

Book gives tips to the 'weekend renovator'

Every year Canadian homeowners spend billions of dollars expanding and upgrading their homes. In 1991, that figure was \$28 billion. When times are good, many homeowners have the money to hire professionals; when times are not so good - as they are now - they are more inclined to do it themselves.

"There will always be do-it-yourselfers," says Leslie Harrington, joint author with Mary Dobson of 'Do-It-Yourself Projects from A to Z'. "Some like trying out their own ideas, some get a thrill out of building or creating something with their own hands. But I guess right now we're seeing a lot of people who figure the only way they can afford the smart new interior they want is to pick up a hammer or paintbrush and get to work."

The new book boasts lots of ideas and gives practical advice on what materials to use and how to use them.

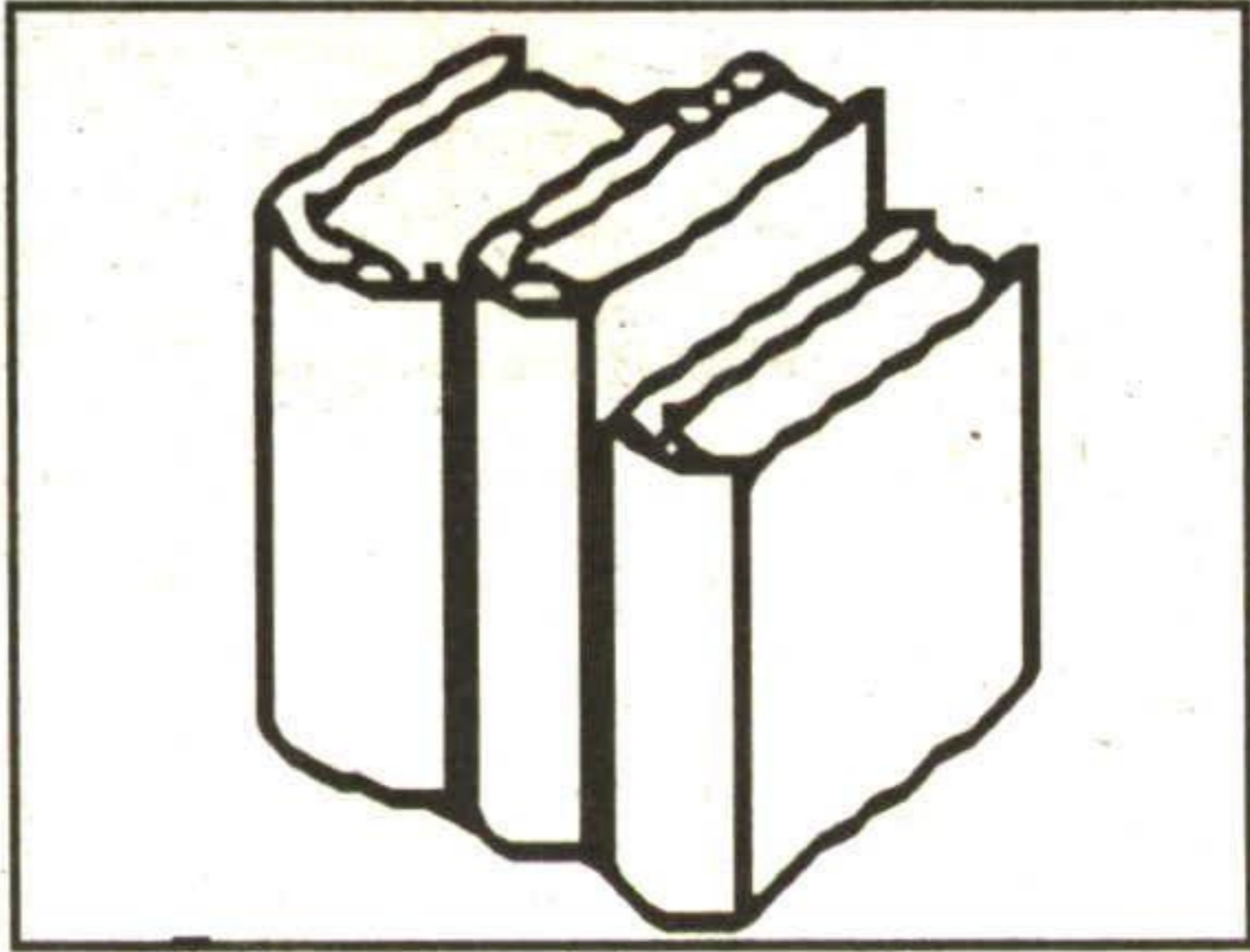
"It used to be a terrible problem for weekend renovators to even get started," says Dobson. "Building

