

This is the house you asked for

By John Normile and Jim Riggs

"Your terrace and garden are the center of summer living and should be shared from indoors"

"Modern materials are easy on the eyes, easy on the upkeep"

"Space used only for occasional dining is wasted space at the present cost of building"

"Design should simply point up the interesting living indoors"

"Who says that second bathroom is a luxury? It's an absolute necessity for homes with children"

"Laundry equipment must be handy to kitchen but not a part of it"

"Privacy is also an intrafamily need. Give quiet relaxers a place to get away from noisy fun"

"Bedrooms for youngsters should include study and play space"

For a report on the reader debate which launched this project, see page 37

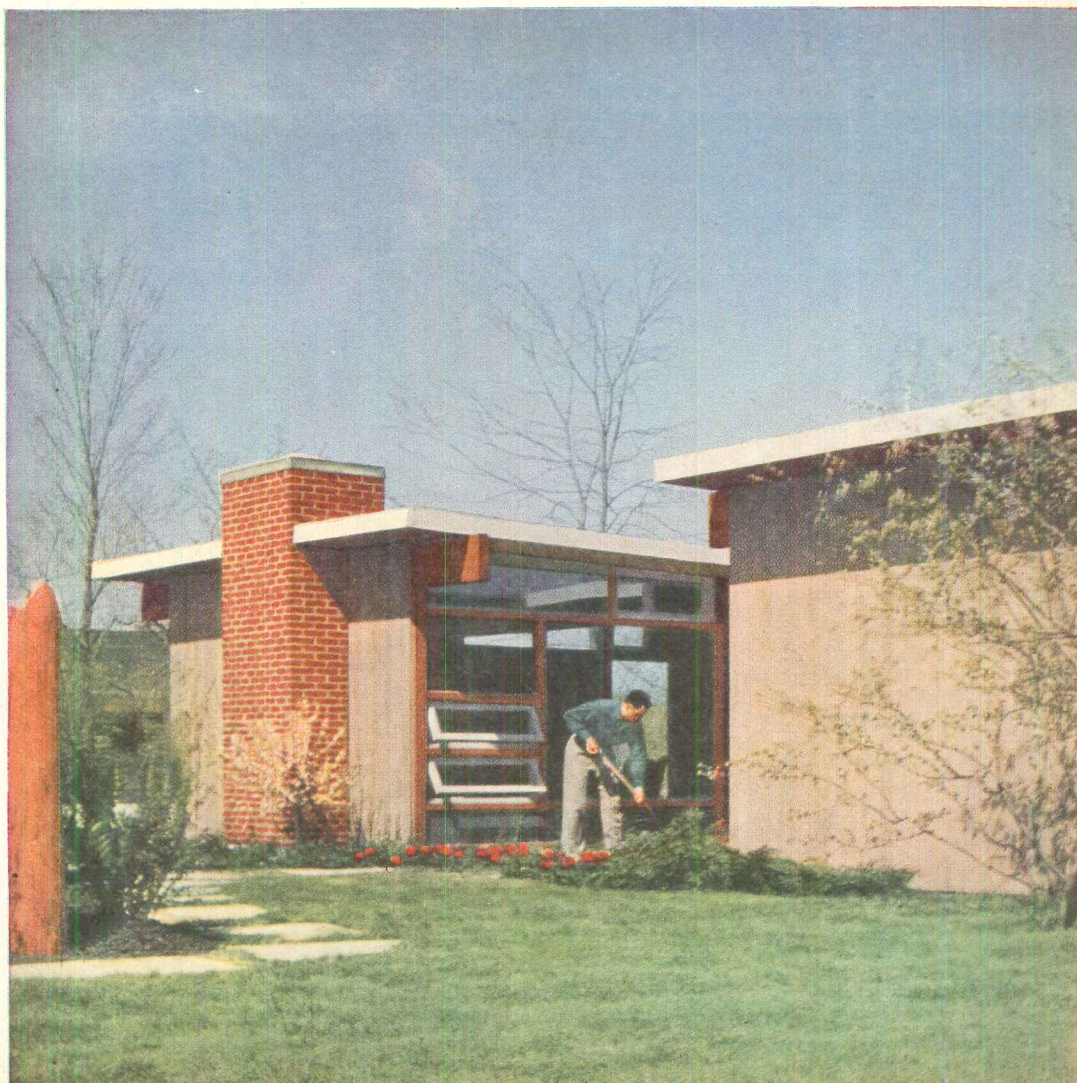
The house on these pages owes much to people like you—people whose grasp of a house is human rather than professional, who draw from daily experience rather than textbooks, who are moved by the simple desire to live better.

Some features of this house may seem advanced. Indeed they are, but this is not the reason why these features are included. The families who supplied the hard and happy facts behind Five Star Home No. 2309 were no more influenced by *trends*, as such, than are the editors of *Better Homes & Gardens*.

The house has meaning, too, for you who will continue to live in older houses. Ideas for built-ins, new wall treatments, ways to get wonderful outdoor living on a small lot, how to make the most of service, comfort, or entertainment equipment.

No, this isn't a *trend* house. Nor is it a house to end all discussion on what a house should be. The very thing that makes it significant—an honest evaluation of today's materials, tools, ideas—will, another day, bring a changing Readers' Choice house.

