

a few surrounding lights controlled by a double switch. If this is not possible, select one with a short pull chain on the fixture to allow you to vary the light.

Wall brackets or valence lighting in addition to the ceiling fixture can have functional as well as decorative effect. If used in the dining area of the kitchen, it serves to psychologically separate the dining and work areas. Indirect balance lighting used above and below a double shelf arrangement can stimulate a window, creating a cheerful open look.

The fact that lighted walls visually recede making the space seem larger is another reason for choosing cornice or valence type lighting, especially if the room is small. If using fixtures requiring the fluorescent tubes, choose the warm white lamps since they make food more attractive as well as your com-

plexion.

If a dining room fixture is to be used as a study light, a fixture of frosted glass or white plastic that is covered on top with a glass, plastic or perforated metal would be a good one. The fixture should diffuse some light upward for general room lighting and some downward on the table. It's best if the light is movable so it can come down closer to the table for studying. Be sure that there is at least a total of 200 watts of light in one or more bulbs.

**FURNITURE**

If you plan to turn gift money into new furniture, choose pieces that will serve more than one purpose.

If it's a small chest you're shopping for it may serve as storage space for living room accessories but also be an end table for one of the larger upholstered chairs.

Whether in an apartment or a permanent home you may plan to shift furniture from living room to a bedroom or dining room so versatile pieces are important.

Even the finish of the furniture should go well with furniture in the rooms where a piece may be shifted. Finishes that take little care should please you now and for time to come.

What wood you choose needs to be correlated with other furniture you have. If you choose a solid wood you can easily refinish the piece for long service and should you dent it no other kind of wood will show through.

Furniture made of veneered wood is usually light in weight and makes a piece of furniture easy to move. Then the wood grain can be made up into interesting patterns that may suit your likes and go well with other pieces. Present day veneer furniture is usually well made so that

it will be long lasting.

A new trend in furniture has been the return to popular favor of dining room furniture. Dining room furniture lost importance during and after World War II. Many families purchased only dinette sets for meal service. In much of the smaller housing of the past decade people had space for little else. Dining space had shrunk to a relatively small area between the living room and kitchen. Along with the larger average size of single family homes in recent construction has come provision for a normal-sized dining room. Increased emphasis has been placed on the styling and decoration of dining areas.

in furniture production. Chip wood cores are being used on wood furniture to give firmer and better finish to the plywoods. Natural finishes, such as walnut and mahogany, have again become important, reversing the trend to bleached and limed woods of a few years ago. Plastic coatings are being used considerable on the tops of most tables, buffets and other furniture as a protection against staining and marring.

Modern furniture today is featuring slimmer, softer lines. Early American styling has regained prominence during the past year.

**RUGS**

Remember that a room can stand only one dominant pattern. So if you're choosing a figured rug plan the rest of the room — the walls, upholstered furniture and curtains — to give a quiet feeling.

Rugs are an expensive part of the furnishing of a house. You need to play safe with pattern in your rug since it will last a long time.

One problem in the use of pattern in a rug is the scale of the design in the pattern. Make the size of the pattern go with the size of the room you're using it in.

When starting out to use pattern on the floor, it may be a good idea to use smaller rugs for accent. These rugs put an emphasis on some spot in the room as in front of the fireplace or the television set. They may also add life to a hall that would otherwise be dull.

Another problem you need to consider is the contrast of dark and light colors used in the pattern. If the darkest colors are in the center and then get lighter toward the

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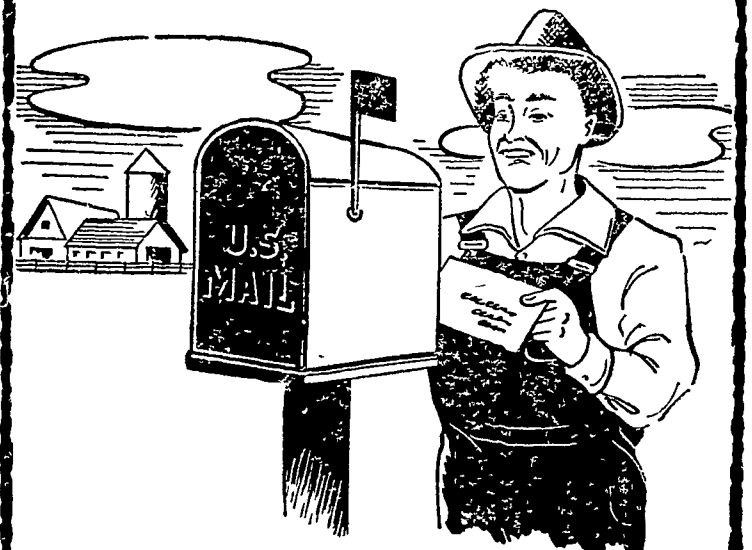
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