



Here is a ranch style duplex which would look well in the newest Suburban locality. Each unit has two bedrooms and its own independent base-

ment. The only difference is that one unit includes a fireplace in the Living Room. Construction is Brick Veneer. House: 1,701 Sq. Ft.

First Aid For Ailing Houses

By ROGER C. WHITMAN
PEELING CEILING

QUESTION: The heavy rains came before our new roof was completed. The rain came in one room and now the ceiling peels badly. Beside scraping, is there anything else to do before repainting the ceiling?

ANSWER: Very bad luck about the roof, too bad—the builder couldn't have covered the unfinished part with builder's sheet plastic. Would have been easy and an effective water-proofer. Take it very gently and easy with any scraping, really better to wait a couple of months to see if the ceiling plaster will dry out thoroughly and continue adhering to it's lath. The less you disturb it now, the better the chance of not dislodging it.

COBWEBS

QUESTION: Will painting a cobweb section of the basement improve the cobweb situation?

ANSWER: Not the paint per se but, especially if it's a light color, the preliminary cleaning as well as the painting will definitely help. Personally, cobwebs have always appeared less noticeable to me against a light background—(others, I'm sure, take an opposite view).

STICKY CONCRETE

QUESTION: To keep my husband and children from tracking mud into the house, I thought I would make concrete stepping stones from the garage to the back door. I made square forms from wooden boxes but the concrete stuck to the wood. Do you think if I lined the forms with waxed paper this would prevent the concrete sticking? Or what do you recommend?

ANSWER: Come to think of it, ma'am, waxed paper, is a good idea. Foil would work, too. But we males usually solve the problem by coating the inside of the form with old motor oil or grease. Don't claim it's any better than your idea, however!

SHINGLES LOSING GRAVEL

QUESTION: I have noticed that the gravelly surface of the asphalt shingles on my roof is beginning to crumble off. Do you think painting would help preserve them?

ANSWER: An excellent idea. A paint of the vinyl plastic latex type will not only anchor the granules to this shingle, but add a film of protection. The shingles will last longer.

OPERATIC PLUMBING

QUESTION: Every time we turn on a faucet or flush the toilets we get a singing noise in the pipes. A musical novelty, perhaps, but we'd prefer silence. What's the cause and cure?

ANSWER: Most noises of this type are caused by high-velocity water being forced through pipe too small to handle the volume. Putting in a pressure-reducing valve usually takes care of this problem, though sometimes it's necessary to put in a section of larger-diameter pipe. Although the singing sounds throughout the pipes, it originates around tees and bends.

CABINETS COMING LOOSE

QUESTION: We bought an old house a year ago. Before moving in, my husband painted it throughout. Now the kitchen cabinets are pulling away from the walls. Would the kitchen be sinking, or what is causing this?

ANSWER: Instead of speculating, I recommend the promptest possible attention by a competent carpenter, before the apparently too-weak supports give way altogether and the cabinets come crashing down.

ASH INTO WALNUT

QUESTION: Please tell me how I can change ash-colored bedroom furniture to a rich walnut shade.

ANSWER: Remove any finish with paint remover, and follow label directions carefully. Most pursuits would then bleach out any ash stain next. If you wish, go to it personally. I'd skip this step, because walnut is so much darker. If the wood is open-grained, use a wood filler next, followed by a sealing coat of pure, fresh, white shellac. When the shellac dries, put on your finishing coats of varnish.

TILE OVER PAINT

QUESTION: I misplaced an answer you gave several months ago, about tiling a painted

HOW TO OBTAIN DESIGN BOOK

The latest design book entitled "101 Selected Suburban and Country Homes, Designed for Canadians," is now available at the offices of The Guardian and The Evening Patriot for \$1, tax free. This new edition includes color selection, etc., plus over 100 popular new designs to choose from. Also included are full designs in how to order blueprints.

RAISE WATER LEVEL

QUESTION: I'm sure our toilet would work better if there were more water in the tank. And whenever I rinse diapers, I think, "Wouldn't it be nice if the bowl could have more water?" Is this possible.

ANSWER: Raising the level in the tank is a cinch. Simply bend the rod which supports the float so that it will float higher before shutting off the valve controlling the supply. Raising the level in the bowl is a matter of its original design. A plumber might be able to adjust this, but I doubt it.

GUM ON SIDEWALK

QUESTION: Our sidewalk is apparently the most popular place for the neighboring children. Nice for our kids, but how do I remove all the stepped-on bubble gum?

ANSWER: Soften it with carbon 'tel', then pry it up with the corner of a putty knife. Perhaps if you could supervise one of the young gum fanciers in this removal job, the word might get around that you mean business. Who knows? You might find less on the sidewalk.

Kitchen Can Be Modern In Old House

Since the kitchen is the center of activity for the housewife, it's the ideal starting place to give an old house a new look. In actuality the average housewife spends more time in her kitchen

QUESTION: While I was examining my roof (while the TV man was fastening a new antenna to the chimney) I noticed that the metal flashing which lines the valleys between the two gables was rusted through in several places. I'm afraid this might develop into a bad leak, unless I can fix it. Is this a repair I can make myself?

ANSWER: Perfectly possible repair, although I'm not enthusiastic about non-professional prying on roofs. Simply cover the holes generously with asphalt roofing cement. If any seams or joints look questionable, treat them, too.

(Note: All correspondence relating to home maintenance should be addressed to: Roger C. Whitman, c/o Toronto Star Syndicate, 80 King Street W., Toronto 1, Ontario.)

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at her daily tasks than in any other room. Nothing adds to her pleasure as a homemaker than a well arranged, convenient "domestic workshop" which, in reality, her kitchen is.

But for those who are living in older homes, often with poorly planned old fashioned kitchens, it need not be necessary to move to enjoy the benefits of a modern kitchen. The present one can easily be made that way—usually at far less cost than might be imagined. In fact, there's nothing a grand new kitchen has that can't be had in her present one.

The basic floor plan of a modern, convenient kitchen, whether corridor type, L-shape or U-shaped, depends on the arrangement of the three major items in the room—sink, range and refrigerator. If it is practical the sink should be within easy reach of the other two, preferably between them to save steps.

Since most kitchen activity

consideration should be given to selecting the right kind. Size is the primary criterion. Whether you choose a single or double bowl sink, you should be sure you are providing adequate facilities for both meal preparation and clean-up afterward.

Sinks are available in handsome stainless steel and cast iron or steel, with durable enamel fused to the surface.

Accessories, too, have kept pace with kitchen modernization. The single lever faucet, for instance, combines "on-off" and "hot-cold" functions into one simple device. A retractable hose with spray nozzle simplifies the cleaning of waste food from plates and the cleaning of vegetables and an aerator device installed in the faucet eliminates splashing. Modern food waste disposers and automatic "luxuries" are now an indispensable part of today's kitchen.

14 The Guardian, Charlottetown, Sat., Sept. 17, 1966.

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