

For Christmas Make Fabled Play House

Surprise your young child with a gingerbread house for Christmas this year, suggests the Masonite Home Service Bureau in offering a free plan telling how to make one of Peg-Board.

"This delightful little house, which Mom and Dad can festoon with candy, gifts, prizes and Christmas trimming including cookies, is large enough for the child to enter.

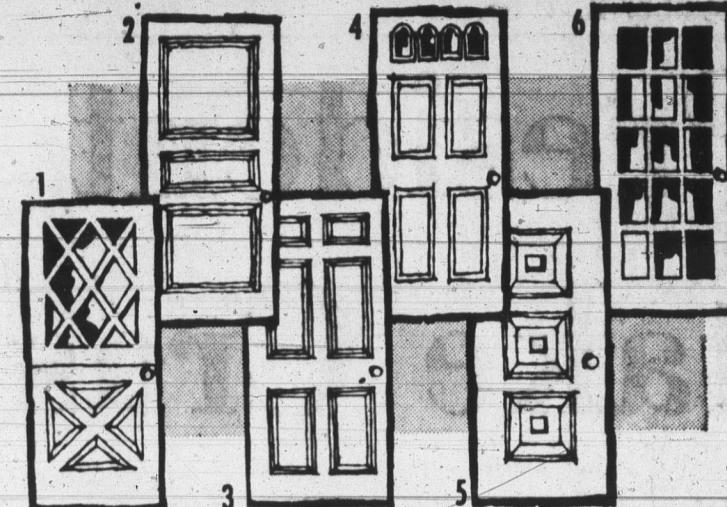
It is readily put together by using cord-laced through holes of the Peg-Board panels. A similarly-hinged roof merely rests atop the structure.

Complete directions are given in the free illustrated plan. Send a postcard to the bureau at 29 North Wacker Dr., Chicago 6, Ill., requesting plan AP-20.

Joist Floors

Wood joist floors take Class A rating as the easiest possible floors on the feet. The wood joist has a certain "give" to it which makes it a good walking surface. Douglas fir joists give both strength and resilience.

It's What's up Front That Counts in House



The six doors shown here are examples of the wide variety of styles of wood panel exterior doors available in stock sizes: 1. Dutch door with diamond lights in top section; 2. Three-panel traditional door; 3. Traditional Colonial six-panel door; 4. Four-panel door with cathedral lights; 5. Contemporary three-panel door with interchangeable panels; 6. French door, often used in pairs.

Families who want an authentically styled Colonial house should take special pains with the entrance—just as the Colonists of Jamestown and Salem did long ago.

Homes of the very early settlers were purely functional, designed to provide only basic protection against enemies and the elements. However, as the colonists prospered, residents of thriving towns began to build larger, more attractive homes that gave them pleasure as well as protection.

One area of these homes that clearly received special attention was the main entrance. Skilled carpenters often were called on to outfit themselves in producing outstanding panel doors and distinctive frames from the wood that was plentiful in the area. Gracefully fluted frames as well as painstakingly carved pediments were common.

One of the most popular door patterns called for six panels arranged to represent a Cross and

open Bible. Historians agree that panel doors with the Cross and Bible patterns were once used as charms to protect the inhabitants against witches and other evil spirits.

It wasn't too long ago that there were only two ways to get an authentic Colonial door: buy a real antique or have a new one custom-made—both very expensive.

Today, however, this is no longer necessary, since authentic copies of many styles of panel doors and complete entrances are readily available as factory-made units. They are made of durable ponderosa pine in a number of stock sizes, and can be obtained from building materials dealers throughout the country.

Precision machining assures an accurate weather-tight fit, and the use of special chemicals adds extra years to the naturally long, useful life of ponderosa pine.

Stock wood panel doors come from the factory sanded and ready for finishing with either paint, stain or varnish.

For Economical Heating

Colonial Homes Feature Modern Wood Windows



This stately, sturdy New England home is one of seven new all-electric houses built in Stamford, Conn., by Steve Day. Each house is well insulated with mineral wool for comfort and economy. Wood windows also help conserve heat and contribute to authentic Colonial appearance.

Steve Day is one of the smart builders who know that you can get plenty of windows in electrically heated homes.

Day, whose seven-home development in Stamford, Conn., was sold out a month after the model went up, says the Colonial design of the houses called for lots of windows.

"Some builders think you have to cut way down on window area in electrically heated houses," Day says. "But they're wrong. Wood is a naturally warm material. It acts as a good insulator."

Day, who recognizes the prime importance of insulation, has installed mineral wool in all of his houses to meet standards recommended for electrically heated homes. But he is also aware of the considerable added comfort and lower heating bills provided by wood windows.

He notes that today's quality wood windows, made of ponderosa pine, are equipped with

efficient weather stripping that's built into them at the factory. They fit snugly, keeping heat in and cold air out. Wood also resists the formation of condensation which can drip on walls and ruin draperies.

By building weather-tight houses with thorough insulation and heat-blocking wood windows, Day was able to give his purchasers a heating guarantee of \$345 for a normal heating season—\$500 degree days in the Stamford area.

Day's houses are on heavily wooded lots bordering a fish-stocked stream that proved irresistible to several house-hunting anglers. Each of the homes, designed by architect Roswell F. Barratt, contains 2,000 square feet of living space and includes four bedrooms, recreation room with fireplace, 2½ baths, and a laundry and storage room. The 120-gallon electric water heaters give owners the advantage of off-peak electric rates.

Good Time to Purchase Older Spacious Homes

Anybody thinking of buying a home should investigate the older home market which right now has extremely favorable conditions for such a purchase, reports the Construction Research Bureau, national clearing house for building information. Today you can get a larger loan for a longer time, at a lower interest rate than last year.

There are many advantages in buying an older house. Since land was more plentiful when it was built, it may have larger grounds. Construction is apt to be sturdier, ceilings higher, and walls thicker, deadening noises. An older house already has settled and often has beautiful gardens, a lawn and trees it took years to grow. Often an existing house is located closer to good transportation, schools, shopping, churches and other conveniences like the public utilities. Even if a house is 30 years or older it is well worth buying for these advantages since it has a long life ahead of it.

Cost Is Lower

Finally, an older house will cost less and you will get more space for your money in larger rooms and closets. The loan cost is cheaper, too, according to The Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

With this money you can get an existing house whose graciousness and charm are highly valued by those who like the traditional, or if you prefer, you can easily transform an older house into a modern concept.

Regardless of which you may want, here are suggestions toward attaining the desired effect; fresh paint colors can lighten interiors, windows can be made

For Accent — a Wall Plaque

Decorative wall plaques of contemporary design can be made of easy-to-get materials to accept areas that are difficult to access.

For example, at lumber yards you can obtain Masonite Marbelite, which looks like travertine marble but is a fraction of the cost.

Cut with any saw that will follow curves, free-form designs can be made and hung like pictures.

An entire problem space, over a mantel for example, can be covered with this handsome hardboard material, which comes factory-finished.

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