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EC62-1167 Inviting Entryways

Jerre Withrow

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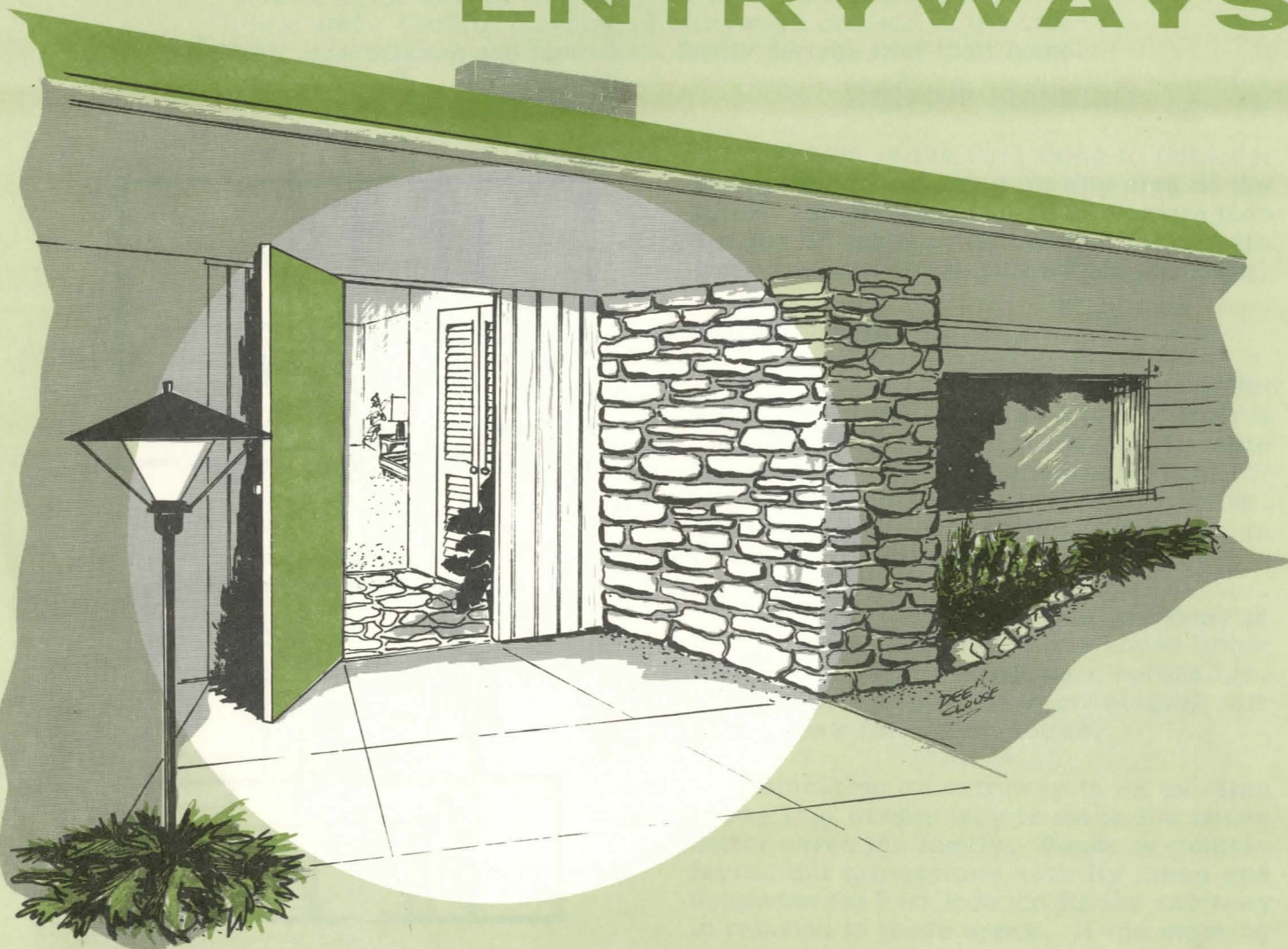
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Inviting ENTRYWAYS



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Inviting Entryways

By Jerre L. Withrow Asst. Prof. of Home Economics, Housing (Agricultural Extension)

An entryway creates the first impression of your home. It may be inviting or it may suggest confusion or monotony. Most houses have two main entryways. The terms front and back door denote relationship to the street or road. This is not necessarily important. How the entryway is used is more vital. Social and service more closely describes these two main entryways.

