

For Christmas Make Fabled Play House

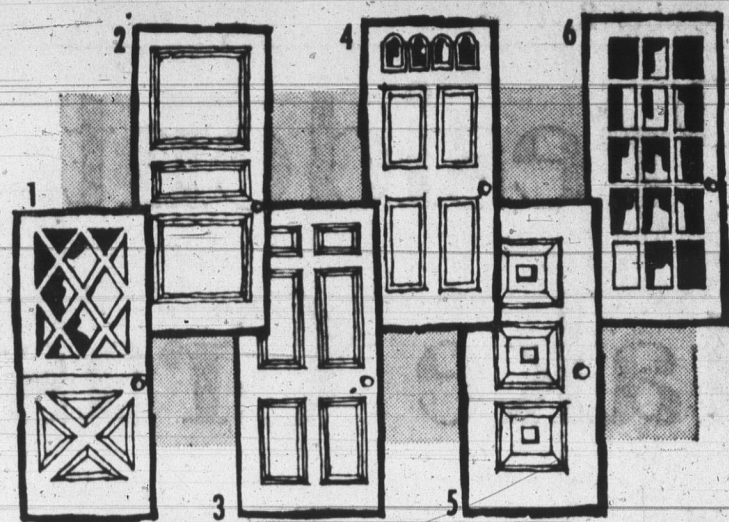
Surprise your young child with a gingerbread house for Christmas this year, suggests the Masonite Home Service Bureau in offering a free plan telling how to make one of Peg-Board.

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.

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 with cathedral lights; 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 colonies 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 outdo 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 pattern were once used by the inhabitants 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.

Need New Room? For Lower Cost Use Old Base

A good rule for house additions, to save expenses, is: Expand from an existing base.

These possibilities are listed by Masonite Corporation, the largest producer of hardboards for interior decor and exterior siding:

Build a room on top of a porch, you can gain an upstairs sitting, dressing or study room off a bedroom.

Enclose a porch, making it available for year-around living, an extra bedroom or a home office.

Convert a garage into a "granny" apartment. Your neighborhood lumber dealer can advise you on planning, materials and labor.

Eye Stopper

A lath house can be designed so that it is screened off from the yard with a lath fence. You can build it so that the fence can be tipped down so the flowers can be seen from the garden. Western red cedar is durable in such use.

Fence Storage

If you fence off your walkway from the carport, you might design the fence in a sawtooth pattern and build a storage unit in one of the bays of the sawtooth. You can nearly conceal such a storage unit, if you use western red cedar lumber.

Yule Decor Suggestions In Free Plan

You can make this year's Christmas more festive if the spirit of the season is carried out in traditional manner by means of figures and decor made in the home workshop.

Two dozen ideas for dressing up the exterior or interior of a home are available in a free plan available by sending a post card to the Home Service Bureau, 29 North Wacker Dr., Chicago 6, Ill. Ask for plan AE-318D.

All the cutouts may be made of Masonite Tempered Preswood or Weatherall, splinter-free and weather-resistant materials that will last in any weather, year after year.

Figures in the plan which comes with directions as well as outlines to be traced against a grid pattern on the hardboard, include Santa entering chimney, Mrs. Santa, standing Santa, Santa in sport car, Santa in sleigh with reindeer, choir boys, Christmas trees, letters and numerals, valance plans and a complete nativity scene.

Information is given for wiring and electrical outlets, through-lighting, flood and spotlighting, backlighting and telling a Christmas story with lighted silhouettes. The plan is also keyed for color.

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 use 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 wood 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—5500 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

to appear larger by artfully hung draperies, wood paneling can bring a lovely balance between old and modern decor. If the floor needs attention, a new resilient tile floor such as vinyl, asbestos tile by Kentile, in warm colors and patterns now available will put your floors in excellent condition, while enhancing the mellow charm of the house, itself.

Check for Repairs

These renovation costs, it should be noted, can be included as part of the mortgage. Naturally, an architect or appraiser should be hired to check on the major repairs required so you'll have full information on what the final cost of the house will be. The special advantages an existing house offers tends to cancel out the need to spend additional money on repairs. Then, too there's the fact that your knowledge of repairs needed can be a good bargaining point in settling the final price.

Dress Up Garage

Yard tools hung on wall studs of a garage can be attractive against a Masonite Peg-Board setting. Put nailing strips lengthwise inside adjoining 2x4's and cut the Peg-Board to fit so it's recessed. Attach the perforated hardboard with screws to the nailing strips and then prime and paint it white. Tools hung on metal or Delrin plastic fixtures will look attractive against the light background.

SAFER IN FIRES

Heavy timbers will withstand fire better than exposed steel beams, according to laboratory tests made under strict controls. Steel buckles while wood merely chars over but stays in place, supporting its full load.

For Accent — a Wall Plaque

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

For example, at lumber yards you can obtain Masonite Marble-tone, 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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