

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 a family room is high on the list of "musts" in your house, it might be a good idea to have a family council so each member will have a say as to the layout and furnishings.

You'll also have to decide just where to locate the family room—basement, extra bedroom, enclosed porch or new addition.

Be sure to provide sufficient storage space for books, records, games, hobby equipment and sporting paraphernalia that tend to accumulate in the family room. Work centers that pull out of the wall, extend or fold up also are a good idea.

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

a refreshment bar, include this handy feature in the family room. A refreshment bar can be a simple rectangular unit or an elaborate setup with built-in sink and storage space.

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.

New Marble Panels Are Decorative

A new line of plastic-surfaced paneling, featuring six distinctive marble patterns, is ideal for bathrooms and powder rooms because the material is highly-resistant to heat and moisture.

The highly-polished reproductions of real marbles add a luxurious note to any bathroom. Also effective in accent areas in other rooms of the house, the new marble-patterned paneling complements almost any decorative theme.

Like all Marlite paneling, the new line of marble patterns has a permanent plastic surface that protects the decorative finish. The paneling can be cleaned with a damp or sudsy cloth.

Lumber dealers have the new line of marble patterns in 4'x8' and 4'x8' panels. The panels are 5/32" thick. Harmonizing moldings also are available.

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.

DECK YOUR HOME WITH

Tissue Trees



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-candy 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.

Convert Old Cigar Box Into 'Clutter Box'

In only a few minutes, you can produce a handsome "clutter box" to hold such everyday needs as curlers, bobby pins, spools of thread, and combs by covering a cigar box with one of the new decorative coverings now available.

By using leftovers from shelf or drawer lining, you can achieve a tasteful matching effect. This covering material, now available in a wide selection of solid colors, has a plastic coating. It resists soiling, is color-fast and washable, and won't shrink.

Allow an extra one-half inch for foldover on front and side panels when cutting. Then merely coat back of material with adhesive and apply to box.

Personalize the "clutter box" by cutting out your initials from the same material and pasting onto top of lid.

Protect Tots With Safe Toys

In toys used by little tots, durability and non-slivering smooth surfaces are important. Many toy manufacturers for these reasons incorporate Masonite Presdwood in their merchandise. They may use a seal of quality stating that "Masonite Presdwood is grainless, strong, non-toxic, and smooth; will not split, splinter or crack, and makes good products better."

Good Insulation

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

Create Coasters To Fit The Holiday Mood

Make your own coasters for the holiday season in any size, shape or color with one of the plastic-coated materials normally used as shelf and drawer linings.

The Marvalon brand of coverings features a complete line of solid colors—reds, greens and white—suitable for festive occasions.

You could cut out Santa Claus coasters from the solid red materials, Christmas trees from the green, or angels from the solid white. The material is pliable and easy to work with. It's available at hardware and paint stores and in houseware sections of leading department stores.

Towel Holder In Nursery Aid To Busy Mother

A nursery center, or a child's bedroom-playroom, will be more efficient if you put up one of the handy, new towel holders close to where most of the work takes place.

In the nursery, mom can then tear off a towel from the roll to wipe her hands, fashion a quick bib for baby, or to use when bathing the infant.

In the play area, hang the towel holder on a wall near to the work table where finger painting, clay modeling and other messy, but fun, tasks are being done. With the towels within reach, toddlers may be encouraged to reach for them instead of wiping hands on clothing or the walls.

Colored towels with matching holder now come in hues to blend or contrast with any room's decor.

Money Men

Mortgage lenders like houses with basements better than slab-type floors, because these basement equipped homes are more saleable.

Your Salary

How costly a home can you afford to own? A good rule of thumb is to figure that you can afford to buy a home which is twice the value of your annual salary.

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.

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'x8' 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.

After the lacing is anchored with an inside knot, it is threaded through the holes and pulled tight. A second knot completes the joint.

Lacing of simple two-hole bottom joints completes the assembly. Edges are sanded smooth. Inside surfaces and edges may be painted or left plain.

The tempered hardboard base will withstand hard wear and the plastic surface can be damp-wiped clean.

Using the same construction techniques, smaller pieces of leftover paneling can be turned into attractive, napkin holders or inside mail boxes.

Small pieces cut off from a panel during a remodeling project also can be turned into Christmas gifts. It's easy to cut hot pads for Mom, or follow a simple outline to make animal cutouts for youngsters in the family.

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, it has 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 mess out of a kitchen remodeling project while also reducing the time needed to complete the job.

For instance, large 4'x8' panels of plastic-surfaced 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 jig saw.

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.

Use Plan To Build Yule Sets

Santa Claus up-to-date in a fancy automobile laden with toys can be an outdoor Christmas decoration this year by following directions in a free plan. Using a 4'x8' panel of Masonite 1/4" Tempered Presdwood, available at lumber yards, you can lay out the pattern by following the outline given in the plan against a grid. Instructions for painting are given.

