

Need More Living Space?

Expanding 'Up' Is Good Way

"Growing up" into the attic probably is one of the best and most economical ways for a family to enlarge its home living space.

Many young couples purposely purchase homes with unfinished attics. They have found such homes cost less than others with comparable total space. The room always is available when needed, and it can be transformed into attractive living quarters economically and conveniently on a do-it-yourself basis.

Attics most commonly are converted into bedrooms, although many have become playrooms, dens, hobby centers, or studies. Some even have been converted into self-contained apartments.

To simplify finishing, it usually is wise to have heating, lighting and plumbing connections installed when the house is built. The fixtures can be installed as part of the finishing process of putting in walls, ceilings, closets and the like.

Decorating these rooms can be simplified if one of a variety of Masonite decorator hardboards is used to panel the walls and ceilings. For instance, there are the Royalcoat cherry woodgrain panels with their prefinished surfaces that resist scuff and stains and wipe clean with a damp cloth. They are available in two color tones to match any decorative scheme. Walnut patterns also are very popular.

Stratified finished panels, such as Seadrift, can present a very distinctive appearance, especially if painted "two-tone." Or, a smooth surface hardboard panel can be

THE HOUSE IN THE ROUND

Tomorrow's Home?

used and then painted to fit a particular decorative scheme.

One thing all of these hardboard panels have in common is ease of installation. They can be applied directly to the wall studs or ceiling joists. In addition, they are easy to maintain, retaining their attractive appearance indefinitely.

Woodgrain Wall Gives Rich Effect

Glamor can be brought into your home with little fuss or expense.

Supposing your living room needs "something," such as a focal point of interest, or a bright spot in the monotony of painted or papered walls.

An easy and logical way toiven a wall is to cover it with a contrasting material — one that has beauty in itself, yet blends well with the other walls. Suggested are Masonite woodgrain hardboard panels, which are low in cost, simple to apply and handsome in appearance.

Two shades of cherry and four of walnut give the homemaker ample choice for the accent wall that will give her living room the "lift" it needs. Any of these panels may be applied right over the existing wall. Lumber dealers have installation directions with the panels.

Simple wood moldings to finish off the wall may be obtained from the same source.

Since the panels are factory-grained, they require little or no finishing following their installation. Made of durable Masonite hardboards created by the original explosion process these decorative panels are a treat to install, look at and maintain.

Tot Plays Safely; Just Fence Him In

When a toddler wants more room to play, fence him in!

By enclosing eight feet along two walls of a room, you can quadruple the baby's roamin' space by making a simple fence that's inexpensive and attractive.

Get a 4x8-foot panel of Masonite Seadrift, an embossed hardboard, from a lumber yard; also 52 linear feet of 1x2-inch framing lumber. Rip the panels to 2' widths. Use inch-long finishing nails to fasten each panel to a perimeter framework, supported at two-foot intervals by cross-bracing of the same size lumber.

Join the two framed panels at the ends with butt hinges, so together they'll form an L-shaped fence with the Seadrift inside, confining a 64-square foot area. Hooks on the outside will firm up the fence when in use; fasten them to screw-eyes in the wall, a handy window or door frame.

The rustic-appearing hardboard is extremely durable and resistant to abuse. The factory-primed panels can easily be two-toned. Just brush on a second color of latex paint and immediately wipe off with a damp sponge so the color will remain in the panel depressions and the original white will remain on the high spots.

Also paint the panel backs and framing colorfully, after sanding the lumber framing. When not in use, the fence can be folded at the hinges and placed behind a couch or in a closet.

Observers of the building scene are viewing with interest the increasing tendency on the part of architects to design large areas of contemporary homes around principles other than customary square or rectangular geometric patterns. The advent of building materials capable of withstanding stresses and strains with which earlier products could not cope, has opened a vast new world of design possibilities to imaginative architects.

While the first steps in this new direction have been taken in the commercial building sphere, residential builders in the Northeast and Northwest have already constructed homes in the round as exploratory moves in the direction of instituting an entirely new home building concept. The house in the round, or the home with curved interior and/or exterior runs of wall or glass presents the most eye appealing step forward in de-

Even Blank Wall Can Be Exciting Decorative Element

A novel departure in the use of drapery hardware by an imaginative interior decorator has led to an interesting new avenue for home owner use of blank wall space. A large photo mural (these are available — check with photographic supply shops) was mounted to a long, straight and rather uninteresting span of wall. Grant 2200 drapery hardware was mounted to the wall above the picture and draperies were hung in the standard fashion. The draperies framed the photograph, creating the illusion of both space and view. Lighting added to the drama of the scene, and in the evening, it is a particularly beautiful sight.

