

**A STURDY** play table for the youngsters is made 24 inches high to accommodate small nursery chairs. The top, 36 inches long and 22 1/2 inches wide, may be made of three 1 by 8-inch boards. While the top boards may be fastened separately, the National Lumber Manufacturers Assn. suggests that an attractive piece of furniture will result from edge-gluing the boards into one panel or by using hardwood plywood. Assemble the table by fastening the frame together with six-penny finishing nails and glue. The legs, made of 2 by 2-inch lumber are fastened into the frame with glue and No. 10 flat-head wood screws, 2 1/4 inches long. The table top is fastened to the frame with inside angle braces, using No. 5 flat-head wood screws, 3/4 inch long. Round all sharp edges by sanding. The table may be painted to match other nursery furniture, or it may be given a natural finish to display the beauty of the wood.

## Use Of Home Wall Spaces Said Boon To Householder

American attics are becoming cluttered with an intriguing variety of odd pieces of furniture no longer needed since the advent of the versatile storage walls.

Probably no single change in our generation has exerted such an influence on the housekeeping habits of the average U.S. housewife as the remarkable expansion of the storage wall idea.

In every room in the house, the storage wall has been drafted for service. In almost every case it has displaced some piece of furniture, increased the usability and livability of rooms, cut down on housework by reducing dusting and cleaning-around jobs.

One of the most interesting storage walls is actually a storage island set down in one corner of a family room and given a multitude of jobs.

A typical "treasure" island storage unit may serve as a room divider between kitchen and family room, supply storage space for a complete music wall, include a tiny refreshment bar and provide shelf storage for all sorts of things. When designed of flexible West Coast hemlock, or similar western softwood, it can be shaped and fitted to any space.

A storage island recently displayed in a contemporary home reached from floor to ceiling. It was finished in henlock paneling, of random width and served as a room divider between kitchen and family room.

One face became an exciting music wall. A floor level opening was large enough for the television set which could be rolled out and faced in any direction desired. Built into the island and hidden behind magnetic-latched doors when not in use were radio, hi-fi equipment, record storage compartments, phonograph, speaker and a tape recorder. Here in one compact space were the music requirements for this family.

Facing the kitchen, the treasure

island became a handy device to carry a full wall of shelves for kitchen china, linens and other handy items. This section was protected, by sliding doors. Opposite this on the other side of the island a tiny refreshment bar was designed. This was large enough to admit the person serving. Upper half of a door folded inward and the lower half supported a tiny serving surface.

In such a compact storage unit as this treasure island can be packed away such dust-gathering pieces as radio, television and phonograph. The woman's cleaning and dusting time is cut to a minimum and the free floor space provided gives added use area to any room.

If you have an extra large family room, these treasure storage units can be designed and built at any time, although many prefer to have them built when the home is constructed. These may be re-assembled by the casual week-end carpenter or the husband handy with tools. If so, then very careful attention should be paid to details and corners and joining should be workmanlike, for the finished product must have all the charm and beauty of a good piece of furniture.

## Light Weight Concrete Shows Unusual Properties

ALPENA, Michigan—Extra living comfort in ground level homes and substantial savings in multi-storied and public construction are claimed for a light weight concrete of unusual properties, made with a new chemical and process announced here today.

The new concrete is said to be not only light in weight, but strong, self-insulating and highly moisture-resistant. It can be made from universally available materials, like ordinary sand and cement.

Called Elastizell, the chemical and the results that can be achieved with it were discovered by a young United States Navy lieutenant while supervising post war naval construction at the Port of Bremerhaven, Germany.

The lieutenant, Karl O. Munniger, brought the material to the attention of large concrete interests in this country, with the result that a corporation was formed two years ago to conduct research into its many possible uses and to distribute the chemical in the United States and Canada. Munniger is now a vice president of Elastizell Corporation of America, which has its headquarters here.

