

# Big picture window can replace smaller ones

Bring the outdoors inside with a spacious picture or bay window in your favorite room if you're thinking about replacing small drafty old wood or metal ones.

You can do this by having the wood supports between a grouping of two or three up-and-down type windows removed along with the old windows. Then a single, large aluminum-framed picture or bay unit can be set in their place.

This type of window will give you more light, conserve energy, and eliminate the need for painting. It will also tend to make your room look larger and enhance the exterior appearance of your house, no matter what its style or surface.

### Improve appearance

Although most windows are replaced to save energy, aluminum picture windows, bays and bows, as well as more conventional kinds, come in a range of styles that let you improve the appearance of your home at the same time. This lightweight but durable metal also gives you maximum flexibility in designing the size and shape of the window because aluminum can be formed to any contour.

Your contractor can also match the windows to the style of your home. For instance, in a Colonial type house, aluminum grids that match the new window frames can be set permanently between double panes of insulating glass. This duplicates the appearance of the original smaller panes of glass but leaves only a single pane to be cleaned.

### Different styles

If you do decide to update the windows in your house, it helps to know how the various styles differ.

A picture window is stationary, and framed so that it is usually, but not always, longer horizontally than vertically, in order to provide a panoramic view. It can also have one or two movable panes of glass that either slide open sideways, or open from the top and/or bottom.

Generally, a bay or bow window is also stationary, but it extends out from the sill at an angle. The angle of the bay window may range from 30 to 45 degrees, while the bow window has a less extreme angle of about 10 degrees.

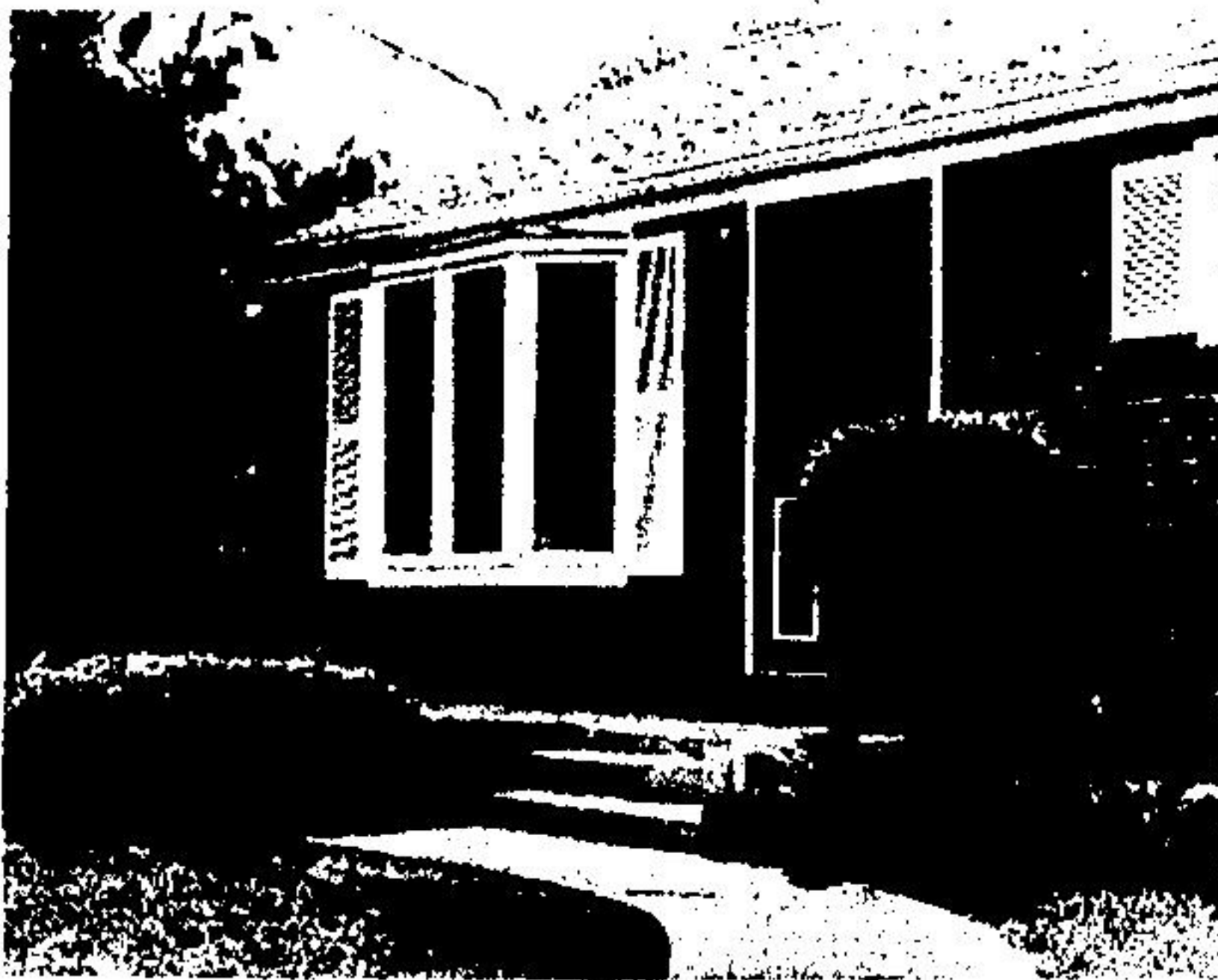
Within these guidelines, you may design a new style window from a grouping of old ones, or, if you already have a picture or bay/bow window that needs replacing, increase, decrease or change the angle from its original proportions.

