

DESIGN No. C-1359. In shingle and stone, this ranch house combines individuality with comfort. The three bedrooms at the back insure privacy; there are full-scale closets in each. Bathroom planning is unusual—a door from the master bedroom opens to the main bathroom along with another door from the bedroom hall. From bedroom 2 you can reach the lavatory which can also be reached from the service vestibule and kitchen... two and a half bathrooms with the expense of only one and a half! There is a full cellar, and attached garage. The living room is shielded from the front door by the coat closet; there is a fireplace wall at the front. Huge windows open to the side porch. To the other side of the vestibule is the dining room with picture window. The kitchen is sunny, with a well-planned work area, and a cozy corner for a built-in dinette. Stairs to the basement are easily accessible. The house has 1,335 square feet. For further information on Design C-1359 write Illustrated Publications, Room 704, 48 West 48th Street, New York 36, N. Y.

In both older and newer homes, the sounds of hammer, and saw, sander and spray gun, and a myriad busy tools will soon be responding to the call to "Home Improvement Time." Not only thriving but growing stronger than ever, interest in improving existing homes, is literally sweeping the country, as home owners go forward with plans designed to increase living space, enhance comfort and add importantly to property values.

"Home improvement" can mean many things, but signs indicate that, first of all, it means adding a room. Among 1500 home owners surveyed by the National Home Improvement Council, 76 per cent were planning a specific remodeling job, and of those, 56 per cent wished to add space to existing homes—especially, bathrooms, bedrooms and family rooms.

Remodelers Look Inside Home First
Using the results of this survey

as a yardstick, it appears that people look inside first when they plan to remodel. Among the homeowners queried, 76 per cent of those with projected remodeling jobs were concentrating on home interiors—particularly, kitchen and bathroom remodeling and basement refinishing.

However, that doesn't mean that there isn't plenty going on outside the house, what with roofing, siding, guttering, painting, installing patios and swimming pools landscaping. In doors

too, the bath and bedrooms, kitchens, family rooms and basement are by no means the only areas to get attention. So great is the present interest that it covers every improvement imaginable, with an estimated ten million home owners spending a predicted 13 billion dollars to complete major home improvement projects this year, according to Harold Mattlin, Chairman of the

Council.

One especially significant fact emerges from the Council's survey. The home owners queried had a clear and definite idea of what they hoped to achieve through remodeling projects.

If you are planning to increase your home's livability and value by any home improvement project, the smartest move to make first is to decide, just as clearly and definitely the exact result you want.

Learn all you can, by shopping and asking questions about new projects and ideas. Familiarize yourself with local building codes and how they might affect your plans.

Plan to Get Full Value

When you have determined just how much you want to spend for just what improvements, consult local dealers and contractors for estimates. Since increasing the re-sale value of your home should be an important consideration in any improvement project, make sure the money you spend will get results that enhance property value at least an equal amount. This means careful planning of changes and additions.

Although room additions stand high in popularity, it's worthwhile to check first to see that all existing space in your home is being used to best advantage.

Adjusting a house to a family's needs can often be accomplished through simple remodeling, points out Harold Edelman, American Institute of Architects member, who heads one of the organization's House Consulting Committees. A well-placed closet, and additional door or archway, a foyer or a patio entrance all have a bearing on the space design of a home.

These additions, and many others that suggest themselves when the space plan for a house is studied, can mean the difference between an inconvenient, awkward area and a comfortable home.

More Ways Than One

There are more ways than one to add a room. Finishing an attic, basement or porch does it the least costly way. You can even convert an attached garage into a room, and add a carport to

the home.

If, after considering problems and solutions, you decide that building on a room or rooms is the best answer, your costs will be higher than for remodeling, but you gain space two ways—not only extra space added but, with cramped conditions removed, better use of existing space, too.

Room additions often make it possible to rearrange the traffic plan of a house.



PUT AN END to family "traffic jams" by doubling utility of your bathroom with twin washbowls. Positioned in counter, they permit two to get ready at same time. American-Standard Photo.

Paneling Adds Decorating Distinction

Once upon a time wood paneling meant an early American setting or an expensive book-lined den. Today, paneling is used in homes of every price range and in every room in the house.

Modern furnishings especially requires a setting of sufficient warmth to give rooms a softened air, but one that doesn't conflict with the decorative scheme. Warm of tone, rich for the paneling of modern rooms.

News in the use of wood in

modern home decoration is the upsurge in the use of color which can be obtained by blending finishes with the wood surface. Blues, greens—even golds—can provide beautiful wall effects and may be applied to Western Pine region woods with excellent results.

