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BETTER HOUSING

Livability Of Home Affected By Location

Orientation, an important factor affecting the livability of the small home, has been described as the process of "putting the sun and wind in the right windows."

It is difficult to set any hard-and-fast rules concerning the relationship of rooms to sunlight, prevailing winds, and view, which will apply to all cases.

Living Room Favored

The living room should be bright and cheerful and have plenty of sunlight and the best view from its windows if possible, according to the FHA. Morning sunlight generally is desirable in the dining room, and the kitchen should be located to avoid the heat of afternoon sun. Bedrooms should have sunlight sometime during the day.

Generally speaking, it might be said that the living room and the master bedroom should have southern exposure and the dining room a southeastern exposure.

Geographical location has a bearing on orientation as well as the plan, Federal Housing Administration officials point out. In the North houses are usually built with a compact plan for economy and comfort in Winter weather.

Cross Ventilation Important

In the South cross ventilation of room is more important for livability than a compact plan. In the North protection should be provided against cold Winter winds. This protective barrier may consist of buildings, trees, or glazed storm sash.

In the South it is advisable to design and locate houses so that advantage may be taken of the prevailing Summer winds common to the locality. Desirable protection from the sun may be obtained through the use of trees, window blinds, awnings, or other means.

Many of these rules cannot be carried out completely in the small one-story house and the architect or builder may find it necessary to compromise.

Warm Weather Is Salad Weather

Eating your way to health isn't a hard path to take, any time you sit down to the following delightful "Calavo Summer Salad Bowl." With slight variations in vegetable content you can make a practical and dependable stand-by for many warm weather menus. Calavo pears add greatly to the vitamin and mineral content, helping the salad to perform its duty as a warm weather entree, without excessive addition of calories. A generous sized Calavo salad—one-third of a medium-sized Calavo — provides only the same number of calories as a small serving of fresh lima beans, without any butter.

Calavo Summer Salad Bowl
Salad greens
2 Calavo pears
Lemon juice
Salt
4 peeled chilled tomatoes
6 green onions
12 asparagus tips
2 sliced cucumbers
5 quartered cooked carrots
French dressing

Break salad greens into not-too-small pieces. A variety, such as chicory, endive, lettuce and water cress, makes a more interesting salad than one salad green.

To prepare Calavo pears, cut into wedges or rings, pulling the skin from fruit after cutting, leaving the velvety underlying green flesh unscarred. Sprinkle with lemon juice and salt.

Cut tomatoes into wedges or slices. Cut onions into inch lengths. Arrange all ingredients in salad bowl and serve French dressing separately. Artistic arrangement of ingredients adds much to the appeal of this type of salad.

Serves 6 or more.

Cook Books from the CATHOLIC COURIER'S "School of Cookery," Series I and II, are available at the CATHOLIC COURIER office, 84 Chestnut St.

Mom's Little Helpers

Cabbage Puff

Take 2 cups boiled cabbage. Beat 2 eggs (yolks and whites separately). Stir ½ cup of cream or rich milk into the well-beaten yolks then fold in the whites. In an iron frying pan melt 1 tablespoon of Nucoa, and in this heat but do not brown, the cabbage. When hot, pour in milk and egg mixture. Cook until browned on under side. Place in oven long enough to set the top. Fold and remove to a hot dish.

Green Corn Custard

One egg well beaten, 1 cup corn pulp (fresh or canned), ½ cup cracker crumbs, ¼ cup sugar, ½ teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon black pepper, 2 cups milk. Mix all the ingredients together. Turn into Nucoa'd baking dish. Let bake until firm in the center. Serve as a vegetable or as the hearty dish at luncheon or supper.

Cabbage Au Gratin

Cabbage au gratin can be trimmed up a bit by adding to the white sauce a few spoonfuls diced [illegible]. Put in the Nucoa'd baking dish the chopped cooked cabbage mixed with a few finely sliced spring onions which have been [illegible]. Pour over this the [illegible] cover the top with grated cheese and Nucoa'd crumbs and brown lightly.

CARING FOR WOOD SIDING

Paint the surface of the siding as soon as it is in position. Side arrives on the job correctly seasoned for use. Take care of it. It is poor economy to buy good material and then fail to take the precautions necessary to insure the long and satisfactory service of which it is capable. Painting the siding seals it with a weatherproof coating.