Also shown are patterns for making a wreath, designed to fit the front door. These designs have appeared in a national magazine.

To obtain a copy of the free plan, address a postal to the Home Service Bureau, Suite 2037, 111 W. Washington St., Chicago 2, Ill., and request plan No. AE-318H.

Planning An Addition To Your Home?

When planning an addition to your house, make sure that the premises aren't in turmoil for a prolonged period or everyone's nerves will be a little frayed when the project is completed.

One of the best ways to assure a quick interior finishing job is to choose a wall and ceiling paneling that can be installed quickly. Plastic-surfaced planks and blocks, which are available at lumber dealers, go up easily and with little mess.

As a matter of fact, the convenient sizes of these panels and their ready-fit, tongue-and-groove edges have encouraged many home handymen to handle the finishing work themselves. This saving in labor costs reduces the total bill substantially.

Plastic-surfaced hardboard, which is applied with adhesive and special metal clips to a solid backing or furring strips, is completely finished when it comes from the package. There's no delay for drying of paint or other finishes.

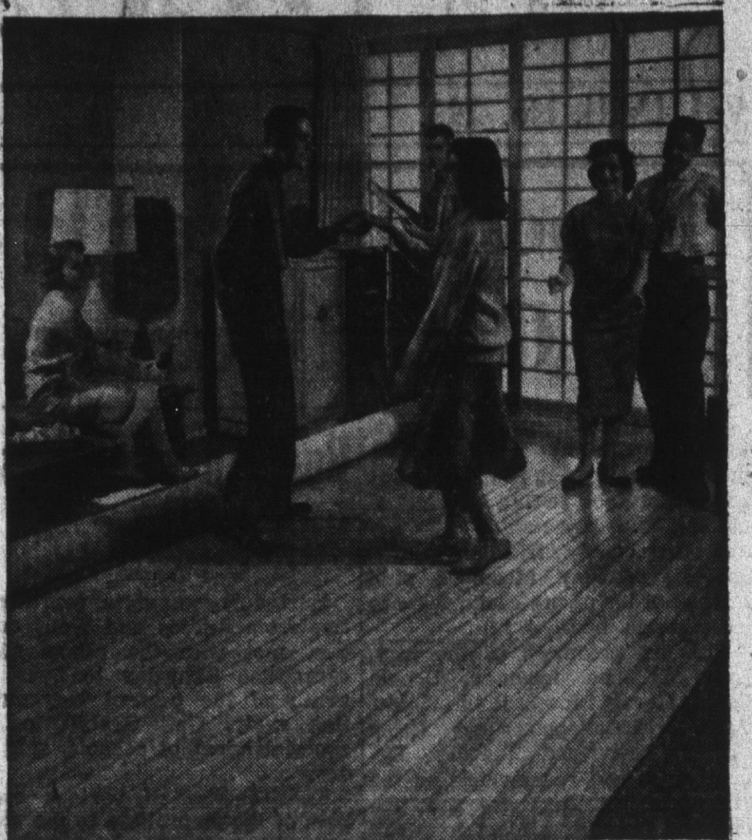
The 16" x 8' planks are available in a variety of pastel colors or six handsome woodgrains. The 16-inch square blocks come in the same pastel shades as the planks so that harmonious interiors can be planned. Blocks are ideal for ceilings or accent walls.

Popularity Winner

Wood, according to a national survey of homemakers, is the most popular material for flooring, built-ins, windows, kitchen cabinets, outside doors, wall paneling, trim and fences.

SWING TIME AT HOME

Hardwood Floor Keen for Teens



In planning a home, take into account the recreational needs of the family's teen-agers. Authorities on family living say it's highly desirable, for example, to provide the youngsters with a place where they can entertain in a wholesome home environment. Ideal for this purpose is a "rec" room, living or dining room floored with polished oak or other hardwood so that it's convertible to dancing at a moment's notice. As seen here, the youngsters then need only to roll back the rug to have a perfect ballroom surface. Floors of hardwood are noted for their natural beauty, resistance to wear and ease of upkeep.

Make Your Own Containers For Holiday Flowers

Need some extra containers for poinsettias or other flowers during the holidays?

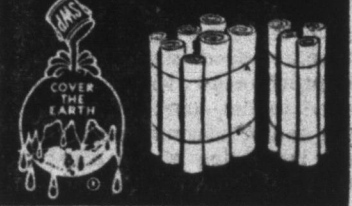
Convert large size mayonnaise, pickle jars or other empty containers into useful vases. Soak them in hot suds until their labels come off and interiors are thoroughly clean.

Rinse, dry completely, then cover them with one of the new decorative materials. The well-known adhesive decorative coverings are easy to use. Simply cut the material to fit, peel off the protective backing sheet to expose the adhesive and press the covering on the container.

The covering materials are obtainable in a wide selection of colors suitable for the holidays. They are moisture-resistant, too, which makes them especially useful for covering flower and plant containers.

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