

Iron Work Adds Beauty In Home Redecorating

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. (AP)—Indoors and out, wrought iron is a product that should be considered in your remodeling plans.

Decorative iron rails and trellises not only can be adapted to almost any period or style of home but often accents the design and furnishings.

Patterns range from crisp, straightline designs to ornate gingerbread varieties and are limited only by your own imagination and pocketbook — and frequently the two can be resolved into just the right touch for your modernization project.

Actually the term "wrought iron" is misleading. Ornamental iron men like Joseph Charla Jr., a 36-year-old graduate engineer who specializes in custom jobs, point out that "hot rolled mild steel" is the material now used in most work.

"Wrought iron," technically, is a commercial iron containing very little carbon and usually fibrous. Economically it is not practical in normal house decorating.

But your dealer will understand what you mean by "wrought iron" — the common term for forged, shaped, twisted and hammered ornamental iron which is functional as well as decorative.

There are two broad categories of decorative iron: the type already described as "wrought iron," and a second variety known as "malleable cast iron." There also is a third type called "plain cast" which is about 60 per cent cheaper but is brittle—subject to cracking from a sudden blow or temperature change — and not practical for most household uses.

The malleable iron can be cast into intricate designs and is used in trellis columns and grills to complement wrought iron railings and bannisters.

Advantages of decorative iron for railings or porch trellises are obvious.

In addition to its adaptability to design, it is virtually permanent, requires little upkeep and is strong without being bulky.

Price varies according to localities, and it always is advisable to get estimates from a number of local dealers. Another tip: usually you can get a better buy during the winter lull than in the rushed spring and summer periods, according to Charla.

If you plan to design the iron work yourself, there are some basic facts about the product you should know.

The standard rail consists of one-inch square solid posts not more than seven or eight feet apart for the main support. Between them are half-inch posts about five inches apart. The top and bottom rails generally are channeled, and the top should be capped with a moulding.

From this basic structure you and your iron works dealer can get together and add the decorative touches your design calls for.

If the railing or grillwork is for indoors you should consider polished brass accessories. Outdoors, such adornments often defeat the purpose of a rugged and maintenance free installation.

Also, you should avoid outdoor use of structural steel tubing (as opposed to solid iron) which is perfectly acceptable indoors. The tubing has essentially the same strength, but if rust develops tubing becomes weaker at the joint where it enters the masonry.

Unless you have the proper tools and know-how, installing ironwork yourself is not a good idea. If you care to try, however, here are some tips:

Posts should be sunk at least five inches deep into a hole 1½ inches in diameter in the concrete. Wedge it into position with steel shims, and seal it with a rich grout cement or some other cement-like composition.

All posts, scrolls and the like should be welded, and the bottom rail should be at least two inches off the ground so it can be painted easily.

Whether you install the ironwork yourself or have it done, at least you can handle the painting of it as an economic do-it-yourself project.

Outdoor installations should have a primer coat of red lead, zinc chromate or some other metal base paint to resist rusting, followed by at least two coats of good outdoor enamel.



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Garage Roof Now Patio

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP)—Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Korilla park their car under their patio.

This is the best way to describe the Korilla's ingenious remodeling project, because the new structure adjoining their 60-year-old home serves as much as an outdoor relaxing and entertaining area as it does a two-car garage.

The lay of the land around the Korilla home made the garage top patio possible; but it points up what can be done by homeowners who use their imagination as well as their savings.

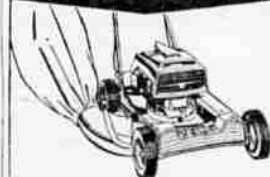
The Korilla home is built on a hillside, and the garage was constructed adjacent to the house into the hill. The short driveway is at street level and the garage roof at first floor level.

Korilla decided simply to finish off the roof as a patio, and later he plans to add doors so he can step onto the patio from either the living room or dining room, both of which overlook it.

Two steps down from the rear of the patio is the back yard — level and with a well kept lawn and border gardens. A flagstone walk leads from the patio into the yard.

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