

A COVERED PATIO adds comfort and convenience to summer fun. The roof gives protection from rain and the hot mid-day sun, yet leaves the area open to catch the slightest breeze. Clean-up of tables and chairs is kept to a minimum. Where the patio and house are joined with Thermopane insulating glass sliding doors, inside and outside furniture can be arranged to give the appearance of a single, spacious room, perfect for informal entertaining.

Covered Patio Adds To Comfort Of Outdoor Living

Whether a family room, kitchen or patio, it's that "extra" bit of livability you build into it that adds so much to everyday enjoyment. In the case of a family room it might be a fireplace with a built-in barbecue; in the kitchen it could mean precious work counter space, while for the patio nowadays it often means a roof.

Roofed patios have gained in popularity as families turn to more outside activities during the fine weather, points out Otto F. Wenzler, architectural consultant of Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company.

"By covering the patio its usefulness is almost doubled. The living area is sheltered from the blazing summer sun, yet open to catch any cooling breeze," he explained. "Furnishings can be placed much the same way as they would be in a regular room to give a closely-knit outdoor living unit which is protected from all but the most driving rains. Clean-up of tables, chairs and benches is kept at a minimum throughout the season and the need to move things indoors during a wet spell is practically eliminated."

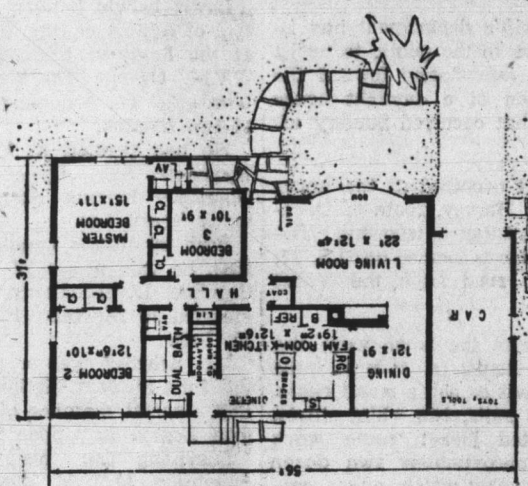
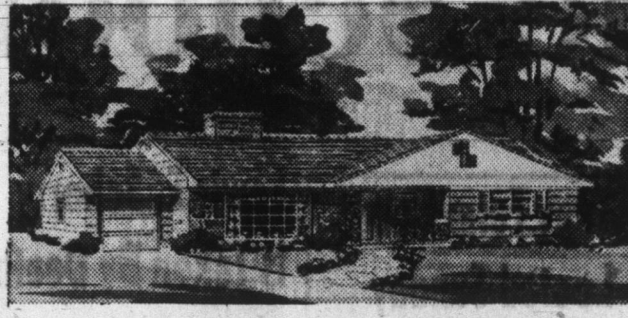
A COVERED PATIO comes in handy when entertaining if larger numbers of people are involved than the house will comfortably

hold. When the patio is joined to the house with Thermopane insulating glass sliding doors, many home owners plan the patio and adjacent room as one. Indoor and outdoor furniture is arranged to make both areas function as a single living unit. People can move freely from one to the other as if they were in the same room. Unexpected summer showers can't dampen the fun, either, and even outdoor grilling can go on under the protection of the roof.

Many homes today are built to include a roofed patio as part of the original plan, Mr. Wenzler noted. However, it's a relatively simple matter to add one by means of either conventional wood construction or by erecting one of the fabricated types available. The latter are light-weight, easily in-

stalled and can be chosen to match or contrast with the color of the house.

"WHEN CONSIDERING adding a patio roof, it pays to plan beyond your immediate needs," the architect advises. "Many times roofing in a patio proves to be the first step in adding a complete glassed-in room as family needs for more year-around living space increase. Therefore, to get full value for your initial investment, the roof should be built in such a way that it will serve as the cover for the permanent room when the time comes, and adapt to the addition of walls without major structural changes. If indications point to this eventual need, home-owners are wise to seek the advice of an architect or competent builder in choosing the type of roof they build."



