

# ... with a "NEW LOOK"

## New Storage Functions Best If Built Where It's Needed

What makes storage good? It's not so much a matter of quantity as of location and design. To function well, storage must be built at point of use.

For example, a cupboard for bath towels is helpful only when built into the bathroom, and it's never sensible to use the linen closet for tablecloths. They belong in the dining room.

Kitchen storage should be elementary—yet in how many kitchens are the cereal bowls stacked on top of dinner plates because cupboard shelving is not adjustable? Clearly, storage is more than a cupboard here and a closet there. In the dining room, full-size china closets are needed, with pull-out trays included for flat silver and folded linens. Additionally, space should be allowed for table pads and extra leaves.

Ideally, the storage wall should adjoin the kitchen with cupboards opening both ways to facilitate loading and unloading.

### Useful Built-Ins Urged

To prevent the living room from becoming an unused parlor, allow a wall or corner for built-ins to include space for music equipment, games, stationery supplies and books. A drawer or two earmarked for extra ashtrays, paper napkins and the like helps this room function when entertaining.

The family room might boast space for everything from the laundry to party supplies, depending on an individual family's needs. If there are children, accessible toy cupboards should be provided as well as a closet for outdoor wraps. Skimping bedroom space can be in-

creased by substituting built-ins for conventional furniture. In that way, wasted space is put to work and specific storage needs are accommodated. For instance, a corner could yield additional hanging space, and extra-deep drawers could be built under a window to serve as a blanket and sweater chest.

### Board Wall Conceals

The outward appearance of storage built-ins is a matter of personal taste. While some will want them tailored like furniture, others may prefer to conceal them entirely. A good way is to hide storage behind a wall paneled with tongue-and-groove boards. Much of the paneling actually will be door fronts. But with the use of concealed hardware and touch latches, the doors, when closed, disappear into the wall.

Any of the western softwoods are good for this treatment, as well as for conventional styling. Hemlock is prized for its subtle champagne coloring. Cedar is a favorite of those who like deep-toned woods. Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir hit the mid-range, with pine a soft nutmeg shade and fir hinting at gold and orange.

## First Step In Decorating Begins With Floor Plan

Planning is an important first step in decorating. It makes the rest easy and enjoyable. If you were to decorate your house the ideal way, you would begin when the floor plan is being drawn.

That's a tip from Mrs. Janet Miller, Extension home economist, Luzerne County.

The materials you choose for the walls, floors, windows and doors are important because they all affect the decorating plan. They are permanent parts of the room, so the furnishings should complement them and be in harmony with them. Also, you may need fewer pieces of furniture if adequate storage and arrangement are planned in advance.

It is usually not necessary to furnish your house all at one time, reminds Mrs. Miller. Buying fewer pieces of versatile furniture often means that emphasis can be placed on quality furniture. Many families have more furniture than they really need.

It's important to have a definite plan and purpose for every article you buy. Furniture of good design will be in style any time. Think carefully before buying fad furniture. Have your home furnishings express you, not what everyone else is buying.

## For A New Angle, Try Hanging Plants

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world. We're not suggesting that you'll make the history books, but try some hanging plants this year.

A basket hung from the branch of a tree makes a good home for shade-loving plants like the hanging varieties of tuberous begonias and fuschias. Try putting your Christmas cactus in a hanging basket for the summer; it won't bloom, but the foliage is attractive and the plant may repay you with more blossoms at Christmas time.

For hanging in a sunny spot, Lantana, geraniums, Dianthus, Nasturtiums, or Shrimp plants are colorful choices.

Be sure your hanging plants get the type of soil and water conditions they need. Good drainage is important, for even plants which need lots of moisture shouldn't stand in soggy containers. Hanging planters must be designed to let water run through, so place them where the "drips" will do no damage.

Hanging plants add colorful accents to the yard or porch, require little space, and don't get in the way of the lawn mower.

## Divided Glass Frames View

Many architects say that a full glass wall is the surest way to spoil both a room and a good view. A view, they contend, must be framed just as a picture is framed. Though glass may extend from floor to ceiling, it should be divided vertically into panels so that the view is subtly separated into pleasingly proportioned segments.

This treatment also prevents a room from feeling too exposed to the outdoors, though an excellent relationship is retained.

No great distance is needed to separate the glass panels. A four-inch post usually does the job if glass panels are no more than four feet wide.

When an exceptionally long or tall wall requires greater separation between glass panels, false columns one to two feet wide may be built and paneled with tongue-and-groove boards for decorative impact. Such columns also can be designed as tall, narrow bookcases or as enclosures for music equipment and speakers.

A western hemlock tree is easily identified by the way its top spire bends over, tossing like a tassel in every breeze.

## Let Weather Finish Your Yard Structures

The best finish for most yard structures like fences and decks is no finish at all. When woods like Douglas fir and western red cedar are allowed to weather naturally, not only do they attain an incomparable silvery patina, but time-consuming maintenance and refinishing are eliminated.