supply dealers were set up for builders and contractors, and they just weren't prepared to sell in small quantities, give advice or even be open on a Saturday morning!"

A homeowner with a fencing project in mind might arrive at such a supplier's yard and find lumber sold by the board foot, nails sold by weight and the sand he needed to mix mortar sold by the cubic yard. Staff, used to dealing with tradesmen who know exactly what they want, would have difficulty answering questions about types and grades of lumber or what wood preservative to use.

Today, many building supply dealers recognize the size and importance of the do-it-yourself market and have developed a more encouraging approach. At a Lansing Buildall store, for example, just about every product required in an interior or exterior renovation or improvement project can be found under one roof.

Most items are self-serve, so it's



possible to read instructions, compare alternatives and decide on colors and styles before making a purchase decision.

chase decision.

At a Lansing store, even the lumber is self-serve. Back in 1970, Lansing broke new ground by bringing the most commonly-used dimensions from the open stack into the store on easily-accessible racks. Customers can pick and choose grades and dimensions and each piece is price-stamped.

A neophyte do-it-yourselfer has a lot to learn and many give up because they can't get the answers they need.

"Our book is written for the

many people - beginners and more experienced - who want a decorated look in their homes today," says Harrington. "One of the reasons that we have been able to suggest quite advanced procedures such as painted floors and effects built up from wood mouldings is that the materials required are readily available from stores that make it their business to encourage and support do-it-yourselfers."

'Do-It-Yourself Projects from A to Z' is available from all Lansing Buildall stores for \$12.95.