However, special care must be taken in framing it and building sufficient support beneath it.

If your budget permits, it's a good idea to replace other windows to blend with the new picture-type window or windows. These can be either double-hung (up-and-down) or slider type aluminum windows.

However, if you can't afford to update the entire house at once, consider replacing all the windows in one or two of the most frequently used rooms, especially the ones where you plan a picture-type window.

This way, you will have made one or two rooms energy efficient initially, because thermalized, pre-finished aluminum windows with double glazing can cut energy losses through the window by as much as 40 per cent compared to older, single pane glass. Matching replacement windows can be added gradually



A PICTURESQUE ALUMINUM-FRAMED BAY WINDOW can improve the exterior appearance of your house as well as bring more light inside. In this four-section, thermalized and double-glazed window the two side panes are stationary and the center panes slide open for ventilation. Light but sturdy, all four lift out for easy cleaning, and the baked-on white finish on the aluminum frames eliminates the need for painting.

in other parts of the house.

The choice is wide — horizontal sliders, double-hung windows, single-hung units (they have one moving section), windows that tilt in for easy cleaning, or a combination of compatible styles. There are also new aluminum casements built to close tolerances for a tight fit.

All these styles come pre-assembled in custom-made-to-measure sizes as large as 108 in. x 60 in., in durable baked-enamel finishes and anodized coatings that resist normal weathering.

Aluminum windows are rigid and strong, and despite their light weight won't shrink, swell or rot like wood,

or warp out of shape like vinyl plastic, whose frames may become brittle in cold weather and do not have the structural strength of aluminum.

In planning replacement

windows, you can design with color as well as style. While white is still popular, brown and bronze color aluminum frames are gaining in favor, and other, brighter colors — reds, greens and blues — can be used effectively to contrast with pale shades of siding.

Whether you choose a picture type replacement window or a more conventional style, be sure it is energy-efficient. You can judge this by its U value, which is a measure of

its relative energy efficiency. The lower the U value, the more effective the window is in eliminating drafts.

### Energy-efficient

Results from over 500 windows tested by AAMA (Architectural Aluminum Manufacturers Association) show that a thermalized (insulation in the frame itself) double-glazed aluminum window has an average U value of only 0.67 compared to 1.13 for a standard single-glazed window.

The U value, however, is only one criterion to use in judging the efficiency of a replacement window. The frames should have neat, strong joints and thick wea-

Also, be sure the window bears the AAMA Certification label, which assures its quality.

### Examine options

Before you order any window, get ideas and estimates from two or three contractors.

and give preference to the one who takes the time to explain the options open to you after he measures the window openings.

It's also a good time to take a look at houses where he has installed replacement windows to assure yourself of his competency.

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