

# Interiors

## 'Cocooning' brings new bath designs

Here is where the heart is — and also where the residents are, according to researchers who track lifestyle trends.

People are staying home in droves, according to the experts, and relaxing in the comforts afforded there.

This phenomenon, called cocooning, is making its mark on the bath industry, noted Francis Jones, executive director of the National Kitchen and Bath Association, during a recent Kitchen and Bath Symposium in New York.

"Researchers tell us that people are spending more of their precious leisure time at home. Consequently, they want that time to be more pleasurable,

and they want their homes to offer the amenities that make it an enjoyable place," he said.

At one time a room for fulfilling primarily hygienic functions, today's bath has become a "bodyroom" for tending to corporal needs; relaxing, exercising and rejuvenating.

Today's well-appointed bath could be equipped with a whirlpool tub, steam room, sauna and exercise equipment.

Industry trends indicate that the bath has become the most remodeled room, followed by the kitchen.

In light of these trends, Jones recommends potential

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## A converted attic provides place to escape for privacy

A new room is waiting to be discovered in your home. Your attic can provide a place of escape with a renovation made easy with wall paneling.

According to plywood experts, attics are high on the most-wanted remodeling lists, and equally high on the lists of improvements for increased resale value.

While this is no doubt due to the need to use every inch of available space, there's another reason — it is the intrinsic treehouse-like charm of the space itself.

Slanted walls, transformed with starry skylight views, give a sense of openness with top-flight privacy.

Whether the attic is a remodeling or a finishing-off, there are decided advantages to using plywood panelling as a final decorating touch.

The panelling can be cut to size easily to cover slanted ceilings and knee walls, going up quickly in four-by-eight-foot sheets.

It may be applied directly over studs. Paneling applied over drywall covers existing

seams and nail holes so it needn't be finished.

Decorative patterns have the look of fine wallpaper, while the woodgrain patterns and real wood veneers help create a natural look.

Designer Patricia Gaylor transformed the dark and underused attic of a quaint country home into a cozy new room with lots of versatility.

Soft beige, peach and celery tones create an atmosphere conducive to relaxing for all family members seeking a place to unwind for favorite hobbies and activities.

Decorative paneling in a "petit fleur" pattern fills the room with a light country flavor. Woodgrain paneling is used on the front of built-in storage space around the perimeter of the room, and adds a rustic touch to the ceiling.

The hinged wood lids on the storage compartments also serve as seating and shelf space.

Portable furniture that converts to beds, over-stuffed throw pillows and wicker catch-all baskets for reading

materials and toys complete the cozy, comfortable atmosphere without depleting the decorating budget.

Everyone in the family will have his or her own special use for the new-found hideaway.

For children, the attic's unique dimensions will make it a favorite playroom, and both children and their moms will like having lots of special places to store treasured toys when not in use.

Teens will appreciate an extra room for studying, as well as having a fun place to gather with friends after school.

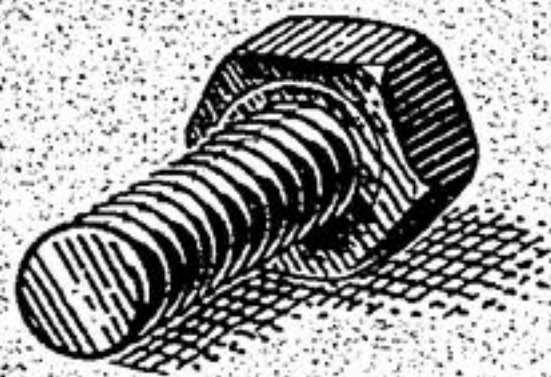
At last, dads may find a home for their personal computer or books, or can create the hobby area they've always wanted.

And moms will enjoy escaping with sewing and needlework or books and magazines they've been meaning to read.

In addition, they'll love having a space that easily can be converted into an extra bedroom for guests.

