

Solar House Tried At Phoenix, May Be New Type Of American Living

The age-old theory and hope of applying solar energy has become a reality with the completion of the Solar House at Phoenix, Arizona, this year. The achievement is the result of the project jointly sponsored by the newly organized Phoenix Association of Home Builders, National manufacturers and local merchants also co-operated with architects, designers

and builders of this complicated structure.

The entire project, from the mailing of the competitive program to 1,600 architects in 42 nations, to the opening of the Solar House required only 11 months.

The objective of the Solar House is to stimulate public interest in the utilization of the sun's energy for man's benefit in his living environment. The lessons learned from the operation of the first Phoenix Solar House will be useful in designing houses for every price level and for more northerly areas where the sun can supply only a part of the winter heat requirements.

Two separate wings of the Solar House, each 18 feet wide by 48 feet long, are located on the north and south sides of its central court. Concrete masonry screen walls rising above the roof level serve to shade the sides of the house from the direct rays of the sun. Similar screen walls are used along the sides of the carport.

The four east-west walls, nine feet high by 48 feet long, are made of polished plate glass. Sliding doors provide access to the central court. A glass-enclosed roofed walkway connects the north, or bedroom wing, with the south, a living room wing.

The north wing includes two master bedrooms and a combination bedroom and study.

The kitchen equipment includes an electronic oven, while solar oven and a barbecue are located just outside the kitchen for outdoor cooking.

Two patios and the central court are paved with pebble concrete panels separated by redwood screens. Patio furniture and characteristic planting make these areas pleasant "outdoor living rooms."

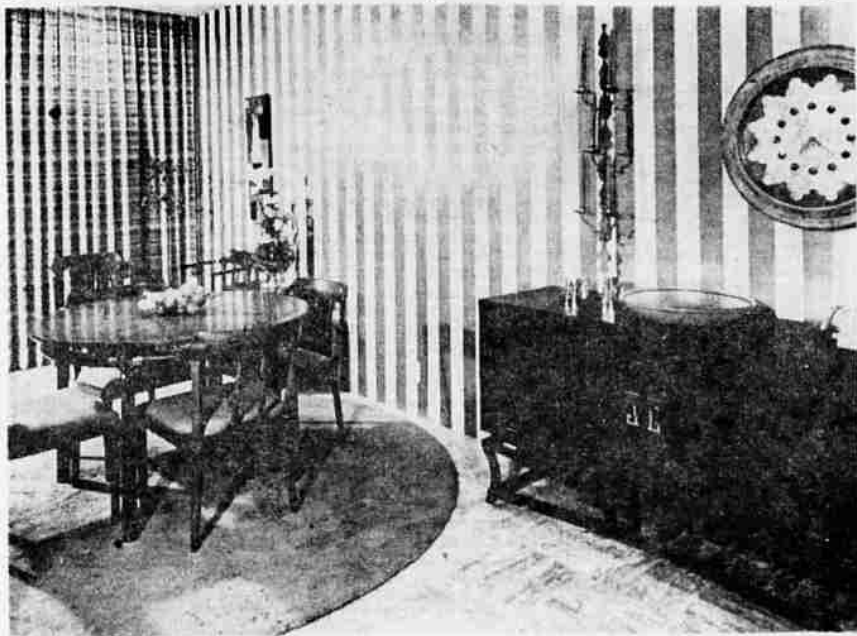
The interior decoration of the Solar House was carried out by Mehagian's Home Furnishings, Inc., of Phoenix, under the supervision of Houston F. Barton, a member of the National Society of Interior Decorators.

Inspiration for the color scheme was the desert area with its vivid sunsets, occasional brilliant white clouds and the earthen tones of

