To Trim a Tree Artistically

EDITORS NOTE: William Johnson, owner of Badger Tree Service, Phoenix, Ariz, said in a recent issue that it's time to "put the care back into tree care." It is necessary, he said, for a good tree trimmer to have an "innate sense of tree artistry." But he believes a tree trimmer can be trained also to do an artistic job. Here are Johnson's 10 suggestions:

1. First study it for its own particular characteristics—or "personality." Observe the structural lines that bring out these traits in a way that enhances the home and property.

2. Check for limbs that may have particular aesthetic value. Plan these limbs into your overall design.

3. Determine which limbs might be lifted with proper cabling, rather than being removed because they appear too low.

4. Trim out the deadwood, suckers, crossing limbs, and so on.

5. Carefully thin the tree. Make all cuts neat and close to the branch so there is no stubbing, no rough knobs.

6. Trim unsightly limb extensions so tree outlines will be natural and pleasant looking.

7. Observe tree again from all angles. Is it lacy? Does it have the lines you intended? Is your client happy?

8. Finish tree by sealing all cuts with a good commercial tree wound dressing, preferably one that is penetrating.

9. Leave a clean yard.

10. At all times THINK SAFETY . . . WORK SAFELY.