

House Hunting Is Best In Winter

An unfunny thing happened to a real estate salesman on the way to sell a house.

A young couple backed out because, they said, "one should only buy a house in nice weather." The salesman had everything going for him until that thought crossed the young man's mind.

It is true that houses may look a lot prettier in warm weather, but the soundest evaluation may be made in winter by first-time shoppers when good judgment is not overshadowed by the house trimmings—the colorful bushes and flowers. It is one reason people prefer to sell their houses in warm weather when it can wear the plumage of garden flowers.

When a house is on the market in winter the owner is either desperate or secure enough to know his house is good enough to sell.

Here are some thoughts suggested by the real estate man to encourage a house shopper in winter:

Property Boundary Lines: When trees are bare, one can see how houses relate. If houses are packed on small lots, it may be easy to see where the land begins and ends. The line of demarcation can be observed more easily in winter or fall because a prospective home owner should have no difficulty in

establishing the line for a hedge, wall or whatever. In summer such a move may become a backyard incident as bushes overgrow boundaries.

Long-time owners are likely to take liberty with the land before the community builds up around them. They may build a garage, summer house or barn right on the edge of their property line. The buyer of the adjacent land will be stuck with that situation along with trees, hedges or bushes that have crowded many feet of property. A few feet makes a difference when you look for a place to build a pool, tool house or play house for the children.

Land Irregularities: It is easier to spot "flaws" in the land—big mudholes or steep slopes. If the house is on a hill and all the land slopes away, one may need to spend some money to flatten the area or to build a flat place by terracing with cinder blocks or railroad ties so that one can sit outdoors.

Privacy: In winter when deciduous trees have shed their leaves, it is easier to see exactly how much privacy your house will get most of the year. If there are lots of evergreens strategically placed, you can have privacy all the year round.

In summer, many nuisances are hidden behind spreading boughs, but in

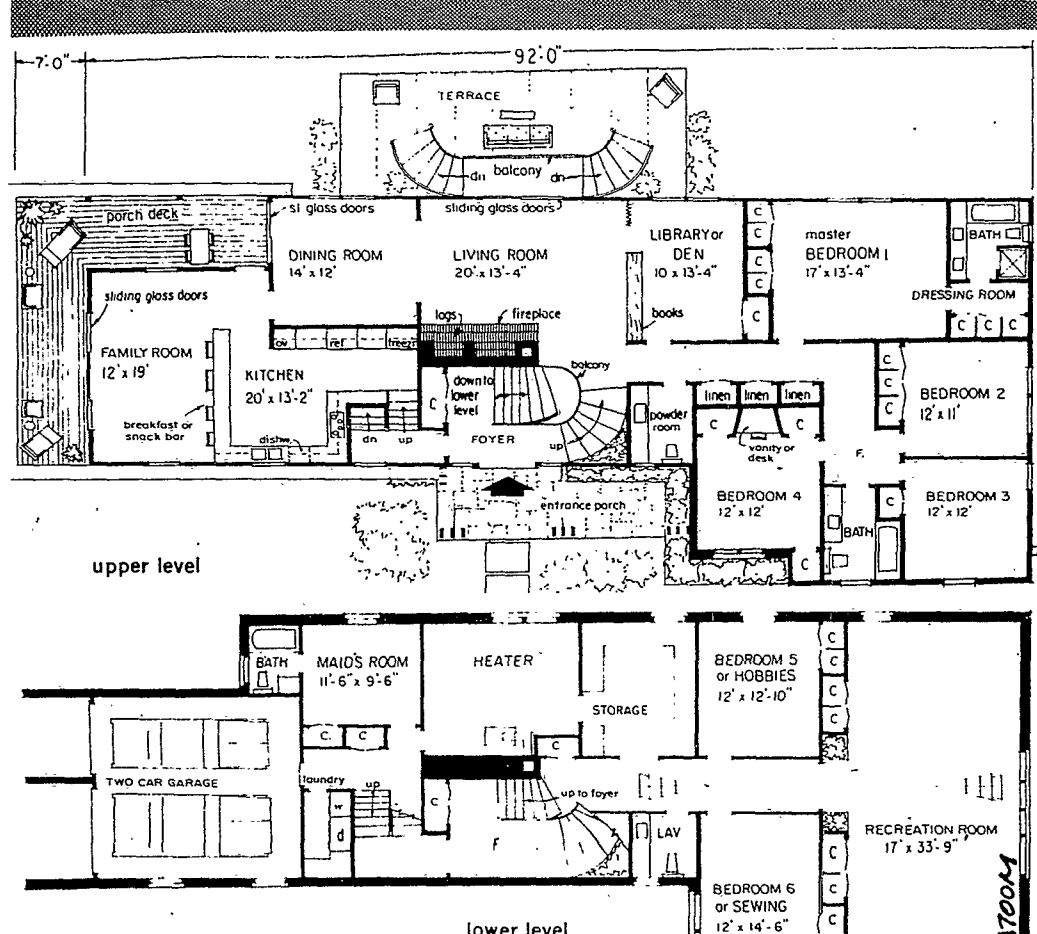
winter you may be able to spot a factory and its soot, truck garages and other polluters or noise makers near the house you are considering. Swamps are potential mosquito breeders.

