

Patio Important Part Of Modern Home Life

An attractive screened-in patio is an example of what can be done by a homeowner of average do-it-yourself ability, provided he has a sound plan and goes about it methodically.

Thousands of owners of moderate-size homes are discovering that to accommodate the physical needs of a growing family (and for more peace of mind) the original living area simply must be expanded.

A screened-in patio can add greatly to the comfort of all concerned and, at the same time, increase the value of the home.

An "outdoor living room" can be used when entertaining guests, serving family meals, staging children's parties, or as a protected play area on rainy days, or even for sleeping under the stars.

A 12' x 21' patio, for example, can be constructed during weekends, days off and evenings, or the same size patio could be put up in a couple of weekends. It will take even less time if you already have a concrete slab.

Here's how you can do it all for approximately \$500: First, have a concrete slab poured. The approximate cost will be \$135 for materials and labor. You can save the labor cost by doing the slab work yourself, but it's a pretty back-breaking job. One thing to remember no matter who does the work: Provide adequate drainage away from the house. Also, concrete footers for the slab must be below the frost line for the area in which you live.

From that point on, everything can be done by you. Place natural slate in the concrete before it is cured, to create a more attractive floor. Once the slate is

set, a thin mixture of cement and fine sand should be used to fill in between the slates.

Sink creosoted 4 inch by 4 inch posts in the uncured concrete (any wood going below ground level should be creosoted, whether it goes directly into the earth or not). To take the screening later, sink 2 inch by 4 inch posts in the concrete midway between each 4 inch by 4 inch post, and also place 2 inch by 4 inch base plates on top of the concrete between each post.

Nail 4 inch by 4 inch framing across the tops of the posts the length of the patio. Then secure 2 inch by 6 inch rafters to the roof of the house and the top of the 4 inch by 4 inch framing, and nail a 1 inch by 6 inch face plate against the outside of the 4 inch by 4 inch framing the length of the patio.

Nail corrugated Fibreglas-reinforced plastic panels to the 2 inch by 6 inch rafters, after placing longitudinal and corrugated wood filler strips over the rafters and in alignment with the corrugations of the panels.

Next, use Fibreglas screening in 5 and 6-foot widths, tacking it (or you can staple) to the posts about every inch. This screening won't rot, rust, corrode or dent, and is glare-free. Use framing strips of wood to cover up the tacks and give a trim appearance.

Ventilation just under the roof is important, so fashion a lattice effect using wood slats 1 1/2 inches wide and 3/4 inch thick at each end of the patio. It lets air through and at the same time gives a decorative effect.



STRETCH YOUR HOME by creating a comfortable outdoor living area, free from insects and harsh direct sunlight. Translucent, corrugated fibreglas-reinforced plastic sheets form the roof, sides are fibreglas screening which won't rot, rust, corrode, stain, dent or crease, and is glare-free.

Window Wall Should Be Used

If your living room has a window wall, you probably have difficulty arranging everything in the room around the other three walls.

If so, why not use the window wall, too.

You can make a long bookcase of highly finished plywood, low enough so it won't interfere with the view. Bolt the unit directly to

the mullion posts which frame the window wall and finish the top with either a high gloss enamel, varnish or plastic.

The unit can hold anything you wish, books, phonograph and records, projector and reels of movie film, liquor or linens.

NATURAL WOOD DOUGH

To patch a damaged spot in wood to be given a natural finish, use sandings from the same wood and just enough clear glue to hold the sandings together.

Family Finds Island Good Kitchen Idea

If you're planning to remodel your kitchen, give some thought to a center-island arrangement.

An island, for example, may be the answer for a kitchen used as a regular family pathway. The island, made up of double drain-board sink with counter space at each end, parallels refrigerator, stove, counters and hanging cabinets along one wall. Mother works on one side of the island while her family parades through on the other side, neither in the other's way.

For an island sink, run your plumbing supply from the cellar. If your local building code requires venting, handle that from below as well.

In a large square kitchen, an island can save a homemaker miles of walking. A square island, in this case, would be attractive. It could include a sink coupled with chopping block for easy preparation of meat and vegetables, or a stainless steel counter top and range.

An island also can make it easy both to combine and separate kitchen and dining areas.

One side of an island could be a shallow range set into a counter top, and a counter high oven. The other side could be a breakfast bar with stools.

Guest Space Is Available

The size of most homes doesn't permit the old-fashioned guest room, but modern couples can accommodate overnight guests as easily as their grandparents — in an up-to-date way.

Your guest space can be almost anywhere in the house, wherever you decide it fits in best with your way of life and will provide reasonable privacy and access to a closet and bathroom for your guests.

There are couches and day beds for family rooms which can be used as guest beds; living room sofas which camouflage double beds; chairs which convert into single beds.

Behind-a-door beds have gone modern, too. Now they fold into cabinets which appear as part of the hi-fi system in the music room; into room dividers between dining room and living room; into the base of bookcases in the library or den.

If you want a place that is for guests only, consider whether you have space that is going to waste.

Do you have a balcony that you could make into a sleeping porch? Is your garage high enough to permit construction of a second-story bedroom? Is there a corner of your attic or of your storage basement which you could convert into an extra bedroom?

If you decide on the latter, you can do it yourself without too much expense. Put down an attractive floor covering and cover the walls and ceiling with wall-board to create the soft harmony so essential in a sleeping area. Paint bookshelves and a dresser to contribute color. A pair of folding screens form the other two walls which make your sleeping nook a cozy "guest room."

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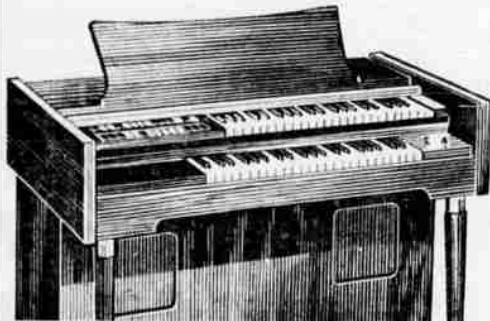
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