Turn page for more on Readers' Choice house →



This is the house you asked for

Continued

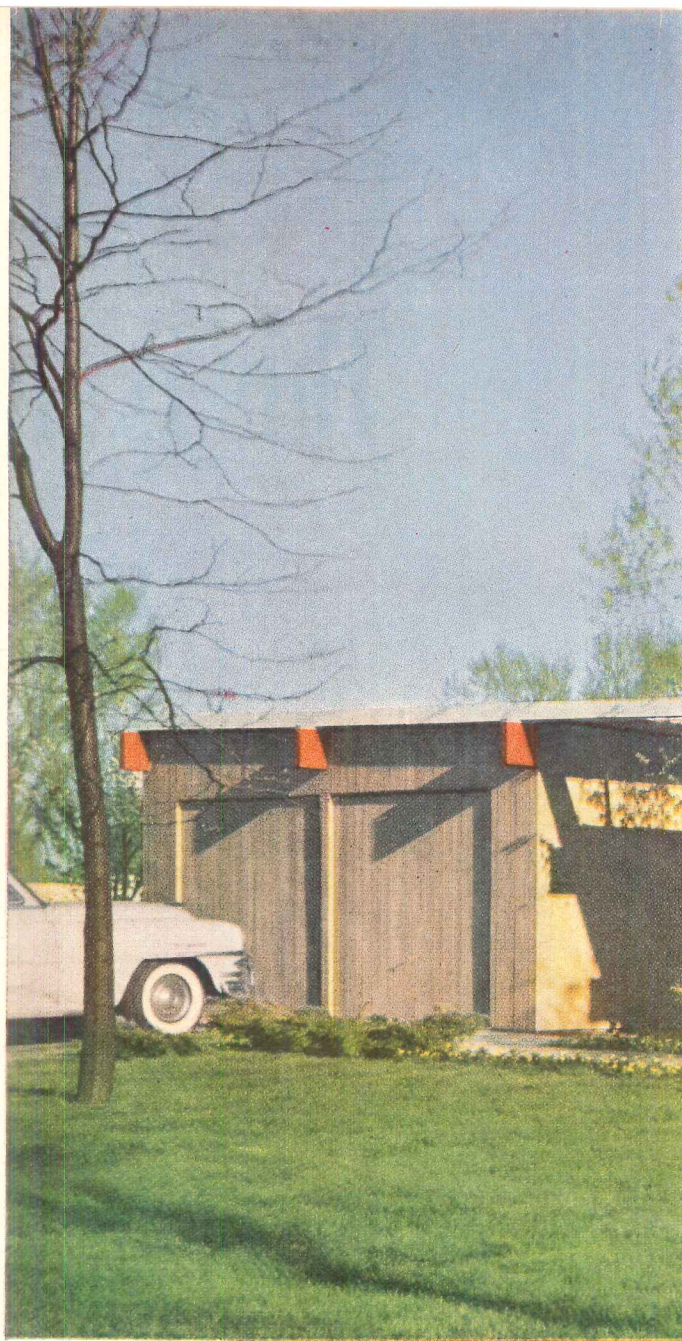
And so this is Five Star Home No. 2309—a beautiful and practical frame for today's good living. On page 37, we've described our readers' part in stimulating this house, particularly those readers who joined an exhaustive panel discussion in Chicago on the features today's family home should include. Yet this isn't the whole story. Though their living needs were spelled out to the letter, it remained for men in the business, progressive men, to translate these into a workable design.

Credit here goes to Architects Buderus and Siegwart; also to 40 builders who have made the house a reality across the country—as a part of National Home Month. (See page 270 for list of cities where you can visit a Readers' Choice house.)

Outstanding features are many, but the one you're apt to spot first is the remarkable way that living, service, sleeping areas are set apart in this one-floor plan. The separation was handled with something of a bow to the past. Architects took what one usually finds on the top floor of a two-story house—bedrooms, bathrooms, dressing areas—and, keeping them as just one unit, brought these activities down to ground level.

This explains the "H" shape of the plan, and was solution enough for the Chicago panel member who thought her desired separation of bedrooms could come only in a two-story house. She won't miss climbing stairs 20 times a day, either!

But a house with two unconnected parts wouldn't do. How could these be related? Architects answered with the "terrace room"—one of the most delightfully logical areas of the house. This 13x16 area—with sliding glass walls [Turn to page 68



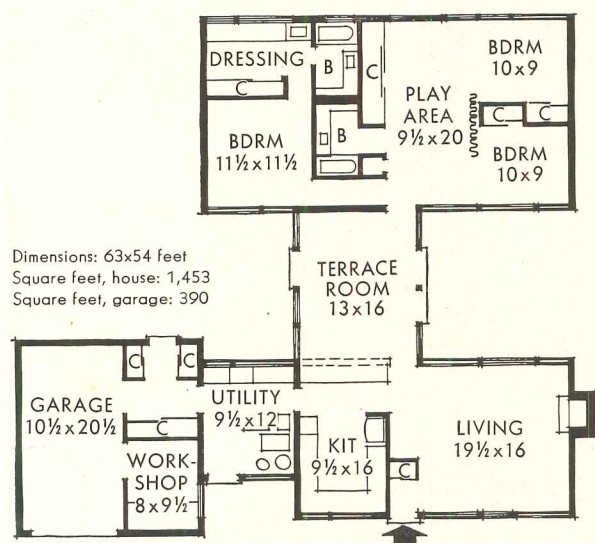
Photographs: Hedrich-Blessing

Terrace room bridges living and sleeping wings, is entertainment center of house. Sliding glass walls open to garden enclosed by house, fence





Our panel of homeowners brought out that a house should look the way it lives — and so the design is easy, colorful, friendly. This is the streetside of house



You can buy plans for this or any other
Better Homes & Gardens Five Star home.

®

See page 264

Architects: Brooks Buderus, Gerald A. Siegart.
 Builder: Trude Land Development Company.
 Decorator: Tomas of John M. Smyth Company.
 Landscape Designer: William Dean.
 Plantings by: Clavey Ravina Nurseries.

BETTER HOMES & GARDENS, SEPTEMBER, 1953



You're looking here from rear of the house to the well-guarded terrace and playground area. A barbecue, sandbox, and graveled area for swings offer attractions for all members of the family. Door in background leads to garage and is handy to point of storage for garden and lawn tools

This is the house you asked for *Continued*

facing the garden on one side, the terrace and playground on the other—serves as a *bridge* to connect the two wings.

To give its space a still greater use, the terrace room also handles dining. Glass between it and kitchen slides to form a pass-through, and there's a family eating counter on the kitchen side to be the serving relay point when you're dining out in the terrace room.

The terrace room is just the place, too, for an afternoon of bridge. Or for an evening of dancing and informal fun with friends. There's no doubt about it: This meaningful link between the main areas of the house is also the entertainment center of Five Star No. 2309. And it's built and heated to perform year round.

Other research on the moderate-size house shows our Chicago discussion group went along with the majority in rejecting the "special" dining room. Most readers want some separation of dining from kitchen and living room, but for practical reasons favor an area where table and chairs can be pushed aside to make way for other activities. Formal entertaining at home just isn't done as often as it once was.