Consternation about bland and quiet areas of the home can be considerably abated through the imaginative use of many materials which are available in the neighborhood building material or lumber yard stores.

Wall Styling Can Complement Room Function

According to home stylists of The Space Saving Institute who worked in conjunction with U.S. Plywood, the selection of wall

sign since the advent of the glass wall.

Most manufacturers of building materials are keeping a weather eye peeled to this new trend and many already have designers at work adapting their specific products to this new concept. While concrete and related "mix" manufacturers are investigating the degree to which their products can stand up under the new types of stresses fostered by this design innovation, even lighting, roofing and hardware manufacturers are considering how their goods can be adapted to the house in the round. Engineers at Grant Pulley & Hardware Corporation for example, have recently developed 1100 drapery hardware which can conveniently and easily be curved to suit particular needs or conditions, in line with the consumer's increasing attention to curved decorative and design possibilities.

Painting Hints For Handy Man

FINISHING AND REFINISHING FLOORS

The inherent beauty of hardwood floors is accentuated and preserved by properly applied and maintained finishes. A well finished and waxed floor should remain attractive for many years before refinishing becomes necessary.

Before deciding that a floor must be refinished, first see whether a new coat of wax will do the job. Remove the old wax with mineral spirits, providing plenty of ventilation. Wipe up the dissolved wax before the solvent dries and the wax redeposits. Use steel wool to remove thick spots of wax. A new application of paste or liquid wax will satisfactorily renew the floor if the old finish is in good condition.

If the old finish is worn only in spots, they can be retouched if care is taken not to leave lap marks. Remove wax, dirt and stains from these worn spots. Where the wood itself has become worn and roughened, sand smooth and apply a penetrating sealer which keeps the new varnish from making the spot darker than the rest of the floor.

Eventually, despite waxing and spot refinishing, it becomes necessary to refinish the floor completely. The best way to remove the old finish is with a rented electric sander. Get full instructions from the shop which rents you the sander.

After the sanding has been completed, you have, to all intents and purposes, a new floor, and the procedure described here applies to both new floors and completely sanded ones.

To be sure of the job, use only quality varnish made by a reputable manufacturer and sold by a reputable dealer and used by a reputable contractor.

Unless the color and grain pattern of the wood is exactly what you want, the first step is to stain the floor, the National Paint, Varnish & Lacquer Association instructs. Remember that even a clear finish will darken the wood somewhat, so choose the stain color accordingly. Stain is applied with a brush or rag; with a dark stain, wipe up any surplus after five minutes. Light colored stains should not be wiped. All stains should be permitted to dry over night.

Oak flooring, the most commonly used in homes, has pores which must be filled in order to have a perfectly smooth surface for finishing. Fillers come as liquid and as a paste that is reduced to liquid before applying. Follow label instructions carefully.

After the filler has dried sufficiently, the floor is ready to be finished. Many people prefer penetrating floor sealers which sink into the wood and form a wear-resistant surface that does not extend above the surface. It wears away only as the wood wears away. Touch-up is easier than with varnish.

Floor sealer is applied liberally with a long handled lamb's wool or nylon applicator, first across the grain, then with it. The surplus should be wiped up with rags if label instructions say so. Rags soaked in sealer are liable to ignite spontaneously and should be safely burned or stored in containers under water.

After the specified drying time has elapsed, the floor should be buffed with steel wool and all particles vacuumed up. A second thin coat is then applied with the

grain. When this has dried, the floor is ready for use. If greater gloss is desired, the sealed floor can be varnished or waxed.

Varnish is perhaps the most popular and familiar floor finish. Be sure to purchase only quality varnish that is formulated to withstand abrasion on floors and not for another purpose. If a sealer has not been used on the floor, at least two coats of varnish will be needed for a uniform gloss. It is important that you work with a dust-free brush on a dust-free floor in a room with as little draft as possible.

Do not stir or shake varnish. Flow it on liberally from a well-loaded brush and do not brush it out as you would paint. To do so causes bubbles which will mar the finish. Bubbles that have not dried can be removed by brushing back into the area with light feathering strokes before the varnish sets.

Sometimes the staining and varnishing operations are combined by using a varnish stain, a colored varnish which permits the grain to show through. It does not have the depth and beauty of separate staining and varnishing.

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Hobbyist Deserves 'Hangout'

Hobbies can be more fun if they are pursued in appropriate surroundings and if equipment can be stored conveniently in a well-organized fashion.

