

THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Miracle Devices Make This Ranch Life Easier

By JOHN O. B. WALLACE

If it's been invented for the home, this miracle ranch house has it! The ultra modern devices built into it range from single lever water controls to a self-operating garage door which opens and closes electronically.

Designed to appeal to gadget-loving Americans, there is hardly a room in the house that does not have some appliance or convenience to make life a bit easier.

No oddity, the house is the work of an architect noted for skillful arrangement of space. It was created exclusively for the House of The Week series, and designated X-6.

The architect has included a variety of modern conveniences throughout the house to make for more living comfort. But they are not structural parts of the house and may be utilized or eliminated at the option of the owner.

From the minute you drive into the garage until you are seated in the living room for a relaxing drink at the end of a hard day, the house and its miracle devices work together to create a happy, carefree setting.

For the cold-weather areas of the country, the walk and driveway are heated by pipes for immediate snow and ice removal. For the hot summer months, the roof is built up with marble chip to reflect the heat away and keep the house cooler.

For all regions, there is year-round comfort in a complete summer-winter air conditioning unit. An inter-communications system is another feature.

Highlighting the interior is an area described by the architect as an "optional use activity core."



TWO BRICK VENEER PANELS add interest to the exterior and lend solidity to the house. The left panel, fronting the bedroom wing, extends and thickens beyond the end of the house.

This area has four parts and is located between the master bedroom and the family room. As Architect Rudolph A. Matern explains it:

"These four areas, which take up very little room for what they provide, may be closed off completely by folding screens. They may be used for those items listed in the floor plan or for any and all other required by the home owner. They also may be left out completely, using this space to enlarge the master bedroom and the family room."

The family room itself has optional uses. It is separated from the kitchen by shutter doors and has a folding partition at the front. With the shutter doors closed and the folding partition used, the family room can double as a fourth bedroom.

In listing the devices incorporated in his plan, the architect emphasizes that the house could be built without most of them. They may be added later one at a time.

Some of the devices:



THIS IS A VIEW of the family room looking into the optional use activity core. This core has four parts. Two are shown here, the other two are on the opposite side of the wall at the left.

A hi-fi music center, located in the hall with speakers installed in various rooms.

A central vacuum system with outlets at various points.

Ceiling panel lighting in the bedroom hall. This gives a modern decorative touch and softly illuminates this area.

An electric counter unit in the kitchen. This versatile device has several parts that are placed into a motor receptacle for immediate blending, chopping, mixing, knife sharpening, et cetera.

An auxiliary generator in the garage for emergency periods when electric power fails.

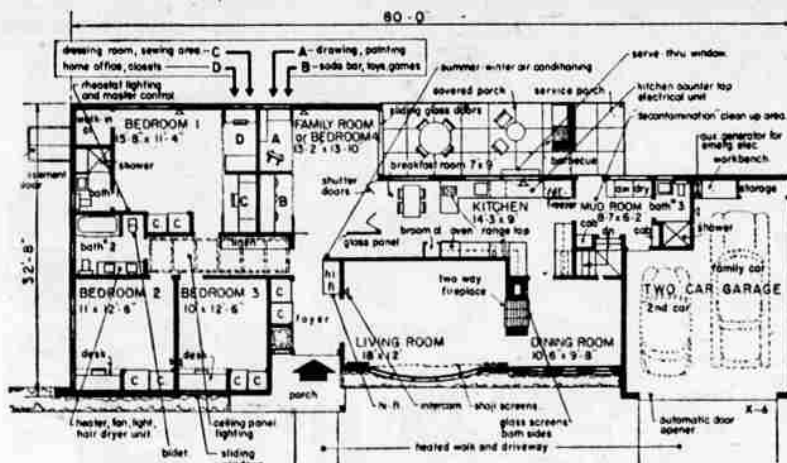
Rheostat lighting, which controls brightness by varying degrees.

Shoji screens in the living room. They may be extended across the bow window for a new interior effect with screened light coming through. When open, they serve as drapes at either side of the window.

Other features include built-in desk nooks, a serve-through window from the kitchen to a rear system, electric garbage disposal, covered porch, two separate continuous electric outlet strips, face cooking units in the kitchen, and an all-purpose unit in the hall liquid soap dispensers in all bath-rooms and the kitchen, glass fire-light and hair dryer.

Statistics

House of The Week design X-6 has seven rooms: three bedrooms, family room, living room, dining room and kitchen. There also are three baths, a mud room and a breakfast area in the kitchen. It has a full basement. It has 1,736 square feet excluding the garage and rear porch. The garage has 419 square feet, the rear porch 216 square feet. The overall dimensions of the house are 32 feet 8 inches by 80 feet. A lot 100 by 100 feet is recommended.



A MULTITUDE OF MODERN CONVENIENCES is shown on this floor plan. The items are not structural parts of the house and may be utilized or eliminated at the option of the owner.

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