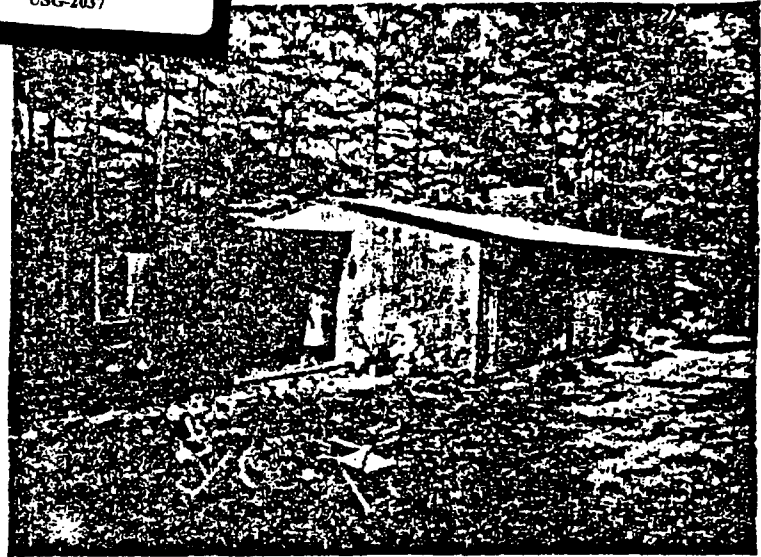
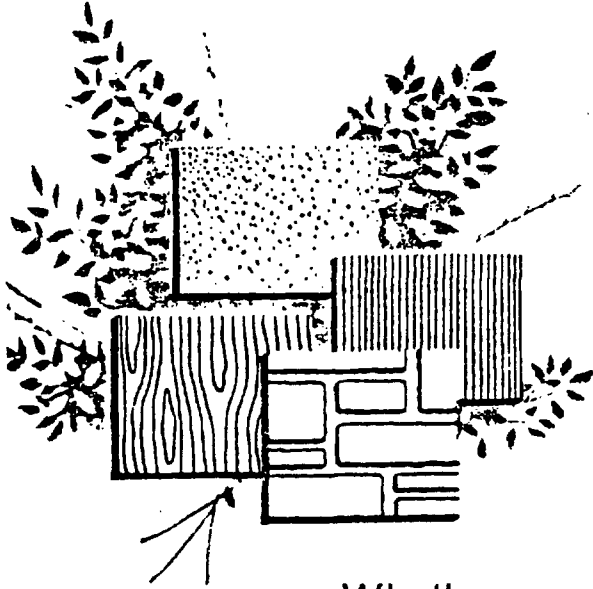


• *Fourth of a series.*

In the next issue: Problem Spots



WOOD SIDING

To blend a house into its setting, use native materials in their natural state. Here Builder Stuart Fonde finished vertical siding in a natural stain that blends with surrounding woods. Terra cotta trim color matches brick, and contrasts only gently with the stain. Home of Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Weeks, Knoxville, Tenn.

Whether you build, add on, or face-lift,
here's what you should know about

EXTERIOR MATERIALS

by MORT REED, JR., Editor

THE MATERIAL that covers the structure of your house serves the same purpose as your clothing, and must meet the same requirements of taste.

It should flatter. A house large and awkward in design can be made inconspicuous with plain materials and dark colors. Low houses need vertical lines for contrast; tall houses need horizontal lines to look their best. Like clothes, exterior materials should conceal flaws, reveal beauty.

It should be appropriate. A Palm Beach suit is as out of place on a cowboy as overalls on a master of ceremonies. Use materials common to and readily available in your area. One material should dominate, with any other used for accent or contrast.

It should be consistent. You wouldn't think of wearing a checked suit with a striped tie and a flowered shirt. Use pattern or texture in contrast with plain surfaces, and bright accent color in contrast with neutral tones. Exterior

materials come from nature, so follow nature's lead in contrast: sunlight and shadow, straight trunks and arching boughs, sharp rock and soft wood, the smoothness of a moleskin and the roughness of an elephant's hide.

It should be economical to maintain. The less time and money you have to spend on exterior maintenance, the more you will enjoy your house.

It should match or blend with other materials. Again follow nature's lead. Sand and rock, grass and leaves, water and sky blend without clashing. So limit the number of exterior materials you use to two which go well together in either texture or color.

And if your house could use a new winter coat, don't discard the thought as impossible or too expensive. You can do wonders with a re-siding job, and perhaps do some of the work yourself.

How? You'll find the answer on page 14.



To guests who drop in, an evening in this basement is a treat to which they look forward. Warm, deep colors dispel the natural coolness of a below-ground room. Wall design was painted with flat enamel, and stars with gilt. Grain effect on panels of gypsum wallboard was obtained with staining varnish and a narrow brush.

Counter and storage wall are focal point of room as seen from the stairs. Sink is used both for photo-developing and refreshments. Cabinets are cypress. Original concrete exterior wall is painted with CEMENTICO masonry paint. This white wall plus blue shutters provide needed contrast with red of vinyl flooring and opposite wall.

