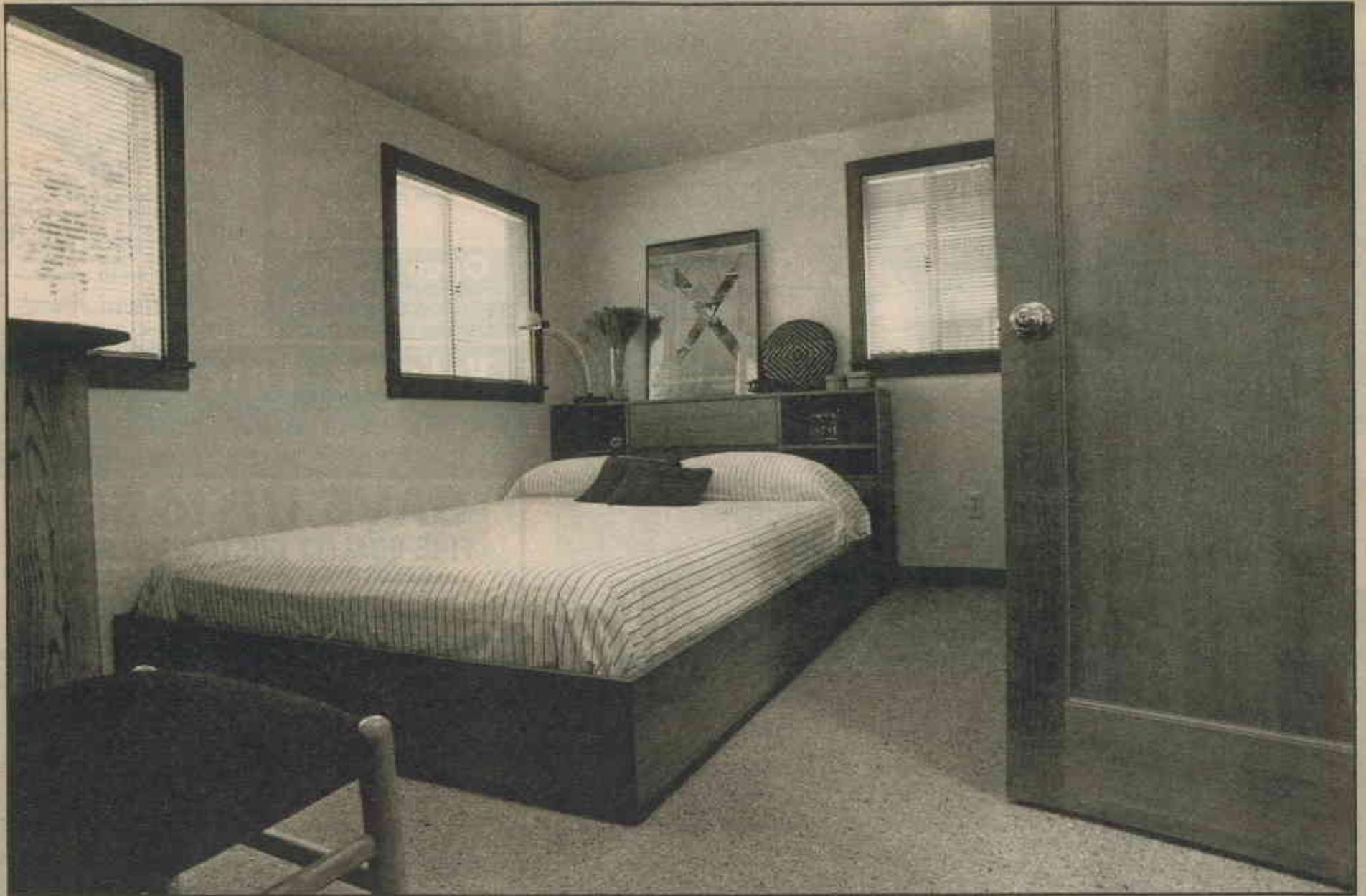




Moored

He couldn't sink his 1915 houseboat, so he remodeled it

WRITTEN BY LARRY BROWN
PHOTOGRAPHED BY BARRY WONG



Simplicity in the design of the bedroom gives it a feeling of more space. The bed frame was custom made.

sailing.

The kitchen is bright and open, with a microwave for Ying to do speedy meal preparation. He prefers eating at Chinese restaurants or the nearby Julia's 14 Carrot Cafe, a popular gathering place for Lake Union floating home dwellers.