Such straightforward thinking has produced the same sort of house overall. Take the business [*Turn to page 70*



Glass wall of living room shares garden beauty. Drapery is in one section and pulls to side pictured so it won't block awning-type window at right. Another hinged panel is above nonmovable glass. Light over table adjusts to any height

Perforated hardboard on streetside offers versatile decorating. Note harmony of materials: cypress paneling and roof framing, fireplace and redwood beams



This is the house you asked for *Continued*



Our readers spoke for study and play space with children's bedrooms, and so this 10x20 area that can be closed off from sleeping quarters by wooden traverse dividers. Entire wall in background is glass—fixed and ventilating

of *design*. The professional is concerned with *line, mass, scale, perspective*—terms valuable to him in coming up with a home that's artistically true. The layman is no less desirous of a handsome result, but he can't see breaking the subject of beauty into such fine points. It left a problem. How would our panel of typical homeowners talk *design*? And how in the world could you hope to reach agreement on a subject that's so intangible, so personal?

Our editors were in for a surprise. When the discussion got around to how the house should look, these sensible people answered: *the way it lives!* Design should reflect the kind of house within. They wanted an arrangement of activities that was relaxed and uncomplicated—so the design ought to echo that feeling. Similarly, the colorful experience of living in this house should be signaled by large areas of color, outside and inside. And just as a warm [Turn to page 258

→ You're in the living room—looking across the delightful terrace room to playground beyond. Family eating bar doubles as serving counter (glass between it and dining table slides for pass-through)

Camera is outside window for this view of compact, U-shaped kitchen. Colorful materials overcome clinical coldness of usual work center. Oven is built in at far left, refrigerator is recessed directly opposite





Study this plan to see the wonderful living contained in Five Star Home No. 2309

TERRACE AND PLAYGROUND

- 1 Gravel area for playground equipment
- 2 Sandbox
- 3 Bench
- 4 Barbecue

GARAGE

- 5 Panel for rake, hoe, light tools
- 6 Storage for bulky garden equipment
- 7 Shelves for pots, buckets, plant food
- 8 Off-season-clothing storage
- 9 Automobile
- 10 Multipurpose power tool
- 11 Workbench

UTILITY

- 12 Planned space for washer, dryer
- 13 Closet for laundry, cleaning supplies
- 14 Heating plant
- 15 Air-conditioning unit
- 16 Hot water
- 17 Water softener

KITCHEN

- 18 Work counter with window above
- 19 Refrigerator set flush with counter
- 20 Built-in oven
- 21 Family eating and serving counter
- 22 Sliding glass creates pass-through

TERRACE ROOM

- 23 Traverse matchstick blinds
- 24 Dining area
- 25 Glass doors open to garden, terrace
- 26 Door here closes off sleeping wing
- 27 Fence for privacy

LIVING

- 28 Draperies for sun control, privacy
- 29 Hanging light adjusts in height
- 30 Built-in TV, radio, phonograph
- 31 Coats and hats go here
- 32 Dual-purpose sofas sleep guests
- 33 Perforated hardboard for wall treatments
- 34 Awning-type windows afford ventilation

PARENTS' BEDROOM

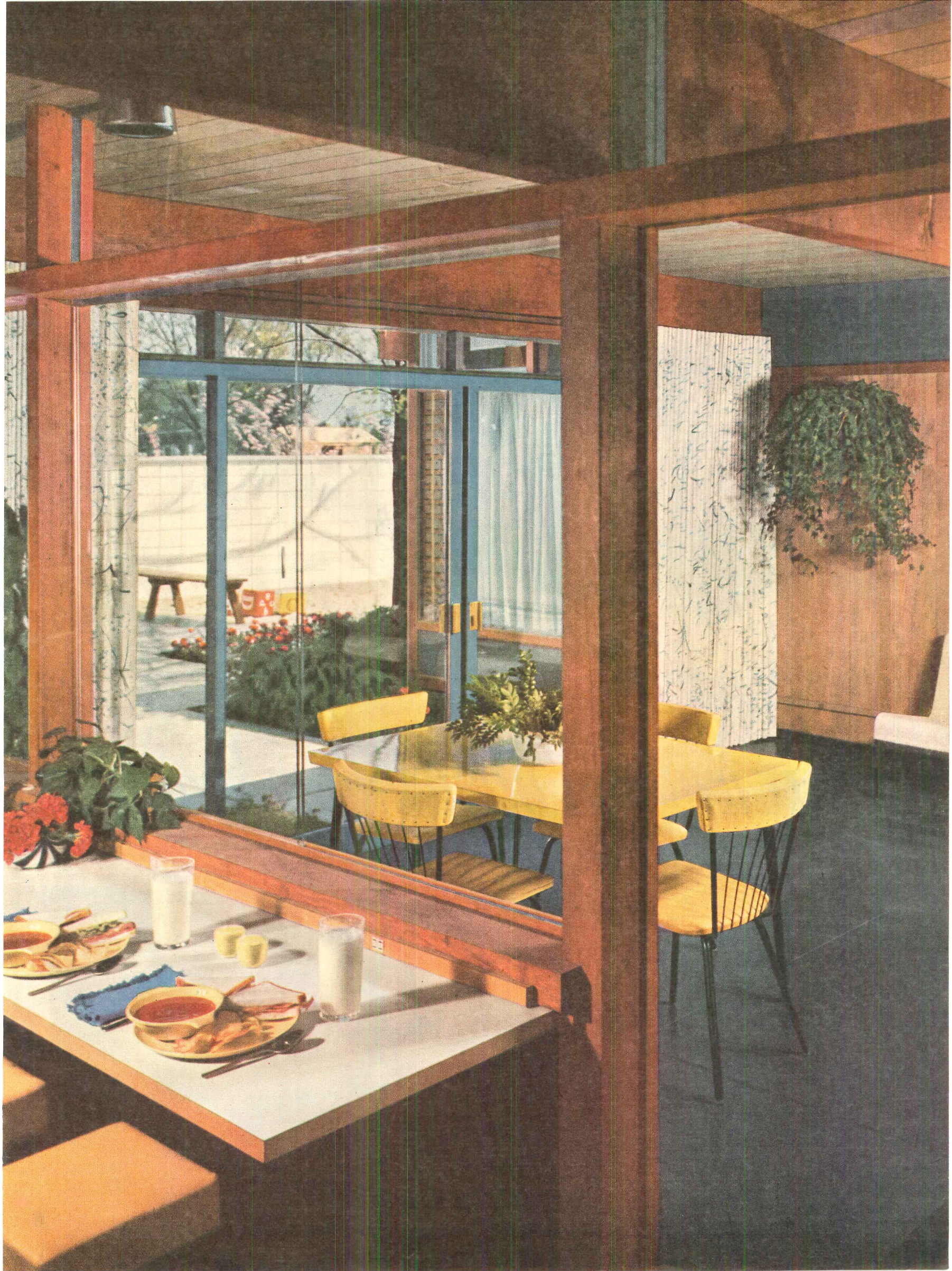
- 35 Carpeted for comfort, sound control
- 36 Wardrobe opens to dressing area
- 37 Vanity mirror
- 38 High windows assure privacy
- 39 Lavatory with dressing counter

