

THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Plan Fits Home to Family Needs

Your Way
Of Life Sets
This Pattern

By DAVID G. BAREUTHER

"A home should be fitted to the family, not the family fitted to the house."

With this rule in mind, Design HW-19 was planned for The House of The Week.

Charles E. Armstrong, the Fort Worth, Tex., architect who drew this plan, contends that the most livable dwelling is one deliberately designed around the many things people do in a normal day at home.

"If you take an arbitrary lot size," he says, "draw an arbitrary area for a house, subdivide it into arbitrary room sizes and say 'This is your home,' the results cannot be happy.

"You have to consider all the ways a family lives—where children will run and play, where and how the mother performs her many household tasks, the ways teen-agers romp and loiter and move about, where the father likes to relax, how each member of the family prefers to entertain. Then you plan your rooms around these spheres of activities and you have a house that fits a family."

So a big, informal family room, adjoining the kitchen and having its own fireplace, dominates this spacious, excellently arranged, but economical house. Sliding glass doors merge this family room with a covered garden porch on the rear of the house. A breakfast and snack bar is served by a pass-through from the kitchen. The family room wraps itself around the kitchen to provide a dining room for more formal meals.

More than one place to eat has become an imperative requirement in the modern home. This requirement, in addition to a family room, was one of the prime rules laid down for architects by the 103 housewives who attended the Women's Congress on Housing in Washington last spring.

The living room in this plan is secluded from the carefree family activities part of the home, enabling the housewife to have a straightened-up and dignified place to receive guests. The living room fireplace, using the same chimney

as the family room fireplace, presents a more conventional mantel and general styling.

Living room windows also face the rear garden, offering an opportunity to exploit a view of flowers and shrubs and attractive landscaping. There is a glass door from living room to porch, too.

With this living room opening from a wide reception foyer, you have the advantage of an impressive sweep through the house, which appeals to persons who prefer either a front or rear living room. Carpeting or any other floor covering can start at the front door and continue through foyer, living room and bedroom hall.

Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, generous closets (one a walk-in closet off the master bedroom), a pantry and a utility room for laundry adjoining the kitchen make this a comfortable house.

No basement is called for in this plan. A modern heating unit and hot water supply storage are accommodated in a large closet off the hall. Extra storage space off the utility room and the main floor laundry eliminate the need for a basement.

A walled patio in front of the house adds extra privacy to the bedrooms. The location of the two-car garage is a distinct advantage in shortening the driveway from the street. This not only is an initial economy, but also a big help in maintenance, especially in places where snow must be shoveled.

This house is designed to stay modern. Its family room alone is an earmark of an up-to-the-minute house. This is a feature that is being used so widely in homes today that it almost seems to date houses between the old styles and the new.

The family room is such a happy solution to living problems that it seems a wonder it was so long in evolving. Leonardo da Vinci had it in mind around about the time Columbus discovered America. In his Codice Atlantico manuscript, Leonardo said:

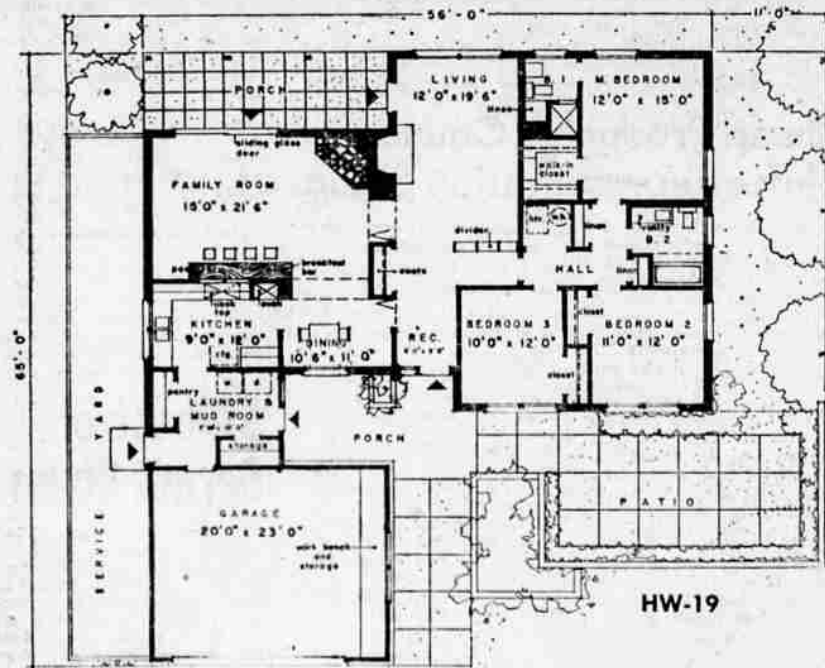
"The large room for the master (presumably the living room) and that for the family should have the kitchen between them and in both the food may be served through wide and low windows (our pass-throughs) or by tables that turn on swivels."



SMARTLY MODERN, this house is screened from the street by garage and whitewashed patio wall.



THE FAMILY ROOM has a corner fireplace, and a snack bar facing the kitchen.



YOU DON'T NEED a shoehorn to fit your family into this spacious plan.

STATISTICS:

Design HW-19 is planned for a 75-foot lot.

The living area is 1,956 sq. ft.

Two-car garage is figured separately.

No basement is needed.

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Herald and News

Building Editor:

Enclosed is 35 cents. Please send me a copy of the study plan for The House of The Week, Design HW-19.

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