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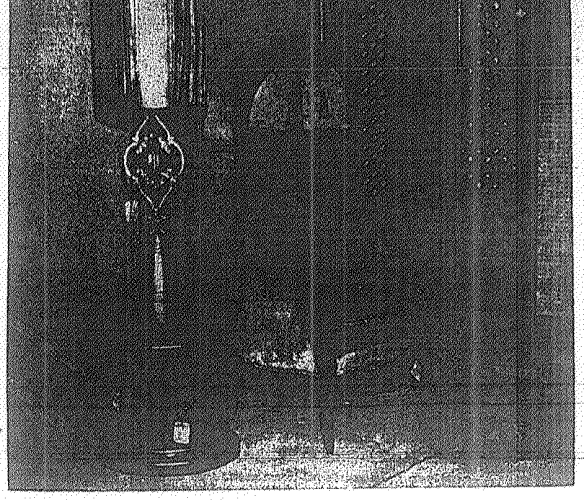
The Old and the New

At the Homelighter, 636 McClellan in New Monterey, Ron Mixon demonstrates a contrast in styles as he holds a modern Spanish-designed lighting fixture next to an earlier chandelier. Mixon is the new manager at the Homelighter, which is "around the corner from Forest Carpets."



From the Time of Castles

The porter's chair of antique design is taken from the days of castles and knights when such a chair was used by the guard, or porter, at the castle entrance. The hooded back and sides kept the draft off of him. Later the chair design was modified into the familiar wing-back, which keeps the wrap-around sides but has no hood. This porter's chair, shown at Holman's Department Store in Pacific Grove, is done in antique burnt-orange velvet and trimmed with handcarved fruitwood, and is more ornate than the original porter's chair.

Venetian Blinds Offer Great Adaptability

Venetian blinds are getting big play across the country as the ideal window treatment because of their adaptability to regional needs and aesthetic tastes.

At the recent showing which had as its theme, "American Regions," a series of room settings reflected the traditional heritage of a number of different areas, as well as the dominant modes of living and the geographical and climatic features of the locale.

In these rooms, each created by a top-name interior designer, colors, types of furnishings, materials and architectural details all show the influence of the region, with venetian blinds an important decorative and functional element of the setting.

Custom fitted venetian blinds provide maximum privacy and prevent rays of the sun from reaching furnishings to fade them. They are ideal as a thermal barrier, keeping winter heat in and summer heat out.

In the summer, venetian blinds - especially highly polished, light colored blinds - reflect the strong rays of the sun, keeping the home degrees cooler. They are also important in lightening the work load of air conditioners. And, they insure seclusion, while permitting a free flow of air through the house.

'Space' Age

Bigger, Better Kitchens

Kitchens are getting bigger and better. What's more, open planning is being used to make them appear even larger than they actually are.

Today's Peninsula families are demanding more spacious kitchens. This is true in spite of the fact that modern appliances such as the automatic electric range reduce kitchen drudgery and cut down on kitchen time.

A good example of an attractive kitchen with a feeling of space is found in a house designed by architect Herman H. York for a site at Huntington, N.Y.

Open Plan

In this home, which costs around $25,000, York establishes a continuous sweep from the kitchen, through the dinette and into a Colonial-style family room. This type of open plan is particularly popular with homemakers because it permits them to be part of family activity even while they are busy in the kitchen.

The all - electric kitchen itself is an efficient work center generously supplied with wood cabinets and counter space. It features a built-in electric wall-oven and separate electric surface cooking units.

Many Styles

This type of range fits in well with this particular kitchen, York said, but he added that one of the many other electric range styles might be appropriate in another kitchen. He urges families "not to follow a fad blindly but to choose the range style that is best suited to the individual kitchen."

Other types of electric ranges available include the new high-oven model, the one-piece built-in, and the traditional free-standing unit. All of these feature square corners and a built-in look, and all are available with fully automatic controls.

Other electric appliances in York's family-style kitchen include a large refrigerator-freezer and an automatic dishwasher. A favorite feature is the spacious pantry closet built into a wall just off the kitchen.

Plan Now While Loans Are Easy

Homeowners thinking of financing an improvement to their Peninsula homes should do so now while credit is easy to secure.

If the boom in business starts to get out of control, credit will be more expensive and harder to get.

Loans Easy Now

At present, however, plenty of loan money is available. The best way to put your improvement plans into motion is to start them right now.

First, draw up a list of things you've wanted to do to the house, then get an estimate of cost from a reputable contractor or dealer on each improvement, and finally take these figures to your bank and ask for a loan.

Shaded Areas

For instance, many homeowners yearn for shaded areas outdoors for better summer relaxation. The various possibilities include an awning, roll-up or rigid type, over an open porch or patio; small decorative awnings for outside each window to prevent the formed into a radiant heating panel by hot sunshine; and a carport for homes without garages but with parking space -- this keeps hot sun or rain off the family car.

One improvement which pays off in increased home value as well as in immediate satisfaction is the replacement of an old kitchen or bathroom floor. Resilient tile flooring is the best investment because of its easy care feature and wide selection of colors and styles. It is wise to pick one that doesn't require waxing and is a real worksaver.

Also increasing the worth of a home is the finishing of a basement or playroom. This pays other dividends such as giving the family another place to entertain friends.

New Garden Mood

Other homeowners may be interested in protecting their garden and lawn areas with one of the new fences made in beautiful and durable plastic strips which are easily installed. Fencing has recently been emphasized as a decorative, fashion-styled outdoor material which can be utilized to create a new summertime mood for your garden or patio area.

Whatever improvement you have in mind, it would be wiser to arrange for it now, before financing becomes difficult to obtain because of inflation's threat.

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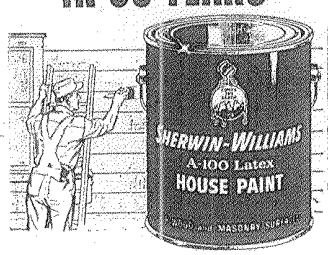

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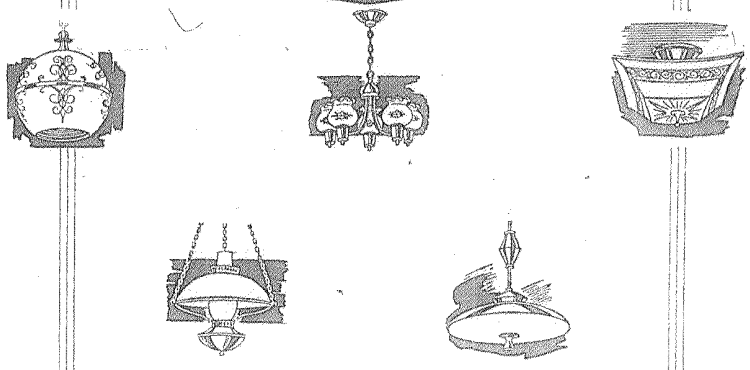

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