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Literary designs for living

What do unused bedrooms and attics have in common? Each has the makings to become the library you always wanted. Traditionally, the library is a room designed for the storage of books, should be quiet enough for reading, homework or contemplation. The atmosphere should be pleasant and relaxing.

Converting an unused room is the best bet. A single bed, with bolster cushions, can easily be converted into a sofa if you want one. Shelves along the walls are easy to install for all the books. Carpeting provides a restful feeling.

It's a perfect hide-away, and right in your own home too.

COME GARDENING
with
Doc Hartnoll



PLANTING IS MAY ACTIVITY

When is planting time? For many good home gardeners they will look at the sky then feel the soil, and listen to weather forecasts. If there is no danger of frost, all good gardeners are off digging. Don't try to dig in soggy soil. First it is difficult and you won't obtain a well prepared bed to accept the seed you want to germinate and grow. If the soil is cold, that's not the time to transplant either.

Soil seems to be coming along. If grass is any indication, it won't be long until the soil is ready to accept all the plant material you are to give it to grow.

MAINTENANCE: When International Seedsmen met at Penn State University during the winter, they were asked to name a 'Vegetable of the Year' based on popularity among home gardeners. The giant red variety of tomato won their vote.

Tomatoes come in many shapes and sizes — pear shaped, orange and yellow, some the size of cherries. But those that fall into the giant category — Beestack, the Boy, Better Boy, Rutgers, Whopper, early Giant and Delicious — are the most universally grown and the most productive.

Tomatoes grown from seed are best started indoors about eight weeks before planting out. Those you purchase already started and ready to transplant should not be put in the garden until all danger of frost is past.

Tomatoes need a sunny location, good drainage and fertile soil. I like to work in a half cup of Vigoro Tomato Food at transplant time. This can be dug into the planting area where each plant is to grow, or applied on top of the soil after transplanting. It should be in a circle around the plant, about two inches from the stem. A mulch of straw, grass clippings or chopped leaves will conserve moisture and keep the fruit clean. Staking keeps the vines neat and makes fruit picking easier.

TRANSPLANTING: When setting out plants, place them deep in the soil with part of the green stem covered. This will encourage extra roots to grow. Water the plants as soon as you have transplanted them.

If you'd like to give them even a faster start, get a box of Instant Vigoro, completely water soluble, and mix a tablespoonful to a gallon of water. Apply this after the plant gets to the ground, and it will take away the shock of transplanting. I space my plants two feet apart for an acre. If you don't stake them, be sure to conserve moisture.

DISEASES: One of the most common tomato diseases is 'blossom-end-rot' and is recognized when the end of the tomato fruits turn black. It is caused by inadequate or uneven watering. Mulching tomato plants to conserve moisture in the soil and watering during dry spells will normally prevent this condition. Remember, too, that a well fed plant will fight off many diseases.

FERTILIZER: When buying fertilizer for your garden you will see a set of three numbers on the bag or box such as 8-12-6. This would be just right for the vegetable garden, especially where root crops are being grown. Another set of numbers is 8-10-10. This formula and the number here would read 6-10-4.

These numbers indicate the percentage content of the three most important plant nutrients, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in that order. If you have a garden with poor or exhausted soil it is generally a good idea to obtain a soil analysis from your local Provincial Agricultural College to find out just what your soil lacks for good production. Then purchase a fertilizer that gives you the correct percentages to put your soil back in balance.

PREPARING THE GARDEN: One of the most important jobs when starting a new garden is soil preparation. Deep digging is essential, plus removal of stones and weed roots. A soil conditioner may be necessary, such as garden peat, well rotted manure or compost. Only when you have a good, crumbly, well drained soil can you expect worthwhile results.

KEEP CLEAN & HEALTHY: Once your plants have started to grow, you'll find many insects will try to challenge you and your production. It is wise to ask your local nurseryman for a combined insecticide and fungicide. There are several on the market designed for the control of insects in your area. I find the combined products are more beneficial than just using one particular product to control a few insects.

Six basic elements to look at when planning to remodel your bathroom

If your bathroom is rather drab, with old-fashioned fixtures and definitely in need of remodeling, it is probably like most — about 5 feet by 8 feet in size.

If so, you won't find too many idea bathrooms in advertisements or editorial this size to help you — most such baths are larger and your problem will be to convert the ideas found in such large rooms down to fit your space.

Therefore, before you remove the first wall life or start tearing up the floor covering, take a few minutes to plan your bathroom remodeling.

There are six basic elements of better bathroom design for you to consider, according to Eljer Plumbingware, a leading manufacturer of plumbing products. Each is important to total bathroom

planning.

- The basic plan of the bathroom must be a good one — one that will work even in the most restricted space. In many cases you will be working with all plumbing pipes placed on one wet wall. It will be most economical to take this arrangement and develop variety and design without a change in plumbing.

- However, to create the best plan for your bathroom you may find it necessary to change some fixture locations. If this is desired, by all means contact your plumbing contractor because proper installation and adherence to plumbing codes are mandatory.