An entryway includes more than the door itself. The approach to the house, and the area just inside comprise a complete unit. Careful planning of entryways can add to the comfort, convenience and pleasure a family derives from their home.

INTERIOR PLANNING

Function is the first thing to consider in successful planning for any area of the house. An entryway can serve as more than a point of coming and going. Listing its purposes will yield a basis for planning.

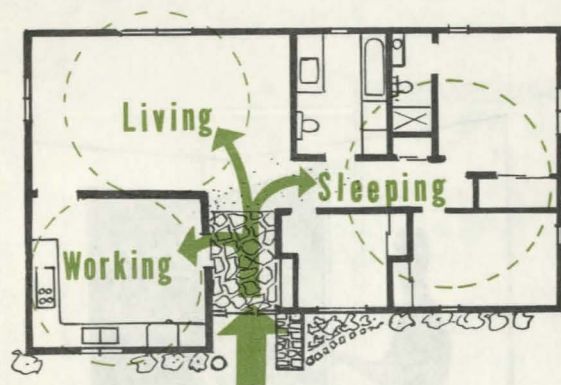
Control Center

The entryway is the control center for circulation throughout the house. From it family members or guests should be able to reach all areas of the house without interfering with activities in any room. Location is the most important factor in channeling this flow.

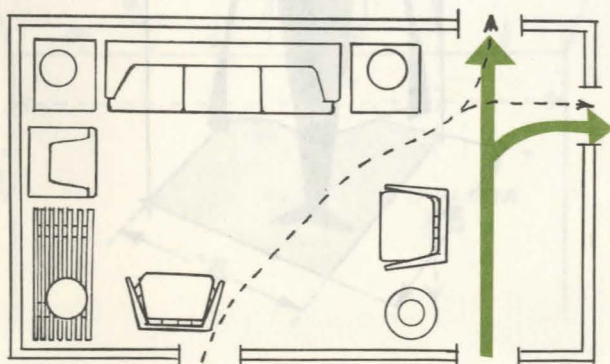
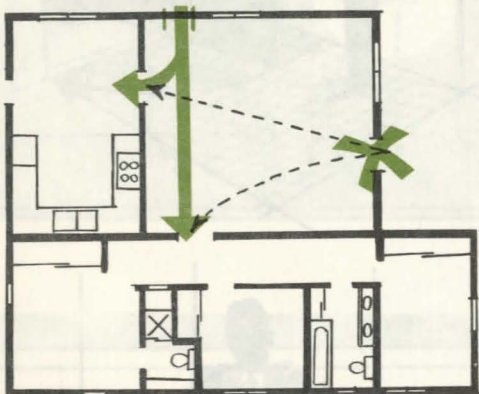
Social Entryway - If this entryway is located near the center of the house rather than at one end more areas are accessible. This location should be an integral part of the plan for a new house.

Relocating an entryway in an existing house is a simple way to make the house better serve the family. Begin by roughly laying out the various activity areas and determine the best location for the entryway in relation to these areas. If the existing arrangement makes compromise necessary, place the entryway where there is the most traffic. It probably is more important that it be accessible to the living and working areas than to the sleeping area.

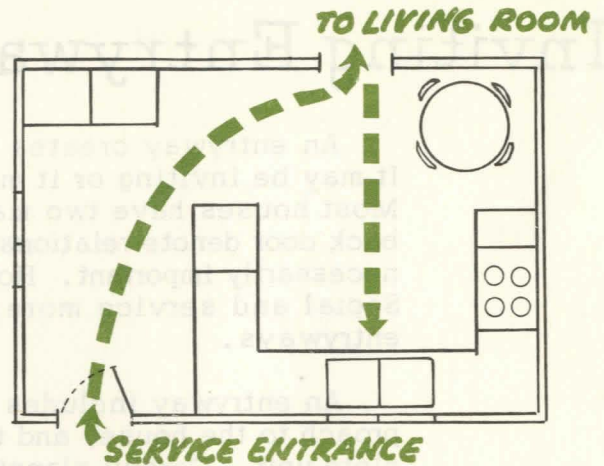
Once this general location is established, consider the room into which it opens. Furniture arrangement will be more flexible if the entryway is located at the end of a room rather than at the center.



NEW ENTRANCE



Service Entryway - The same considerations are important in planning this entryway. Supplies coming in generally will be used in the food preparation area. Family members entering may wish to clean up before going on to the table for a meal. Laundry will be taken in and out of this service entryway. Accessibility to the working area is of prime importance. Family and guests, however, should be able to go on to living or sleeping areas without interfering with any activities here.



