

Bi-Level Offers Versatility

Plan Allows For Renters Or Relatives

By JULES LOH
Of the Associated Press

Requests from House of the Week readers for house designs to accommodate relatives or in-laws have become increasingly frequent, so architect Herman H. York decided to provide one that would do even better than that.

This handsome bi-level, design J-3 in the series, not only provides unobtrusive living quarters for relatives or perhaps a maid, but also can be converted into a rent-producing apartment to help pay off the mortgage.

Because of its private side entrance to the lower level, another obvious possibility would be a professional office.

Optional Rooms

The bi-level design is a new stride forward in economical home construction, and it's rapidly gaining popularity. By raising the basement out of the ground far enough for good windows and ventilation, what once was secondary space becomes a perfectly good living area, as functional as the upper



level, which retains the characteristics of a ranch.

In this case, architect York provides optional dining and living room, bedroom, kitchen and bath on the lower level, in addition to a vast 16'8" by 25' recreation room, lavatory, and laundry and utility room. If desired, a simple partition could completely detach the rental apartment zone from the main house; otherwise a door keeps this area isolated.

The upper level contains three bedrooms, large bathroom with two entrances, a kitchen with plenty of room for a breakfast table, and a dining-living room combination of roughly the same dimensions as the recreation room below.

Additional Details

The house contains 1,250 square feet of living area on the upper level and 1,210 square

feet on the lower level. The optional apartment portion would occupy 560 square feet and the finished basement portion 650 square feet. The attached garage adds 290 square feet.

Architects struggling with the new bi-level frequently have difficulty coming up with a pleasing exterior. It's often hard to get the front door to look right, riding as it does midway between the two levels. York solved the problem nicely in this house with a trellised porch.

The main roof is carried down in a single plane to meet the cornice of the wrought iron vertical panels, lowering the apparent height of the house and giving an illusion of length.

Putting the garage on the side, rather than on the lower level as in most bi-levels, costs more but adds immeasurably to the appearance of the house. An even more pleasing exterior—provided you have a large enough lot—would be to substitute a two-car garage with its door facing the side.

Outdoor living areas of this house are especially attractive. Sliding glass doors lead from the recreation room to a sunken patio on the lower level; and a dining balcony off the rear of the kitchen serves the upper level. Plenty of storage space for outdoor gear is provided in the garage, which has a rear door for convenience.

Bonzai Gift Might Start Life Hobby

For the man "who has everything" make his next gift a bonzai, suggests Duane Hatch, Lane extension agent in horticulture.

"The bonzai could mark the beginning of a new interest—even a lifelong hobby," the agent said. "In fact, in Japan where the art originated the Oriental gardener cultivates a bonzai to be passed on from one generation to the next."

To the uninitiated, "bonzai" refers to either a dwarfed tree or its peculiar art of cultivation, Hatch explains.

"American gardeners are increasingly interested in bonzai cultivation," he said. "Part of this reflects our interest in Eastern culture as well as our need to grow plants sized to patios and small yards. Then, too, the perpetuity of the hobby holds appeal."

2 Feet High

In Japan, trees that are 100 years old have attained less than two feet in height—their growth held back through systematic restriction of food materials and roots.

Specimens for bonzai can be purchased from nurseries. Or collectors' items already dwarfed by nature can be found stunted and grotesque in rock crevices in the mountains or sand blasted in the desert or along the coast. Short, stout trunks and gnarled branches reveal their rough battle for survival.

Spring and fall are the two times to dig these specimens, Hatch adds. Dirt should be held over in the garden for a year to overcome the shock of transplanting, before being transferred to a container.

Holes in Bottom

The ideal container is wide and shallow, made of earthenware, china or stone, with an inside depth of about three or four inches. Holes in the bottom, covered with a fine screen, are needed for drainage. Over the bottom, spread a layer of gravel, then a layer of sand, and fill the remainder with a mixture of two parts garden loam, two parts sand, and one part leaf mold or peat moss. Spread out the roots, cutting off those that are dead or broken. Work soil gently around roots. Press soil firm. Water thoroughly with a fine spray.

