

# THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

From An Atlantic Isle for All America

# Ranch Inspired By Bermuda Architecture

By JOHN O. B. WALLACE

A trip to Bermuda by an American architect, seeking ideas for a different type of dwelling with popular appeal for all parts of the United States, resulted in this interesting House of The Week design.

Designated X-18 and created especially for the House of The Week series, the plan captures the charm and atmosphere of homes found on the British Crown Colony 600 miles off the eastern coast of America.

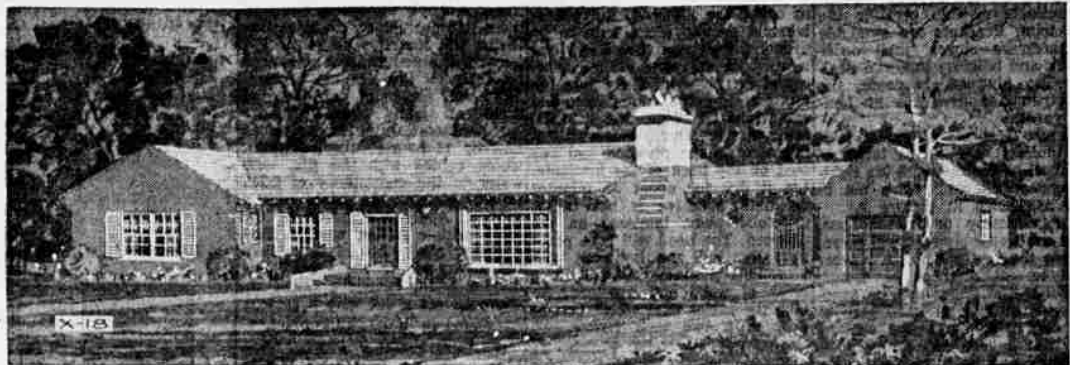
The "Bermuda house" can be built with or without a basement to suit the needs of any U.S. region.

Design X-18 is the work of Lester Cohen, noted for smartly styled small homes. He made the trip to Bermuda, he says, for the purpose of "crystallizing my ideas for a popular American home based on the flexible living features which have distinguished Bermuda architecture for so long."

Its Bermuda characteristics start with the "welcoming arms" of the masonry detail around the front step, the full-length shutters on each side of the door and the fan window over the door.

The Bermuda atmosphere is brought inside with a tray ceiling in the living room. The same type of ceiling also may be used in the master bedroom.

A tray ceiling, the forerunner of the cathedral ceiling, is of normal height around the perimeter of the room but toward the center it slants upward on all four sides so that there is an upper "well" rising to a height of one foot above just as it is.



**THIS SEVEN-ROOM RANCH** style home, inspired by Bermuda architecture, was designed to be built anywhere in the United States, either with or without a basement.

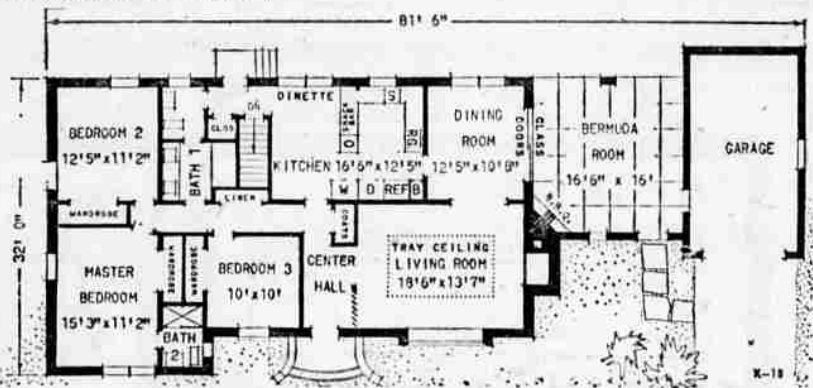
The "Bermuda room," an outdoor, partly shielded breezeway, can be fully enclosed if desired.

the nine-foot outer ceiling height.

Cohen's plan includes a Bermuda room, 16 by 16 feet 6 inches, which is shown here as an outdoor, partly shielded breezeway between the house and the garage. There is a barbecue grill in one corner.

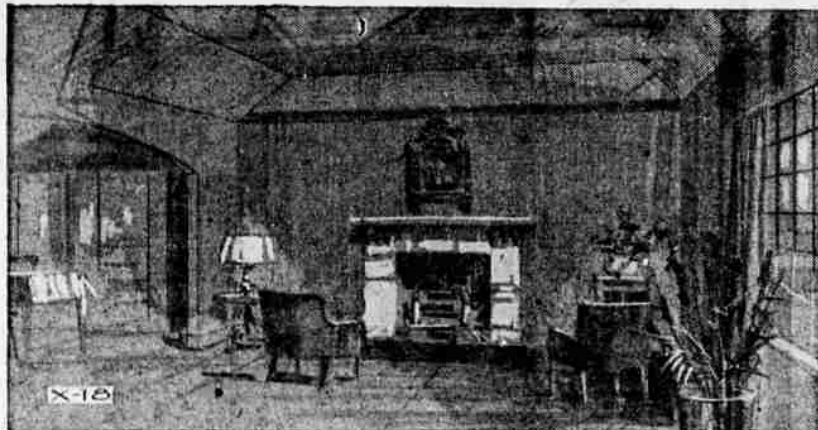
The front part of this room is sheltered and is entered through a picket door. The roof slopes upward to the ridge for extra height. One wall of the garage encloses the Bermuda room on the right. Sliding glass doors separate it from the dining room—and the rear is open to the back garden.

The architect believes many persons will want to completely enclose the Bermuda room as a full room, or use louvered glass walls of the room but toward the center it slants upward on all four sides so that there is an upper "well" rising to a height of one foot above just as it is.



**EXCELLENT CIRCULATION PATTERNS** are established in this floor plan. The center hall is separated from the living room by a latticed divider. A rear vestibule gives access to the dinette and kitchen and to the cellar stairs or lavatory without going through the living, sleeping or working areas of the house.

In cooler climates, the area can room or as an outdoor entertaining serve the family as a recreation room.



**THIS VIEW OF THE LIVING** room looks toward the fireplace. The arched opening at the left leads into the dining room. The tray ceiling slants upward on all four sides to form an upper well rising one foot beyond the outer ceiling height.

### Statistics

House of The Week design X-18 has a habitable area of 1,492 square feet. Add 277 square feet for the "Bermuda room" and 294 square feet for the garage. The overall dimensions of the house are 32 by 81 feet 6 inches. A lot 100 by 100 feet is recommended. The house can be built either with or without a basement.

Although inspired by Bermuda architecture, Cohen points out that his plan is "up to date and American." The room layout includes a wing of three bedrooms, all accessible from either the center hall in the front or from the rear vestibule at the back of the house.

In the kitchen, a snack bar and wall oven separate the work area from the dinette. Each of the two kitchen areas is about 8 by 12 feet in size, and the work area is laid out in an "L" shaped arrangement.

The dining room lies at the back of the living room and between the kitchen and the Bermuda room. It has double windows at the back overlooking the garden, and a simple fireplace. This room has a deep box bay front window and an arched opening into the dining room.

An exterior feature which catches the full flavor of Bermuda is the roof. Here white asbestos shingles are used; they are most like the ridged, slate roofs so prevalent in Bermuda.

The masonry and stucco finish construction of the house is fully fireproof.

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