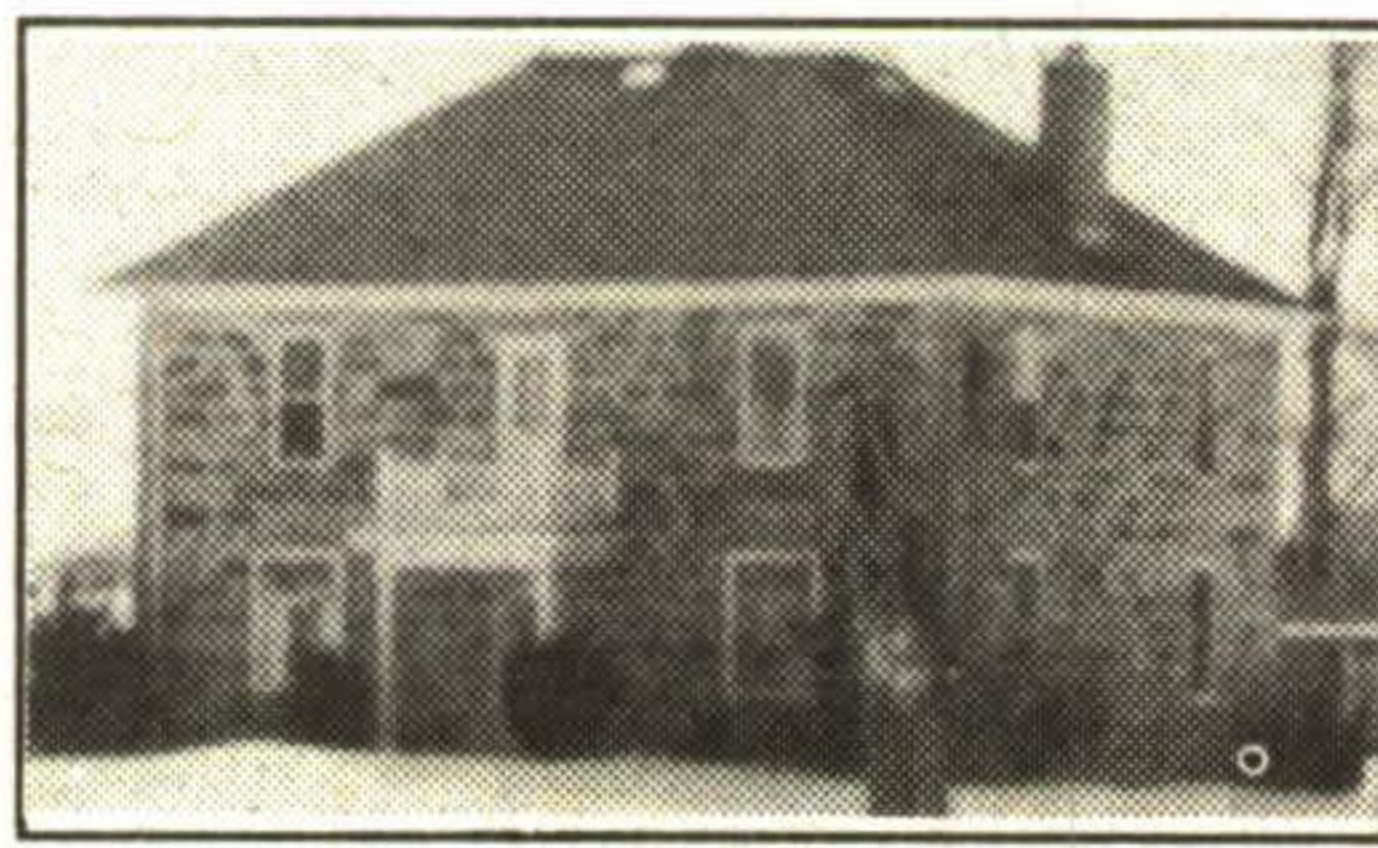
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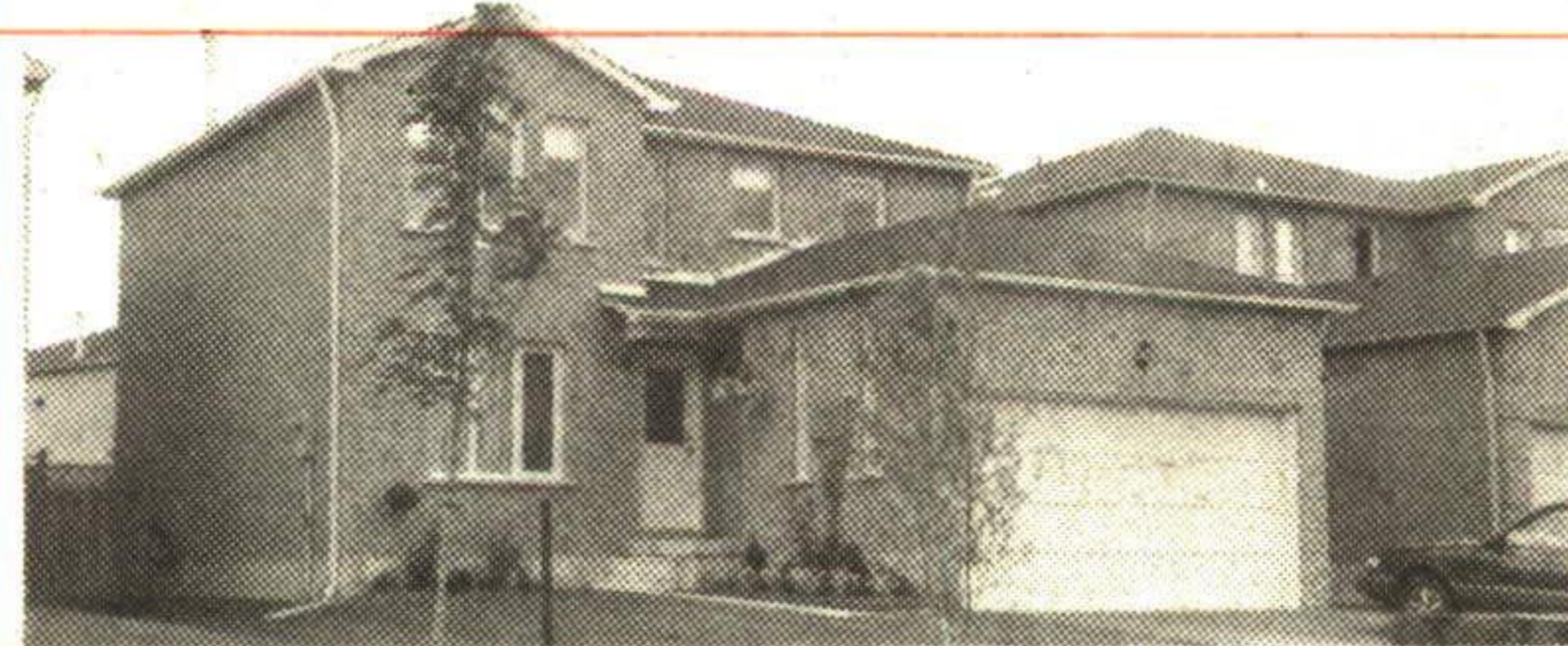
