipment, ladders, canned foods, and the like.

Basement Game Room

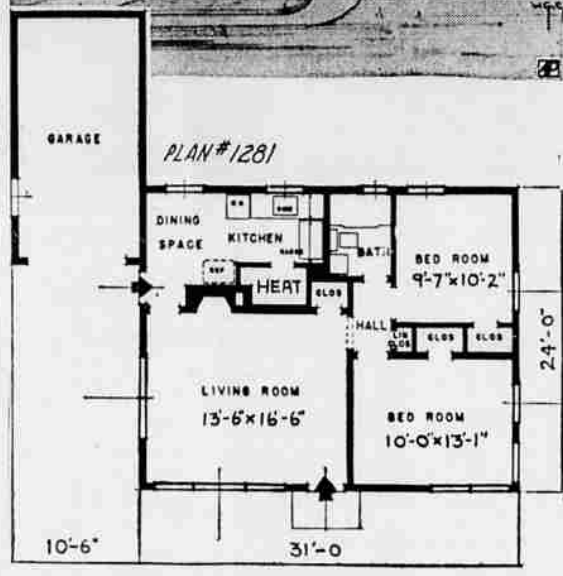
Recreation and sports and game activities, important to happy family life, can center around the basement rumpus room, which is a top advantage in having a basement. Large game tables and shuffleboard courts can be housed without crowding, and food can be spilled without damage.

Engineers often argue that heating and plumbing pipes exposed in the basement are easy get at when repairs are necessary, while those imbedded in the concrete floor slab of the basementless house are not.

The contour of the lot often indicates whether it is practical to build a basementless house, and inspection by contractor and building contractor will determine this.

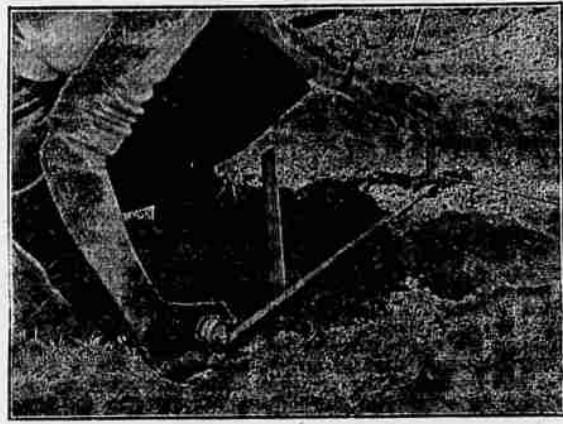
The head of the house had to work only half as many hours in 1948 to pay rent for the family dwelling as his 1914 counterpart?

HOMES FOR AMERICANS



Careful Planning packs a lot of livability into this unusually small house of 744 square feet, exclusively of garage. This is design 1281 by McMurray & Chirgottis, architects, 988 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, N. J. The house is planned for basementless construction with a heater room located off the kitchen. Its simple rectangular form makes for economy in building. (AP Newsfeatures).

Take Pride in Precision Of Your Garden Layout



Garden rows should be straight and parallel for good production

When vegetables or flowers are grown in rows, every five minutes you spend in making the rows straight, parallel, and the whole layout square and precise will save an hour in the work of caring for the garden later on.

Payment in pride will be even greater, since an orderly garden is pleasant to work in, and to show your neighbors. An exception to the rule for straight rows may be made in a hilly country, where the wash of soil may be checked by contour planting. Here rows should run at right angles to the slope, but they should still be parallel, though on rounded slopes they will be curved.

Serpentine, slanting or uneven rows will double the work of cultivation, and give an appearance of incompetence to the garden. Rows are spaced with varying

distances between them, depending on two factors: The need 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.

For crops growing twelve inches tall or less, rows may be spaced 10 inches to a foot apart and cultivated with hand tools. For cultivation with a wheel hoe, eighteen inches is likely to be found a minimum distance, since it is necessary to avoid disturbing the roots of the vegetables, whatever tool is used.

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.

First decide on the crops you will grow, which should be those that your family likes, or ought to like. Next, determine the quantity of each which you will try to produce, which should be the amount you will eat in the

Growing Plants from Seed Can Be a Tricky Business

By CYNTHIA LOWRY (AP Newsfeatures)

Growing plants from seed sounds as easy as rolling off a log. Actually it's a tricky business requiring thought, careful planning and attention. Frequently it's discouraging, too, and the results are far from what the book indicates it's going to be.

Ideally, seeds get their start in a warm, but not too warm, and moist spot and the more you can make that spot act like a greenhouse, the easier it is going to be to achieve healthy strong young plants to set out when the ground is warm and frost danger past.

It can be done in a sunny window—although sunny windows in kitchens frequently aren't too satisfactory because tiny amounts of gas are enough to kill sensitive growing things.

Good, fine garden topsoil is adequate for seed flats. It should be mixed with an equal amount of sand. Germinating seeds do not require any great amount of food, just moisture, good drainage and careful handling.

Most annuals, well put together wooden box is potentially a flat, and flower pots do nicely, too, although they waste space in a window.

