

# A home aquarium is an eye-catching focal point for any room

A great way to add to the enjoyment of indoor living is by adding a touch of outdoors. And a home aquarium is the perfect way to bring live outdoor enjoyment and added decor to any indoor living area.

There are many positives to owning a home aquarium. First, it is always a "conversation piece" because of its attractiveness and the beauty of the fish and decorative accessories such as plants and ornaments.

Second, it is a family hobby, great for educating youngsters both in maintaining "life" and in assuming responsibility. Third, new aquarium life support equipment is noiseless and easy to maintain, making a home aquarium even more appealing.

And last, a recent study by researchers

at the University of Pennsylvania proved that watching fish in an aquarium is a definite benefit in relieving stress.

How do you get started? First, you will want to locate a good dealer in your area. If you have a friend who has an aquarium, ask for a reference; otherwise the telephone book lists most tropical fish retailers.

During your visit to a tropical fish store, you will want to get some ideas on aquarium sizes and on the equipment you will need, and look over the selection of the fish so that you can choose the ones you will want to keep.

It is advisable to purchase a book that provides complete instructions on setting up and maintaining an aquarium. However, one important rule is to buy the

largest aquarium practical since the greater the water environment, the less chance of water problems.

When determining where to put your aquarium, several factors should be considered. You will not want to put it in direct sunlight since this will cause algae to grow on the glass and plastic accessories.

You also may not want to put it on your best carpeting since during water changes it is possible for some water to splash on the floor. You also should be sure to put your aquarium on a firm stand since water is heavy.

After you have decided on the aquarium, your first accessory will be a tightly fitting canopy cover equipped with a fluorescent fixture. Fluorescent fixtures throw off a cool light and will not cause fluctuations in the water temperature.

While on the subject of water temperature, tropical fish require an environment maintained at around 75°F (25°C). You will therefore need a good heater and an aquarium thermometer.

A recent development in this technol-

ogy is the liquid crystal digital thermometer which affixes to the outside of the aquarium yet measures most accurately the water temperature.

You will also need a quality filter. Your dealer can give you proper advice since there are several types of filters and your needs will vary with the size of your aquarium. If you are going to keep a lot of fish, you will also want a separate air pump to add oxygen to the water.

Decorating an aquarium is great fun. There are multi-colored gravels, highly decorative backgrounds and hundreds of ornaments, as well as plastic plants so real in reproduction it's almost impossible to distinguish them from live plants. Most good retailers will have a complete assortment and your selection should be based on the size of your aquarium and the amount of money you decide to spend.

Once you have set up your aquarium, you should add a chlorine neutralizer to the water and add only a few fish initially. These few fish will help develop the proper biological conditions neces-

sary to maintain a fully stocked aquarium. After three to four weeks, assuming everything is functioning properly, you can then go ahead and add the rest of the fish.

Aquarium maintenance is a lot simpler than people think. Every two weeks a partial water change (not greater than 20 percent) by siphoning the water from the bottom of the aquarium is all that is required. A device called the HydroClean allows an efficient siphoning by separating the debris in the gravel and removing it with the water from the aquarium.

On a monthly basis, your filter will require minimal maintenance. That's all there is.

Following this simple routine, chances of fish disease or any other aquarium problems are remote. In fact, one of the biggest problems people have is spending too much time maintaining their aquarium.

On a daily basis, of course, fish should be fed and a good quality flake food will provide a complete diet for almost all fish.



BRING A LITTLE OF THE OUTDOORS, INDOORS, with a colorful, lively aquarium.

## Time Sharing Can Be Intricate

(NC) — Have you heard about time sharing a resort?

It's where you and a number of other people can jointly buy or lease a vacation property and thereby have the right, as the purchaser, to occupy a unit for a certain period every year, usually one or two weeks.

You might, for example, pay \$10,000 or more for a unit in Florida that gives you a lifetime use of it for the first two weeks of February every year. That's a pretty attractive package — and many of them are — but there can be hitches, and some people have lost money on their "vacation" investment.

There are different kinds of time share deals and it's important for a potential buyer to fully understand the differences. Two of the most prevalent are "fee simple", where the purchaser is actually buying title to the property for the same period each year, and "right to use", which is a much different concept. With the latter, the person isn't an owner at all, but one who is merely leasing the property for a certain time period each year.


Under this plan, if the developer goes bankrupt before the lease expires, customers could lose access to the unit and the money they paid in advance.

That's one problem. Also, there are some high pressure sales opportunities in the time sharing business and some sales pitches include showing pictures of luxurious resorts that don't quite represent the reality when the buyer gets there. The answer to that, of course, is to see the unit and the resort before you buy.

It's a good idea too, to check what the maintenance charge will be during your annual visits. Usually it averages about \$175 a week but make sure of this factor and whether the fee can be raised periodically.

Another feature of time sharing is the opportunity to exchange your own property for another one in a different part of the country, or the world for that matter. It's a particularly attractive feature, and while networks exist to help make this happen, the ability to do so is not always as easy as the sales person suggests. You might be wise to buy into a development that you will enjoy returning to most of the time.


You would also be wise, before signing on the dotted line, to ask an accountant experienced in time share properties, and a lawyer, to see the agreement so that you know exactly what you are getting and how it will benefit you.



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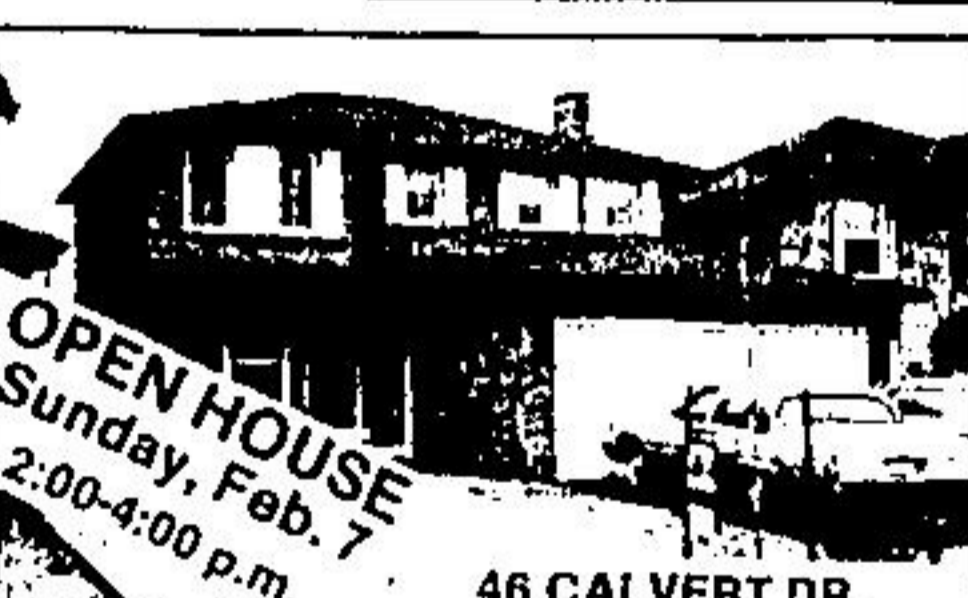
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