Impatient homeowners who find it hard to live through the ugly duckling stage of weathering, when the wood may look streaked and discolored, can pretty much eliminate that period by treating the wood with a clear water repellent preservative. The repellent doesn't change the natural appearance of the wood, but it does reduce preliminary darkening and uneven weathering.

Application of bleaching oil containing a mildewcide is another way to get around the first ugly duckling year.

Still another method, recommended by some architects, is to apply a single coat of driftwood stain to the structure, being sure to use a transparent stain. Sun, weather and time will eventually bleach the wood so finished, but the change-over from stain to real weathered wood is barely noticeable.

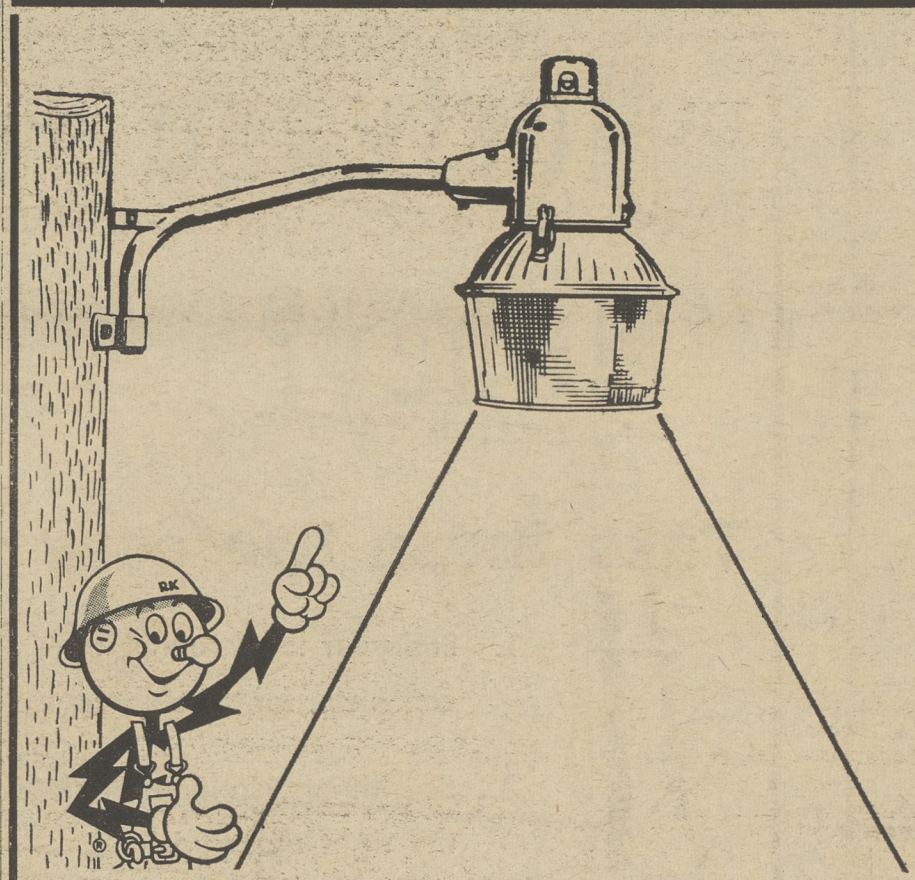
## Rooms Enriched By Panel Doors

Lovely Colonial panel doors are not a thing of the past. In fact, solid panel doors are stock items readily available at retail lumber yards and at sash and door shops. Cost can run as low as \$10.

Fir and hemlock doors may be painted or antiqued with charming effect. A warm white applied over the doors, then lightly streaked with umber is an excellent treatment.

A touch of subtle color, like celery, can be added to the moldings with excellent effect. Clear finishes and natural wood stains also may be used.

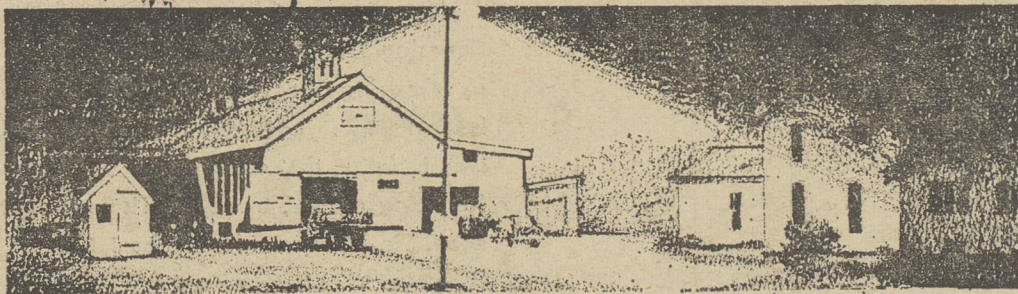
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