Lumber responds beautifully to stains and clear or pigmented finishes that allow the grain and knots to show through. Thus,

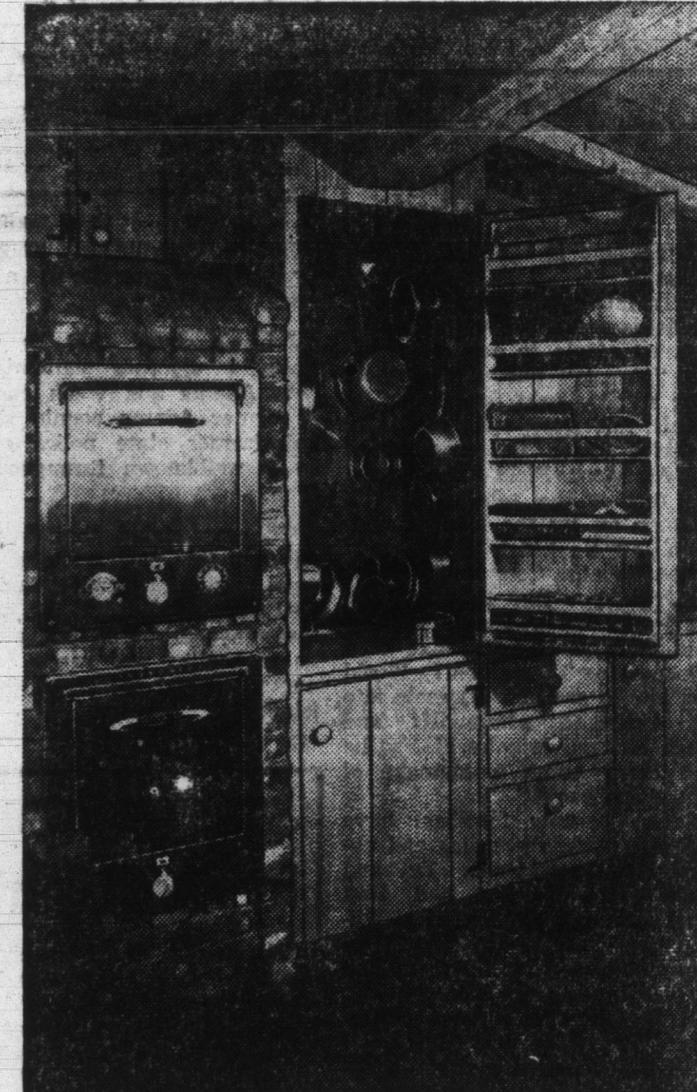
the lumber may be left with its natural tone, or even when color is added with a wipe-on, brush-off finish, the wood will display its qualities of beauty and interest. It also may be painted, but then the beauty of the wood is hidden.

The size of a room and style of furniture determines the type of paneling installation. An air of spaciousness is produced by use of boards 10 or 12 inches wide for paneling. Narrower widths emphasize the direction of line, as well as a slanting a textural

In a modern living room where a formal but comfortable atmosphere is indicated, use 6-inch widths of paneling with simple V-joints and a light finish to blend with any colors selected for furnishings, giving a sense of wholeness and harmony.

The fine patina of waxed paneling will compliment a soft drapery fabric to great advantage, yet dramatize a loosely hand-woven material.

and subtly patterned effect to the wall.



INTEREST TO ACCENT A DINING ROOM is provided here by a single paneled wall. Tongue-and-groove boards of Western red cedar fit snugly together. End wall has plastic laminate service counter for buffets. Photo, West Coast Lumberman's Association.

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Baths Lead Way as Most Needed Room Addition, Is Finding of Survey Held Among Home Owners

More rooms for the home are the most desired remodeling jobs, and more baths are the need most frequently mentioned. Such was the finding in a survey conducted by the National Home Improvement Council. Of home owners who were definitely planning a remodeling project, more than half favored room additions, and of rooms to be added, baths led the way.

Whether the bath is built on or created by better use of existing space in the home, careful consideration should be given to two main problems: an adequate hot water supply and ample, efficient plumbing outlets.

Consult a plumber to check up on hot water needs. He will help determine whether your pre-

sent heater is sufficient, or if your new bath will call for larger heater capacity.



MAKE FUN A FAMILY AFFAIR BY PLANNING a play room for relaxing and entertaining. There's something for everyone in this colorful redwood family room with entertainment cabinet, housing stereo and television set. Unusual room divider is expanded metal screen set in redwood posts.

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