The view: The trees may be lovely, but they should have been planted to provide protection from winter winds with a windbreak on the north side of the house, and for shade on the south side to make the house cooler in summer.

Sun and Shade: You would no doubt like the warming noon sun in the living room and perhaps the cheering morning sun in the kitchen or breakfast room. One should keep in mind that there is more sun in midsummer when the sun will rise due east and set in the northerly west. In winter the sun is almost entirely south.

Garage: House shoppers often pay little attention to the garage, but winter is an ideal time to see it. The garage can be a major inconvenience. If it was built before the housing boom, it may be too near the road. If the community has built up around it, traffic might prove a great inconvenience in trying to emerge safely from it. In some houses garages may be at the top of a steep slope, another kind of problem in winter, especially in a snow belt.

HOMES FOR AMERICANS



LARGE AND LUXURIOUS: This is a glamour home with 15 rooms. The upper level is 2,636 square feet while the lower level requires 2,299 square feet, excluding the double garage. Exterior features the prom-shaped wrap around deck as a continuous planter. Glass doors to the rear of the living room lead to a balcony and steps to a rear terrace. Four bedrooms plus a den are on the upper level while two bedrooms plus a maid's room are below. There are three full and two one-half baths. Plan HA700M was designed by Rudolph A. Matern, Master Plan Service, 89 East Jericho Tpke., Mineola, N. Y., 11501.

Here's The Answer

A Brush Or Roller On Cedar Shingles?

By ANDY LANG

Q.—We have cedar shingles on our house. I know all about the necessity of preparing the surface before the shingles are painted, but what I don't know is whether it is better to use a brush or a roller. What do you advise?

A.—You can use either, but shingles have a rougher surface than siding. Since a brush is more likely to get down into the low areas of the shingles, many painters prefer to use brushes. If you use a roller, be certain it reaches every inch of the shingles and that it is applied in a fairly heavy coat.

Q.—My wife wants me to set up a concrete base in the yard for a clothes dryer, the kind that the dryer can be removed from when it is not in use. I have a general idea of how to do it, but need a little advice on details. Can you help?

A.—You'll need what is called a "pipe sleeve," which is nothing more than a piece of pipe into which the bottom end of the dryer pole will fit. Dig a hole 8 inches wide at the top and 12 inches wide at the bottom. The depth will depend on how high you want the dryer to be above the ground so that your wife can comfortably hang clothes on it, but it should be at least 2 feet. Place about 6 inches of small stones and pebbles in the hole. Set the pipe into the ground so that it sits into the stones. Use a concrete mix to fill up the hole, being certain that it is compacted firmly around the pipe and that the pipe is straight up and down. After 24 hours, pour some water on the concrete. Do the same after a second 24-hour period. The setup should be ready for use on the third day.

Q.—I have some ceramic wall tile to install in our bathroom. I was told to use a portland cement mortar, but when I went to purchase it, the man in the store advised me to use what he called a dry-set mortar, which he said was better. When I asked him why it was better, he didn't seem to know, but he said "everybody's using it now." Before I start the work, I'd like your opinion.

A.—Dry-set mortar actually is made of portland cement. It is treated so that it retains moisture long enough to harden gradually and properly even though in contact with the dry backing of tiles. Conventional portland cement mortar tends to lose its moisture content faster, which is why, during its use, the tiles are first soaked in water for some time. However, many professional installers prefer the conventional cement.

Stamps In The News

Stamp collectors use magnifying glasses to get a closer look at stamps, but they will need a giant one if they are to read all the things appearing on the latest stamp from Surinam.

The new stamp features a 17th century map to commemorate the 300th anniversary of that little country's first map. And here's what appears on the regular size stamp: In the upper left corner of the map is its title, which reads in translation "Map or picture of the rivers Surinam and Commewijne and several creeks and tributary streams such as the Para Surinoo and Cotteca and others, the banks of which are now in the year 1671, uninhabited," the name of the country, denomination, plus the

name of the map maker Kaart Van W. Mogge. In addition, as if the reading isn't difficult enough, the names of towns and other landmarks are noted.