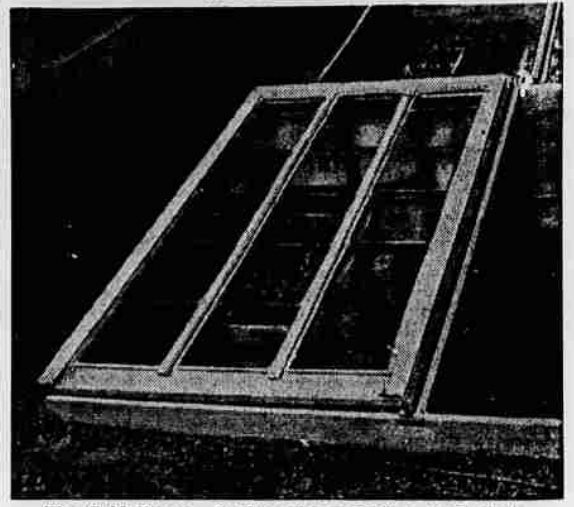
Watering is tricky, and when possible it should be done from the bottom of the box. In any event, provide for good drainage either by breaking up flower pots, a layer of sphagnum moss or good sized stones in the bottom of the seed container.

Sow the seeds in shallow drills—not broadcast—and mark them carefully. Keep the flats in darkness and covered with newspaper until the seeds have germinated and then put them in the sunshine.

What happens after this depends entirely upon their treatment.

When the second set of leaves appear on the tender young plant, it's time for action. They must be transplanted or "pricked off" and set farther apart to give them growing space. Sometimes the seedling is too small to be handled by the fingers and a pencil or orange stick helps to move them to flats. Press the seedlings gently into the soil, water them thoroughly and keep them out of direct sunlight until they have had a chance to recover from the shock.

Damping off, is the scourge of seedlings, a growth encouraged by lack of air and soil con-



The Cold Frame—It gives the gardener a head start

ditions in the flat that encourages the retention of water. There are fungicides designed to prevent damping off, and charcoal dust sprinkled over the surface of the seed beds helps.

Some seeds, of course, can be started in cold frames, but usually it is impossible to plant them as early outdoors as it is in the house. Both the cold frame and the sunny windows have their uses to the gardener, for the earliest annual blooms usually come from seeds started indoors when there is still snow on the ground outside.

When the seedlings have started toward mature growth, and the weather is warming up, they should be gradually hardened off, preparatory to being set in their permanent places. Flats may be set outdoors during warm periods. The glass frame of the cold frame may be opened on pleasant days.

Most annuals can be started in the broad temperature zone around mid-March—tomato seeds a couple of weeks earlier.

Meanwhile, some seeds can be sown outdoors. Shirley poppies and larkspur seed, for example, make a handsome combination broadcast together where they are to grow. So can spinach—true spinach, not New Zealand or Tampala.

And after that's done, take a look at the garden tools and outdoors furniture. Both probably need attention. And while you're painting the furniture, how about touching up the tools with a brilliant paint of red or yellow

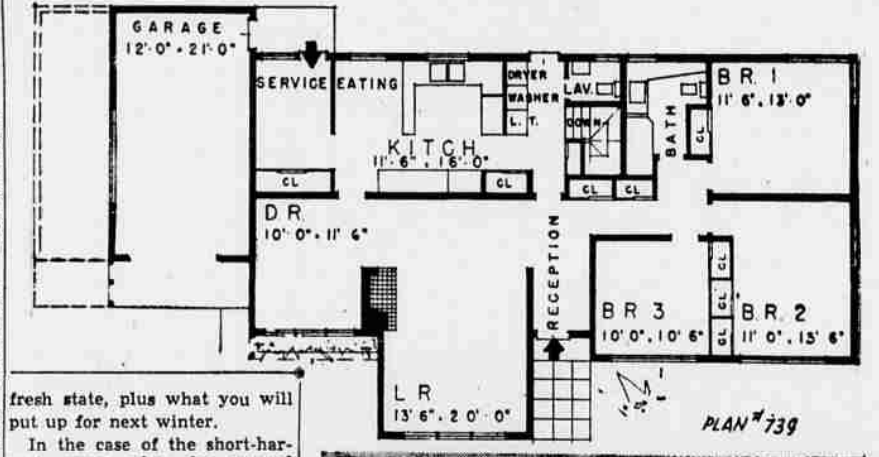
10,000 Americans died in fires in 1949, and property loss from fire was over \$687,500,000?

Cut Back Frozen Shrubs Warns Frank Doerfler

Some weeks ago articles appeared warning not to cut back too soon as in previous years the stock snapped out of it. Doerfler's have cut their stock back a month ago as well as many other nurserymen.

Take a knife starting at the top scraping the bark wherever the cambium layer is brown it very likely is frozen. Usually at the snowline where the bark is green is where one should cut back. Camellias may grow 2 or 3 feet the first year and should be staked to avoid breaking over or growing crooked. Poor material such as Japanese honeysuckle should not be used for hedges as it is short lived and freezes easily and is expensive to trim.

For tall hedges permedallis arborvitae is good, as is boxwood which grows up to 6 feet and is neat and easily trimmed. I haven't experienced such a frost in my lifetime and it may not happen again in the next 60 years.



Living, Working and Sleeping areas are sharply separated in the design for a modern home of the popular rambling one-story type. All rooms are accessible without crossing the living room. A service room adjacent to kitchen can serve as sewing room or playroom. This is Plan 739 by Walter T. Anicka, 617 Forest St., Ann Arbor, Mich. The plan provides 1,440 square feet of living area with basement and double garage optional.

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