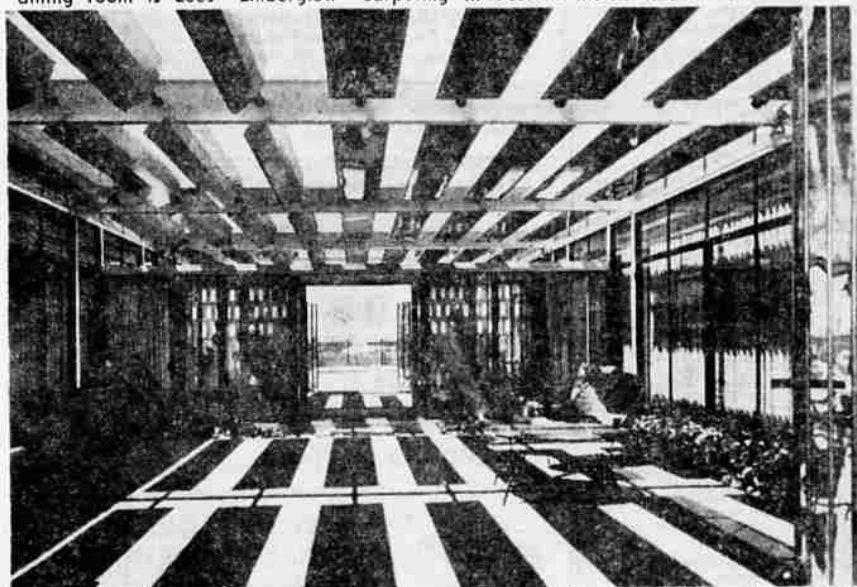
the desert itself. Draperies of a delicate tint, called peach mist, are used throughout the house to give unity and, by faint touches of sand and stone in its stripes, to bring the desert into the house.

Plush Lees carpet in bone white is laid in free-form in the living room and wall-to-wall in the master bedroom. In the dining room, the carpet, colored in Persian melon, is laid in circular design.

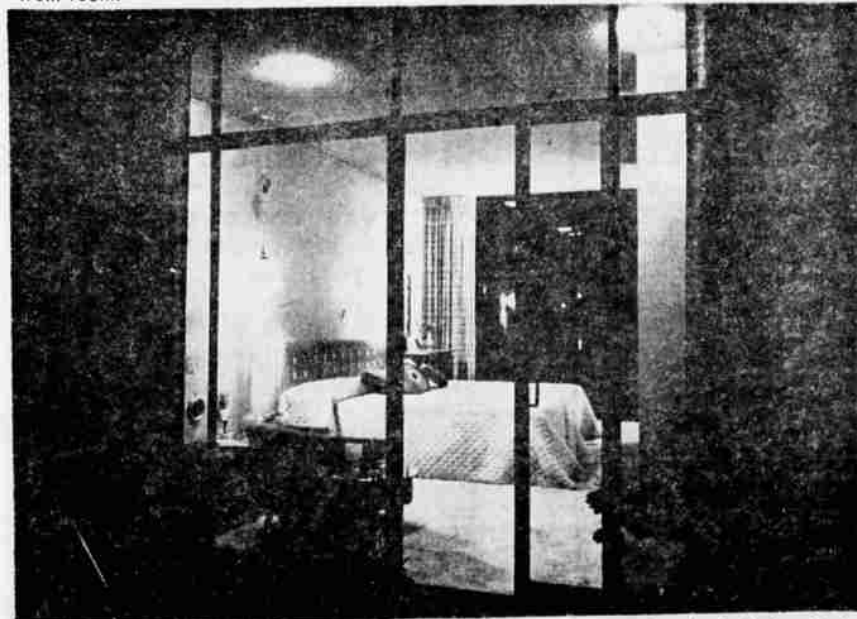
An outstanding architectural feature of the Solar House is the energy collection system, which consists of an array of 69 louvers, mounted in 17 rows between the bare steel roof beams. These resemble wings or control surfaces of an aircraft. Air is circulated through the two wings of the house by fans in the indoor units of two heat pumps. When the thermostats in either wing call for heat, it is supplied by sun-heated water which is pumped from the storage tanks through coils mounted on the intakes of the heat pump. When auxiliary heat is needed, it is provided by the heat pumps with electricity from the Arizona Public Service Co.



THE INTERIOR DECORATION of the Solar House was carried out by Mehagian's Home Furnishings, Inc., of Phoenix, under the supervision of Houston F. Barton. Here in the dining room is Lees "Emberglow" carpeting in Persian melon laid in circular form.



COLLECTOR PANELS, resembling wings or control surfaces of an aircraft, are built around steel tubes and rotate freely at Solar House. Each bank of louvers is turned by clock-controlled motorized actuators. The solar energy collection in each panel is a copper "tube-in-strip." Area is central court and patios. Sliding doors provide access from room.



BONE "SKYWAY" CARPETING by Lees, laid wall-to-wall, provides the lush foundation for the master bedroom of the Solar House. A contemporary leather headboard is the design of Lloyd Kiva.

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