

THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Ancient Atrium in a New Setting—

Roman Architecture Inspires Modern Ranch

Taking its theme from ancient Roman architecture, this contemporary, one-story House of The Week features an atrium as an attractive, patio-like area inside the perimeter of the plan.

In early Roman homes, the atrium became the core of family living because it served so many important functions. In this modern adaptation, the atrium has both functional and esthetic appeal.

Designated X-21 in the House of The Week series of outstanding American homes, the plan is especially suitable to a narrow lot because of its front to back arrangement. The overall width of the house, with its seven rooms, is only 48 feet and it can be built on a 65 by 100 foot lot.

The family room, the living room and the kitchen all abut the atrium, creating a feeling of



THIS IS AN OVERHEAD VIEW of the "Roman Atrium" house. The private terrace in the foreground is off the master bedroom. The opening in the roof marks the loca-

tion of the atrium, which is an open interior court exposed to the sky. The front-to-back arrangement makes this an ideal house for a narrow lot.

The Ancient Atrium

The atrium used in the days of the Romans was an important requirement in dwellings. Basically, it was an open court exposed to the sky and it served many functions. Guests were received and welcomed in this area. Business affairs were conducted and general family living took place in the atrium. The ancient atrium always included a little pool called the impluvium, which caught rainwater. Often a hearth was included, creating a feature similar to the outdoor fireplace of today. In this adaptation of the atrium, a pool is used to collect the roof drainage, thereby making the pool functional as it was in the days of the Romans.

outdoor-indoor living. The atrium is open to the sky. Thus the position of the sun creates different shades and shadows within the atrium and reflects light in such a way that it results in changing color nuances in the house itself.

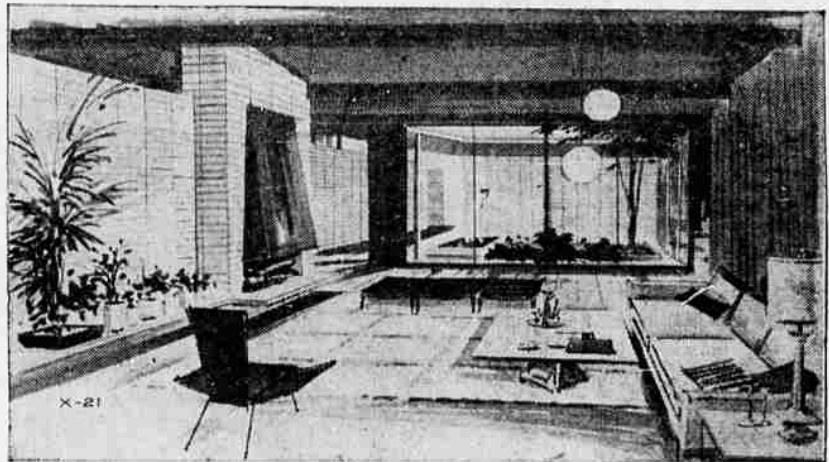
In this plan, created by Architect Samuel Paul, the atrium fits the modern concept of living. It creates a warm, welcoming atmosphere upon entering the house and it gives light to the surrounding rooms.

There are many other features in design X-21:

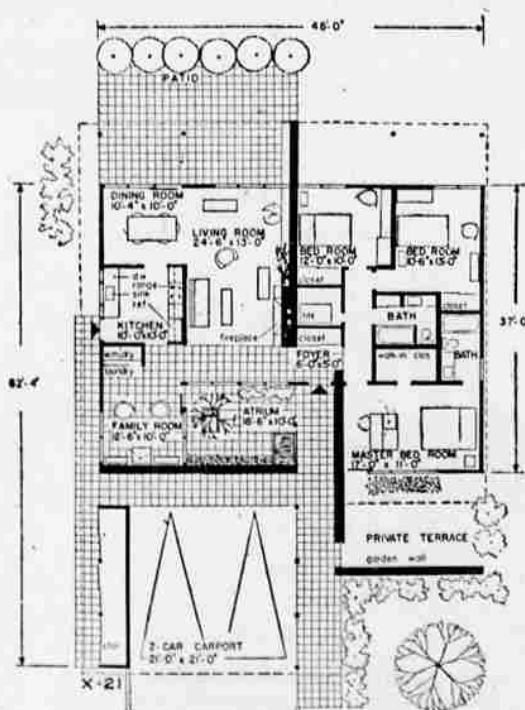
The living room has a fireplace with a wrought iron hood, and a hearth which continues beyond the fireplace proper. The hearth intersects the exterior glass wall and continues into the rear terrace. The entire fireplace wall is of natural brick.

In warmer climates, the fireplace may be eliminated.

There is a covered rear terrace off the living and dining



FROM THE LIVING ROOM, this is the view one has of the atrium with its pool and planters. The living room fireplace, at the left, may be eliminated for construction in warmer climates. The family room is partially visible in the rear, at the right of the atrium.



EXPERTLY PLANNED, this is the floor plan of House of The Week design X-21. All rooms are on one floor. There is no basement and no attic. Slab or crawl space construction may be used, a major cost-cutting feature.

rooms, suitable for dining, entertaining and lounging.

The kitchen, designed with a side entrance for deliveries and extra convenience, is equipped with a dishwasher, counter-top range, built-in refrigerator and built-in oven.

Off the family room and separated from it by a folding partition is a small laundry with washing machine and dryer.

The family room merges with the atrium by means of a sliding door.

The bedroom wing has three ample-sized bedrooms, two full baths and abundant closet space. Adjacent to the master bedroom is a private terrace which is sealed off at the front by a decorative, garden wall.

The exterior of the house is a combination of wood, glass and brick. The roof is of white marble chips, which reflect sunlight.

Design X-21 has no basement and no attic. The house can be built on slab over grade or with crawl space — a major cost-cutting feature.

The vital statistics of the house, as a handy guide for estimating the cost of construction in your area, follow:

The overall dimensions are 48 by 62 feet 4 inches.

The habitable area has 1,551 square feet. The atrium has 185 square feet. The two-car carport has 515 square feet.

The plan has three bedrooms, two baths, dining room, living room, kitchen, family room and atrium.

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Building Editor:

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