

BRIGHTEN BEDTIME READING WITH ADEQUATE LIGHTING facilities. Bedroom shown is properly illuminated by a combination of two pull-down, with handy adjustable heights and a dimmer control to vary light, and a fluorescent unit over the headboard. Pendant lamp provides touch of color and plenty of light in adjoining dressing area. Lighting, fixtures by Moe Light.

'OPERATION FACELIFT' RAISES HOME VALUE

When it's time to plan remodeling projects, "Operation Facelift" should be one of the first on the list, say building experts. Applying a new "face" to a home's exterior, with the use of siding, does more than add lasting beauty.

By making a house safe against the elements, siding outside provides protection inside, thus guarding the appearance and value of any interior renovations and improvements. Then, too, an exterior remodeling job is an investment for the future and a real enhancement of property values.

"Operation Facelift" might begin with the choice of siding materials, and there are many, each with its own advantages. Anything from personal preference to local climate could be the deciding factor.

There's the familiar standby, wood — practical, economical, easy to shape to fit any wall. Wood siding is available in many types to create many architectural effects, and can be painted to carry out any color scheme preferred or stained for a rustic look. It does, however, require maintenance through painting or varnishing, so the question of upkeep should be considered.

Modern low-maintenance materials include aluminum siding. Among its advantages are: no warping, rotting, rusting or cracking and no danger from termites. In addition, it is available today

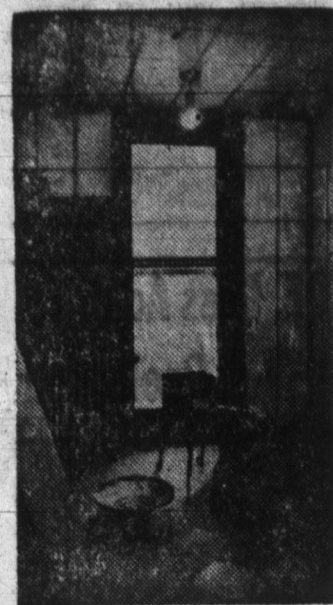
in a variety of finishes and colors.

Easy to maintain, too, and long-wearing, is asbestos-cement siding. A fireproof, weatherproof substance made from a mixture of asbestos fibers and portland cement, it is resistant to rot, rust, decay, chemical fumes or corrosive salt air, and hardens through exposure.

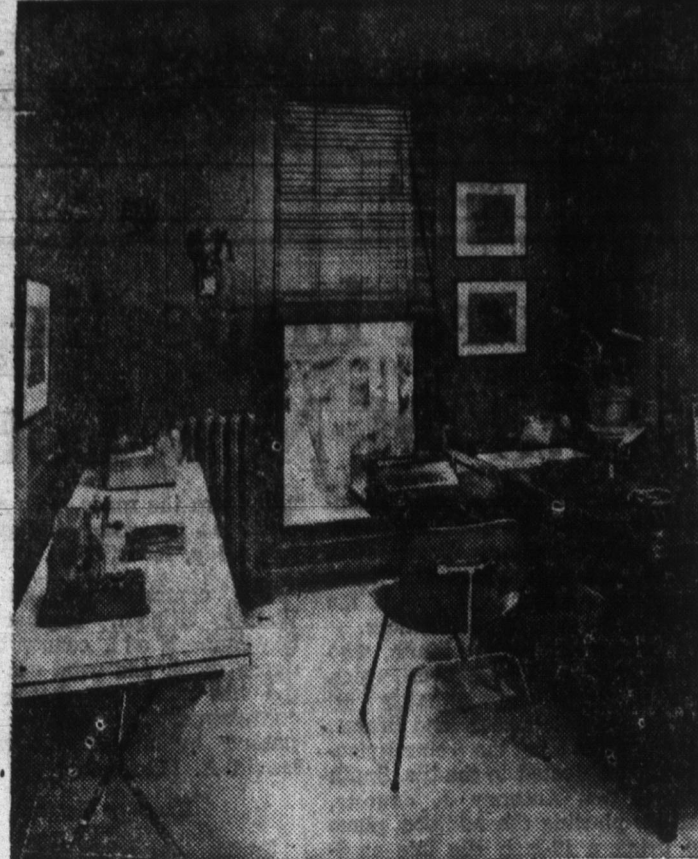
It's made in a selection of shapes and textures, and in a range of colors from traditional whites to deep hues and soft pastels.

Thin masonry veneers are of ten used in combination with other types of siding. They include brick, stone and simulated stone. Here, too, color and pattern choice is excellent.

Durable and easy to handle, plywood siding is becoming a popular resurfacing material. Speed of application is one of its advantages, as it comes in large panels.



FROM A ROOM for (above) "junk" comes a combination study and hobby room (right). Walls of the 10-by-12 foot room were covered with wood-grained hardboard paneling, nailed to furring strips. Because of the 10-foot ceiling, eight-foot-long panels were supplemented by two-foot lengths. Trim moulding was used for dado.