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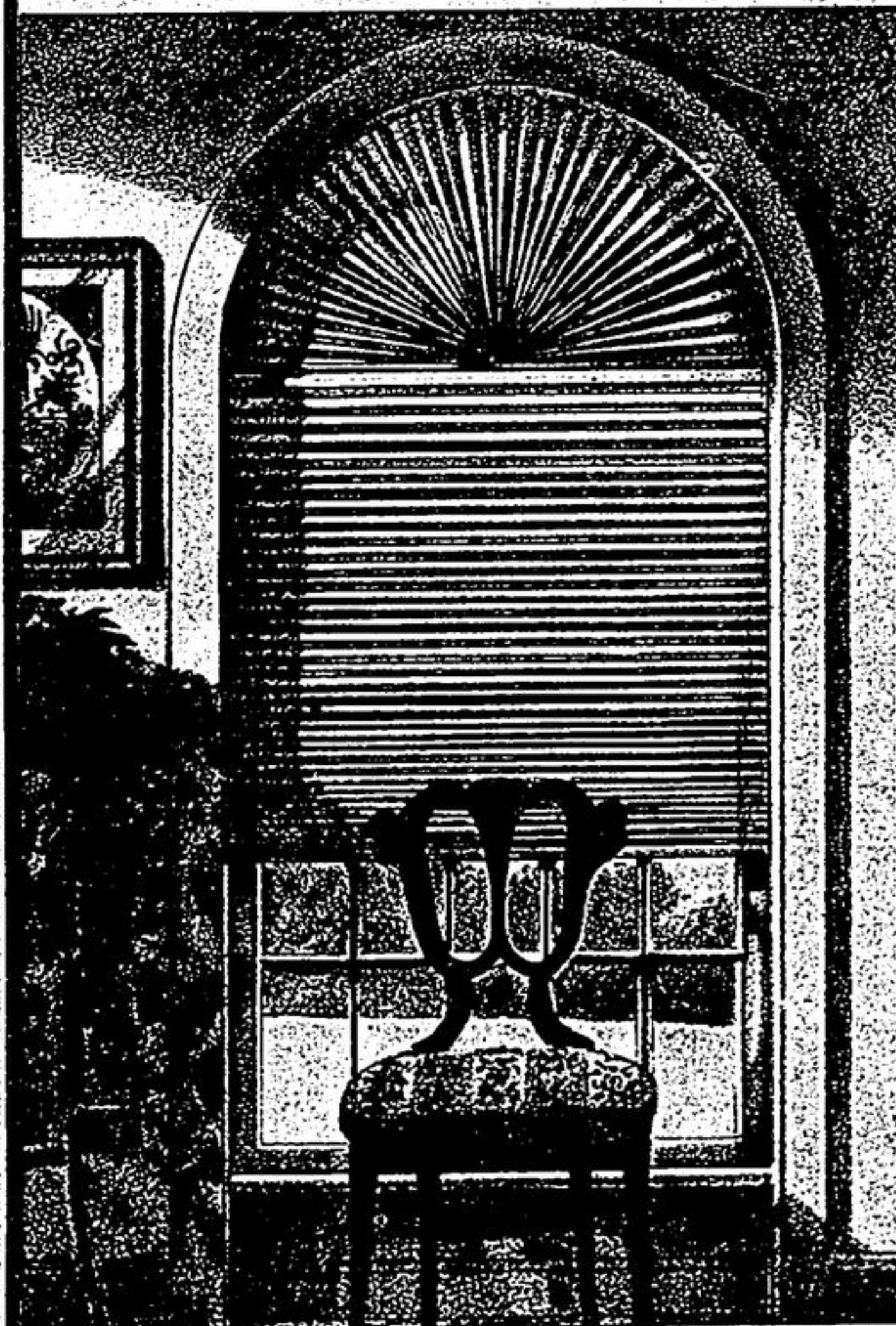
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