Protect your siding on the ends as well as the surface. The butt joints should be painted as the siding is put in place to eliminate changes in its moisture content. Painting will prevent absorption of moisture or dehydration so that shrinking and swelling will be retarded. Care for your siding before and during its application and it will care for you.

Simple precautions should be taken in order to realize the maximum benefits from good siding. Allowing it to lie directly on the ground, to be rained upon, or snowed on may result in unsatisfactory service. Siding should always be protected from the weather and kept dry.

Landscaping Service

CHAPTER IX

Ornamental Shrubs

No flowering shrubs are more successfully, more easily grown or more generally satisfactory than the Lilacs. They are perfectly hardy; they grow to a height of 8 to 10 feet or more and they bloom profusely, are deliciously fragrant, and are in white, blue, pink, purple and red shades. The old favorites are still beautiful, and there are newer and very attractive kinds. Lilacs will grow and thrive almost anywhere, even in the smoky, dusty sections of the cities, which gives them an added value. They bloom in May and June.

The fragrance of the Lilacs is closely associated with our annual Memorial Day when these charming flowers are used profusely. Lilacs may be used as single shrubs, in masses, or as background for smaller shrubs; and they make an excellent screen for objectional views. Where a high hedge is desired, they are also useful.

SPIREAS

If properly cared for, give perpetual bloom from late April or early May till late autumn, with a fine variety of form, foliage and color of bloom. Where there is room for a large shrubbery bed, we suggest the planting of one or two of each of the taller ones in the center, bordered by the Anthony Waterer, Bumalda and Callosa Alba or they may be planted in borders along the sides and across the rear of the place, or placed in the corners of the yard, or used as base plantings for the house, using the larger ones at the corners, and the dwarfs along the walls, under the windows, and to border the paths.

FORSYTHIA

The Forsythias are very popular because they bloom so early. These fine favorites growing to a height varying from 5 feet up to 8 feet and sometimes more in the best locations, are a joy in the spring, with their cheerful yellow blossoms in great quantities in April before the leaves form. They are beautiful in water as well as summer because of their graceful form and bright green bark. Forsythias do well in smoky or dusty situations.

A strangely beautiful thing—tall, erect, slender foliage, blue-green and thread-like—almost as light and feathery as the tops of asparagus plants; in form and appearance it resembles the tall narrow Junipers, and is an excellent substitute for them because it looks better and is easily grown. It grows to a height of 8 or 10 feet. It will thrive in nearly all soils and is hardy when established, but while young it is better to protect it from too severe weather. A rapid grower and does well in sandy barren soil, making it very useful for such situations, and it is especially good for seashore planting. Blossoms in April and May, flowering profusely in delicate, feathery sprays of light pink and white blossoms—good for cutting.

Our landscape consultant is always at your service to answer any questions you may have. There is no charge for this service. Write Catholic Courier Landscape Consultant or Phone Stone 1136.

Hall Space Is Home Essential

Hall space is necessary to afford privacy, and communication between various rooms in a house, according to Federal Housing Administration officials.

Halls are especially desirable between living room, bedrooms and bathroom.

In planning a house, the prospective home owner is advised that except for privacy and access, a hall is not usuable space, and for economy it should not be larger than necessary.

In its minimum form the hall is approximately a square with door openings on its four sides permitting access to the same number of rooms. The minimum hall is thus limited to the one-story two-bedroom house.

Additional bedrooms or the use of two stories require increased hall area, which should be planned for minimum size.

Ideal Time To Improve Home Is Now Here

It is now time to begin planning the annual quota of household improvements and the installation of modern conveniences that make for more comfortable living, local builders say.

The exterior of the house is usually the first item considered when the family begins to discuss remodeling and modernization. Many houses are poorly designed as to exterior, and no matter how charmingly the interior is handled there is no indication of it in the outside appearance.

Architectural deficiencies may sometimes be partly overcome by proper color treatment and expert landscaping. Two-color paint combinations may aid in making attractive an otherwise dull-looking exterior. But more important even than the value of added beauty is the value of added protection which paint gives to wood, metal and plaster surfaces.