When Postmaster General Winton M. Blount spoke in Dallas at the special ceremonies dedicating the new U.S. stamp designed to draw attention to the drug problem, he not only warned of the American people to boycott all French goods in an effort to force French authorities to take more effective action against the flow of heroin from that country into the U.S.

The vertical 8-cent stamp carries the message "Prevent Drug Abuse"

CAMERA Angles

Photography Can Be Educational

By IRVING DESFOR

Ben Fernandez makes it clear that he owes a debt of gratitude to photography. He is a Puerto Rican who was raised in a Manhattan ghetto.

"I was floundering around with a bad case of mental poverty and little hope for the future," he recalls, "until I found photography. In time, I discovered not only did it give me enjoyment but it was something at which I could make a decent living and raise a family.

"And something else ... It educated me. Exposures involved numerals and processing made me work with chemicals so I learned something about math and science. Taking pictures also involved people, environments and activities and that gave me an invaluable visual literacy which helped me to cope with today's world."

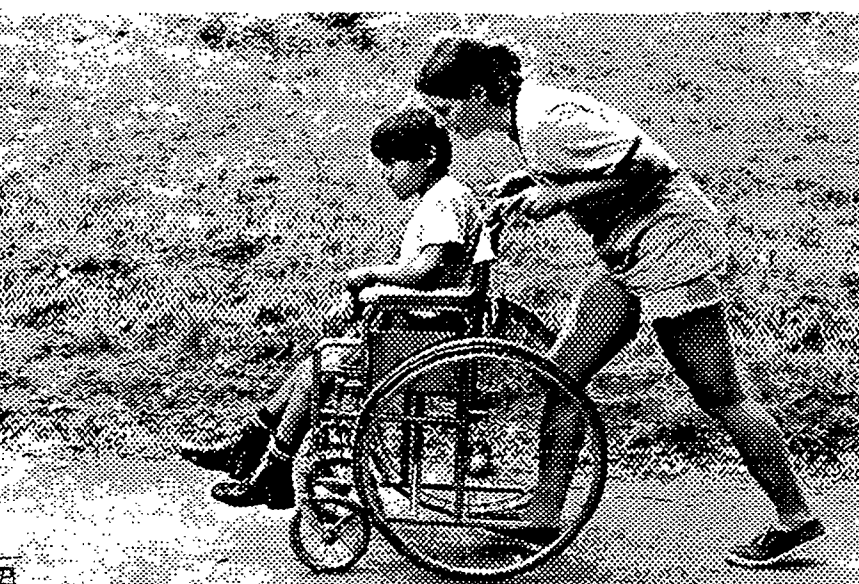
But what makes Fernandez different from most professional photographers is the way he shows his gratitude to photography. He uses all his spare time, and a good part of his working time, to teach photography to under-privileged youngsters in ghetto areas.

"And I insist that my good students, as soon as they are capable, must go out and teach others," Fernandez stresses. "That's re-investing the dividends, on the chain-letter principle, in a good thing—photography."

To teach photography properly, Fernandez must have cameras, film, darkroom equipment, chemicals and paper for his inner-city students. In other cities there are other dedicated individuals who see the value of helping the disadvantaged youth and who have initiated programs in their communities. They also need photo equipment and materials.

Where can they turn to for help? There have been some federal and local sponsored photo program agencies but some were only seasonal and the need was far greater than what was available.

About two years ago, a group of concerned members of the photographic industry formed a voluntary association to provide needed materials and assist



HANDICAPPED CHILDREN in a summer camp was a project undertaken by Fung Lam, 16, who was born in Hong Kong and grew up on New York's lower East Side. He is one of the students of Ben Fernandez assisted by the Photography for Youth Foundation.

worthy projects in photo activities. It's the "Photography for Youth Foundation," headed by Sidney Holtz, publisher of Popular Photography with office (donated) at 1 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016.

Currently the group is involved with and assisting more than 40 programs in cities around the country. All programs are screened and assessed. The foundation receives donations of equipment and supplies from photographic firms and individuals and these are allocated to those projects where they can be utilized best. Industry support is constantly sought and needed to replenish the material sent out.

Besides equipment, the foundation supplies local programs with educational material and photo magazines. It arranges for guest speakers to provide motivation and experts to demonstrate handling of

special printing and darkroom problems. It helps arrange exhibits and events in which youngsters' work can be displayed and recognition achieved and it provides three scholarships for deserving youngsters.

The foundation's role has become a vital one in the workshop training programs for the nation's disadvantaged. It's an area which proves that photography is more than a camera clicking off an image. The foundation is a catalyst which produces dedicated teachers who can guide youngsters in an area of observation, communication and creativity. Photography can lead the deprived—like Ben Fernandez—into a useful, productive and enjoyable way of life.

"That's the inner-city picture we're trying to change," Sidney Holtz summed up, "from mental poverty to visual literacy ... through photography!"