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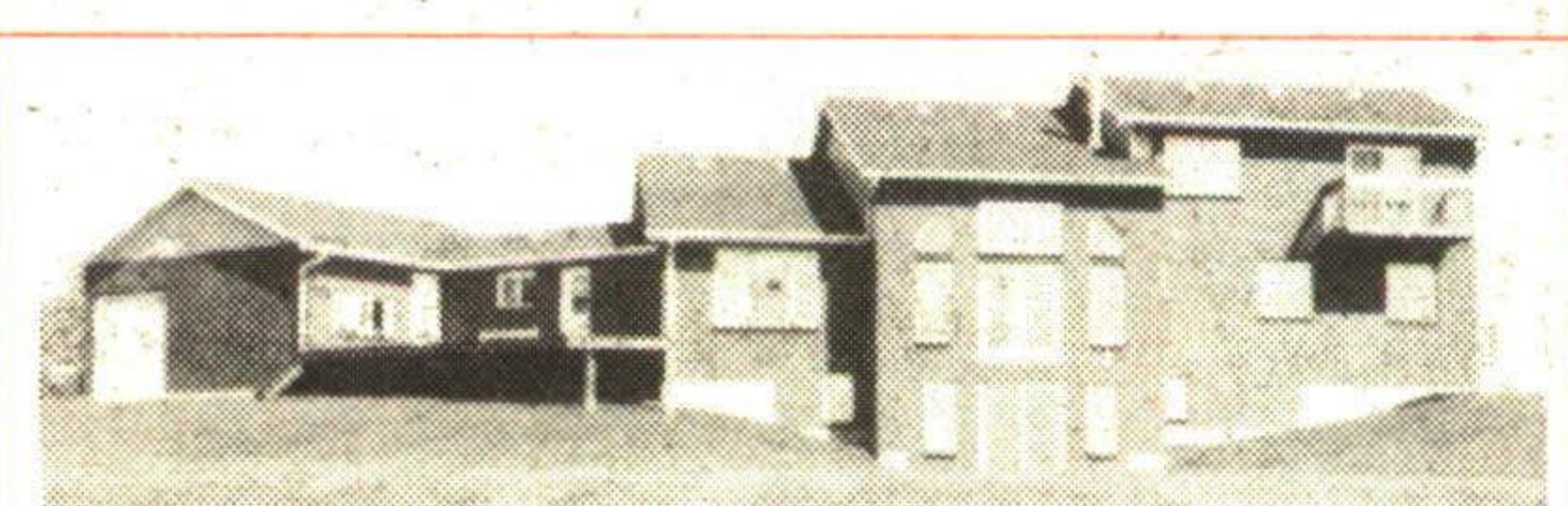
