

Built-In Window Garden Moves Outdoor Hobby To Modern Home

Amateur gardeners who are reluctant to put aside their favorite hobby during cold-weather months, are finding built-in window gardens a perfect outlet for their "green thumb" talents.

Ideally suited for today's open plan houses where the large glass areas let in plenty of daylight and warmth, an indoor garden is a fine place to grow the usual variety of colorful house plants. They are also particularly handy for starting larger flowers and sizeable seed flats destined for spring transplanting in outdoor beds.

Since the area which can be devoted to an indoor flower bed will vary with each home, its size and shape become a matter of customizing to suit individual conditions. However, regardless of the dimensions, indoor flower beds fall into two basic classes—those built above the floor, and the more elaborate sunken type.

According to Ralph Sherwin, chief designer of Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company, above-the-floor units are simple to build and work well into remodeling projects since they do not make it necessary to change the floor structure. Sunken planting boxes with the soil level even with the floor are provided with adequate drainage and waterproofed to protect adjoining wood work. Somewhat more complicated to make, this type is best included when the house is

being built.

In view of the fact that the majority of popular plants, including such favorites as tulips, hyacinths and lilies, flourish in sunny spots, a south wall is probably the best all-round location for an indoor flower garden.

"With modern homes being built to catch the heat of the winter sun through large areas of Thermopane insulating glass on the south wall, this elevation becomes an ideal place for a planting box," Sherwin pointed out. "The flowers receive ample sunlight and yet are protected from the cold."

One pleasing effect which can be gained by the use of an indoor garden, is to build it adjoining a flower bed outside the window. This gives the appearance that the garden continues in an unbroken indoor-outdoor pattern. In places

where picture windows or window walls do not extend all the way to the floor, the same effect can be achieved by placing a window box on the floor and hanging another outside at the same level.

"The primary purpose of a window garden is to add a touch of color to the room and at the same time create a pleasant setting when viewed through the window," Sherwin said. "For this reason some care should be taken to see that flowers are properly arranged so they become attractive from both indoors and out. It's always a good rule-of-thumb to keep any varieties which grow tall and bushy off to one side and away from the glass. Although pretty, they can spoil the view and block a lot of sunlight if planted in the center of the window."



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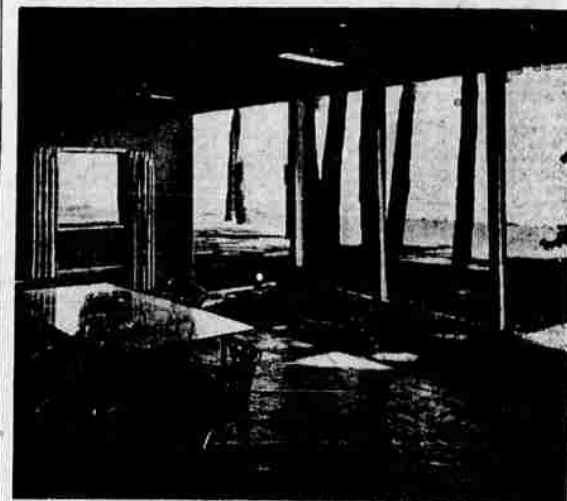
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FOR AMATEUR GARDENERS interested in pursuing their hobby during the cold weather, a window garden is the perfect answer. It provides space for colorful house plants and also larger flowers or seed flats to be transplanted outside later. Built in a south-facing Thermopane picture window or window wall, the garden receives ample natural light and warmth from the sun.

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Music Appreciation Could Be Taught If Schools Had Better Hi-Fi Equipment

By PRESTON MCGRAW
United Press International

An official of a major fidelity components company thinks teenagers may be pushovers for rock 'n' roll and similar music because their schools don't have the proper facilities to teach them appreciation of good music.

"The quality of music reproduction has a lot to do with whether we like a certain kind of music or not," according to F. V. Machin, a vice president of Shure Brothers Inc., which makes components and electronic equipment.

"You can't teach good music with poor sound. A symphony played on battered equipment runs a poor second to 'Hound Dog' played on a high fidelity juke box."

Most juke boxes these days are high fidelity. And many are stereo.

Machin recommends that schools take these steps to improve the playback equipment in their music appreciation rooms:

—Work with an experienced high fidelity enthusiast who knows what's needed. There's one in every school. He may be student, teacher or parent.

—Remember that the best reproduction is obtained from high quality components. These should include an amplifier of at least 20 watts output (a total of 40 if it's stereo), a good turntable and pick-up arm, a magnetic cartridge with diamond stylus, and wide-range loudspeakers (50-15,000 cy-

cles) in proper enclosures.

—At least \$250 should be allotted for new equipment. If the school budget won't permit such an outlay, perhaps the Parent-Teacher Association may donate all or part of the equipment. The local high fidelity dealers will recommend components that offer the best value for the money.

—Make sure that records are properly handled and stored. This means keeping them in dust-proof jackets, handling them only by their edges and freeing them of dust before they are played.

"Musical appreciation instructors who take these steps will find their students are more likely to listen attentively," Machin said.

"Once the student does this, he's less likely to have his appreciation undermined by musical fads."

While stereo can add greatly to the dramatic impact of good music, Machin advises getting the best possible monophonic system if a school's funds are limited.

Two speakers with monophonic equipment give a near-stereo effect.

"Once a school has a high fidelity system, it needn't be limited to music appreciation classes," he said.

"Where the school has a public address system, the music can be played over this between classes, in the cafeteria and in lounges."

"When good music is a part of the regular school routine, the student is more likely to take to it naturally."