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Plastic, Plastic Everywhere

by Marjorie Miller
Experimental Cookery Junior

You dream home may be a house of plastic. Think of it, you’ll step into your plastic house, find yourself in a room furnished with intriguing plastic chairs and decorated with delightful plastic-treated wallpaper and draperies.

This future plastic house of yours is extremely lightweight — only 2½ pounds per square foot. The walls are plywood held together by synthetic resins and adhesives. Because of its strength and stiffness it can be hinged together, folded, loaded on a truck, unloaded and erected with the aid of four small poles.

Reinforced plastics make attractive materials for interior and exterior semi-structural uses. Some of these materials will be translucent while others will be filled or dyed. Whenever you need a little extra light you’ll find tinted or colorless translucent material for walls are plywood held together by synthetic resins and adhesives. Because of its strength and stiffness it can be hinged together, folded, loaded on a truck, unloaded and erected with the aid of four small poles.

Reinforced plastics make attractive materials for interior and exterior semi-structural uses. Some of these materials will be translucent while others will be filled or dyed. Whenever you need a little extra light you’ll find tinted or colorless translucent material for roofs or wall. Light colored and inexpensive plastic glues are used in assembling arches and doors of the new plastic house. There will be no worry about your plastic screens corroding or staining. Silicon plastic is used to set in windows and assure water repellent masonry.

You can forget the suspicion that plastic items will wear down under normal wear and tear. Manufacturers are concentrating on giving the same quality to consumers as they have been giving industries. This will mean more and better plastics for your dream home — and at a lower price.

Melamine Protects Tables

Take a look at the furniture you’ll find in that house of the future. There will be a plastic table with a top which cannot be burned by a carelessly placed cigarette or otherwise stained. The transparent melamine face over decorative wood veneer is one of the hardest and most scratch-resistant plastics. A thin sheet of aluminum that conducts the heat of a burning cigarette away from the veneer is placed underneath the decorative sheet.

You’ll see plastic chairs and stools, that have been guaranteed for 60 years in your new home. One of these chairs, designed by Egmont Arens, is the "Contour Chair" molded all in one. You might also have an Eames chair covered in mottled calfskin on a layer of restfoam latex.

When choosing plastic material for upholstering your sofa and chairs you’ll find an endless variety both practical and pretty. Fabrilite, a smooth and sturdy leather-like upholstery is used for arm chairs or dinette chairs. Terrace furniture will be covered with Boltaflex, a smooth plastic upholstery. Lumite fabric, woven from Saran yarn, makes a fabric of pleasing texture for cool upholstery. Plastic-coated chintz designed by James Amster gains durability from the addition of plastic surfacing.

Plasticized Pandanus Cloth with a rough texture covers cabinet doors and contrasts beautifully with polished wood. Pandanus is a natural colored grass cloth with outstanding decorative values.

Floor coverings will have to take hardest wear. Durable plastics are on hand to serve you. You’ll be able to purchase tiles for creating fascinating mosaic-like designs, or in sheets so that you can cut your own borders and feature strips. Look for wood grained and carpet motifs that are impregnated into plastics by a photographic process.

Waterproof Wall Fabrics

You’ll discover that scrubings won’t hurt the plasticized wall coverings and coated fabrics. Besides resisting water and the cracking of plaster walls underneath them these wall coverings are found in designs that will add interest to any room.

Lamps, knick knacks and doorknobs are also made of plastic. Drawer handles of translucent plastic inlaid with gold and silver leaves in a modern motif are designed by Zahar Schatz. Modern design and materials are joined in new lamp shades of reinforced plastic. Interesting patterns of reinforcement and colors are seen in new bullet-shape shades of fiber glass and polyester resin.

Unique plastic knick knacks will be fun to make and will add an extra spark of personality to your home. This new medium is plastic enough when heated to be cut and molded into a variety of figures. Three dimensional designs with a velvety appearance are made by internal carving done in plastic. The interior is dyed and filled with plaster. After shrinking the plaster acquires a smooth velvety texture.

Notice the kitchen in this new plastic house. You’ll see molded counter tops which can be joined together without sharp cracks and corners. Vinyl plastics for counter tops and floors can be found in a bright array of colors to suit each individual’s taste.

The refrigerator in your sparkling new kitchen might be made of 68 parts using 21 pounds of plastic. Since an all-time high is being reached in the use of plastics by appliance makers you’ll have many pieces of plastic kitchen equipment. Manufacturers claim that the endurance of plastic equipment helps make the sale and keep it sold.

Plastic will take over every detail in your modern home. Even the bottles in the medicine cabinet will be made of plastic. Plaxpak bottles can be molded into almost any shape and colored. They are squeezable and can be used for liquid sprays and creams.