Use of the material as slab flooring on grade and foundations in a colony of contemporary concrete and steel homes in Alpena, the company's announcement says, have borne out its claims of "new living comfort" and "extremely high resistance to moisture."

This new concrete, according to the announcement, goes a long way toward solving the building industry's on grade floor problem. Root of this problem is moisture in the original concrete mix and also moisture transmitted from the sub-soil to the surface of the slab.

"Because of its low moisture-absorption factor—as low as two per cent by weight—the material is dry. Any type of floor covering can be used successfully—cork and rubber tile, linoleum, parquet-type wood flooring and wall-to-wall carpeting."

The material's self-insulating property makes for extremely comfortable living conditions, the announcement continues.

"Dry and with a 'warm-to-the-touch' feel, this type slab allows maximum performance of the heating system—whether the conventional warm air perimeter type or the hot water radiant tube type. The heating system is not forced to "battle" and overcome the coldness and dampness of ordinary concrete slab. It can devote its full

effectiveness to providing floor-to-ceiling room comfort."

Elastizell-type concrete has had widespread usage in West Germany where more than 50,000,000 square feet have been placed as insulating floor and roof fill in the last five years, says the announcement.

This experience has shown that it is possible, with this type concrete, to provide a light weight floor fill in multi-storied structures that saves 15 pounds per square foot of floor over ordinary concrete. Further, the floors can be finished to a true plane surface with one simple pour. These two factors are said to result in important savings in structural steel and in labor costs.

As light weight roof fill, says the announcement, the material is

highly insulating and can be pumped and worked easily.

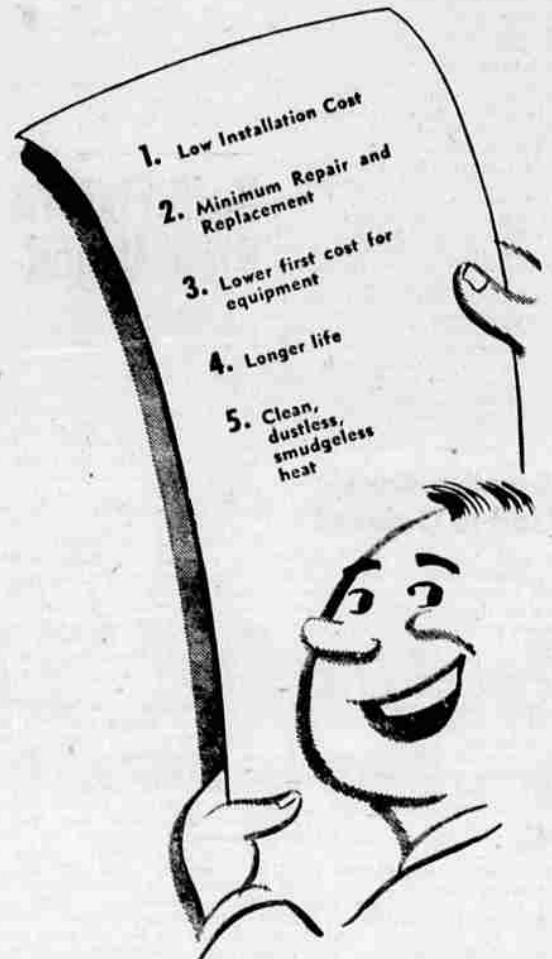
Elastizell, it is explained, is compounded basically of a liquid foaming agent and a water soluble plastic agent. When it is used with wet concrete, in a special mixer, the result is a homogeneous cellular or bubble structure, light in weight because of the mechanical introduction of a high volume of air. The resultant uniform strength minimizes the possibility of cracking.

The company believes that because of its unusual properties and the economies it makes possible, the material will have a far-reaching effect on the building industry in both the United States and Canada.

### PENDULUM

More than four thousand years ago, ancient Chinese wood sculptors used grain, texture, knots and coloring to bring out details in their figures. Today, architects use these same characteristics found in woods like western red cedar or Douglas fir to give style, character and distinction to their designs.

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