

Hideaway Of Heiress In Mexico One Of Most Unbelievable In World

By BERT KOPPERL

CUERNAVACA, Mexico (UPI)—A crude roadway, filled with bumps and potholes, leads to one of the costliest, most startling homes ever built South of the Border.

It is the \$1,500,000 Japanese-style house, built in a Japanese setting (rice paddies included) by dimstone heiress Barbara Hutton within the shadow of the volcanic mountain, Popocatepetl, 15 miles southeast of Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Designed by Albert E. Ives, the fabulous "hideaway" house took two years to build. Many materials had to be imported from Europe, Japan, the United States, and from distant cities of Mexico.

Shortly before Miss Hutton moved in this winter, I inspected the house and the 200,000-square feet of gardens outside. The gardens and landscaping include 3,000 rose bushes from Holland, England and the U.S., 18,000 shrubs, 2,500 bird of paradise plants, banana trees, low trees and sugar cane.

With my guide, Nacho de Landa, the controller of the property—a "retreat" to end all retreats—I saw the high, silver-tiled roof of the house after driving past a large Japanese gate. The roof tiles, 40,000 of them, were shipped from Japan.

Two walls were visible. They were painted white and were built on large rocks, with the same silver tile on top. Off to the left was "Popo," ably substituting in beauty for Japan's Fujiyama.

We entered the Japanese gardens on foot after passing through a second large gate. A red gravel path led to the front door, where we were greeted by Mexican servants dressed in authentic Japanese kimonos. We removed our shoes, put on slippers, and proceeded with our tour.

We walked down a long corridor lined with sliding doors and windows set in small square mahogany frames. A faint scent of incense filled the air and we walked into the main foyer over a highly polished stone brought in from Guanajuato.

Through a 15-foot high, ornately-decorated door, we entered the main living room, which measures 30-by-50 and has an 18-foot ceiling. The left wall was made completely of glass sliding doors, and stationary picture windows, through which we could see the outside landscaping and the pool area. A white silk rug covered the floor.

The furniture consisted of a curved sofa, aqua and deep purple, a few tables, a chaise longue, many floor pillows. Light blue silk drapes framed the window wall and a silk screen of flowers, done in brown and gold, hung near the sofa. Two large screens from Kyoto, Japan, stood at the far end of the living room, near a large Oriental brazier.

The nearby dining area had a shiny black lacquered dining table which could accommodate 14 to 16 people. Guests sit on soft cushions and the table is illuminated by overhead Japanese lanterns.

Next, we saw two of the more

spectacular features of the house—bridges crossing flower-bedecked noats. One bridge leads to the two suites occupied by Miss Hutton's secretary and personal maid. Another leads to the master suites, over a moat that has pine trees and shrubs planted along the banks.

Miss Hutton's suite includes a 26-by-30 bedroom with a double bed on a platform 10-by-20 feet. A built-in canopy of white cedar is overhead and two walls contain full-size picture windows that provide a view of the terrace below, a moat and a waterfall.

The rug, made from rice fibre, is chartreuse and green. A dressing room, bathroom and sunken Japanese bath of gold tile and marble complete Miss Hutton's suite.

De Landa showed me a large warehouse where the furniture will be stored when Miss Hutton is not in residence. A small motion picture theater also will be built on the grounds. The house also has a fully-equipped laundry room, a servants' kitchen, servants' quarters (three bedrooms and baths), a two-car garage and a tremendous parking area.

Hidden speakers pipe soft music through the house and two generators supply electricity. Nearby villages also benefit from these generators, as Miss Hutton supplies them with free power. A well-pump draws 300 gallons of water a minute.

At night, small lanterns glow on the low dining table and a watery mist plays across the picture window while rainbow-hued lights turn the mist into a dazzling curtain of color. The swimming pool, made from lavender mosaic tiles from Cuernavaca, is lighted, heated and filtered. At the far end

of the pool, a two-bedroom, two-bath guest house is located.

The entire house and its breathtaking setting puts one in mind of the legendary Shangri-La. It is perhaps most accurately described by the word "fabulous."

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Don't Blame TV For All Tired Eyes

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (UPI)—Did you fall asleep watching television last night? Maybe it wasn't the effect of TV on your eyes after all. Maybe you just needed more sleep.

Nor do you have to stop the children from watching TV to protect their eyes. Just make sure they're watching the set at eye-level, that they occasionally look somewhere else and that they get outdoors for some physical exercise from time to time.

These recommendations for TV viewing were made by Dr. R. J. Beitel Jr., chairman of the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology. He's also an eye doctor in Allentown.

Dr. Beitel says televiewing is no more harmful to the eyes than reading a book or driving an automobile. In fact, he said TV might help detect a need for glasses among those who didn't have any trouble with their eyes until they started watching video.

But he does offer some simple rules to guarantee ease and comfort for all televiewers.