Apply a diluted liquid fertilizer three or four times a year, beginning as soon as the buds burst in the spring. Water with a fine spray. During the summer four or five applications daily may be necessary.

Pruning and shaping can begin in the spring just before the new growth begins. Remove unwanted branches, snip back new shoots, and remove unwanted leaves. Bend branches to artistic shapes by anchoring them to heavy copper wires.

Not Fragile

"A bonzai is hardy—not a fragile houseplant," Hatch said. "Keep it outdoors the year around. The only time it should be housebound is for display."

For explicit directions on dwarfing trees, call Lane Extension Service at DI 2-1311, Ext. 201, for a copy of "Bonzai Plants and Culture."

Girl Scouts Paid Honor By Marigold

A new variety of Marigold, one chosen from a field of eleven candidates by American hybridizers, has been given the honor of bearing the name, "Brownie Scout Marigold," to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Girl Scouts in the U.S. in 1962.

The Brownie Scout Marigold is a dwarf, crested, French double type, predominantly green and gold with a touch of brown. It is easy to grow, blossoms quickly, is reasonably uniform and has the desired Girl Scout colors. It is expected that all seed companies will stock the Brownie Scout Marigold this Spring.

It is prophesied that this Marigold will blossom in more than the 5 million gardens in which Marigolds are now grown, due to the special interest of the Girl Scouts.

A popular project of the Girl Scouts' golden anniversary celebration is "Blossoms for the Birthday Year." All over the U.S., Girl Scouts from the Brownies of seven to the board member of 70 have been beautifying their communities by plantings of golden blossoms.

The activities of the Girl Scouts in all parts of the U.S. sound like a major beautification campaign, for, in some places, they have cleared abandoned lots, received permission from school, hospital and park authorities and obtained space in shopping center malls to plant yellow flowers of almost every variety as a thank you for the support the movement has enjoyed throughout its history.

In one Girl Scout council in Southwest Iowa, Girl Scouts will plant and care for Marigold plots and trefoils (the Girl Scout insignia) in public parks, plant flowers at a home for the aged; plant and care for roses, tulips and daffodils in the gardens of several churches and on school grounds, and tend flower bed circles on several streets.

Drivers traveling along Interstate Highway 29, which goes through Council Bluffs, Iowa, will enjoy the sight of golden blossoms that will fill the center strips of the highway.

Multiply these activities by 950 Girl Scout councils and you have some idea of the magnitude of golden anniversary project!

Hybrid Tea Rose Named For Old-World Fragrance

By MARK M. TAYLOR

Fragrant rose petals have been used for centuries in the creation of rare perfumes—the basic reason for the name given to a new hybrid tea rose that bears a typical old world fragrance.

The new rose, named "Arpege," is a seedling of Golden Masterpiece, perhaps the most famous yellow hybrid tea rose of today.

"Arpege," named for a perfume product, is a predominantly clear pink rose that has inherited much of the rich, golden-yellow of its parent. The buds are a long, slender pink with a light touch of apricot on the outside of the petals that turn a rich yellow becoming suffused with pink from the inside color of the petals. The flowers are large, over five inches, and have the graceful high center of the classic hybrid tea.