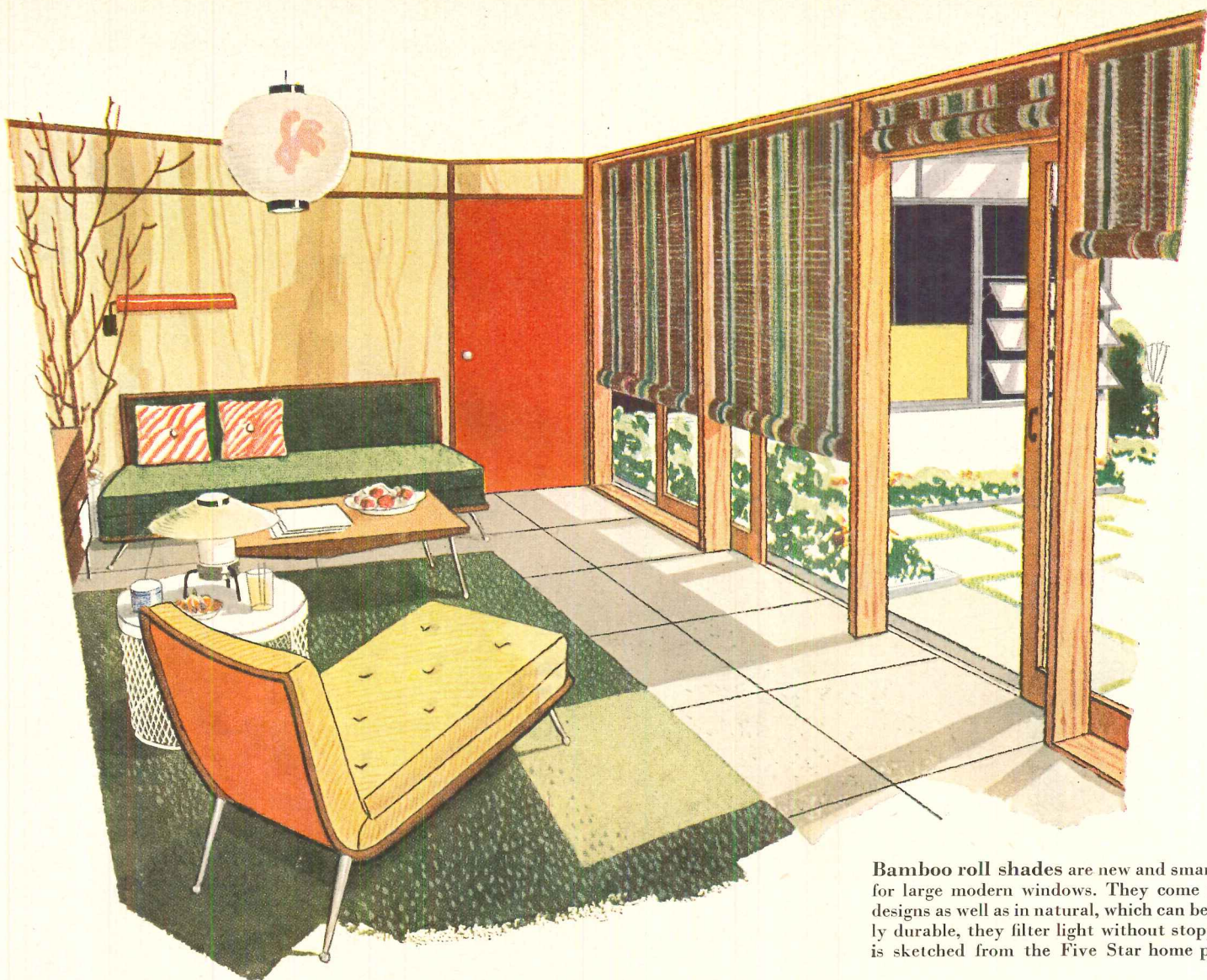
BATHROOMS

- 40 Lavatory, counter, mirror
- 41 Medicine chest full width of room
- 42 Glass bubble in ceiling for light
- 43 Shower compartment
- 44 Linen closet

CHILDREN'S SLEEP AND PLAY AREA

- 45 Second heating, air-conditioning unit
- 46 Enclosed shelves for luggage, toys
- 47 Daytime-activities space with bedrooms
- 48 Good spot for second television
- 49 Wardrobes open to each sleeping area
- 50 Folding screen for quiet, privacy
- 51 Roll-type blinds stop glare





Bamboo roll shades are new and smart looking, ideal for large modern windows. They come in hand-woven designs as well as in natural, which can be painted. Highly durable, they filter light without stopping air. Porch is sketched from the Five Star home plan on page 67

Let your windows spread wide in a friendly fashion. If they're small, make them look bigger — if they're large, play them up! Here are