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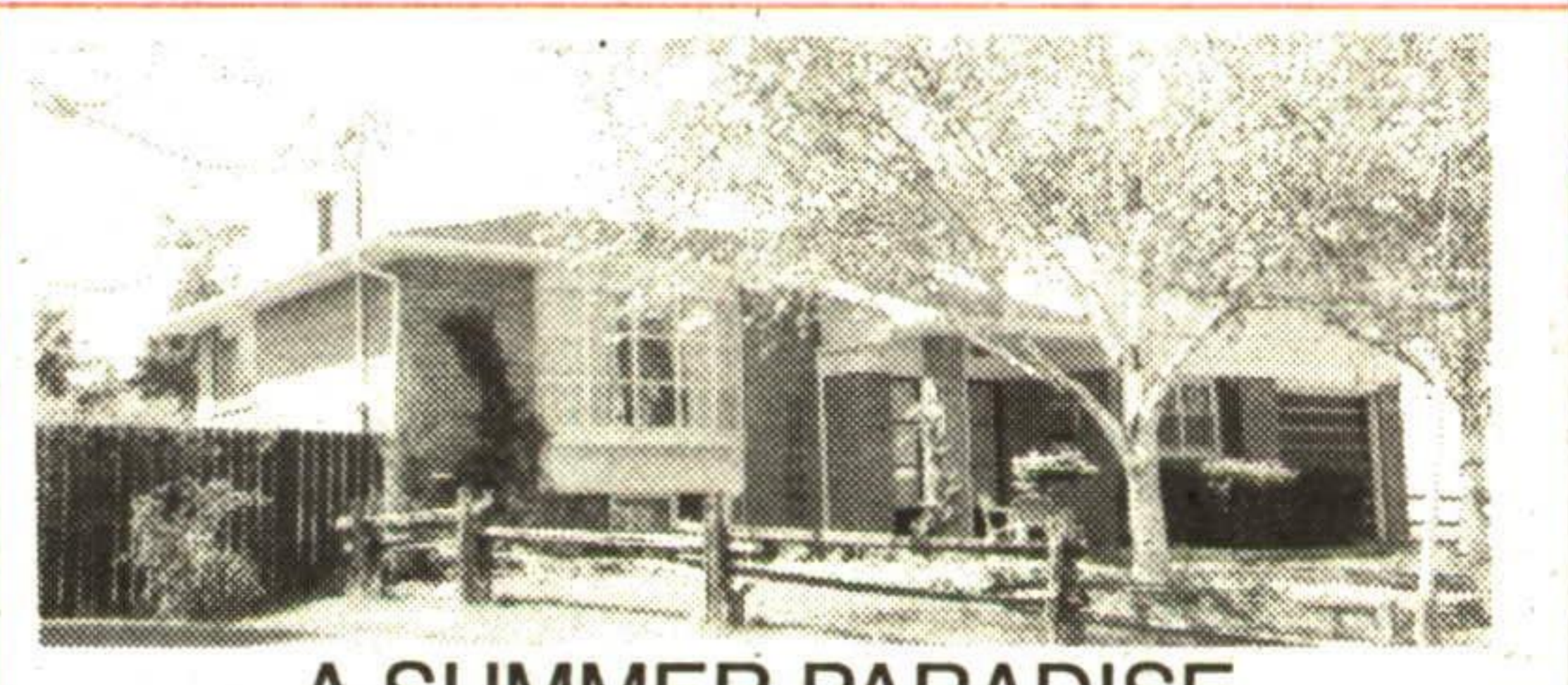
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