The Dallas Post Spring Home Improvement Section 2 Wednesday, April 25, 1990

N

Sunrooms, gazebos for style and comfort

With curtains and windows thrown wide open, you beseech the rays of old El Sol. Not blinding sacrifice plaster and lawn space for a breath of fresh air. Or for treelike shade that offers shelter glare, but gentle, lazy streams of light that warm both soul and soil. What's more, you're willing to

in which you can sun-worship from your sofa and garden high and dry in a downpour. Or swing in the shade on a scorching afterumid the elements. Welcome to the 1990s, a decade

Solariums, porches, gazebos and greenhouses all but erase the di-viding line that separates what's inside and what's out. Through ar-chitecture, they allow homeown-ers to commune with Mother Na-ture, while steering clear of her stormier side.

Acquiring such an addition doesn't mean you have to buy a new home, take on a night job or suffer through months of painful

Commission from an architect the simplest porch, and leave the construction to a contractor. Or hammer and nail your way to the tools house with detailed plans, prefa-bricated materials or do-it-your-self kits — some so simple that no renovation. perfect solarium, gazebo or gree are required.

About the cover

The pen and ink cover drawing for this section was done by Bar-bara Campbell, a ninth grade stu-dent at Lake-Lehman High School. Barbara, who is 15 years old, takes art at school with Richard Derby and has studied with Sue Hand

since she was in fifth grade. Barbara works on both the newspaperandyearbook at school. She plans a career in art or art education. Her work has won awards at art shows and fairs throughout the region.

All are available through build-ing supply emporiums or by mail order and in a variety of price

what's hot in rooms and spaces built for prime exposure or shelter from the Earth's largest star.

AND GREENHOUSES

or solarium

of Grandmother's sun porch.

es were he was the only one on the block with such an addition.

clude a sun space, according to a

manufacturer's study. That's not to say that a sun

annually. Many



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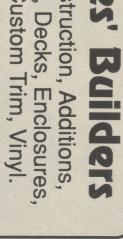
Following is a rundown on With their lacy latticework and fragile form, gazebos rank not

The

Sun spaces boast both beauty and brains. Besides adding valu-able square footage and cutting down on a home's heating bill, a solarium's unique curves, lines and materials make it a reflection of its owners' personal style. Thus it's no surprise that these sunniest of home improvements have home improvers investing \$400 million









space wouldn't work equally as well in a library, bathroom, home entertainment center or spa, all cited as other popular areas for

sun-space additions

SOLARIUMS quintessential sun space combines the

Yesterday's homeowner wanted eenhouse effect with the charms

it so he could grow his tornatoes and his tulips indoors. And chanc-

Nowadays, sunshine is spilling through a lot of solarium windows - some 350,000 to be exact - and into family living areas, kitchens, dining areas and pool rooms - the four top areas most likely to in-

Many green thumbs, mean-while, are moving their plants from house to greenhouse, be it a simple lean-to, easy-to-install win-dow box or full-blown structure complete with built-in cooling and

INDOOR/OUTDOOR HAVENS - Sun rooms, skylights and casual wicker furniture help bring the outdoors in.

only as the largest and most elab-orate of garden ornaments, but also as the most functional. And they're almost as popular now as they were in Victorian times. While its charm elevates it to homeowner to escape the Apru shower or harsh July sun. The gazebo can serve as a breakfast nook, napping spot, tearoom, li-brary and lookout, all in the focal-point status, the gazebo also provides shelter, a place for the homeowner to escape the April shower or harsh July sun. The course of the same day.

By Alison Ashton Copley News Service

HOMEFACTS

Many homeowners tackle do-it-yourself remodeling projects.

(percent who would do the tasks themselves)

Most popular do-it-yourself projects

General cleanup 77.3% Painting 82.2%

Plumbing 10%

SOURCE: 2.8% Least favorite do-it-yourselt projects Concrete/

Copley News Servi



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While there's no doubt that spas, tubs and/or pools demand a great deal of care and cost, they can pay off in the long run by significantly at an ever-greater premium. Hav-ing your preferred method of rec-reation at your disposal simply adds a degree of control and conadvantage of becoming a total family activity. The next time you ask yourself where those kids are, all you'll have to do is look in the adding value to your property. Any of these facilities has the While there's no dou A spa, hot tub or pool has ad-vantages beyond offering a place to relax and get in shape. In this ever-faster world, pool pecoming a total leisure time is back-to-nature experience. Hot tubs tend to be larger than spas and offer both a deep soak the first decision you face. Soft and rustic, hot tubs are known for their smooth wood fin-ishes, which heighten the entire rary spa or hot tub experience. If you should choose to dip into the warm waters for your health, choosing between a spa or tub is with the tranquillity of the Japawho came up with combining the conviviality of the Roman bath and the option to share the space with a number of people. The depth of these tubs, not uncomspa to create the contempo-



THE BIG SPLASH - Today's new spas can be put in the most luxurious settings.

Tubs ŝ S with pizzaz spas and

classic barrel shape, spas have been molded into just about as monly 4 to 5 feet, also allows for the placement of jets to suit per-sonal needs, such as aching backs. The other choice is a spa. paradise in plastic. Un that basically come in

many shapes as there are human body types. Spas also are easier to clean and maintain than tubs, tubs tery though they lack that natural feel-

ing.

Getting yourself into hot water may be the ideal elixer for the stresses and strains of modern life — just jump into a hot tub or spa.

SPECIAL SPAS

back yard.

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nese emperors. It was a more modern group, however — the Californians —

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