

Family Room — A Little of Everything!

Have you ever stopped to design a family room? Actually it's a little bit of everything—living room, den, recreation room and guest room. In any case, it's one of the most popular spots in the house, and a perfect Christmas gift for Dad to give his family.

If possible, put a TV set in the family room. Place the screen above eye level so it can be seen from anywhere in the room. By confining television to the family room, it will be possible to keep the living room quiet for reading and more formal entertaining.

Don't keep putting off a family room if you're operating with a tight budget. It isn't necessary to complete everything at once. Once you get the basics, you can add other features as you go along.

Old but still useful furniture can be painted and slipcovered to eliminate the expense of new furnishings for the family room. Simple cabinets and bookshelves can be built by the home handyman for a family room that is being equipped with the budget in mind.

It is extremely important to plan the family room carefully before starting work. Decide on a color scheme, furniture and equipment before bringing out the hammer and saw.

Easy maintenance is of prime importance when planning a family room. If the room is easy-to-clean, it will get more use and be more fun for every member of the family.

One of the most popular paneling materials for family rooms is plastic-surfaced planks, which come in pastel colors or handsome woodgrains. The planks are washable, and they never need refinishing.

Plastic-surfaced hardboard also is available at lumber dealers in 16-inch square blocks, which are ideal for an accent wall or the ceiling in a family room. Also washable, the blocks have the same type tongue-and-groove edge as the planks to simplify installation. Metal clips and adhesive are used to secure the planks to furring strips or a solid backing.

If you have room, and the family would like the convenience of

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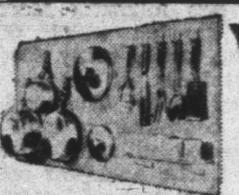
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For unusual, festive decorations that will be true conversation pieces this Christmas, deck your home with tissue trees. They're made, believe it or not, from white tissues combined with flexible pipe cleaners, a chicken wire base, colorless nail polish and inexpensive glitter dust. Tissue trees are fun to make, and are charming decorative pieces for coffee or side tables, buffets or even dining tables. Above, tiny gift wrapped packages are used at the tree's base to provide a final authentic touch.

Convert Pole Lamp Into Holiday Candy Stick

Make a big hit with the youngsters this year by transforming your room dividers and pole lamps into peppermint candy poles for the holiday season.

It can be done easily and inexpensively by utilizing one of the adhesive decorative coverings. The coverings include a carnation red that would go well for this application.

Cutting along the full length of the roll, cut out a piece about three inches wide and as long as you need to reach from ceiling to floor. Peel off the protective backing sheet to expose the adhesive and, starting from the top of the room divider, press the material into place on an angle so that you'll get the peppermint effect.

Following that pattern, wind the material into place all the way to the floor. Make sure you leave uncovered a width equal to that of the adhesive material.

The adhesive material will leave no permanent marks or stains on the metal poles or dividers. It can be peeled off in minutes after the holidays.

Pack 'Fresh-Up' Kit For Holiday Trips

Going home for the holidays? Of course, you'll want to arrive looking fresh and well groomed even if the trip is a rugged one at this season.

Here is a tip worth remembering. Carry a special kit, about the size of your pocketbook, in which the essentials for freshening up are contained. Include such articles as your make-up equipment, comb, pocket packs of tissues, skin freshener and purse size perfume.

Entry Way

For the home without an entrance hall, a lovely open lattice-work screen of Douglas fir makes a perfect substitute, breaking the abrupt entrance into living room.

SEE

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Tissue Trees



Here's How Talented Teen Handyman Can Make Inexpensive Christmas Gifts

Teenagers can parlay their handyman skill with paneling left over from a household remodeling project to make a variety of inexpensive Christmas gifts for members of the family.

A good-looking wastebasket, for example, can be made from five pieces of decorative hardboard and some plastic lacing. Four pieces are used for the sides, and one for the bottom.

Just one 16" x 8" plank is enough material for one wastebasket. If a 4' x 8' panel is available, three attractive wastebaskets can be made.

The first step in making a wastebasket from a plank is the cutting. Trim the tongue and groove edges so there are flat sides. With the finished side up, cut the plastic-surfaced hardboard into five pieces with a fine-tooth saw. Then drill matched-up holes for the lacing.

BE SURE IT'S BUFFET STYLE

PLAN A TREE-TRIMMING PARTY

This year, why not give one of those beloved parties—a tree-trimming party—that can be done so easily, buffet style. Just treat your guests to holiday punch, a fancy Christmas cake and cookies.

Because the real purpose of the gathering is to trim the tree, you won't want to go all-out on elaborate table settings.

Simply move the dining table against a wall and cover it in an imaginative yet practical way with decorative covering.

One that's most suitable for this purpose is drawer lining, which is 20 inches wide and 18 feet long. You may need no more than two strips of the material to cover your table. Nice thing about it, too, is a plastic coating which makes it moisture and heat resistant.

The drawer lining, like its companion materials, shelf lining and adhesive coverings, comes in a good selection of solid colors, patterns and textures to fit into the holiday setting.

Paneling Goes Fast In Kitchen

Modern, easy-to-handle building materials have taken much of the muss out of a kitchen remodeling project while also reducing the time needed to complete the panels.

For instance, large 4' x 8' panels of plastic-surface can be put up quickly right over the old walls. Matching moldings are available to assure a neat installation.

Only a hammer, saw and level are needed to install it, which means that the home handyman can do all or part of the work. Plastic-surfaced hardboard can be cut with a fine-tooth saw or an electric jigsaw.

Lumber dealers have the panels in bright colors or beautiful woodgrains. Paneling has a washable plastic surface that is highly-resistant to heat and moisture. The paneling never needs painting or refinishing.

Plastic-surfaced hardboard also comes in 16-inch square blocks, which often are used for kitchen ceilings. The blocks, which have tongue-and-groove edges to simplify installation, can be applied right over old cracked ceilings.

PENNY BANK WORTH ITS SALT

Empty salt boxes make ideal penny banks for the youngsters in that the pouring spouts on top make it easy for the young financiers to make "deposits" and "withdrawals."

You can dress up these "banks" by covering them with one of the colorful patterns in adhesive veneer. This decorative covering has an adhesive backing which permits it to be pressed quickly and smoothly into place.

Best Investment

A home is a family's best investment. An \$85.98 monthly payment on a 6% mortgage will amortize a \$12,000 home in twenty years. Rent receipts are worthless souvenirs.

Good Insulation

Homes with basements are easier to heat because the basement is generally warm and keeps the floors comfortable under foot.

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