The remodeling included placement of storage areas in crawl space near the entranceway. Cabinets and custom made book and magazine shelves also increase storage. Ying has a desk in the living room for working at home.

Stackable coffee tables in the living room take little space, but they can be spread about when Ying entertains. A low cabinet for his stereo system fits under the window so it does not obstruct views of the lake.

The remodeling project took about five months to complete. A wood stove in the living room provides most of the heat needed. On sunny days, the rooms warm easily because of the number of windows. Skylights have added to the feeling of openness in the home.

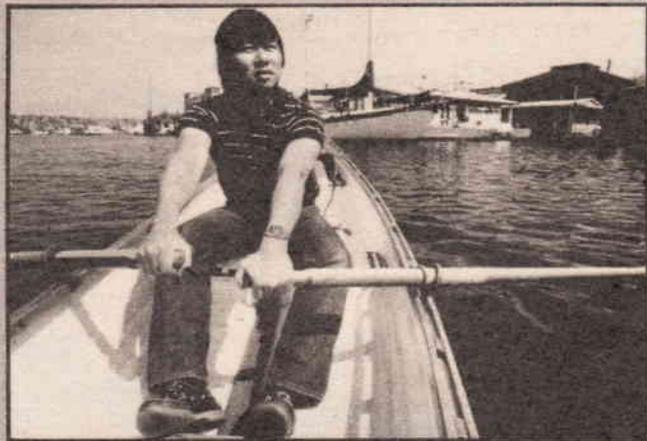
The living area has been expanded by improvements to the decking outside the house. There now is room for a barbecue, chairs and a table for outdoor dining.



The modest kitchen is designed to provide as much storage space as possible and avoid a cluttered look.



Charles Ying's 43-foot ketch is moored alongside the living room of his Lake Union houseboat.



Ying rows for exercise near his floating home.

WHEN CHARLES YING purchased his floating home on Lake Union, his first plan was to sink it.

It was old and mildewed. But what a view! From his moorage he can enjoy the sights from the downtown skyline to Gas Works Park, including the sun setting beneath the Aurora Bridge.

Ying asked the Bumgardner Architects to build him a new home, but then he learned about the legal red tape he would face if he altered the exterior or made structural changes. Sinking it would be classified as a structural change.

The alternative was to thoroughly modify the interior of the home, built in 1915, and do little but paint the exterior.

Mark Simpson, the project manager; Jeff Wilson, the project architect; Walter Toth, the contractor, and Pamela Pearce, the interior designer, worked to give the houseboat a feeling of openness despite its 900 square feet of space.

Jacks were used to pull the aged side walls back to vertical, and new flotation was installed. The home now has a cedar ceiling. Soft colors in the carpeting and flooring are punctuated by bold use of primary colors in the furnishings.

A self-made millionaire at the age of 37, Ying is one of the founders of Atex Inc., a business that has specialized in computerizing the newspaper and magazine industries. Ying remains an advisor to Atex, but the business was sold to Eastman Kodak, and he now is working on other high-technology projects relating to computers.

Ying is a believer in impulsiveness, and that is how he got his houseboat. He developed an interest in windsurfing, and knew his apartment in Bellevue was not the best base for pursuing the sport. He did not know the floating home communities existed here before seeing a newspaper classified advertisement. He visited the home and decided to buy it.

"It is a very diverse community with a mixture of young and old people that I enjoy," he said.

Ying lived in Bedford, Mass., after graduating in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He said he "never got too emotionally attached to mowing lawns back in Massachusetts," so life on a houseboat with just a few planter boxes suits him well.

Ying's sleek 43-foot ketch is moored alongside his living room. It provides extra bed space when guests visit, and is at the ready for him to pursue his love of

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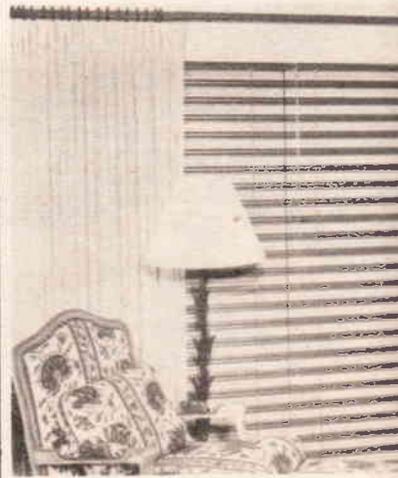
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