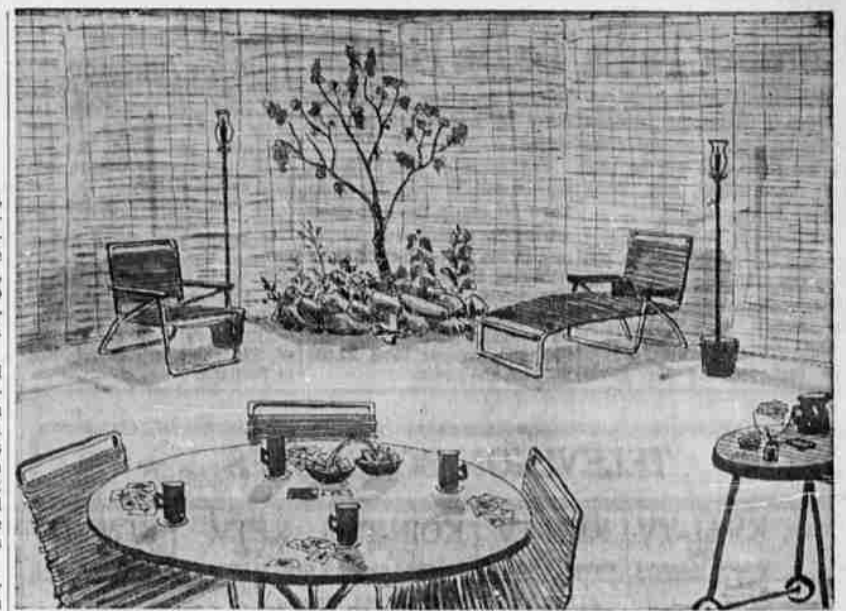
The blooms of Arpege are long lasting, borne on strong canes, ideal for cutting, and the plant has abundant, attractive foliage, reportedly highly disease and insect resistant.

While it does not duplicate the fragrance of the perfume for which it was named, it is expected that the new variety will achieve similar respect and admiration among home gardeners that the perfume received in its field.

It will be available for spring planting.

Planting of roses may be continued through February, but your specimens should be in before March 1st.

Dormant spraying or roses may continue throughout this month and up to about mid-February. Use a copper base fungicide now and be sure to cover all parts of the bush and some on the soil around the plant as a safeguard against early infection with blackspot and other harmful diseases.



Turn Your Cellar To Winter Garden

If you are one of those outdoor lovers who pale at the thought of stowing away the patio furniture, take heart and study the sketch above. It is a veritable winter garden and you can duplicate it in a corner of your basement with very little expense.

Inexpensive bamboo shades will cover unsightly concrete walls and provide a perfect background for your outdoor furniture. The ceiling can be dropped and formed of lattice panels or loosely covered with burlap to hide plumbing and furnace pipes.

The concrete floor should be left natural to better display colorful furniture and accessories. Chaise and chairs here are a blue-green; the table has a lemon colored top with green legs.

Outdoor lights can be made sturdy by placing them in buckets and filling with plaster of paris. The charcoal brazier is a wonderful mobile serving cart. Use the grill or place a round tray on top to hold extras for the table.

A whimsical focal point should be included, both for the fun you'll have making it and the delight on your guest's faces when they see it.

This one has a base of loose

stones out of which "grows" a tree limb decorated with felt leaves, painted seed pods, nuts and bittersweet. Sprouting beneath the tree are fake flowers and vines from the dime store. No weeding is needed here!

Added drama is yours if some clever lighting is placed under the foliage.

Questions Answered

Q—When is the proper time to apply a dormant oil spray to shade trees and evergreens to kill aphids, scale and other overwintering insects? Is there danger of spraying when the temperature is too low? R. M.

A—Apply your dormant spray in late winter or very early spring just before the buds break. Choose a day when the temperature is between 40 and 65 degrees and that will remain so for 24 hours. Oil sprays applied when the temperature is colder than that may become separated and burn the plants. Spray early in the day so it will be dry by night and don't spray after the buds have broken.

And, too, avoid using a dormant oil spray on thin-barked trees such as magnolia and Japanese maples.

Q—Have a Christmas Cactus that has a number of white masses on it such as spittle bugs make. What is it? J. S.

A—This is a type of scale insect that quite commonly infests cacti and succulents. They can be controlled with a nicotine spray with fish emulsion spreader or can be scraped off with a dull instrument, or, dip a cotton swab in alcohol, a touch of which will kill the pest with no harm to the plant. There are many kinds of scale insects, but in all types the covering, either a hard, shell-like material, a powdery, or frothy substance is but a protective coating in which the insect lives. To destroy the pest, the protective coating must first be penetrated. In your case, either fish emulsion or alcohol seems to penetrate most quickly and thoroughly.