DESIGN C-1822. Stone and shingle contrasts highlight the exterior of this ranch house and the gable roof forms a covered porch at the entry. A wrought iron rail forms a foyer as you enter and there's the advantage of good traffic circulation that frees living and dining rooms from use except for family and guest occasions. A smart fireplace separates living and dining areas and there are exposed brick walls to dramatize each room. The kitchen and family room combination is most popular with a family with growing children. Three bedrooms, a dual bath and a master lavatory complete the house which has 1,251 square feet. For further information on Design C-1822 write to Illustrated Publications, Inc., 117 West 48th Street, New York 36, N. Y.

Plan Landscaping Carefully To Insure Easy Maintenance

If you are planning to do some landscaping this spring, keep an eye on those hot summer days ahead and make improvements that will keep maintenance at a minimum and leave you time to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

A common shortcoming in landscape planning is the tendency to become too elaborate. Too many flower beds, shrubs and trees can detract from the appearance of both the house and the lot, as well as adding hours of work in weeding, cutting and trimming each week. On the other hand, a simple well planned yard can give the desired results at less expense and for a fraction of the upkeep.

FOR EXAMPLE, moving will be a lot easier if you avoid sharp corners which require pushing and pulling the mower to get around them. Use brick moving strips along paved areas, and add curbing to minimize trimming.

Put any plants that require considerable tending in raised beds so they will be easier to reach without bending. If the lot includes some difficult terrain such as a rough hill, use a ground cover such as myrtle, and do the same under any trees which shed fruit to avoid constant clean-up.

In laying the lawn use a good,

rich soil base so the grass will have a chance to grow without constant attention. The same is true of soil used in flower beds. Where there is heavy foot traffic on the lawn, pave the pathways but keep level with the cultivated surfaces so it will be easier to move wheeled equipment. Have enough electric and water outlets handy to avoid criss-crossing the lawn with hard-to-manage hoses and cords.

When locating shrubs, trees, etc., consider what the finished landscaping will look like from inside the house as well as from the street, advise designers of Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company.

PICTURE WINDOWS and floor-to-ceiling glass walls are making the landscaping an important part of everyday living, they say, and it should be arranged for enjoyable viewing from the house.

Any plants or shrubs near the house should be varieties which grow close to the ground to avoid blocking the view. One or two beds of colorful flowers should be placed away from the house so they are readily visible from the windows.

COLD FLOORS RISKY

Cold, drafty floors are a health hazard cautious mothers hate, since they can't keep children from playing on them. But they can keep the floors warm and draft-free all winter long if the house is properly insulated with mineral wool.

WIDEN NARROW HALL

An attractive way to widen a narrow hall is to use wallpaper with an airy trellis pattern. At doorways, use louver doors of ponderosa pine spray-painted a brilliant color. They'll give a feeling of depth and will break up the long hall lines.

GOOD INSULATOR

A cross section of a Douglas fir board seen through a microscope is made up of many thousands of tiny air cells that make up the form of the wood, and in addition countless tiny air cells which combine to make wood one of the greatest of natural insulators.

LOW COST

One of the least expensive of all wall surfaces is wood paneling, which is easily obtained in sawn wood boards, generally tongue and groove fashioned. Once finished it will last for many years without further care.

MORE THINGS

Wood does more things well than any other substance. It is the door of the house, the heat of the hearth, the board of the table, the frame of the bed and the reed of the cradle, to mention only a few uses.

NO SWEAT

Those seeking a friendly bathroom in durable woods like western red cedar now find that, by giving the panel boards an application of priming paint on the back, they can prevent moisture absorption.

Here's a Page From the Home Gardener's Handbook —

Each Garden Mulch Has A Purpose

BY ALLEN SWENSON
Written For
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

Spring and summer mulching of gardens, trees and new lawns saves work and improves plant growth, if done correctly. Mulches of organic matter, plastic or even stones or gravel, can be highly useful. Here are some simple ideas to make them work well for you:

For trees and shrubs, renew the mulch several inches deep every spring and again in the fall. Mulch saves moisture, controls weeds and builds good topsoil. Peat moss is good in show areas; the soft brown color is an attractive contrast to green leaves and bark. It is excellent for acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons and laurel. Leaves can be left around trees surrounded by shrubs for cheap mulch. A layer of pebbles or gravel several inches deep may make an excellent mulch in heavy traffic areas. For flower beds, peat moss, pine needles, cocoa bean hulls, ground

bark and vermiculite are attractive. In less traveled spots, sugar cane bagasse, sawdust, chopped leaves, ground corn cobs and shavings can also be used. You can cover these less attractive materials with peat moss or ground bark.

