

## Books, mags and videos to count on

By Nanette Wiser  
Copley News Service

Turning a cold-blooded house into a luxuriously comfortable home takes years of practice. But it doesn't have to if you browse the book stacks and magazine racks of your local bookstore, grocery store or home improvement center. No time to read? Check out the home improvement and decorating videos for rent or sale.

### DESIGN TIME

Even when you can't afford the decorating ideas, it's fun to dream ahead. Start with the hearthland, the kitchen, by combing "The Cook's Room: A Celebration of the Heart of the Home," edited by Alan Davidson (HarperCollins). Famous food writers' kitchens are lovingly portrayed, from the inspiring simplicity of M.F.K. Fisher to Mexican cuisine maven Diane Kennedy.

The eclectic modernism of California style is showcased in two design books, "New Architecture San Francisco" by Christopher Frison and James Shay and "San Francisco: A Certain Style" by Diane Dorrans Saeks, both from Chronicle Books. For those who admire the Orient, Chronicle Books also offers the whimsy and elegance of "Japanese Detail: Architecture" by Sadao Hibi as well as "Total Design: Objects by Architects" by Dorothy Spencer.

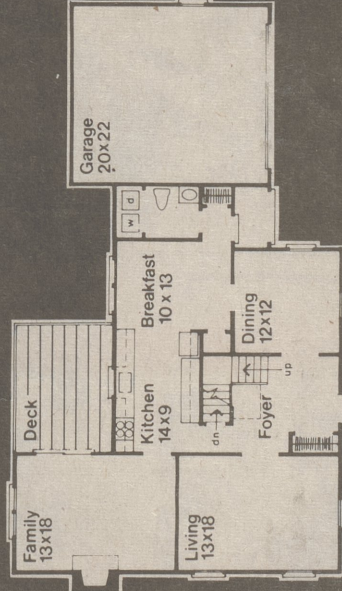
"Room to Room, Creating the Home of Your Dreams," from the J.C. Penney catalog, is a welcome aid to anyone about to take on home decorating.

### REMODELERS NOTEBOOK

Not that most of us can even hit a nail straight. But if you can master the hammer and saw, there's a complete step-by-step library for you to comb through. Perhaps the leader in the field, and the most practical tips and graphics are the Sunset Publishing collection. Among the many projects they cover are "Decorating with Paint & Wall Coverings," "Ideas for Great Bathrooms," "Ideas for Great Kitchens," "Furniture Finishing & Refinishing," "Furniture Upholstery," "Children's Furniture" and "Curtains, Draperies & Shades."

Taunton Press offers a line of books and videos for the homeowner with talent. "Turning Projects" book and video by Richard Raftan and *Fine Woodworking* magazine's series on "Modern Furniture Projects," "Traditional Furniture Projects," "Traditional Woodworking Techniques" and "Modern Woodworking Techniques" will leave you an expert.

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# Fall Home Improvement

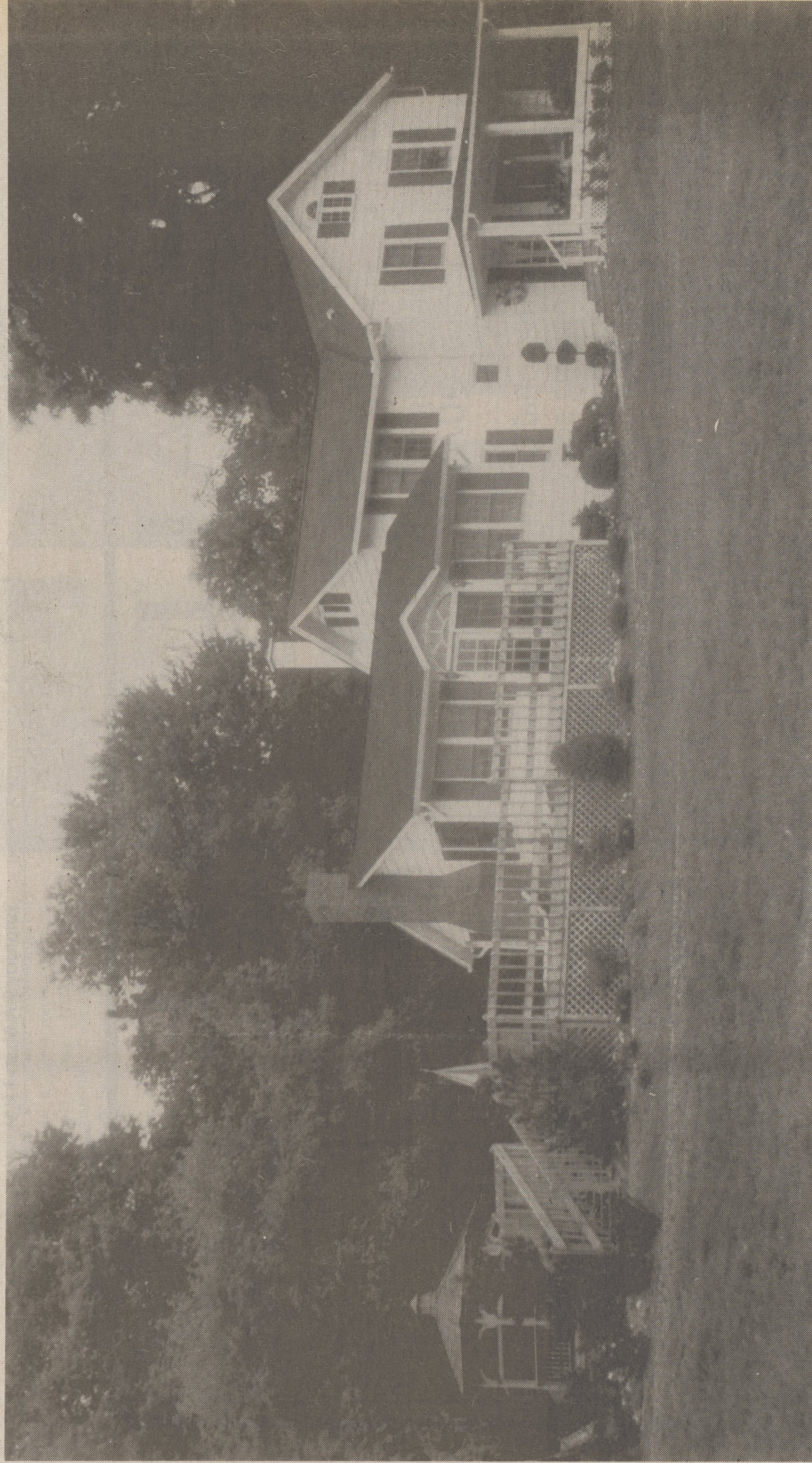
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The Dallas Post

Section 2

September 25, 1991

## A farmhouse...2 acres ...and a pond



Greg and Susan Stiles' dream home wins beautification award

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