Adding Convenience In Bath

One of the main reasons for modernizing an old bathroom or adding a new one is to achieve greater convenience for everyone in the home. The added beauty and comfort through new fixture designs and colors are important, but these advantages are lost if the bathroom remains cramped and uncomfortable.

If only one bathroom is available for adults, two lavatories are advisable. A twin installation in the children's bathroom is a good idea, too, not only because it can be used simultaneously by youngsters to wash up before school and bedtime, but also because children take pride in their possessions and so will be helped

to develop cleanliness habits.

Where there is room for only one lavatory, it should be generous in size, providing ample bowl room and ledges. Where space allows, the larger the bowls the more convenient the bathroom even in a twin installation.

While bathroom fixtures have been available in color for decades, new shades introduced recently offer the modernizing homemaker the choice of many elegant tones, including tan shades such as Spice Mocha, and subtle pinks. The new hues permit more use of yellow, rust, gold and olive for accessories to achieve a decor which can vary from antique to Colonial or modern.

New designs in fixtures add luxury and minimize maintenance. Growing in popularity are the single-control faucets, now available for the bath and shower as well as lavatories. These fittings have a single knob to control water volume and temperature simultaneously, and many are washerless.

Faucets and flushing mechanisms are the only "working parts" in a bathroom. When a new toilet is installed, it's wise to make sure the mechanism is designed to insure against dripping water and lever jiggling.

As the average human height reaches taller dimensions a large size tub for comfortable bathing gains importance. Sixteen-inch sides and a five and a half-foot length will provide bathing room.

Full Use Of Space Helps Home Grow

The familiar cry "if we only had more room" is becoming louder and louder these days.

Unfortunately, houses don't grow, and with increasing demands on living space and a corresponding increase in building costs, many a homeowner feels he is in the middle of a squeeze play.

But if families would take a look down the basement steps, up into the attic, at their garage or perhaps the little-used porch, they might see that the problem of too-crowded quarters could be solved with imaginative remodeling to transform the wasted area into useful living space.

To Serve Many Functions
The need may be for a study, an extra bedroom, or perhaps, a general recreation area that can serve many family functions yet accommodate a crowd for a Sunday night supper.

Whatever the room's location or primary function, it will give years of practical and handsome service when lumber and lumber panelings are used for walls, ceiling and built-ins.

Lumber from the Western pine region has individuality in the range of color and knot formation. Further variation can be achieved through use of clear finishes, wood-tone stains or the new pigmented stains that can make paneling any color you desire without hiding the natural characteristics of the wood.

Built-ins Give Storage Space
Where to put a family room in a new house is a simple matter, but in an older house space may be a problem. If the attic or basement have been reclaimed for other purposes, perhaps a guest room, dining room or den can be converted, and functions these rooms currently serve can be incorporated into the new family room.

After location has been decided, decor should be considered. If the walls are paneled, for example, use matching wood for built-in units, almost a necessity in a multipurpose room. Such built-ins might house radio and phonograph equipment, movie projector and screen, games and seasonal sports equipment that was stored in the old basement or attic. Consider adding a sofa-bed to accommodate extra house guests. This might be a built-in bed that matches the paneling. To avoid wasted space, the area under the bed can become a drawer to hold bedding.

Or long low benches or banquettes along the walls covered with slabs of foam rubber can serve as seats during the daytime, and be made into beds at night.

All furniture should be comfortable informal and sturdy with gaily covered easy-care surfaces. And even if there is another TV set in the house, if there is one in the family room, two viewing areas are available, thus avoiding arguments as to which shows to watch.

Consider Garage
If the family needs a big room for entertaining (but has no basement or attic) to be transformed into an extra room, consider utilizing your garage. The garage can be made attractive and additionally useful if solid wood is used for the walls and ceiling and built-ins for storage. Then all you have to do is put the car in the driveway when it's time for the party to start.

Paint the garage floor with a special cement paint and buy a drip pan to go under the car to protect the floor from oil and

Plywood Finishing Tips Offered In New Manual

Plywood is used by hundreds of do-it-yourselfers because the large panel size makes it easy to work with. But the finishing of plywood has always caused most of the questions do-it-yourselfers ask.

The Douglas Fir Plywood Association has just published a new finishing guide that will help solve the amateur workman's toughest problem in working with plywood.

The new finishing booklet provides complete information on how various types should be finished, and how finishes should be applied.

Both interior and exterior types of plywood can be finished in a number of ways with paint, clear finishes or penetrating and opaque stains. Special effects may also be easily achieved.

The most important step in painting plywood is the prime coat. This should be applied as soon as possible after the panels are cut to size, or at least immediately after they are installed. An adequate primer has good adhesion to wood and provides the necessary bonds between the wood and the finish paint.

It's important that primer or paint should not be applied over dust or spots of oil and glue. Before any finishing is done, nail holes and other wood blemishes in the face and edge of the panels should be filled with putty or spackle.

