

THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

A Little Spanish Courtyard House Proves to Be Fun, and Practical Too

Revived Idea Captures More Living Space

By JOHN O. B. WALLACE

If your thoughts are turning to spring and to a house of your fancy, this romantic one-story home with a Spanish courtyard should capture your heart.

Built on one level in a U-shaped pattern around the outdoor court, it has four bedrooms, (or three bedrooms and an optional family room) plus kitchen, living room, dining room, two baths and a den.

Designed by an American architect who spends a lot of time each year in a tropical land, this house revives the Spanish courtyard not only for its charm but also for an additional private living area.

As another example of notable planning, it has been chosen for the House of The Week series and designated HW-88.

The court has more than 450 square feet of living area—nearly as much space as in the living, dining and family rooms combined. It has unrestricted air circulation, and yet it has complete privacy because of the masonry wall which shields it at the front of the house.

Exotic Touch Added

The masonry wall is pierced. This accomplishes two things—it permits unrestricted air circulation and it adds an exotic touch to the house.

The exotic touch comes from an irregularly-shaped pool which extends from the outside through the pierced wall to the indoor court. On the outside, water spouts gracefully from a fountain in the pool.

On the inside, the interesting design arrangement of the pierced wall permits the pool's decoration to be added to the court.

Roof overhangs are used to excellent advantage in this house. One overhang provides shelter for the porch just inside the wrought-iron entrance gates. The porch extends from the exterior gates to the front entrance doors which open onto the foyer at a point near the back wall of the court.

Another roof overhang creates a covered walk from the rear garage door to the front entrance. Still another roof overhang provides for the garage.

Varied Uses For Court

A roof-high trellis is another feature of the Spanish courtyard and adds its own note of charm as well as giving support for vines climbing the interior side of the masonry wall.

Statistics

In estimating building costs for the House of The Week HW-88, count 1,666 square feet for all areas excluding the garage and porches. Add about 288 square feet for the garage, and about 175 square feet for the porches. The overall dimensions of the house are 66 ft. 10 inches by 37 ft. 8 inches.

Architect Rudolph A. Matern, who created this plan, has understandable enthusiasm for the courtyard. "As for use," he says, "this area has no peer for outdoor living."

He foresees these uses for the court: "Entertaining, relaxation, study, as a play area, cards, luncheon, sunbathing, parties, gardening, reading, or for that last cigarette in the evening."

Beyond this exterior area of charm, the house leaves little to be desired for comfort and livability. Its other main features include these:

The log-burning fireplace in the living room is in a conversation corner.

The kitchen is oversized and has a breakfast area for five persons.

There is a separate dining room and it opens into the kitchen and into the living room.

Total Of 22 Closets

The family room, which can double as a bedroom, has an attached, covered porch.

The central bath location serves all rooms by just a few steps.

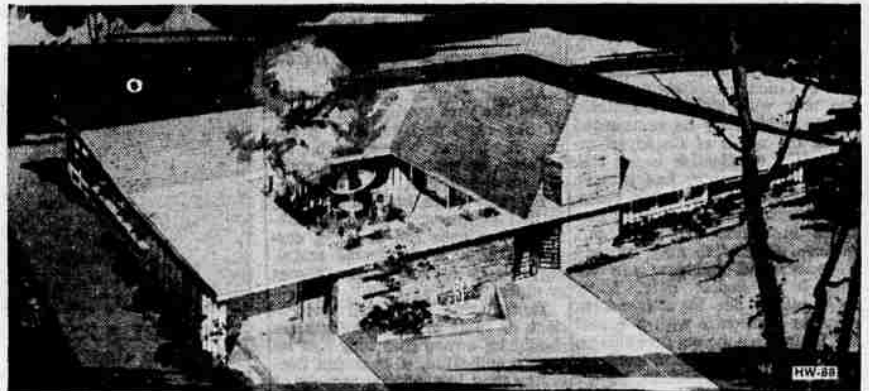
The master bedroom has a private bath and a dressing room.

Off the master bedroom there is an area 11 ft. 8 inches by 7 ft. 4 inches which can be used either as a den or as a porch.

Throughout the house there is a total of 22 closets. The foyer serves as a circulation hub in the house.

Planter boxes are exterior features on all sides of the house. The fireplace chimney repeats the masonry of the pierced wall, and design contrast is found in the vertical wood siding of the exterior.

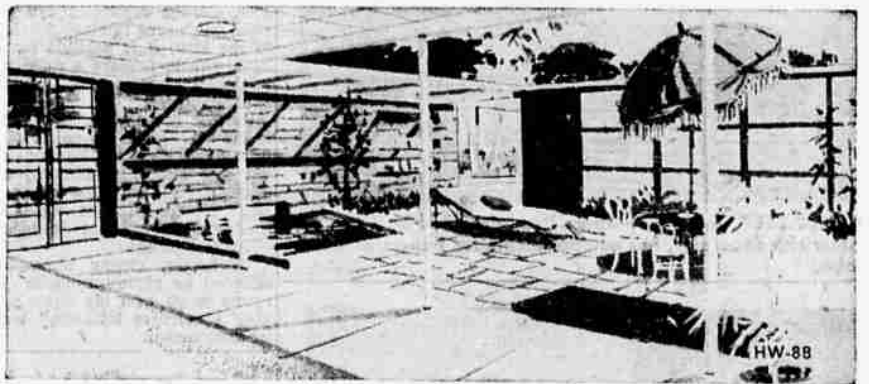
A full basement and attached garage complete this exceptional plan.



THE SPANISH COURTYARD is open to the sky but shielded in front by a pierced masonry wall.



ALL ON ONE LEVEL, this one-story house is in a U-shaped pattern around the court. There are four bedrooms and two baths.



THIS IS A VIEW of the outdoor living court as seen from the front entrance of the house (see view arrow on floor plan).

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