Receiving Center

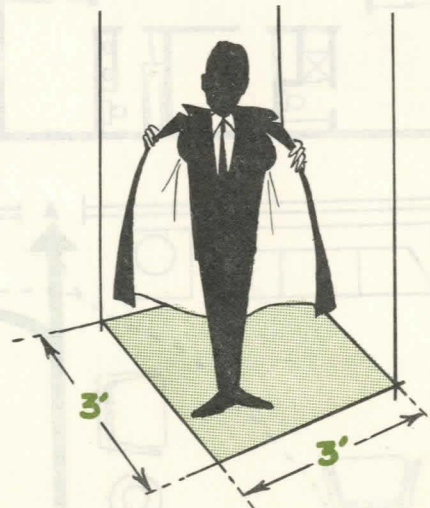
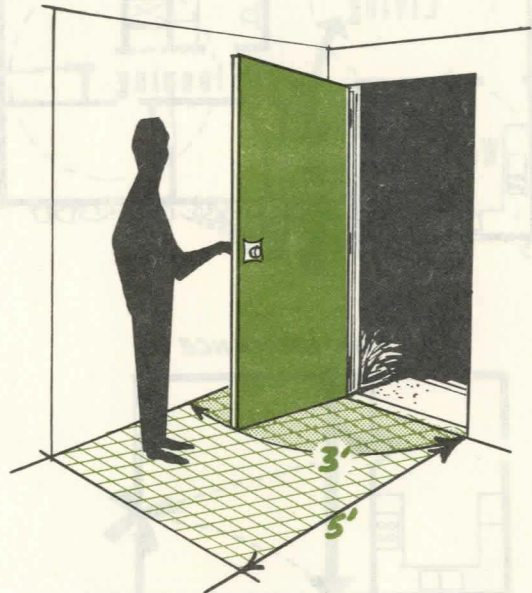
The entryway is the receiving center for guests and family. Space in the entryway may vary according to the size of the house, the activities provided for, and the number of people likely to be using the area.

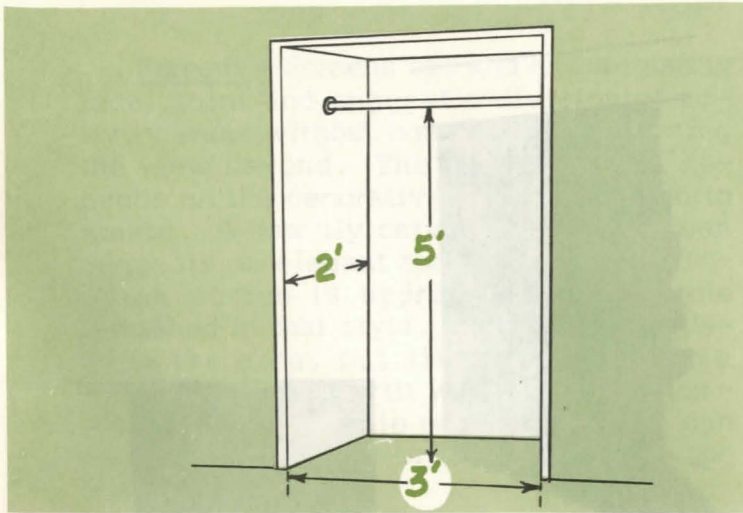
A minimum space would allow for the door to swing, plus one person to stand. One or two entering could pass in the width necessary for the door opening. A minimum space then would be 5' ; 3' for the door plus 2' deep and 3' wide.

The door should be hinged to swing out of the way of traffic. Those entering should not have to walk around the door to go into the adjacent area.

This minimum space is not adequate for more than one person to put on or take off wraps.

3' by 3' per person is required for this. This is minimum space. Wherever possible more area should be allotted to the entryway for increased comfort and convenience.





Entryway Storage

Space must be included for storage. There should be a closet for guests' coats and for family members' outdoor clothing. Closets are essential at both the social and service entryways. Different types of clothing and equipment may be kept in them, but the principles of planning an efficient and convenient closet remain the same.

Size - Federal Housing Authority requires a minimum closet accessible to the living area that is 2' deep, 3' wide and has a hanging rod clearance of 5'.