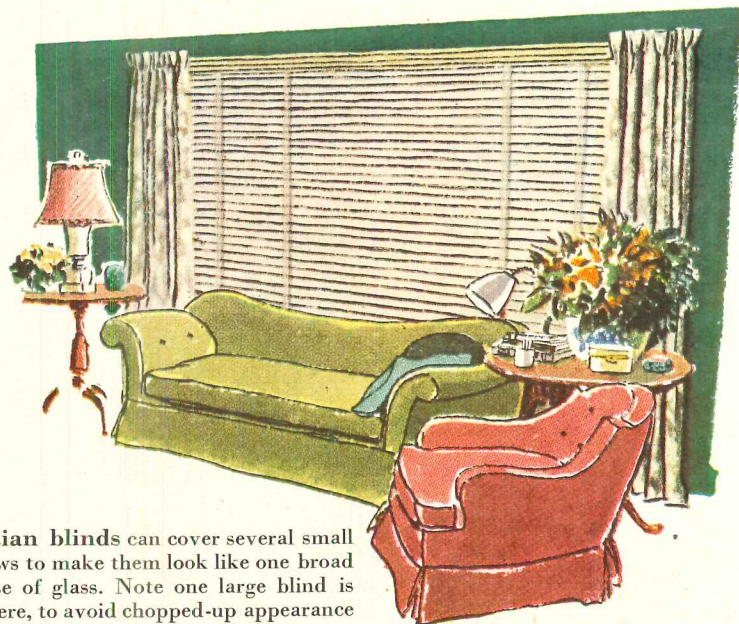
Six ways to big-window beauty!

By Dorothy Miller

Your windows hold the magic key to your decorating scheme. Treat them right and they'll spark any room—cover them without care and they'll ruin the looks of an entire room. But, luckily, you can do more to change the appearance of your windows—and often at less cost—than any other single feature of your house!

Give small windows a larger look by extending curtains or draperies beyond windows on either side. Or cover an entire wall to make several small windows look like part of a luxurious window wall. If you're blessed with large windows, point them up with dramatic, eye-catching treatments.


Today's market gives you a dazzling array of window coverings from which to choose—in a wide variety of styles, materials, and colors. For whatever price you want to pay, you can find a practical treatment to give your windows more importance, more beauty.



Venetian blinds can cover several small windows to make them look like one broad expanse of glass. Note one large blind is used here, to avoid chopped-up appearance

*You saw it on page 65
of this issue . . .*

you can
actually see
Five Star Home
No. 2309
in these
cities now



Visit the model
of this home
in your area during
**NATIONAL
HOME MONTH!**

Here's the home you told us you want . . . full of fresh new ideas, new products—all designed for today's way of living. Find the city nearest you where you can see it. Addresses of all model homes are given with names of builders who constructed them and stores that furnished them. Watch for local announcements of the opening dates.

ALABAMA

Birmingham, 2304 Chestnut Road, Vestavia Hills
Built by: Byrd Real Estate Co., Inc.
Furnished by: Loveman's

ARIZONA

Phoenix, 7630 North 6th Avenue
Built by: Paul Guerin
Furnished by: Dorris-Heyman

ARKANSAS

Little Rock, 7108 Elmhurst Drive
Built by: W. S. Daniel Co., Inc.
Furnished by: Steinkamps Home Furnishers

CALIFORNIA

Palo Alto, Ladera Menlo Park
Developed by: Hare, Brewer & Kelley, Inc.
Built by: Alland and Company
Furnished by: Henrique's

Portuguese Bend, No. 15 Cinnamon Lane
Built by: Palos Verdes Corporation
Furnished by: Barker Brothers

Sacramento, 5311 71st Street
Built by: Ronne, Ronne & Ronne
Furnished by: Breuner's

COLORADO

Colorado Springs, 1014 Jupiter Dr.,
Skyway Park

Built by: Modern Home Builders
Furnished by: Home Furniture Guild
Galleries

CONNECTICUT

Cheshire, Cedar Lane
Built by: Lester Harris, Jr.
Furnished by: Komisar Furniture Co.,
New Haven

FLORIDA

Jacksonville, Highlands Subdivision
Built by: Cowart Brothers, Inc.
Furnished by: Cohen Brothers

Pensacola, 2915 North Blackshear
Built by: Jack Q. Smith
Furnished by: Marston and Quina

St. Petersburg, 202-171st Avenue, North
Redington Beach
Built by: Siefferman & Miller, Inc.
Furnished by: Maas Brothers

GEORGIA

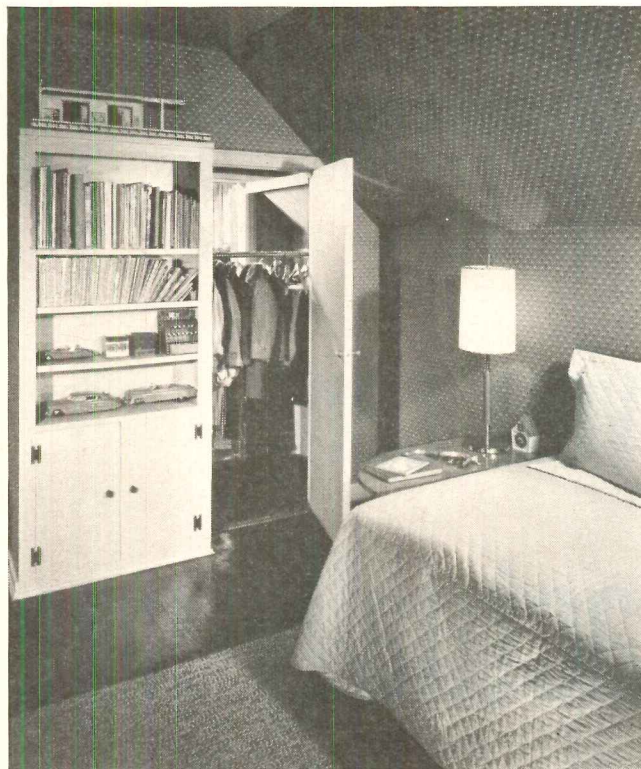
Moultrie, Country Club Subdivision
Built by: Leo T. Barber
Furnished by: M. W. Majors Furniture
Company

