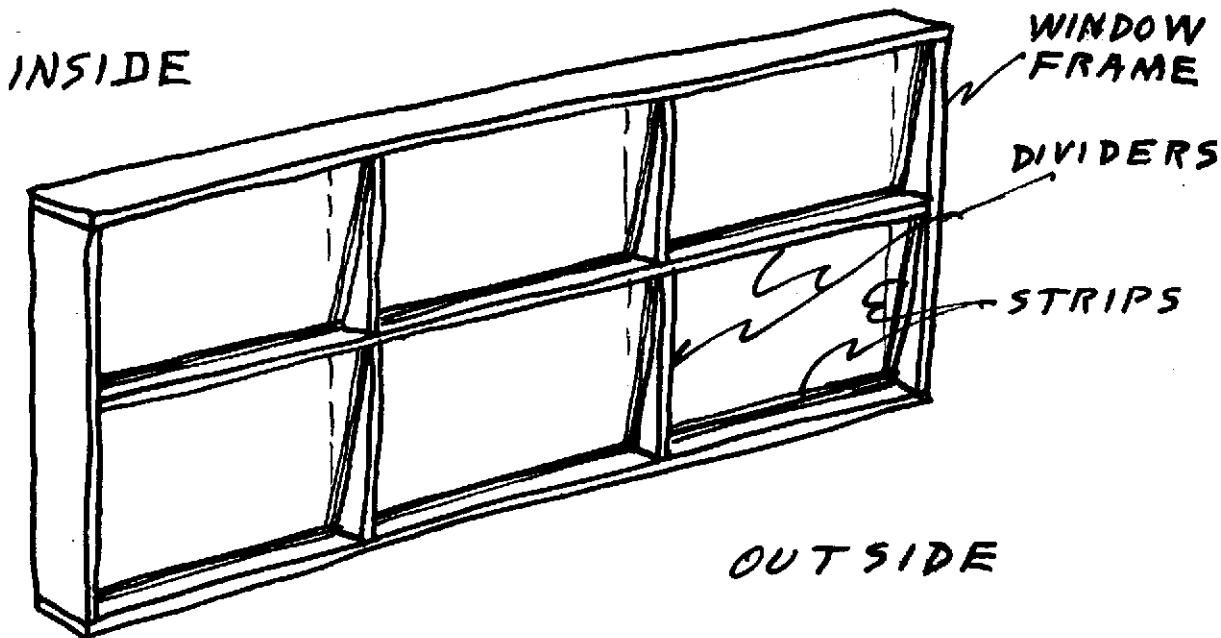


*INSIDE*



*OUTSIDE*



This is a carpenter's window, built right into the wall, using commercially available materials. It costs little if any more than a plain wall, without window.

First the carpenter builds a box, slanting the horizontal pieces a little downward so that whatever water collects on them will drain off. The box becomes part of the wall structure.

Next he cuts up or buys a lot of strips, about a half inch thick by five-eighths wide, and nails them in place so that the glass will have something to lean against. As we have learned earlier, the strips are to slant out at the top by about three degrees, or in carpenters' language about one inch in twenty.

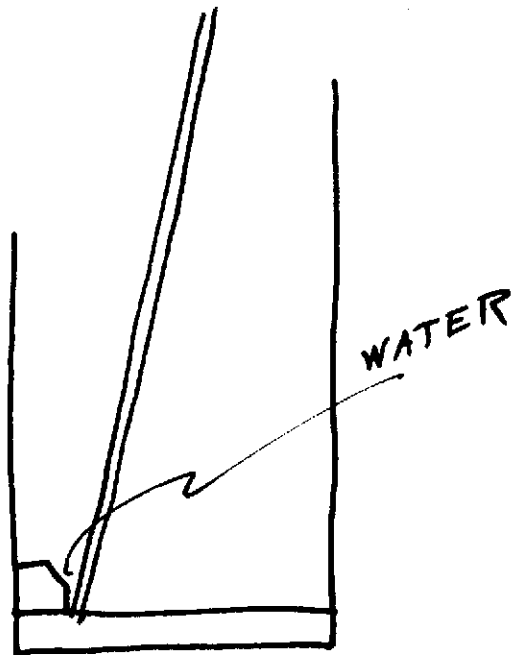
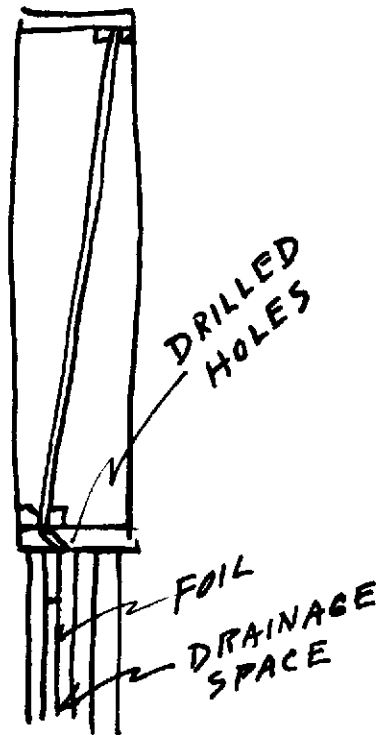
Then the panes are set in and held in place by another set of strips nailed to hold the glass on the inside.

That's all there is to making windows. It seems almost too ridiculously simple to be any good. Perhaps because the window *is* simple (and we have come to believe that windows are complicated) many questions will be raised. Though it took only one minute to describe how to build a window, please bear with me during the many minutes that follow while I answer, not necessarily in the order of frequency or importance, some of these questions.

*Question One:* what happened to the putty? Didn't you know... all glass is set in putty? Answer: yes, I knew it. When I began to build windows this way, I put glazing compound on both sides of the glass. That was quite a while ago. Then I got tired and put it on the outside only, and I asked every carpenter I knew if he knew what the putty was for. No answer. Getting even more tired, I quit using putty.

As far as wind coming through is concerned, I can't feel any difference. As far as protection from breakage is concerned, the only pane that has broken was the one smashed the time we got bombed by a partridge who was fleeing a hawk. (Picked up broken glass for a week.) I have concluded that putty got started in the days before power saws, when it was easier to stick the glass in place than to saw another set of strips.

*Question Two:* why does the glass lean out at the top? Isn't that a lot of trouble? Answer: it is no trouble at all if the window is built in place. It avoids the use of rabbets, moldings, and close fits which make the conventional window expensive. Why is it tilted? Better vision, less glare, less dirt.



In the sketch at left, the strip of wood holding the inside bottom of the glass has been beveled to catch the water. Before putting that last piece in place, your carpenter drilled three or four tiny holes through the bottom board into the inside of the wall, which was already loaded with condensation and has been built to drain. Exit the puddle.

In the sketch at right, the bottom piece of wood, beveled in the same way, retains the puddle but keeps it out of sight. Presently the

water evaporates, and as it vanishes the puddle does its tiny bit to relieve the low humidity in the room.

---