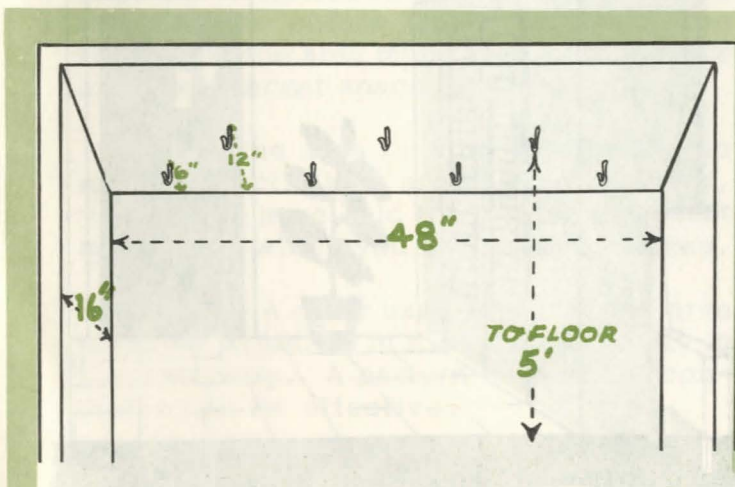
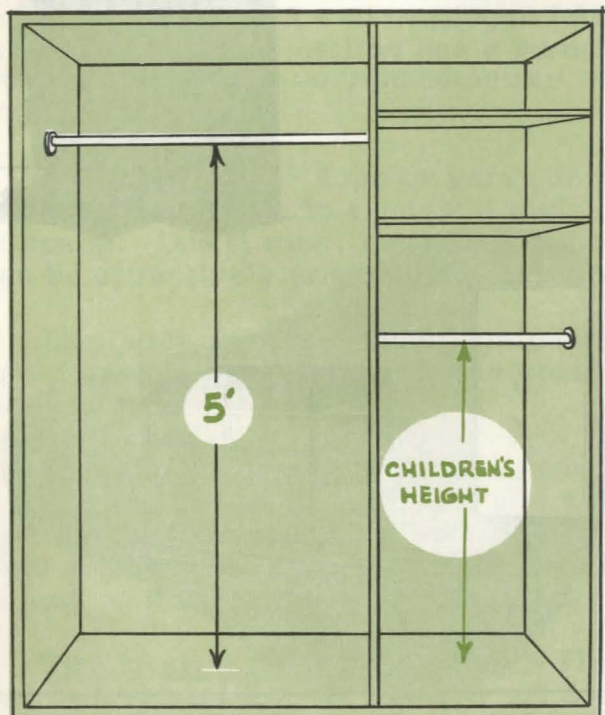
One way to determine the size of an adequate closet is to list the number of coats normally stored there plus the number of guests' coats you might expect to hang. Coats and jackets require an average of 4" of linear rod space. If you have ten articles of outdoor clothing, multiply the number of articles by four to get the width necessary in the closet. Twelve coats or jackets require a 48" or 4' space.

Rod Height - A 60" clearance between rod and floor is ample for adult garments. If there are children in the family, rod space at a convenient height for them should be provided.

Hooks - Wet chore and play clothing dry best on a hanger, but because of limited space you may want to use hooks at the service entryway. The minimum size for this type of closet is 2' deep by 3' wide with hooks 60" from the floor.

Hooks should begin 6" from the corner and be placed 12" apart. List the number of articles to be stored to help determine the width necessary for this closet. You can increase closet capacity by placing a second row of hooks midway between first row hooks and out from the back of the closet 12". 48" would hold four hooks at the back and three additional ones in the other row. A closet 16" deep will accommodate two rows of hooks staggered in this manner.

Shelves - Shelf space for hats, sweaters and mittens should be included. If a lower rod is included for children's wraps, the space above it can be used for shelves.



Accessories - Some accessory items may be useful. An ordinary shoe bag, for instance, makes handy pocket storage for children's mittens and caps. A removable slatted shelf two inches above the floor is convenient for boots.

Special Features - Additional closets or floor-to-ceiling cabinets at the service entryway may be necessary. Cream cans, food preservation equipment, produce, or gardening tools require space especially designed for the size, shape and number of items to be stored.

Doors - Doors that fold back will open the entire closet to easy view and reach. Different styles and materials are available to blend into any decor.