Thus, building a "hobby hangout" in a basement, attic, den, or the corner of some other room can be well worth the slight expense and effort involved. Using Masonite hardboard panels, it's easy to install suitable cabinets, bookcases, and other storage units, wherever desired.

Using the same paneling on the walls, partitions, and ceiling of the "hobby hangout" also is a good idea. For instance, when Masonite's Seadrift or one of the variety of printed woodgrain panels is used in an attic or basement room, it not only forms the wall but also provides the decorative theme. Or, Peg-Board panels can be used to provide a "working wall" on which equipment can be stored.

One of the big advantages of using hardboard panels in the "hobby hangout" is their durability. The attractive finishes are designed to withstand scuffing, stains, and hard knocks they are likely to receive in such a room. They retain original beauty indefinitely without special maintenance or care.

It's Oldsters' Turn To Have Home Comfy

It's time for "oldsters" to come into their own after their children have moved away.

Some 69 per cent of older couples live independently in homes which, in most cases, were purchased years ago with their children's health and convenience in mind, not their own.

These homes can readily be modernized to fit their current needs. With liberal FHA modernization loans available, there is no excuse for using a nursery for a storeroom, for example, when it could become a hobby center or a workshop.

The first thought for "oldsters" should be to fix up their homes for their own comfort. Then they could well consider converting an unused upstairs or basement into an income-producing apartment to help their purses in later years.

Thanks to modern building materials, such as factory-finished hardboards, "oldsters" can make their own improvements at little cost except for materials.

Using a do-it-yourself wall plank like Masonite woodgrained hardboard in a beautiful cherry finish, an elderly couple can perform such miracles as sprucing up a room, dividing a large area into a combination bedroom-study, or building a storage wall to overcome a shortage of closet space.

The cherry planks, fastened to any walls, studs or furring strips, are attached by means of clips, so that there are no visible nails. Since the planks, 16"x7' or 8', are factory-finished, there is no decorating problem. Cherry panels in 4x7' or 8' sizes also can be obtained for fast coverage of wall areas.

More than 1,600 uses of hardboard are reported by Masonite Corporation.

A piece of Masonite Tempered Preswood can be used in the laundry center as a snap-proof tub cover or sorting board.

Make an odor-free slicing board for the kitchen from Masonite 1/4" Tempered Preswood.

Having no grain, Masonite Preswood will not split, splinter or crack. It lasts indefinitely, resists dents and scratches.

Wood Chips Exploded To Make Preswood

Masonite Preswood panels are made from exploded woodchips. They are grainless, uniform in appearance and quality, and free from defects. Available at lumber yards, these hardboard panels come in a variety of sizes, types and thicknesses for hundreds of uses, indoors and out, ranging from house siding to furniture, from toys to floor underlayment.

Built-In Dressing Bench Can Have Storage Space

A dressing bench is a useful piece of furniture in a bedroom or bathroom. Combining it with storage facilities and perhaps even the entry to a clothes chute can make this a worthwhile handyman project.

Since working with hardboards is easy, requiring only a simple wood framework, home handymen often undertake construction of a built-in like this. Good-looking Masonite hardboards in cherry or walnut finish, or having a smooth or embossed surface for painting, let them prove their skill.

Framing of the bench and its top is identical — 1x2-inch lumber perimeters. As the bench is only chair height, intermediate bracing won't be required. Fasten the selected quarter-inch hardboard with finishing nails, hinge the top into place, and your project will be complete. For comfort, the top can be cushioned.

Masonite 1/4" Peg-Board panels in the garage will get lawnmower, garden tools and other items off the floor, out of the way.

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Pep Up Basement With Partitions

Partitions often increase the value and usability of a basement. They separate utility space from recreational or living quarters, or divide a large area into several rooms, each with its own purpose.

Installing a partition is not difficult. Two-by-four lumber studs, 16 inches apart, with a top plate above and a sole plate at the floor, form the framework. The top plate can be nailed to the joists that support the floor above, or to "grounds" nailed crossways between two joists when it runs parallel to them. The sole plate is anchored by bolts that fit into expansion plugs placed in the floor.

After the frame is in place, the partition is completed by nailing Masonite hardboard panels to the studs. If plain, smooth panels are used, they can be decorated by painting.

Many home craftsmen, however, prefer to use decorative panels, such as Seadrift, which has an embossed surface. Other decorative panels have printed woodgrain finishes. For instance, there's the new Masonite pre-finished cherry panels that come in two color tones, Natura and Frosted, and the luxurious appearing walnut panels which are available in four shades.

Partitions also can be applied to furred concrete or block walls in the basement.

Whichever of the hardboards you use, decorative or plain, they're sure to make your basement more attractive and useable.

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