Records

Freda Payne Goes Commercial

By MARY CAMPBELL

Freda Payne decided to go commercial and the attempt was successful. Since signing with Invictus Records, she has had two million-selling singles, "Band of Gold" and "Bring the Boys Home," plus a new single, "You Brought the Joy," which went from 54 to 45 on the bestselling chart on Oct. 30.

"Bring the Boys Home" was banned by the U.S. Command from the American Forces Vietnam Network. Miss Payne says, "I like songs that have more to say than just something on the surface. The people I work with would not want me to record anything outstandingly controversial. 'Bring the Boys Home' is expressing the sentiments of most of the public."

Miss Payne used to be a jazz singer. But, she says, "I started becoming very depressed and more or less beaten by the fact my career wasn't going anywhere. The end of 1965 to 1967 was like a downer. I almost left the business and got married. But I was saved.

"I went back into the full swing of things in 1967. A friend talked me into auditioning to be Leslie Uggams' understudy in 'Hallelujah Baby.' This to me was a far-fetched idea. I'd never explored the idea of Broadway. But I auditioned and surprisingly to me I got the job. I went on five times.

"After that was when I really became involved with Holland-Dozier-Holland. I

knew them from high school in Detroit. They were young ghetto guys. I knew Brian Holland, and Lamont Dozier. I went to junior high school with Eddie Holland. I didn't know that well, but everybody sort of knew everybody. That was when Barry Gordy was a poor man and nobody knew he was going to be what he became.

"The three of them were investigating their plans. They wanted to work with me and they told me just not to sign with anybody else until they were ready to go. I said yes. I decided I was going to go commercial. What better choice would I make than people I knew from my own home town? I'd come to believe they were the best in their category in the business."

On The House

Tips From Andy Lang

By ANDY LANG

Quite often, when you are reading instructions about various types of do-it-yourself installations, you bump head-on into the direction, "snap a chalk line."

Judging by the mail and personal conversations, I can safely assume that many persons have only a vague idea of how this is done. Since it is most often used in the installation of resilient floor tiles, let's look at it from that standpoint, remembering that the same or a similar procedure can be used for putting up ceiling tiles and for various other projects.

In installing floor tiles, one of the objectives is to insure equal borders at opposite walls. If you began laying the tiles at one wall and continuing across the floor, you would wind up at the opposite wall with a border equal to a partial tile; perhaps 1 inch, perhaps 8 inches, more likely somewhere in between.

This might be acceptable to some persons. It might even be preferable, for instance, if the wall with a row of partial tiles were to have furniture along its entire length and thus would be hidden from view. But in a neat, professional job, the borders at opposite walls would be equal.

To achieve this equality, a chalk line is snapped or, more accurately, two chalk lines are snapped. This is accomplished by taking a long string and coating it heavily with ordinary chalk. Some stores carry strings already well-chalked. Next, mark the center of the two end walls of the room, using only the main dimensions and ignoring any irregularities. Using tiny nails, connect these two centers with the string, making the latter taut and as close to the floor as you can get it.

By pulling upwards on the string and then letting it go, a chalk line will be left along the floor, figuratively cutting the room in half. Now do the same thing with the two other opposite walls. When you snap the second string, the point at which the two chalk lines cross will be the starting point for the installation of the tiles.

Now put down uncemented tiles in two rows, starting at the meeting point of the chalk lines and extending one row to an end wall and one row to a side wall. When you have done this, the two rows of tiles will form a right angle and there will be equal borders at opposite walls. If these borders are too small or unsatisfactory for any other reason, make an adjustment by snapping new chalk lines.

When you have satisfied yourself that everything is in order, you can go ahead with the installation of the tiles. Besides knowing that the borders will be equal, you will know that the tiles are being laid in a straight line.

(Floor tile adhesives, crawl space moisture and sweating windows and walls are among the 35 subjects discussed in Andy Lang's handbook, "Practical Home Repairs," available by sending \$1 to this newspaper in care of Box 5, Teaneck, N.J. 07666.)

NO BAD APPLES

ITHACA, N. Y. (AP) — Agricultural engineers at Cornell University report they have developed a new type of apple harvester that uses air-filled bags to catch apples as they drop through a tree.

The new harvesting method may be applied to other fresh fruit where bruising is a problem with current picking methods. The system utilizes a three-frame system including a rubber pad at the bottom of the tree.

Artists

ALBANY, N. Y. (AP) — An exhibition by artists who live in the Mohawk-Hudson region begins Nov. 9 in the Art Gallery at State University at Albany. The exhibition was selected by gallery director Donald Mochon from exhibitors at the recent Mohawk-Regional Show held at the Schenectady Museum.



FREDA PAYNE