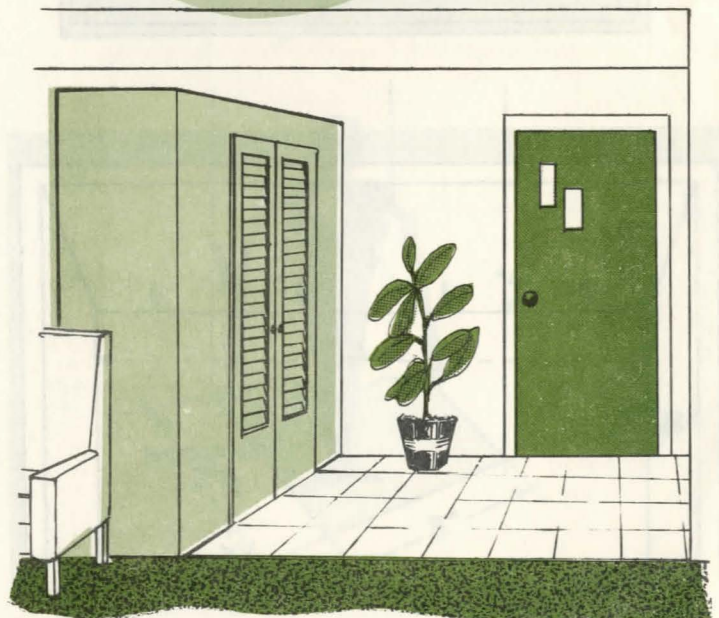
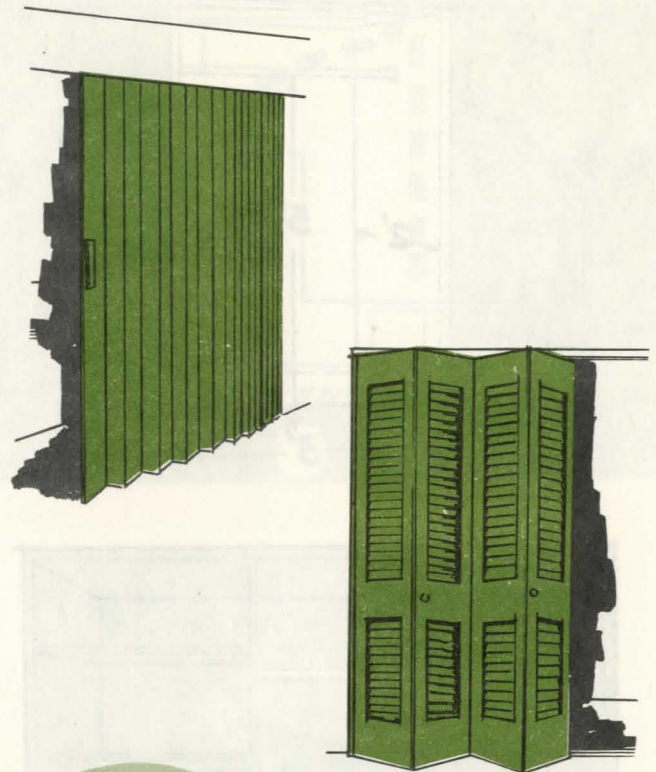
Additional Facilities

A mirror for last minute checking on appearance, a chest, table or shelf for mail or decorative arrangements, storage for keys, cards, or makeup may be desirable. A bench or chair on which to sit may be handy when putting on or removing boots. (Space for these must be planned for if they are going to be a part of the entryway.)

Appearance should establish the atmosphere of the house by setting the stage for what is to follow in other areas. The entryway can reflect your own creativity and is an ideal place in which to indulge your imagination.

An entryway may be an actual room or an area of a larger room. It may be set apart by a partial partition, or simply defined decoratively. A spacious feeling can be achieved by visually including the space beyond.

Closet - The closet may serve as the partial partition. Placing a closet unit at right angles to the door itself divides the area from the rest of the room.



Screens - Screens can add an interesting focal point and suggest a division of activity areas without completely obstructing the view beyond. The type of screen depends on the decorative effect you wish to create. A heavily carved Chinese screen suggests an elegant room. An ornate Victorian screen is appropriate for a home furnished in that style. A Shoji screen defines the area, but allows light to come through. This will fit well into a contemporary home. Simple paneled screens can be covered in paper or fabric to create the desired effect.

Panels - Panels of open metal or wood grill are handsome. A wall hanging or fabric suspended from the ceiling has a screen-effect and can be very imaginative and interesting.

Rope and Yarn - Rope or yarn can be strung into a design to suggest a division of space. Dowel rods, bamboo or lumber can be attractively arranged.