Make sure the set is in sharp focus, says Dr. Beitel, and if possible sit directly in front of it comfortably, avoiding angles.

From time to time, look away from the set and focus your eyes at a distant object. Never watch in total darkness—a soft, indirect light is recommended—and keep the size of the screen in proportion to the size of the room.

Also, keep the set at eye level. Looking down, up, around or any other way is tiring.

If, despite all these precautions, your eyes smart, says Dr. Beitel, it could be from smoke or an allergy. Washing the lids and lashes with soap and water should give relief.

And, if you fall asleep, maybe it's time for bed.

PICKLE OVER SAUERKRAUT

ST. CATHERINES, Ont. (UPI)—John Cer insisted he doesn't even like sauerkraut when accused of lugging home a three-gallon crock of sauerkraut from a party he had attended as a guest. Cer was found guilty anyway, but received a suspended sentence.

IF SPEED COUNTS—

NEW YORK (UPI)—Whip up a party coffee cake for unexpected guests with packaged easy coffee cake mix. Prepare according to directions and pour into pan. Swirl 1-3 cup apricot into batter, sprinkle with 1-3 cup coconut and top with cinnamon topping from package. Bake according to package directions. Serve warm with coffee.

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A new fissured woodfiber acoustical tile now available for do-it-yourself installation, is an economical, decorative and efficient solution to noise reduction in the home.

Capital Sets An Example

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The nation's capital was the first major city to desegregate its public schools in compliance with the Supreme Court decision of 1954.

It faced formidable problems: schools had been segregated here for more than 90 years, and the city's population was almost evenly divided between Negroes and whites, so there was no question of a "token" integration job.

In spite of these problems, and the fact that Washington was traditionally Southern in its racial mores, desegregation was carried out so calmly and peacefully that Superintendent of Schools Carl F. Handson now describes his past adjustment.

The day after the court handed down its decision, President Eisenhower asked the capital's school system to serve as a "model" for the rest of the nation. One of the court's enforcement decrees—the school board approved plans for full integration from kindergarten through high school. This took effect with the beginning of school the following September.

There were a few demonstrations by white high school students during the first week of school that fall. Firm action by police and school authorities quickly put a halt to these, and there has been no subsequent disorder of any kind. Both adults and children seem to have accepted desegregation. There have been no organized protest movements among parents, and school authorities say there has been very little racial friction or tension among the children.

This year, Negro students outnumber white students by three to one in district schools, even though the general population of Washington is about 50 per cent Negro, 50 per cent white. The greater percentage of Negroes in the schools reflects mainly the fact that Negro families tend to have more children than white families. Also the fact that many white residents of the district are unmarried government workers.

There is no evidence of a wholesale "flight" of white children into private schools. Private school enrollment totals only 17,000 (compared with 110,000 in public schools) and has not increased materially since desegregation.

The tile has a richly textured surface, similar to travertine, that is ideally suited to contemporary home decor. The homeowner, doing the job himself, can cover a 10 by 12' ceiling with this beautiful acoustical tile material for around \$31.

Called Forestone, the new tile was developed over several years of careful research and experimentation by acoustical experts, engineers and production specialists.

Forestone has tongue and groove edges and a wide nailing or stapling flange for easy installation by the homeowner. The tiles come in 12" by 24" by 9 - 16" sections, scored in the center to look as two 12" by 12" tiles when installed. The larger sections speed up installation time and make for ease of handling. The tiles are factory painted in a warm, ivory white and require no further finishing.

Forestone may be installed in both new and old construction. There are two installation methods: with furring strips, 1" by 3" boards of seasoned softwood, attached to ceiling joists; or with acoustical adhesive cement applied directly to the existing ceiling.

The adhesive method of installation is recommended only on ceilings that are smooth, level, firm and in solid condition. In new construction the furring strips may be attached directly to the exposed ceiling joists. In old houses or where a ceiling already covers the joists, the furring strips are nailed to the joists through the existing ceiling.

With either method some fitting of the tiles will be necessary for a symmetrical coverage of the ceiling. The tiles can be cut easily with a sharp knife. A hammer, straight-edge, measuring tape and stapling gun (many hardware dealers rent this tool) are all that are needed for installation over furring strips.

To determine the number of tiles for any installation, multiply the length of the ceiling to be covered by its width. This will give you the number of square feet. It is best to make a scale plan for your acoustical tile ceiling installation whether you use the adhesive or furring strip method. This will prevent unnecessary waste of material and insure a more professional and satisfactory job.

ONLY MAKE-BELIEVE

PARK RIDGE, Ill. (UPI)—New spray products simulate grass, sand or soil to line the routes of those first model trains found underneath the Christmas tree. Kerr Chemicals, Inc., says its sand-colored spray, for example will transform a crumpled paper background into wind-swept beach or a discarded mirror into a placid lake.

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