- Choosing the right fixtures is very important because remodeling your bathroom is pointless if built around a poor choice of fixtures. Don't skimp

on quality, not if you want to be assured of satisfaction, performance and beauty in the years ahead. Be sure you consider colored fixtures — added spark for your bath at small added cost.

- Adequate storage is so fundamental yet so often overlooked in the bathroom. Be sure you provide space to store towels, tissues, cleansing materials, cosmetics, etc. . . . and storage space is probably more important in a small bathroom than in a large one.

- Lighting must be adequate for proper application of cosmetics, shaving, and believe it or not, reading. Let's face it, everyone needs a morale boost when they first get up in the morning — and warm lighting in the bathroom can at least make you look much better than you feel.

- Adequate ventilation is an item easily overlooked in bathroom remodeling. Ventilation can do more than just make the bathroom smell fresh — it can help keep it clean, warm, remove excess moisture and help control mildew.

- Every homeowner should have a bathroom that's easy to maintain. Begin by choosing quality fixtures, with finishes of glass-hard vitreous china or durable enameled cast iron. Consider the new, easy-to-maintain finishing materials such as vinyl wall coverings, laminated plastic surfaces, and ceramic tile for easy cleaning without sacrificing decorative appearance or utility.

To help plan your bathroom remodeling, contact your Eljer contractor or write: Eljer Plumbingware, Wallace-Murray Corporation, Dept. MAS, 3 Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222.



ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME live again! This classical bath fits a five-by-eight foot area and combines all six elements of good bathroom design. Three arches are built of 1/2" untempered hardboard. Simple globe lighting adds to the over-all effect with a free-hanging mirror over the lavatory. There is open access to toiletries, while ample storage for towels and linens is available. Fixtures by Eljer Plumbingware.

Restore and renew with simple household tips

Tight money is a problem many Americans are facing these days, but living within a budget doesn't necessarily mean you must do without. If you've put off redecorating your house because you think you can't afford it, read on.

There are lots of ways to refurbish economically. Here are just a few:

- Organize a community trading cooperative. Set the place, date and time and ask your neighbors to bring furniture and household accessories they no longer use, need or want. Then trade with each other to get new items for your homes.

This method helps everyone dispose of unwanted items and reduce clutter around their homes — and, you may each find exactly what you need to spruce up your homes for free!

- Renew, rather than redo, household basics. So, if draperies and slipcovers are looking drab, treat them to a thorough cleaning to restore their bright-

ness. A good rule of thumb may be to restore before spending more.

For instance, before investing in a costly paint job because walls have gotten streaked and dirty, give them a dose of 'elbow grease.' Wash walls with a solution of Jantrol in a Drum's industrial-strength cleaner and water to get them looking almost like new again, and use the money saved on paint to buy things you can't do or make yourself.

- Take advantage of accessories to brighten up rooms. Throw pillows are always good for accenting a couch — try several in a variety of hues if you wish to introduce new color to your living room.

Some small curios and knick-knacks can add interest and provide new focal points to tables and shelves.

- Practice "musical chairs" art — every few months rearrange paintings and other wall hangings or move them from room to room.

Fuel for thought to conserve energy

Homeowners everywhere are finding it will cost even more to heat their homes this winter, so the search is on more seriously than ever before for ways to reduce fuel consumption and lower fuel bills.

The 12 most practical ways to cut your fuel bills are listed here.

1. Insulate your home well. It's the most effective thing you can do. With adequate insulation, your home will require only about 50 per cent as much fuel as with no insulation.

2. To insulate an existing home, first pay attention to the top floor ceiling, where heat loss is greatest. You can generally insulate this ceiling yourself by laying thick but lightweight fiber glass blankets between joists in the attic floor.

3. If you already have some insulation, you can use an "add-on" insulation which is made specifically to bring inadequate attic insulation up to today's standards. Consult an insulation contractor about insulating closed-in ceilings and walls.

4. Choose amounts of insulation by Resistance numbers, which tell how well insulation retards heat flow. In new homes, use at least R-19 (6 1/2 inches thickness) in ceilings, R-11 (3 1/2 inches to 4 inches thickness) in walls. Insulation in floors is needed for homes built over open crawl spaces.

5. Use storm doors, and keep them tightly latched.

6. Weatherstrip windows and doors to keep warm air in, cold air out.

7. Caulk cracks around the outside of window and door frames.

8. Call in a heating service man to clean and

adjust the heating burner. He should also check balancing of the heat distribution system to make sure no room gets more heat than it needs.

9. Clean or replace furnace filters. Dirty filters may severely hinder movement of warm air, reducing furnace efficiency and wasting fuel.

10. Set the thermostat back at night, but only six or seven degrees. A bigger setback will require extra fuel on morning pick-up. Always set the thermostat back if you're going to be away for a weekend or longer.

11. Check the location of your thermostat. Montana Power Company says it should be on an inside wall four to five feet above floor level. Keep it away from heat sources such as a TV set or a lamp.

12. Turn off the heat in rooms that aren't used.

13. Install a humidifier. When relative humidity is

high, you will be comfortable at a lower temp.

12. Develop good heat conservation habits.

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