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Not just for decoration...

A colorful aquarium brightens any home, may even help relieve stress It beautifully brightens a dark corner, ence, otherwise, the phone book lists—to want to put it on a firm stand since wa— of fish, you also will want a separate air—can then go ahead and add the rest of

adds life to an empty wall, and adds a most tropical fish retailers also makes a great pet, as well as a wonderful conversation piece.

In fact, a recent study by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania concluded it is even beneficial in relieving stress. What is it? It is an aquarium filled with tropical fish.

Owning a home aquarium obviously has many positive benefits. Throughout the U.S., 10 million aquariums are being enjoyed in homes, offices, restaurants and hotels.

Undoubtedly you have seen at least one and may have wondered, "How do I or my youngsters (kids love tropical fishand easily get involved in the simple maintenance) get started?"

Step one

First, you will want to locate a good dealer in your area. If you have a friend who has an aquarium, ask for a refer-

unique decorative touch to any room. It During your visit to a tropical lish store, you will want to get some idea of aquarumi sizes and of 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

One basic rule to follow, however, is to buy the largest aquartum possible 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 will also not want to put it on your

best carpeting since, during water changes, it is possible for some water to splash on the floor, and you will be sure

After you have decided on the aquat ium, 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 therefore will need a good heater and an aquarium thermometer

A recent development in this technology is the liquid crystal digital thermometer which affixes to the outside of the aquarium yet measures most accurately the water temperature

Basic requirements

You also will 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

There are molti-colored gravely, 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 chloring neutralizer to the water and add only a few fish initially These few fish will help develop the proper biological conditions necessary to maintain a fully stocked aquarium

After three to four weeks, assuming everything is functioning properly, you

Aquarium maintenance is a lot simpler Decorating an aquariom is great fun, than people think. Every two weeks, a partial water change that greater than 20 percenti by siphoning the water from the bottom of the aquarium is all that is

> 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 aquarjum. 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.



THE HOUSE

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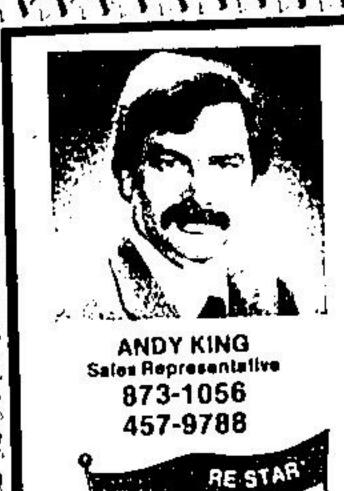
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THE BACK YARD



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