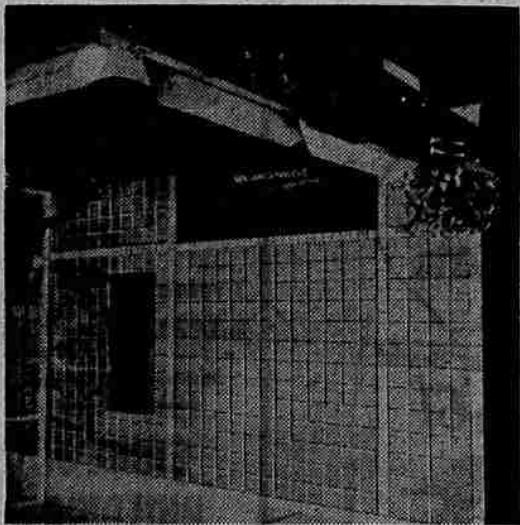




NEW LOOK—Easy-care elegance for fireplaces and a new look for the living room can be achieved with a wall of ceramic tile. The six-inch square oatmeal colored tile background shown in the photo is accented by white tile bands. A damp cloth wipes away grime.

Flowering Trees Recommended For 'Fascination'

The fascination of a specimen flowering tree in its flowering season is one of the most delightful experiences of living to many home owners.

In selecting your flowering tree, do not do it haphazardly, advises the American Association of Nurserymen. You are going to have this tree for many years, and for it to be a continuous delight each year, make sure you get what you really want. It costs no more to do this.

Study mail order nursery catalogues and visit local nurseries until you find the tree with ornamental flowers which will give your family the most pleasure.

There are many strikingly beautiful flowering trees. Perhaps your neighbor has one you have admired, or take a drive during tree flowering time in the finest residential area of your town, noting the most beautiful specimens.

Select Good Tree

Once you have the name of the tree you want, (you usually can get the name from your nurseryman if you have carefully noted flowers, color and other characteristics of the tree) select a good-sized tree in healthy condition. Pay a little more for it and get the best; it's worth it.

Plant the tree carefully, according to instructions and care for it well particularly during the first year. Watering is important. Soak the soil deeply, then water again just when the soil becomes dry.

Here are a few beautiful flowering species you might check: cherry trees, dogwood; peach; magnolias; crabapples; plus; goldenrain; redbud; hawthorns; amelanchier; halesia; laburnum; mangolia; oxyden-drum, and pawlownia.

Summer Living Is Hard on Furniture

Summer living is easy living—but it's hard on furniture that isn't built for it. That's why steel pieces are popular for porches, patios or garden proper.

They are handsome enough to please any taste, versatile enough to suit all kinds of outdoor activity, rugged enough to stand hard use the year around, and long-lived for protection of your investment. Consider these types:

Wrought iron furniture in a rainbow of colors comes with skid-resistant rubber feet, handsome decorative scroll work and innerspring seat cushions, some covered in leather-look plastic. Typical sets include a chaise lounge, love seats and a variety of tables.

Steel and wood furniture is new for summer but fine for year round use, too. The wood parts are usually redwood or birch; legs are wrought iron or tubular steel.

Color of Bathroom Gives Personality

Little things do much to bring elegance to bath decor. A small—but most important—thing is color, the key to creating a distinctive personality for the smallest room in your home.

In a recent report on color preference in the bathroom, Dial research laboratories discovered that homemakers have four pastel favorites: Pink, tan, blue and green—in that order. Dial notes these are excellent color choices because they give the bath a luxurious, fresh, airy look. Pastel shades recede, too, giving the room a look of spaciousness.

Everywhere in bath decor, these four colors today can be beautifully coordinated. Walls and ceiling usually carry the dominant color scheme.

Unightly Floors Can Be Hidden Under Carpets

If your floors are in need of repair or refinishing, 'hide' them under a carpet.

The idea is not as 'wacky' as it sounds.

Replacement of worn floors, or resanding and finishing is an expensive item in home improvement budgets. Colorful and practical carpeting, laid wall-to-wall along with a soft, springy underlay, can eliminate the need for most repairs.

The savings realized can help pay for a large share of the cost of a good quality carpet. Remember that carpeting is both a floor covering and a finished flooring material.

Price of One

By laying carpet over worn floors, you can get the benefits of a finished floor and a beautiful floor covering for the price of one. Even if you replace or refinish your floors, some floor covering is still needed.

Slight cracks, discoloring and irregularities in most worn floors can be concealed; the carpet, plus padding, also provides a cushion that compensates for most uneven floors.

Before laying the carpet on worn floors, be sure that loose boards are made firm and that all nails are set flush with

the floor. Bumpy ridges should also be sanded down. Small breaks or cracks in the floor can be filled in with some mortar or quick-drying cement.

Prevents Dust

A sheet of asphalt-impregnated kraft-paper, or 'building paper' over the floor and

under the padding and carpet helps prevent dust coming up from any cracks in the old floor.

Carpetry, combined with padding, helps insulate the room and cuts heating costs; it also provides adequate sound conditioning for most family needs.

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