



SPACE UNDER THE STAIRS of your home can be made into a wonderfully useful storage space by clever planning. These book, gun and game storage cabinets, built of Douglas fir, turn this ordinarily wasted wall into an exciting, decorative and all-purpose floor saver for all the family.

Pre-Building Plans Said Important For Owners

It costs very little more — and sometimes actually less — to build a house that will be easy to care for.

The do-it-yourself movement that has been so much in the news in recent years, sprang up because of the high cost of hiring others to do work around the house. By the same token, the average family cannot afford to live in a house which involves expensive maintenance.

The family about to build or buy a new house is in a good position to prevent a lot of home care and repair.

This can be accomplished by starting with the land—even before you plan a house. You can get a lot of satisfaction out of broad lawns and beautiful gardens—and if you like outdoor work you'll get fun out of caring for them. But watch out. Such dreams mean work and work takes time and energy. Keep your grounds within reason. The average man, even with a power mower, may find a half-acre or more to be too much for spare time care.

Then consider the design of your house in terms of care and upkeep. Are the rooms arranged efficiently to avoid through traffic? Is it easy to pass from almost any room in the house to another without passing through a third room? Will your carpets wear out in spots within three or four years? Are there enough closets and other storage space to prevent clutter?

There are many details in the plan of a house that can make for happy and easy living. Are bedrooms secluded as much as possible for privacy and quiet? Care and repair of your nerves must be calculated, too. Is the kitchen planned for step-saving as well as adequacy, with refrigerator, sink and range in logical order?

Is the back door, or other service entrance located for direct access to cellar or utility room as well as to the kitchen? When it's raining, can you drive into your garage and get into the house without being soaked?

Are the windows big enough for all the light and view you want without requiring the services of a window washing crew every week or so?

And now for construction. If your house is in a known termite area, does it have a copper shield over its foundation and under its sill? Does the foundation or basement wall have membrane waterproofing on the outside? Is the ground graded away from the house to prevent dampness and floods? Are all available utilities installed and paid for, or must you dig and maintain a well, worry about the need for a new cesspool, or pay for a special assessment when sewers are installed in your street?

How about upkeep of the exterior of the house? Brick veneer and other masonry construction obviate the necessity of frequent expensive house painting jobs. So do shingles that can be allowed to weather to a natural color, various other exterior materials.

Are all windows and doors permanently weatherstripped or are you expected to buy fuel to heat the great outdoors? And what of insulation? Even sawdust can be called insulation, but it is not vermin proof. Is there a vapor barrier between inner walls and insulation to keep it dry and prevent condensation in walls which can cause mildew and rot? Check on the space under the roof to see that it is ventilated sufficiently to prevent condensation at that point. A damp and dripping attic can spoil interior decorations, cause exterior paint to blister and peel.

Wallpapers Show Trends

Name wallpapers, like the couturier collections shown in Paris, often show the trend of things.

The high-powered wallpapers this year are as sparkling and original as can be, which tokens good for the most modest and popular papers in the years to come.

A significant arrival in the design field is Dong Kingman, a well-known watercolorist. This young artist is the one who submitted his report of a good will tour to the State Department in the form of drawings which were widely reproduced. Mr. Kingman has done a collection of six papers for Murals, Inc., called "American Scenes."

These scenes, which have the rich but light nostalgia of watercolor, are of San Francisco, Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago, Industry and a Formal Garden.

For large, unbroken wallspaces, Mr. Kingman's mural papers offer an attractive solution.

Thirty-five new papers at Wall Trends, Inc., are gathered together in that firm's "Eighth Edition." Three dimensions crop up in several of these papers, including "Ships and Bottles."

HANG UP THE DESK

For those short of space, there's a mighty handsome hanging wall desk. It has a wrought-iron frame. Novoply shelves and a light. It's made by F & F Manufacturing.



THE WOODBOX can be dressed up with this copper-lined planter on top. Just use the same wood for the woodbox paneling, doors and trim as the rest of the walls — West Coast hemlock in this case. You add character, charm and the lively interest of growing things.

TV Antennae Advice Given

Many thousands of TV antennae now in use are in danger of damage or destruction because their supporting guy cables are too weak.

A breaking strength of 500 pounds is desirable if TV guy cables are to hold in heavy storms, experts say. However, many present guy cables have a breaking strength of only 200 to 300 pounds.

Steel guy cable, however strong when new, tends to lose its strength as rusting progresses and must, therefore, be inspected regularly and replaced when rust damage becomes severe, the company says.

Modern Paints Now Easy To Save

Modern paint is easy to save. It used to be that when you had part of a can of paint left over, it was prudent to float a layer of linseed oil or turpentine over the top of it to prevent a film from forming.

That isn't done very much nowadays. Modern paints will form a film that can be easily removed with the paint intact and rarely requiring a strainer.

Remove the top of a paint can carefully, so you don't damage the edges. After using what paint you need, replace the can cover and step on it to make it tight. When you want to use that paint in the future, remove the film or skin carefully by cutting around the edge with a putty knife.

Renting Of Tools Now Big Business

When Horace B. Allgren of Richmond, Va., had to retire at 65, he decided to gamble \$500 on a tool renting business.

He started out with a power lawn mower, two extension ladders, a trestle, two paint sprayers, a blow torch, two soldering irons and a small electric saw and a few odds and ends from his basement.

"Families have gone nuts over this Do-It-Yourself idea," Allgren says. Today his basement is full of tools and he has a good income.

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