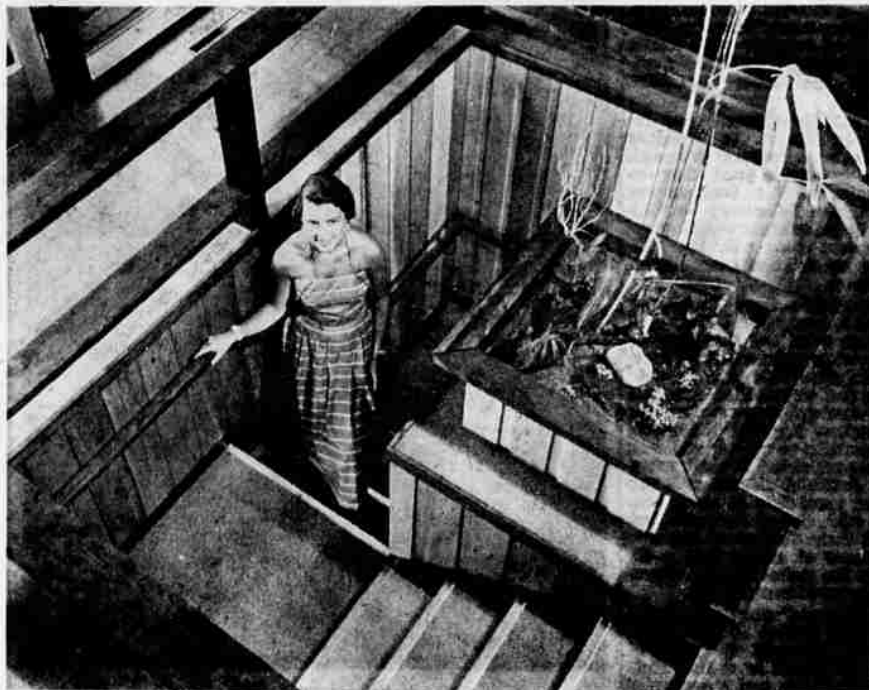


Adding Class To A Stairwell



FRIENDLY STAIRWELLS. Can the stairwell be dressed up without too much expense? The answer is yes. Here is an exquisite stairwell opening onto the main floor level from a carport-basement below. Its charm and beauty stems from the simplicity of its design. The soft, warm tones of western red cedar paneling, rails and planter box set the pace for this entrance area. Informality is the keynote, made possible by the wise use of cedar's texture and grain as a decorative motif.

Stairwells don't have to be just a bunch of stairs slapped into a hole. They can be attractive without costing a fortune.

Many homes are reached from garages below by way of stairwells which open into the living level, and in this case especially, the stairwell should be an integral part of the home.

Recent experiments made by inquiring designers have developed some utterly charming stairwells which readily become an outstanding feature of the particular home or apartment.

One favorite device to glamorize the stairwell is to use wood in contrasting forms. Western red cedar is especially popular because the wood has a soft warmth about it, so your battle is half won.

There are several patterns for cedar paneling and siding which can be used to dress up the stairwell. There is the conventional cottage siding with a wide tongue and groove; there is an inverted batten type, one with a simple V-pattern and one of a board-and-batten style.

Stairwells can be built with a different style or pattern on each wall, and this is particularly effective when cedar or its companion woods, Douglas fir or west coast hemlock, is used. All three of these woods come in a variety of different patterns.

Another device which has proven most effective in dressing up the stairwell is to use contrasting stains and paints for emphasis. If you use a wide exposed tongue style or an inverted batten or even a board and batten, you can use two complimentary or strikingly different colors, one for the wide face of the board and the darker for the tongue or batten. There are many variations and many ways to put real life and style into this often overlooked part of the home.

You might allow for extra width in the stairwell so that a planter can be installed in the center of the well, with the stairs coming up around the center column which supports the planter.

You can use a still different pattern of wood in the center column, and even a different color combination if you desire. The planter should come up to a height slightly above the floor level of the main area of the home.

Even the handrail can be made into a decorative device. You can stain it darker than the rest of the wood used in the stairway.

If the stairs are located in a

dark area without outside light, you will want to use the lightest possible wood, such as cheerful, blond west coast hemlock. Doug-

las fir can also be finished in a light, bright color by the application of clear lacquer or varnish finish.

Prepare For Any Home Crisis By Having An Emergency List

By VIVIAN BROWN

Is your home prepared to meet a crisis in the absence of the man of the house?

There are women who, though intelligent enough to cope with large emergencies such as blackouts and leaks, go to pieces when confronted with a wasp or mouse in the house.

I know a woman who became hysterically trapped in a room with two children because of a buzzing bee, an insect she feared.