ILLINOIS

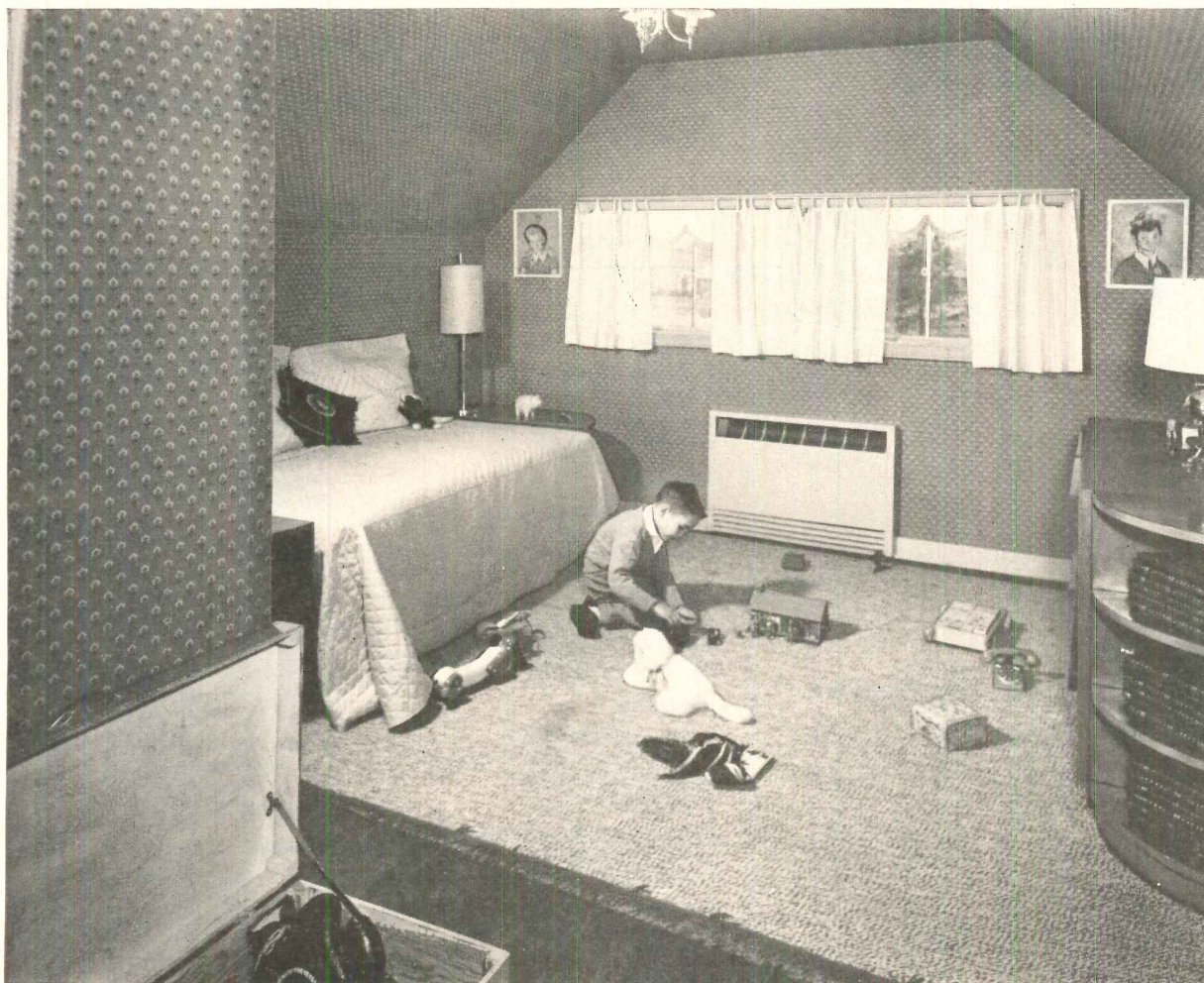
Arlington Heights, 215 West Orchard
Avenue: Corner of Chestnut



←
3 Closet between chimney and wall can be opened from the playroom (shown here) as well as from the boy's room. Bookshelf-cabinet, which matches one on the opposite side of chimney, was covered on the outer side to give it a built-in look. Cabinets were from the living room



←
2 A large train table folds out from one wall of the play area. When table is in use, legs swing down and fasten with big hooks. Tracks, station, and signal towers are attached permanently. The storage-room door in background is papered to match the wall