Sanding should not be done on the raw plywood panel. Plywood used in applications where the surface appearance is important is already sanded when it comes from the mill. Touch sanding is all that's needed but this should be done after a prime coat has been applied to the plywood, except for smoothing puttied nail holes or other blemishes.

The reason is that the lighter color of the grain in plywood is a softer wood than the darker grain patterns and sanding tends to dig out this lighter wood, leaving the darker grains standing out on the panel. A prime coat protects this softer wood, and touch sanding will smooth the wood for a fine finish coat.

Most paint experts agree that a three-coat application of conventional house paint gives the best service on plywood for exterior use. Thinner coatings wear out too soon and thicker coats are inclined to crack and scale badly.

Going Up!

In home improvement activity, the trend is up and up! Last year, Mr. and Mrs. Home Owner spent more than 11 million dollars on home improvements — roughly, \$70 for every \$100 spent on new construction.

These figures, based on reports of the U. S. Department of Commerce, represent quite a change from the ratio of only a decade ago, when \$10 was spent for improvements to every \$100 on new construction.

GOOD GRIP
When gripping tubes, rods or other round shapes in a vice, prevent damage from excessive tightening by first wrapping the round piece with thick pads of steel wool.

grease stains. To disguise the cement look, choose a shade of paint that matches or complements your paneling.

Consider the aesthetic as well as the practical problems if the remodeling involves enclosing a porch or a breezeway. Be sure that the addition looks as well from the outside as it works on the inside.

What Will It Cost? Here's Sample Gauge

When you have settled on what you want to do to improve your home, next step is to determine costs. This can best be done by getting estimates from local dealers and contractors.

As a gauge to costs, however, the National Established Repair Service and Improvement Contractors Association offers the following examples:

The installed price of one square of 235-pound asphalt shingle roofing varies from \$20 and \$30 in most parts of the South and certain sections of the Midwest to between \$25 and \$40 in western Massachusetts and between \$30 and \$45 in New York state.

One square of uninsulated aluminum siding, installed, is priced at between \$65 and \$90 in the South, \$65 and \$95 in New York state, \$70 to \$80 in the Midwest and \$60 to \$90 dollars in New England.

The installed price of one tilt-type 3-track aluminum window varies from \$20 to \$30 in the South, to between \$20 to \$25 in the Midwest, \$15 to \$25 in New York state and from \$12 to \$20 in the Massachusetts area.

CONCRETE READY-MIXED

**FOR YOUR
BUILDING
PROJECT**

**BASEMENTS — FOUNDATIONS
SIDEWALKS — DRIVEWAYS
— BUILDINGS —**

DECATUR READY-MIX CORP.

**E. Oak & Fornax Sts. Decatur, Ind.
PHONE 3-2561**

Stairs Provide Book Storage

A good place to build book shelves is into the stair systems of a home where the books can be handy to persons going to bed or going downstairs to a playroom.

Shelves for books can form the banister system or make up the protective railing for an open stairwell going to the level below. Or, shelves can be installed into the wall under the stair treads.

Such installations are attractive, provide bonus shelving space, and are inexpensive to build. You can build these book shelves out of finish lumber such as Douglas fir or west coast hemlock which can be purchased at most retail lumber yards.

Generally a shelving grade of lumber eight, ten, or twelve inches wide is adequate for this type of installation.

NO GUESS-WORK

Indicate on the door of your electric fuse box the rooms supplied by each current.

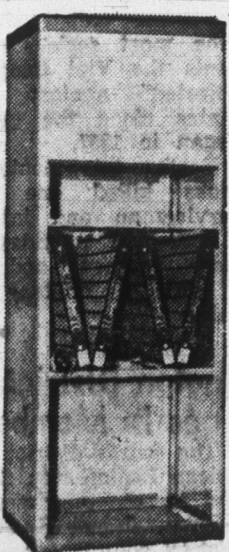
For The Finest In Heating & Cooling

buy from us
with
CONFIDENCE
Look for this
emblem



**ELECTRIC
HEATING-COOLING
DEALER**

**INSTALL AN
AMERICAN FURNACE
ELECTRIC FURNACE
WITH
ELECTRONIC FILTER
AND
WHOLE HOUSE
AIR CONDITIONING**



**HAUGK PLUMBING
AIR CONDITIONING
HEATING**

209 N. 13th Street

Phone 3-3316

**CALL US
FOR A
FREE
HEATING
SURVEY**

**NOW.....
DURING OUR
PRE-SEASON**



SALE

**SAVE
MONEY
3 WAYS
WITH A**

**GENERAL ELECTRIC
GAS FURNACE**

1. LOW FIRST COST
2. LOW OPERATING COST
3. LOW FINANCING COST

Ashbauchers' Tin Shop

Established 1915

116 N. 1st St.

Phone 3-2615

Decatur, Ind.

READYMIX CONCRETE

**10% Discount
ON ALL
READYMIX
CONCRETE**

**YOST
GRAVEL
READYMIX, INC.**

R. R. 1, DECATUR