Another woman aroused neighbors because a squealing half-dead mouse was caught in a trap, set by her husband, who was away on a business trip. She could not bring herself to touch it. (A shovel in the backyard would have come in handy for mouse disposal.)

A man may provide a house for his family and then go off to work or on an extended business trip without explaining such vital things as (1) what to do if the electricity fails (2) location of fuse boxes (3) how to raise the damper in the fireplace.

Every home should have an emergency advice list hanging in a conspicuous place. It will help the lady of the house and the baby sitter as well. Day workers, for instance, cannot always report a fire in the house properly because they do not even know the address of the house at which they are working, having been picked up at a bus stop or the employment agency by the employer. (One Connecticut day helper called the fire department, and knew the street she was on, but did not know which town she was in. Both towns had streets of the same name.)

Here's some advice that might appear on the emergency list:

1. Location of fuses. (Label fuses at box with indelible ink showing area they affect.)

2. If a storm is a threat to lights and power, fill bathtub with water, wash dirty clothes and dirty dishes at once, fill up bottles, pails, and jars with water.

3. Keep a fire extinguisher in a handy place, and leave instructions

on how to use it. Water should never be used on fat or oil fires.

4. Attach electric cords to appliances before plugging them in the wall and never leave a cord dangling from the wall outlet. Make sure plug attachment has no chance of coming in contact with water around sinks, for instance.

5. Stress that in case of fire, the first thought should be for the occupants of the house. Tell the housewife how to escape from various rooms of the house in case she is trapped by fire.

6. Greasy paper or oil rags thrown in the fireplace can cause a chimney fire. Use only twigs or kindling to help start fires.

7. Instructions where flashlights and candles may be found in emergencies.

8. Make sure that fire tools for the chimney are long enough to reach the damper, particularly in case of a fire started mistakenly.

9. If floods occur in the cellar, do not enter it or attempt to turn on the lights while the water is high.

10. Telephone numbers of the plumber, electrician, fuel and power companies, and other emergency numbers such as fire and police.

Forage Breeders Find New Strain

There's safety in numbers as far as forage varieties are concerned. Plant breeders are constantly searching for new strains that meet the needs of particular regions—strains that resist disease or cold, give better stands or mature at a certain time.

Such a new variety of orchardgrass has been released for use in the Pacific Northwest. It's called Latar and was developed from a selection brought from Russia in 1935.

Latar orchardgrass is winter-hardy, disease-resistant and low in woody tissue. It rates higher in digestibility than any other orchardgrass known.



HANDYMEN who are keen to start on spring gardening chores can whet their interest by sharpening outdoor tools.

Handymen Should Start Soon To Put Garden Tools In Order

The big job every handy man-gardener faces right now—if he can tear himself away from seed catalogs—is the task of getting yard equipment in order.

You'll need lubricating oil, old rags, steel wool, wire brush and a file for most of the work.

Begin your chore by cleaning the tools. A wire brush will take off the biggest part of both rust and dirt, a little steel wool and oil will finish the job nicely. Once you've removed the rust, go over all metal parts with an oilsoaked rag. Even though you'll be using the implements soon, rust can develop in a hurry.

Check metal edges of tools for sharpness. This applies to hoes and spades as well as pruning shears. Moisture and rust dulls the edges of all tools.

A flat file will do for the large, heavy tools such as spades. Use of a carborundum wheel would save work and effort.

Tools with a fine edge such as knives and shears deserve the use of an oilstone.

Check spades and hoes for nicks or bent corners. File down, and edge on a short, rather than long, bevel to help prevent further nicks.

Additional slight, frequent sharpening during the gardening season will keep tools in condition and give insurance against an all-out sharpening session next season.

Examine wooden tool handles carefully for splinters. Sand lightly to remove splinters or any roughness that might make handling uncomfortable. A couple of coats of linseed oil will complete that job.

Some gardeners prefer to paint tool handles with a bright color. This is partly a safety precaution—you're not likely to step on a tool easily seen—and partly a matter of making it easy to find a tool if you've misplaced it in the garden.

Don't throw away a tool because of a broken or split handle. Your dealer stocks a replacement handle that will fit the tool. A hammer and a vise are all the tools you will need to perform a salvaging job.

First, remove any pin or nail holding tool and handle together. Then mount work in vise. Drive tool shank out of handle if it's of the shank type. If a socket-type tool is involved, drive remnant of handle out of socket. After new handle is set in place, fasten with long nail or pin.

Tools with moving parts should be lubricated. Nuts and bolts on shears and clippers should be oiled and tightened.

Replace washers in hose couplings. Check for breaks and splits in the hose. Cut out bad sections of hose and mend with special hose mender or splicer made for that purpose. Replace couplings if threads are stripped or if couplings leak.

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