4 Closet is good size, keeps garments at a convenient height for the reach of a nursery-age youngster.

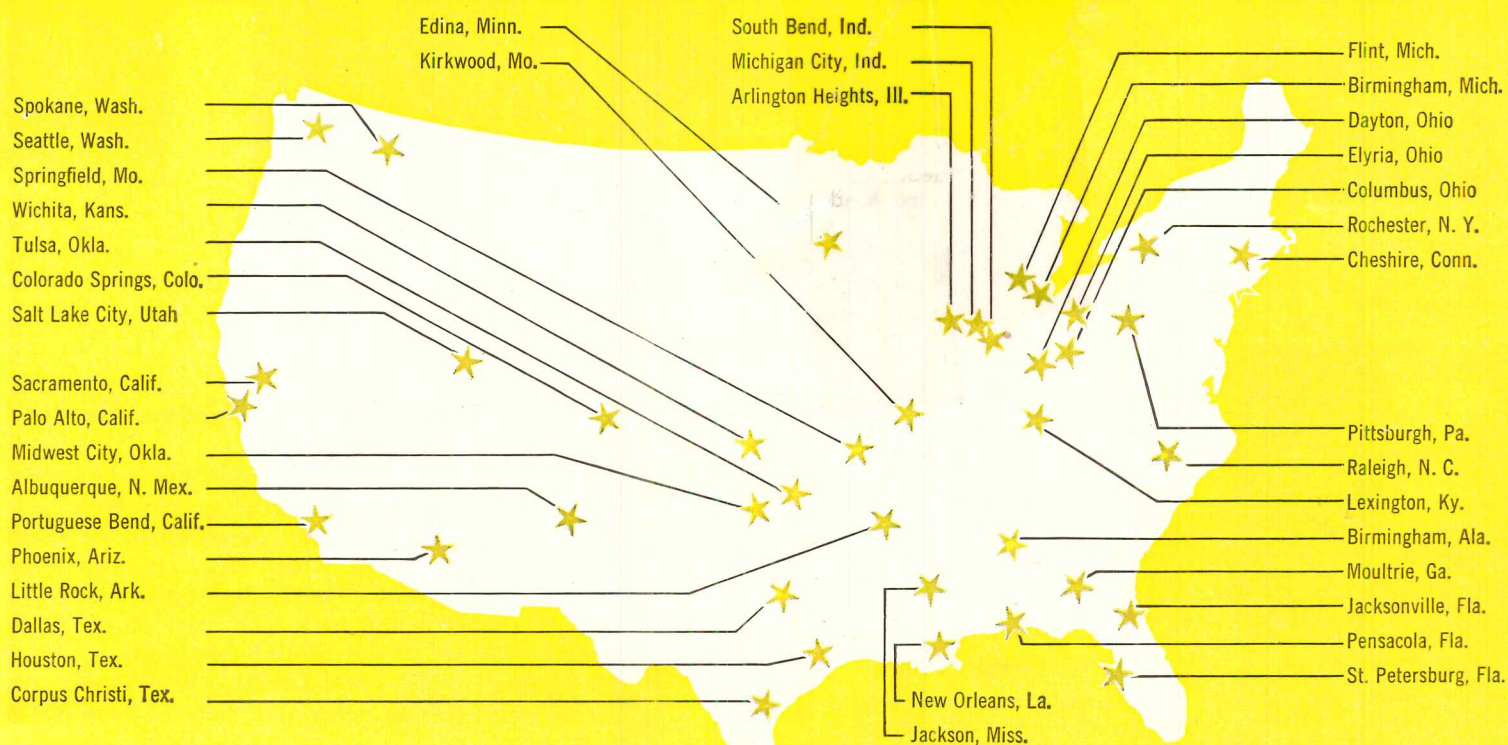
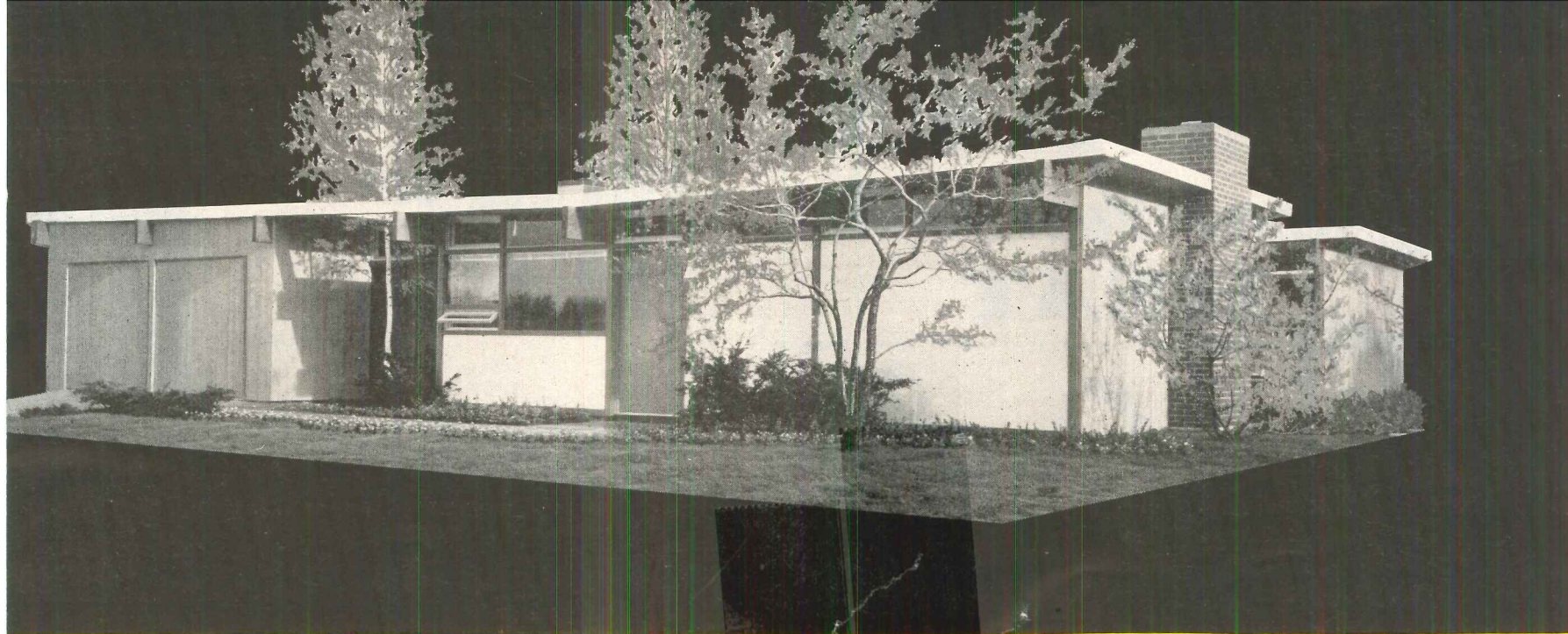
The rugs in both rooms are of washable cotton, ready to take plenty of wear and tear from active young feet.

5 Beyond chimney-closet partition is boy's bedroom, large enough to accommodate an extra cot for young overnight guests. Folding cot is kept in storage area under the eaves.

At the left, placed against the chimney wall, is a large chest for storing toys and play supplies.

In the background, under windows, is air-conditioning unit.

For more ideas to solve your attic-chimney problem, turn to page 272



1993

Built by: Trude Land Development Company
Furnished by: John Smyth

INDIANA

Michigan City, 110 Boyd Avenue
Built by: General Construction Company, Inc.
Furnished by: Shon Furniture Company

South Bend, 1631 Southbrook Drive
Built by: Place & Company, Inc.
Furnished by: Robertson Brothers

KANSAS

Wichita, 2230 North Belmont
Built by: Ken Stowell Co., Inc.
Furnished by: Hinkel's

KENTUCKY

Lexington, Rebecca Drive, Hinda Heights
Built by: George C. Martin Company
Furnished by: Lutes, Ltd.

LOUISIANA

New Orleans, West Henfer Avenue, Henfer Park
Built by: L. P. Smith
Furnished by: Nu-Idea Furniture Company

MICHIGAN

Birmingham, 18050 Kinross Avenue, Beverly Hills
Built by: Miller Homes, Inc.