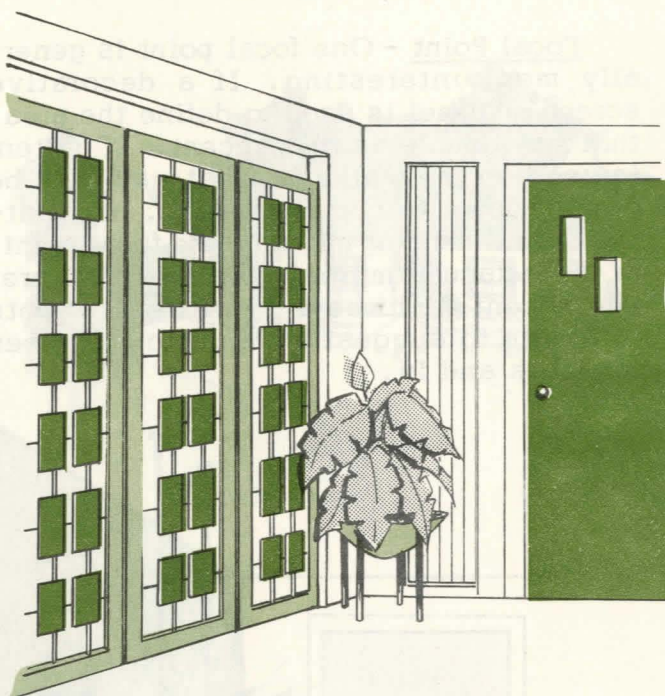
Luminous Panels - Luminous panels serve as general lighting for the area as well as a division.

Furniture Arrangement - Furniture can be arranged to define an entryway if a more open feeling is desired. A sofa placed at right angles to the door might be backed by a long narrow table or a storage unit.

Treatment of Floor and Ceiling - Floor and ceiling treatment can visually set apart the entryway. The ceiling over this area might be dropped to create a soffit, or it might be a luminous panel. Contrasting materials or colors might be used. The flooring in the area might be a hard surface and the adjacent space carpeted.

Since the area is seen briefly and no extended activities are carried on there, you may be more bold than in the treatment of areas in which you live, work or sleep.

Color - A color used in the living area might be picked up in a brighter intensity in the entryway. A pattern with sharp contrasts can be effective.



Focal Point - One focal point is generally most interesting. If a decorative screen or panel is used to define the area, that may double as this accent. If pattern is used on the wall, the rest may best be played down to complement it. A painting or wall hanging might be the focal point, or a spectacular mirror or piece of furniture. The accent might be a dwarf tree, or pots of plants to suggest a transition between outdoors and in.



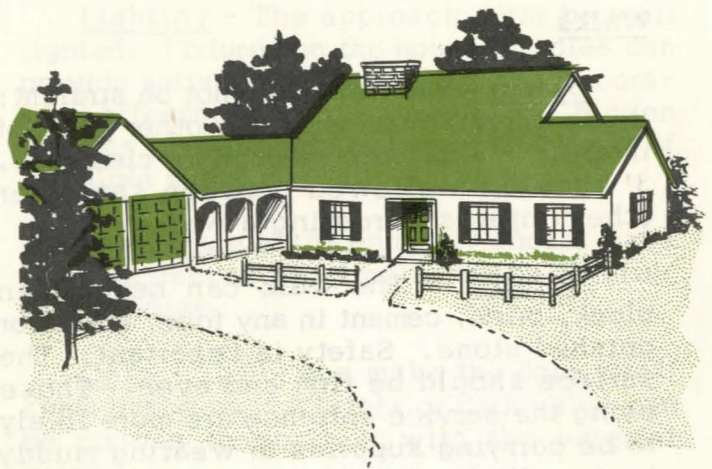
Materials - Materials, colors, and textures used in the service entryway should harmonize with those used in the working area rather than the living area of the house. Ease of maintenance is an important factor here. It is not necessary for the service entryway to be drab to be practical. The principles and ideas employed in planning a social entryway would be equally applicable to planning the service one.

APPROACH PLANNING

Once the interior entryways are decided upon, you must consider their exterior counterparts. No interior design will be efficient or effective if it is not used and enjoyed by family members and guests. The approach is an integral part of a successful entryway and deserves careful planning.

Function is again the first consideration. The exterior of a successful entryway directs those approaching conveniently and comfortably to the interior.

Locate the area itself according to the interior plan. Location of driveways, parking areas and walkways are the prime factors.



