

Home/Garden

The dream house persists — small towns are gaining popularity as good places to live.

BARBARA MAYER
Associated Press

can take Americans out of the suburbs, but you can't take the suburbs out of Americans, a survey has shown. The perfect home to a majority of college graduates interviewed in the 1960s: a detached suburban three-bedroom on its own lot in a quiet community with good schools and recreation opportunities. The study conducted by Harris Associates for Pier 1 Imports said they would prefer to live in a house rather than an apartment or townhouse unit or a rental property of any kind. A lightly new wrinkle is a preference for as much property as possible for a beautiful country-like setting, according to Erich Kramer of the firm. The results corroborate recent commentary that small towns are gaining popularity as good places to live. They confirm that most Americans would not choose an urban envi-

ronment if given a choice. Only 8 percent selected a city, town or row house and only 4 percent chose an apartment in the city as an ideal place to live, while 49 percent preferred a small town and 31 percent considered a farmhouse their ideal, said the executive.

Other findings showed Americans like to live casually and to furnish without the help of a professional decorator.

More than eight of 10 (cutting across sex, age and income levels) prefer early American furniture or other casual pieces, sometimes mixed with antiques. Modern, classic European and exotic designs are the choice of only a small number.

Furthermore, 86 percent said they were satisfied with their furnishings and decor. Most respondents say they do most of their furniture shopping in furniture and specialty stores rather than department stores.

One surprise was that non-material — even spiritual — aspirations seemingly were more important than material possessions. "Having good friends came out way above be-



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ing able to travel for pleasure or having a second home," said Kramer. Furthermore, more than 93 per-

cent said the most important role of a home was as a sanctuary. Fewer than half the respondents in the survey see their home as a status sym-

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The House

NDY LANG
Associated Press

ny persons who are fairly adept at-it-yourself projects are inclined to replace a window pane. Cutting the glass to size is to be a chore they think they can handle.

ually, a little practice will enable almost anyone to acquire the art of cutting glass accurately. If you decide cutting is not for you, there is no reason not to replace a pane yourself. You need a precise measurement to use a piece of glass that will fit in the window opening. Most hardware stores and home centers have someone on hand who will cut the glass for you.

ring determined the dimensions of the window opening, subtract one-eighth of an inch from the height and width figures. This allows for contraction and expansion.

the old glass is broken, wear safety glasses to remove the remaining glass. Even with the gloves, you must be extra careful to avoid being cut. Taking out the glass, remember to usually hold in place with a pair of pliers. There are several different types, but all are basically the same. They must be pushed into the wood with a screwdriver blade or a pry bar. Leave some of the point of the glass in the wood, since that is the part that holds the glass in place. Use one of the 5 or 6 inches. Knowing these dimensions is important when you cut the broken glass will ease the task. Should the pane be broken rather than broken into pieces, you can get it out intact by using the old putty, either by pulling it out or softening it first.

ply a thin bead of putty or glazing compound to the rabbeted channels into which the glass will fit. Glaziers do it by first rolling the putty in their hands until it takes a long pencil and then lay it in the channels. The important thing is that the glass should be firmly in the putty, after which the joints are imbedded in the wood. An additional putty where needed.

get a smooth edge along the edge of the glass, holding it at an angle to get a kind of triangular edge. If the edging doesn't come out the first time, remove a little of the putty, add some fresh and go it again. Don't be afraid of doing several times to get the hang of it. Once you have learned the technique, you will never again have to do it. If necessary, scrape any excess putty.

Paint or any other covering on the putty about a week or two after it sets. Paint that gets on the glass can be scraped off later with a razor blade; after it has hardened, but the age can be minimized by wiping up any visible splatters at once.

ould you like to try your hand at cutting the glass, get some scraps to practice on. You will need a hand saw and a glass cutter. Hold the cutter along the straight edge of the glass. You have put a little oil on the wheel. There should be a little pressure for you to hear the cutter do its work.

o-it-yourselfers will find much useful information on various subjects in Andy Lang's handbook, *Actual Home Repairs*, which can be obtained by sending \$2 to Box 1000, NJ 07066.

Keeping a garden journal

January is named after the Roman god, Janus, patron of doorways and the beginning of all undertakings. He gave man knowledge of agriculture and is usually depicted with two faces, one looking behind and one looking ahead. Janus is the perfect model for gardeners at the turning of the year. We look back to review our failures and successes, the things we have learned — or relearned, and then look ahead to the beginning of new gardening enterprises. This is the time I look back through my garden journal and examine the records I have kept before turning to the catalogs that are already piling up.

To say that I have a garden journal might imply that I have a grand volume full of organized and meticulous records of weather, seeds and designs. Unfortunately this is not true although my garden would probably be more successful if I did. My garden journal is actually an old, now slightly muddled three-ring binder.

Into this binder I put photocopies of my seed and plant orders every year. These copies serve as the handwritten lists that I know I'll never update with notes about the performance of each variety. Then I draw maps of the vegetable garden. The maps are inevitably muddy and wrinkled because if I write them before planting, I need them to guide me while I work. Or if I draw them as I put the seeds in the ground, my hands quickly get dirty and so does the map.

These maps are important because crop rotation is one of the simplest and most basic techniques gardeners can use to outwit pest and disease without using foul poisons. I always rotate my crops and depend on these maps. Plants, or types of plants, are never put in the same location two years in a row. Root crops follow leafy crops. Crops needing nitrogen like lettuce and spinach will follow peas and beans that fix nitrogen in the soil.

I also make maps for the flower garden, usually after the fact. Ideally a garden should be designed on paper first, carefully choosing flowers to bloom consecutively in beautiful harmony — and sometimes I do that. Lots of other times I buy a plant because I must have it, or I'm unexpectedly given a wonderful plant. These plants get stuck in where there's room, always with a resolve to really think about an aesthetically good spot later. However the plants get into the garden, I need the map to remember what they are, especially if I planted several at once, or to be sure that I don't mistake them for weeds and pull them out when I work in the garden in early spring.

The rose walk and the dwarf fruit tree orchard are also mapped. It's too embarrassing not to know their names, especially since some of them were chosen specifically because of their names. Rose of Persia or Wealthy, not really because of their notable attributes.

Not only are my records haphazard, they're not all in the same place. Next to the telephone is a



Pat Leuchtman
Between The Rows

small daily diary where I keep regular records of the weather, planting, harvesting and food processing. This is a wonderful book for browsing, because I have never been able to remember when the great storm of — was, or the great flood or the great drought. These jottings are a good reminder and bring back some of the more colorful or noteworthy details. A friend once gave me a beautiful and official garden diary published by the American Horticultural Society that was to be used over three years, giving me a

broader perspective of the weather and the behavior of my garden. I did use it consistently the first year, less so the second year, and now I rationalize that whenever I enter a dated note, I am still using it and will appreciate the information in the future.

In fact, it is true, no matter how irregular or haphazard, no matter how fancy or how plain, a record of the activity in your garden will make you a better gardener. The act of writing it down will make you give your attention to the beautiful phenomena or the problem, its causes and its resolution. The act of reading it will move you to deliberate action.

With a nod to Janus, standing in the doorway of the new year, I wish you success. There is a Chinese proverb that says, "He who plants a garden, plants happiness," and that I know you will have.

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