Keep It Odorless
If you are using an odorless interior paint, be sure that you use odorless paint thinner or mineral spirits and for clean up. The manufacturer has gone to great lengths to produce an odorless paint; give him a "hand."

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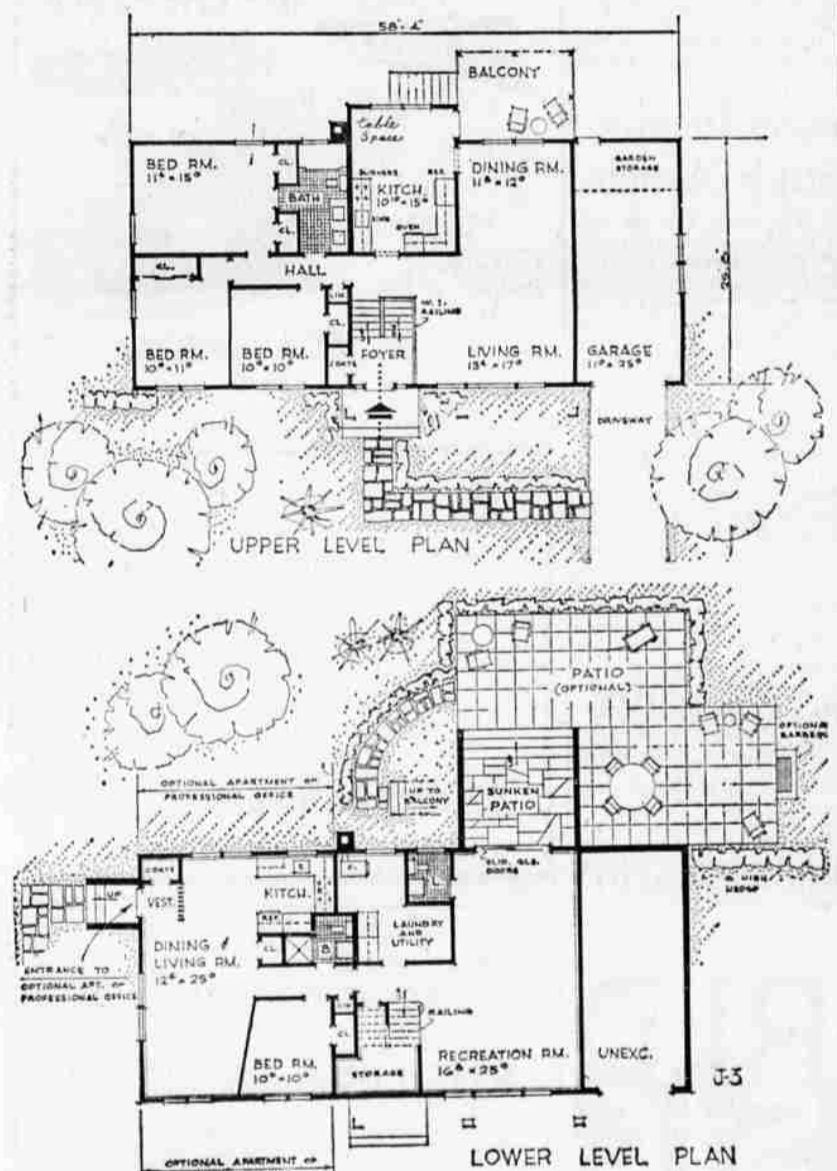
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Floor Plans
Left hand portion of lower level could be completely detached from rest of house by a partition instead of a door should owner want a rental apartment. Apartment area occupies 560 square feet; rest of lower level 650 square feet. Upper level contains 1,250 square feet and garage adds 290 square feet.

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