Driveways

Location - The driveway provides access to both social and the service entryways. Re-locating the driveway may be a simple way to increase the serviceability of the entryways and the house.

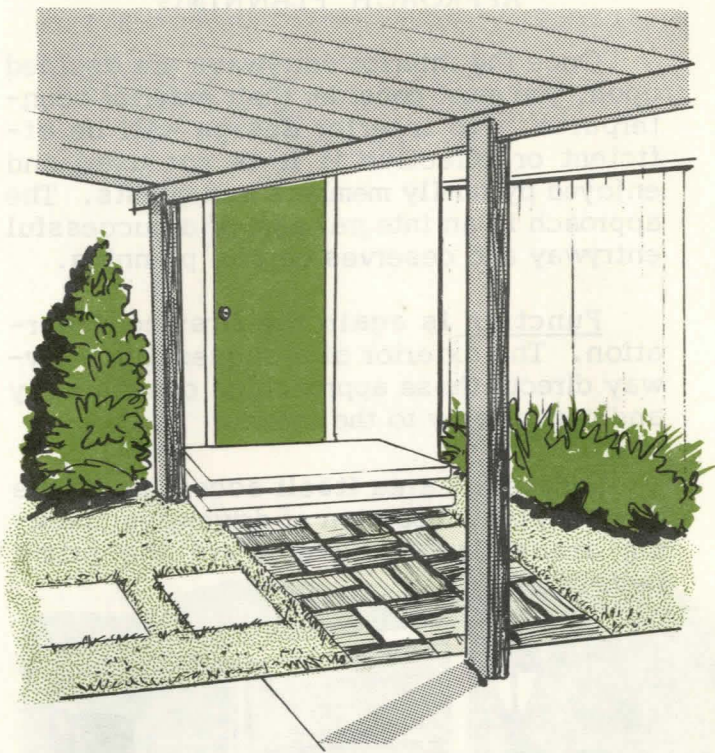
Design - The design of the driveway also affects its usefulness. Perhaps a "Y", a semi-circle or a curve might be more appropriate than the conventional straight driveway perpendicular to the road or street.

Space for Parking - Space for parking, convenient to both entryways, is important. A part of the entryway should be visible from the parking area. If the area is not directly adjacent, walks can add visual interest as well as convenience. The walks joining the two areas should be clearly defined with no obstacles impeding progress from one to the other. If the yard is fenced the gate should be obvious and close to the parking area.

Walks

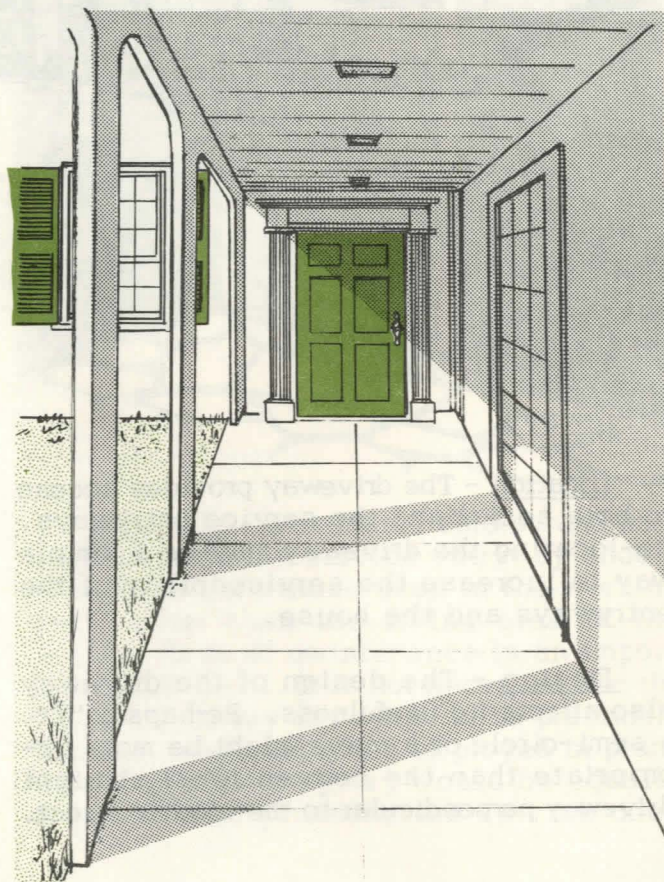
Design - The walk need not be straight; it can curve around a tree or other point of interest. Allow space enough for clearance. 3' should be allowed between shrubs or other objects bordering a walk.