Careful technical inspection sometimes reveals small defects, so small that the home owner does not notice them, such as loose bricks or sidings, loose shingles or flashing, faulty chimneys, weak porch support. If repairs are necessary, they may be made with funds obtained from qualified lending institutions under the Modernization Credit Plan of the FHA.

The embarrassment of showing guests an out-of-date bathroom may be overcome. The spotless walls and floors, bright fixtures, gleaming tiles, and modern appliances which good taste decrees today are easily installed, and under the FHA plan the cost is broken up into easy month payments.

Many home owners are inclined to put off much-needed plastering jobs, and the interior of the house suffers at the evidence of unsightly walls, cracked and stained.

In many homes the most popular room in the house, the kitchen, is old-fashioned and awkwardly planned. In other homes it is way behind times. Modern step-saving kitchens with all the latest appliances and finished off properly with gay touches of color will be appreciated by all members of the family, but probably the most grateful person will be the mother whose arduous cooking tasks will be lightened.

Conscientious home owners realise that there are always ways to improve their homes. For example, the upstairs porch, closed in, will make a charming extra bedroom. Another room in the attic, put in at small expense, will add a great deal of livability and provide a much-needed playroom for growing children. Conversion of the cellar into a small comfortable room is a simple matter.

Federal Housing Administration officials continue to point out that improving, modernizing, or repairing a home is actually investing in the home and increasing its value

Better Homes Better Living

by the Housing Editor

Since economy is one of the chief goals in both new building and modernization, the Federal Housing Administration offers these suggestions to home owners contemplating new homes or modernizing their older ones.

Economy in plumbing installations is obtained by locating plumbing fixtures to avoid an excessive amount of piping.

This objective can be obtained by planning the kitchen and bathroom back to back when both rooms are on the same floor. If the house contains a utility room which includes laundry trays, this room should be located adjacent to the kitchen and the bathroom.

Location of the hot-water storage tank and heater close to fixtures requiring hot water will result in economy of piping, quantity of water used, heat loss from piping, and fuel required to heat the water.

In two-story houses, basement laundry, kitchen, and bathroom should be placed approximately over each other.

By concentration of plumbing lines the installation can be made with a minimum amount of labor and materials.

Plumbing fixtures for economy should be selected on the base of utility as to size, quality and design.

Construction Economies

Many economies are possible in construction. Costs of building depend primarily upon the shape of the structure, use of stock materials, and simplicity with which the structural shell is framed.

The shape of the house is important, due to the amount of outside wall and roof area required to close a given amount of space.

The square is said by FHA officials to be the most economical shape, since it provides the maximum amount of floor area with the least amount of wall area. Corner construction costs more than straight-wall construction, with the result that square and rectangular-shaped plans are less costly than L, U or Z shapes.

DID YOU KNOW THAT—?

A simple, useful eye wash can be made as follows: to a quart of boiling water add a level teaspoonful each of ordinary table salt, bicarbonate of soda, and boric acid and after these have been dissolved, add one tablespoonful of glycerine. Glycerine is often recommended as a preservative for eye lotions that are to be diluted before use. Small quantities of glycerine impart a soothing quality to eye lotions and it is a standard ingredient of such preparations.

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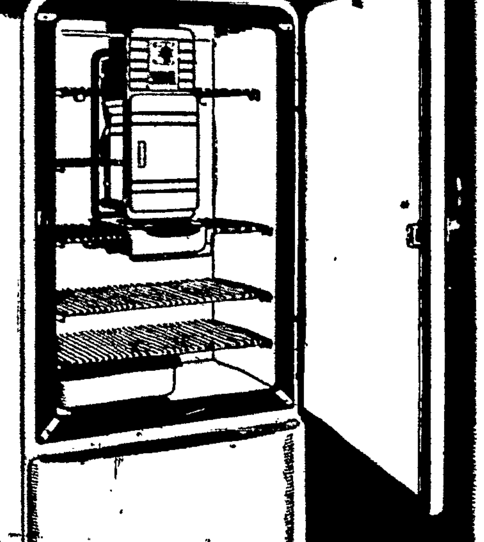

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