New lawn seedings are best covered with straw or salt hay. These are easy to remove after the grass has sprouted. They save moisture, control erosion and reduce weed sprouting. Use one inch of straw or hay and remove after grass is an inch tall.

Small fruits benefit greatly from mulch, as most of them have shallow roots. On strawberries, sawdust, sugar cane bagasse, peat moss and buckwheat hulls make good year-around mulch. Part of a straw or salt hay mulch covering for winter can be left between the plants each spring. Black plastic is good for strawberries. For cane berries, any of these materials is good, plus wood chips, grass clippings or leaves. For blue berries, sawdust is an ideal mulch.

Like peat moss, it helps keep the soil acid, as blueberries prefer it.

For vegetables, any mulching material except wood chips or gravel works well.

When you use slow-rotting mulches such as sawdust, peat moss, wood chips and sugar cane bagasse, add some nitrogen fertilizer to prevent loss of nitrogen as they decompose. Use a handful of two of high-nitrogen lawn or garden fertilizer to mix with each bushel of mulch.

For blueberries, azaleas, laurel, rhododendron and other acid-loving plants, use only a nitrogen fertilizer that is highly acid-forming, such as ammonium sulfate or the special organic fertilizers designed for these plants.



RUB QUICKLY

The end grain of wood absorbs stains so rapidly that care must be taken to prevent the wood from getting too dark. Best method, says the National Paint, Varnish & Lacquer Association, is to brush the stain on and then rub it off immediately with a cloth. On other areas of furniture the stain can be permitted to stand until the desired shade has been attained and then be rubbed off.

NAMES' THE SAME

The names given to paint colors are not scientific ones; they have been chosen by the various paint companies for their sales appeal. Thus one company's "chinese red" may not be identical to another paint with the same name made by another firm. The National Paint, Varnish & Lacquer Association says that when you are trying to duplicate a paint color you have previously used or one which you have seen at a friend's home, stick to the same brand if you want an exact reproduction.

TIME COUNTS

While the traditional advice to home decorators is to use a warm color in rooms with northern or eastern exposure and cool colors in rooms facing south or west, take into consideration the hours during which the room is most likely to be used. The National Paint, Varnish & Lacquer Association says that these recommendations are valid if the main use will be in daylight hours, but if the rooms will be used only under artificial illumination, disregard these principles and use the colors you prefer.

LOW UPKEEP

Tow coats of varnish or lacquer, either clear or tinted, applied to wood paneling walls such as west coast hemlock or Douglas fir will provide almost maintenance free surface.

WOOD IDEAL

The ideal natural insulating material is wood, and the ideal home is one which is built of wood. An inch of wood has the insulating value of one foot of brick and 18 inches of concrete.

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'Fixed Costs' Can be Shaved To Stretch Household Budgets

"There really is no such thing as a 'fixed cost' in your family budget," say the editors of Better Homes & Gardens. "Some of the expenses often referred to as fixed are actually highly elastic—you can squeeze them for dollars you need elsewhere in your family spending."

In the monthly "Family Money Questions Answered" section, the editors list ten places in the family budget that ought to be examined for money leaks. Items included are life insurance, finance charges, food bills, heating costs, recreation, car expenses, income taxes, and savings. Of particular interest to home owners is cost of heating.

"Don't heat the whole out-of-doors," advise the editors. "If you suspect your heating costs are unusually high, ask your utility or fuel supplier to compare your bills with those for homes of similar size and construction in your neighborhood. Then have an insulation contractor give you an estimate of the cost for adequate insulation and weather stripping. You may find that the likely fuel savings in the first year or two will pay for the job."

The most common method of insulating an existing house adequately is by "blowing." Insulation contractors use air pressure to force mineral wool through flexible hoses into exterior walls and attic floors. The home owner himself can install batts or blankets of mineral wool in unfinished walls, open attic floors, and floors over crawl spaces and unheated porches or garages.

