

Stock Wood Shutters Add Decorative Touch

In the past, wood shutters on windows were functional. Nowadays they're not used so much to protect today's tightly built houses from winter's worst as they are to make them look their best.

To be architecturally correct, exterior shutters should be used with most traditional home designs to add authenticity. And,



Model home in Southgate development in Livingston, N.J., features stock shutters, wood windows and doors as key elements in colonial design. Louvered shutters help tie in garage with rest of house.

although shutters are optional with contemporary architecture, many families use them to add interest to severe looking exterior walls.

The wide variety of factory-made ponderosa pine shutters, either louvered or paneled, sold today provides an inexpensive way to give a plain house individuality and style.

Wood shutters, available from building materials dealers, come from the factory chemically treated for longer life, sanded and ready for final finishing in the color that fits best with the exterior color scheme.

In most cases, they are painted in the accent color that's used on small but important areas such as doors and trim.

When an extension is added to a house that already has shutters, it's a good idea to add new shutters, painted to match the existing ones, at windows in the addition. This is an effective way of integrating old and new elements of the house.

Full-length shutters used at the sides of a garage door will dress it up and make the garage look more like part of the house.

Put Patio on Display

A good way to extract more pleasure from an attractive patio and garden area is to keep it on display on a year-round basis—from inside the house.

This can be done through the generous use of windows or sliding glass doors installed in the wall of a living, dining or family room adjoining the patio.

Converting an existing screened-in porch to a year-round room is another project that can add to the enjoyment of an adjoining patio.

Today, factory-made windows and doors of ponderosa pine are available in a variety of standard sizes and styles. This makes it easy to match architectural styles, and eliminates the need for costly custom work in most cases.

Suit Families to a 'T'

New Care-free Cottages Leave Time for Fun

A vacation home should not become a vacation. That's why buyers of cottages at the seashore, on a lake, or in the woods are wary of maintenance chores that dribble away their leisure time.

A definite trend toward completely finished, trouble-free summer homes has been observed by Houston builder James A. Bryan, who sells about 350 cottages a year along the Texas Gulf coast and nearby lake area.

"Up to few years ago, we sold mostly shell homes—those in which the finishing work is done by the homeowner himself," Bryan said. "Now buyers want a resort home ready to move into. They don't want to spend their time working on it."

Bryan reports that buyers show a keen and knowing interest in the basic specifications of the home—the kind of siding, the roofing material, type of doors and windows. When satisfied as to their durability and low maintenance, they then proceed to discuss location, design and layout.

The average buyer of a Bryan summer cottage is described as in the 40 to 50 year age range, owns a home in town, boat and most likely two cars, and has an excellent credit rating.

Transform Month of Regrets Into Time for Action

September is sometimes called the month of regrets.

Summer is over, life assumes a more routine pattern, and you can't help but think back to all the things you didn't do during the sunny months just past.

In a family, the big bug is the multitude of unfinished tasks around the yard. The patios that didn't get built, the fences that are still on drawing paper, the garden storage facilities that didn't get finished.

But why have September be the month of regrets? Why not make it the month of action? There are still sunny days ahead, and the crisp cooler temperatures are ideal for hard work outdoors.

To make this the action month, pick one project—just one—and get at it. Accomplishing that one task will give you a winter-free from a guilty conscience and you can look forward to spring with joy, not dread.

In order of priority, build fences and privacy screens first. This will give you a free hand to lay out planting beds first thing in the spring without worry of trampling young and costly plants.

Building fences and screens is not a tough job, especially if you use one of the excellent and easily worked western woods like Douglas fir or cedar. Choose a simple but handsome pattern like the board-on-board, vertical

louver or spaced slat, and you're on your way.

Don't worry about painting this fall. If you want to paint,

you can do it early spring. In the meantime, you'll have had a chance to see what weathered wood looks like. If it pleases you, you'll be dollars and hours ahead.

If fences are already in at your home, the next job on the priority list is the wood lounge deck. Three or four weekends should see this job completed, and accessories like seating benches and screens can wait till spring. Douglas fir, or other desirable western woods, is the wood to use for this job, both for framework and deck boards.

The best part about getting your deck done in the fall is that you'll feel so smug about it when you move the lounge furniture outdoors next March. The neighbors will be green-eyed.

If the deck is already done and accessories have been built, the job that needs attention is the storage unit for garden tools and lounge furniture. This can be built in conjunction with a fence, the garage, or the deck, whichever is most sensible for your yard.

Whatever the job that needs getting with it. Those long winter doing, roll up your sleeves and evenings are close at hand, and you might as well enjoy them without regrets.

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