Furnished by: The J. L. Hudson Company
Flint
Built by: Gerholz Community Homes, Inc.

MINNESOTA

Edina, 5301 Chantry Drive
Built by: Harold R. Rosendahl Construction Co.

MISSISSIPPI

Jackson, 3925 Old Canton Lane
Built by: Kimbrough Homes, Inc.
Furnished by: Sid Jones, Inc.

MISSOURI

Kirkwood, 719 Craig Woods Drive
Built by: Burton W. Duenke Building Company
Furnished by: Minna Elman

Springfield, 19 Brentwood Boulevard
Built by: Glenn L. White Company
Furnished by: Glenn L. White Company

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque
Built by: Dale J. Bellamah

NEW YORK

Rochester, 160 Maybrook Road, Brighton
Built by: Fred P. DeBlase

Furnished by: Harriette Thomas, Interior Designer

NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh, Country Club Hills
Built by: Thomas Wilson & Company, Inc.
Furnished by: Ivey Taylor Company

OHIO

Columbus, 6185 McVey Boulevard
Built by: Friend Builders, Inc.
Furnished by: Echenrode Furniture Company

Dayton, Upham Street and Stroop Road
Built by: C. W. Sharp & Sons, Inc.
Furnished by: Town & Country Furniture Shop, Inc.

Elyria, 206 Miami Avenue
Built by: Gene Resar, Builder
Furnished by: Burke Furniture

OKLAHOMA

Midwest City, 2824 Bella Vista, Ridgecrest Country Estates
Built by: K. H. Flanery
Furnished by: O. K. Furniture & Rug Company

Tulsa, 3717 South Birmingham
Built by: Nuckolls Construction Company

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh, 1269 Pinewood Drive
Built by: Edward M. Ryan, Inc.
Furnished by: Charles E. Beck & Company

TEXAS

Corpus Christi, 307 Meldo Park Drive
Built by: Fry & Cochran
Furnished by: Showroom of Finer Furniture and Lichtenstein's

Dallas, 4130 South Better Drive
Built by: Truett A. Bishop
Furnished by: Rick Furniture & Carpet Company

Houston, 4901 Libbey Lane
Built by: Frank W. Sharp Construction Company
Furnished by: Suniland Furniture Company

UTAH

Salt Lake City, 2782 St. Mary's Way
Built by: Peak Improvement Company
Furnished by: Southeast Furniture Company

WASHINGTON

Seattle, East 73rd and 42nd, N. E.
Built by: Albert Balch, Community Builder
Furnished by: The Bon Marche

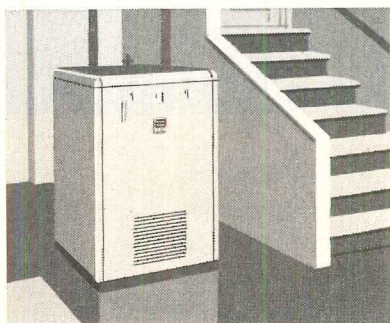
Spokane, 5103 Northwest Boulevard
Built by: Seneca Construction Company
Furnished by: The Crescent

TIMKEN *Silent Automatic* HEAT

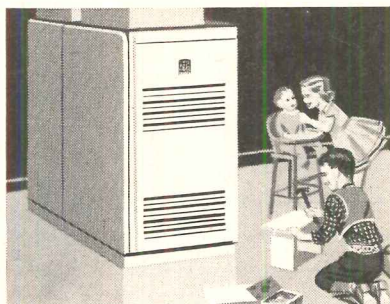


Quality

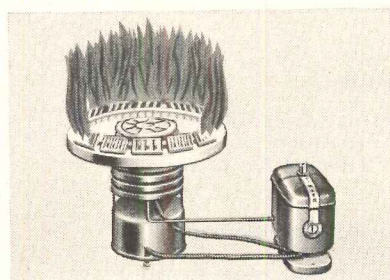
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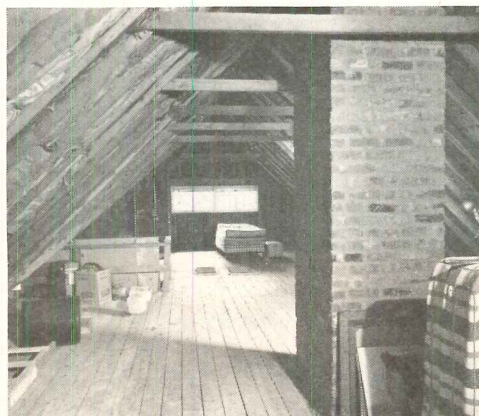
CITY and STATE _____

If you are a student, please check here () for special information.

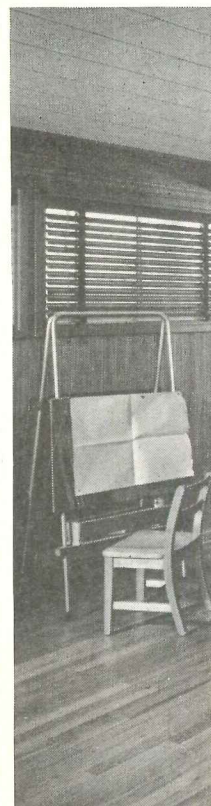
BHG-9

Extra living space in your attic

Continued



BEFORE The Wharton's problem attic had a chimney cutting through the center, was mainly waste space. With smart planning, attic was finished to provide two bedrooms, a study-playroom



AFTER

Problem chimney makes a handsome divider

TURN YOUR problem attic chimney into a decorative asset! Let it be a divider between your attic rooms.

That's how the Irving Whartons solved the problem of a chimney in the middle of their attic. They ran partitions from the chimney back under the eaves to make two bedrooms for their young sons. The space on the other side of the chimney became a study-playroom.

The chimney, which jutted out into the playroom, was flanked with shelves for books and boyhood treasures.



3 The study-play area has individual desks for studying, hobby-working. Notice how the grain of the wall finish runs vertically up to the window level, and then runs horizontally, for variation. Floors are waxed hardwood. Blinds without curtains give room tailored look

BETTER HOMES & GARDENS, SEPTEMBER, 1953