Other family money management suggestions offered by Better Homes & Gardens include:



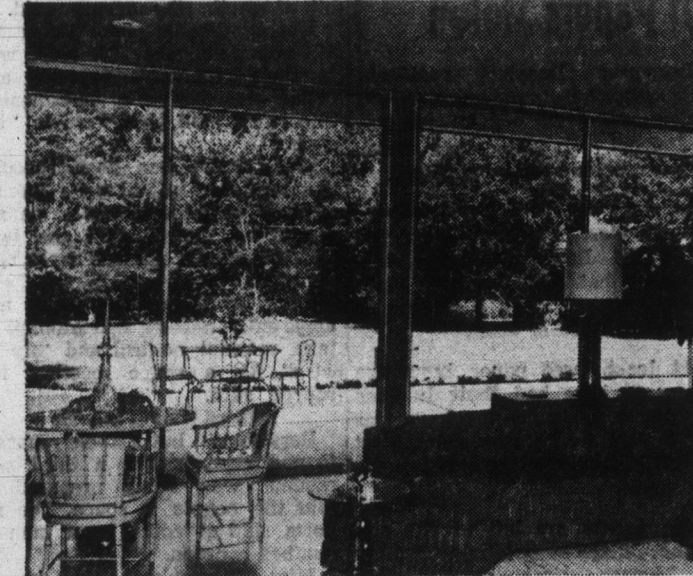
Husband-and-wife team installs mineral wool batts in ceiling of new home before workmen complete house, to save labor costs now and fuel costs for years.

Insurance. Concentrate insurance on the breadwinner and pay for it annually instead of monthly. This can save about 8 per cent.

Installment debts. Avoid installment buying and "revolving" charge accounts. Revolving accounts carry true interest rates of 12 to 22 per cent or more.

Food. Costs for meat and commercial desserts can run high. Keep meat costs down by buying in season, and by buying less costly grades and larger cuts of meat.

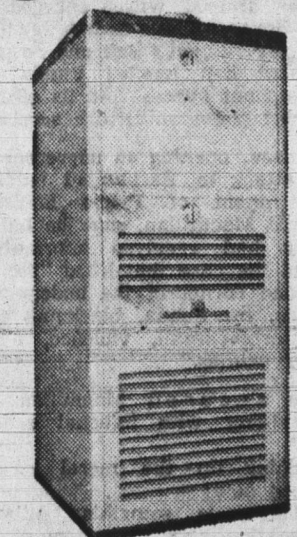
Savings. Use E-bonds, stocks, and mutual funds for long-range savings—they provide good return only if held five to ten years or longer. Save regularly and compare bank interest rates in your area and out of state. Rates vary.



PLANNING LANDSCAPING to reduce upkeep can mean more leisure hours during hot summer days. Using curbing to cut down trimming, planting ground cover in hard-to-cut areas, and adding raised beds for flowers that need extra care are a few time-saving ideas. Notice that plants near these Parallel-O-Grey plate glass sliding doors are varieties which grow close to the ground and do not block the view.

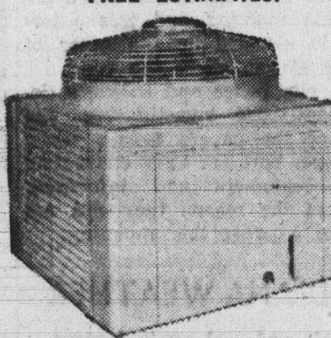
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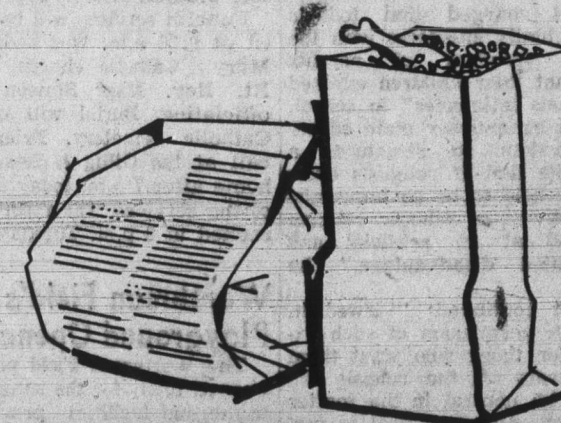
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