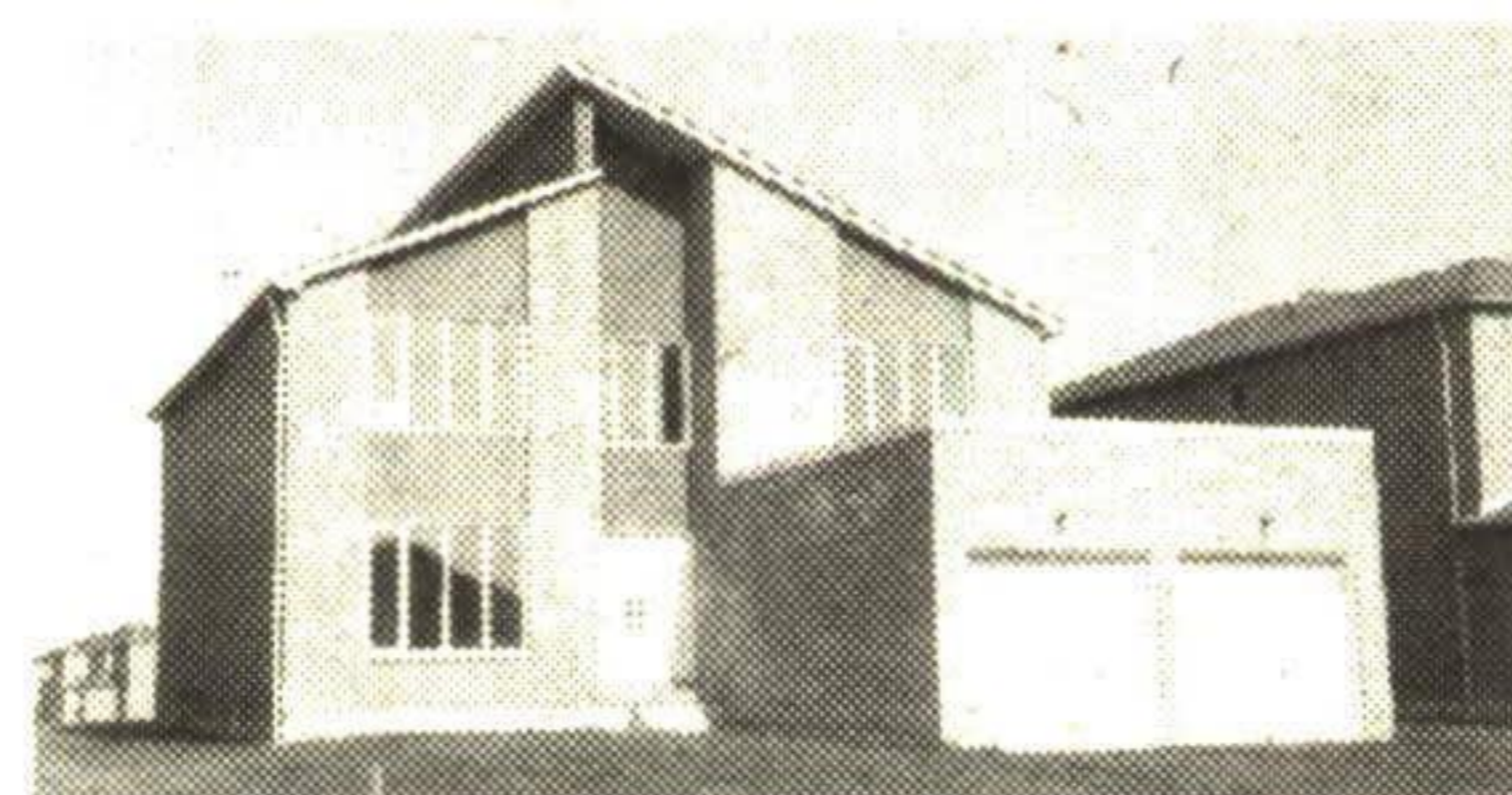
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