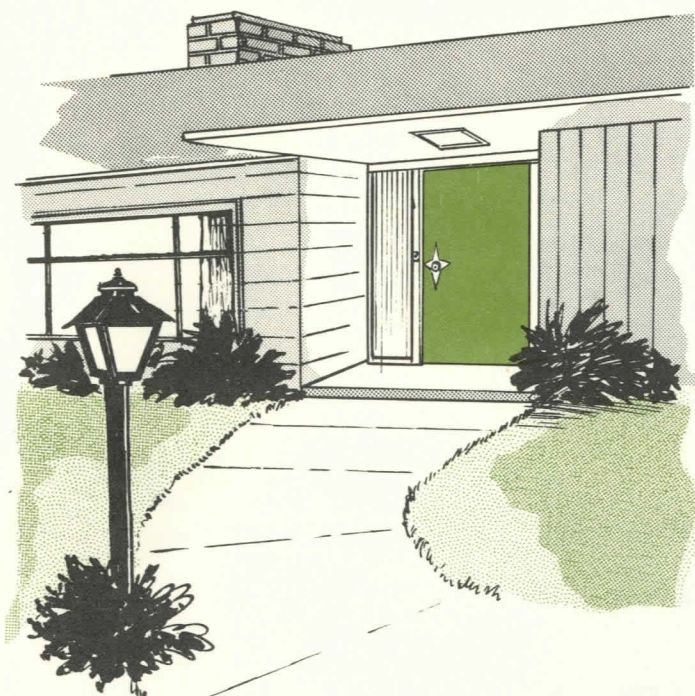
Material - The walk can be wooden block, brick, cement in any form, gravel or crushed stone. Safety is important. The surface should be firm and even. Those using the service entrance are more likely to be carrying supplies or wearing muddy boots. Walks here must be non-slippery and free of irregularities.



Protection - The approach will be more inviting if it is protected from severe wind by a wall, planting, or a decorative screen.

At least partial cover should be provided to protect family and guests from rain and snow. The size of the covered area depends on the number of people expected to be protected at one time and on the design of the house. Room must be provided for the storm or screen door to swing out plus a space 3' by 3' for each guest. The free space will be most convenient if located on the side opposite the door hinge, so no one will have to walk around the door to enter the house.





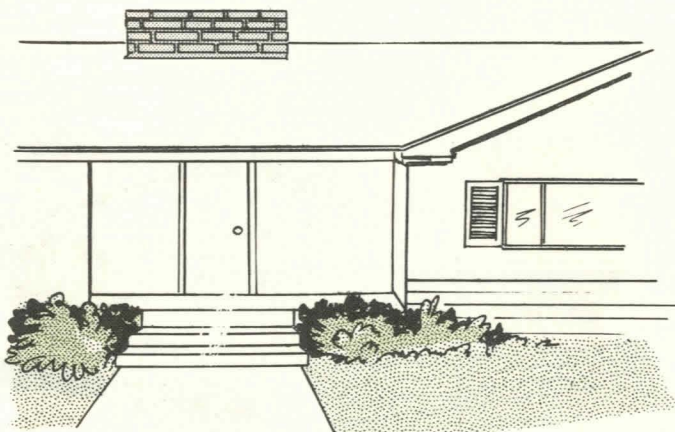
Lighting - The approach must be well lighted. Fixtures on the house or poles can provide satisfactory general light. Decorative effects can be achieved by hidden sources in shrubbery or by spots. Rows of low light might mark the walkway.

Appearance of the entryway should make it the accent or focal point of the exterior of the house.

Color - Color can make the door itself seem important. A bright or dark value can be chosen to contrast with the exterior color.

Size - Size of the entryway can add to its visual importance. Adding shutters, trellises or planters will make the door look larger. Interest can be achieved also by informal balance. Perhaps something tall on one side and long and low on the other.

Accessories - Accessories such as handsome lamps or hardware can add importance.



SUMMARY

The entryway creates the first impression of your home. A successful one requires careful planning.

- Locate it for convenience.
- Allow space for activities and number of people using it.
- Plan plenty of storage.
- Make it attractive and an expression of you.
- Plan the drives and walks for convenience, safety and comfort.
- Make the entryway the focal point of the exterior.
- Use these guides plus plenty of imagination to make your entryway inviting.

