

THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

'Outside' Family Room Pays Dividends

By DAVID L. BOWEN

One of the most popular features in home designs today is the family room, a convenient space for children's play, adult recreation and informal entertainment.

In most plans, it means adding an extra room to the main floor, gaining the space for this either by reducing the size of kitchen, living or dining rooms or enlarging the size of the house—and thereby the price—by one room.

Architect Herman H. York has come up with a different way to work in the family room. Besides being more economical than the conventional method, it has advantages all its own.

His solution is an "outside" family room, one of the attractive features of X-38 in the House of the Week series of distinguished custom-designed homes.

The family room in this plan is simply a screened-in area bordered by the dining room and bedroom hall on two sides, the kitchen on the third and the great outdoors on the fourth. This provides the desired relaxation space inside the normal traffic pattern of the main section of the house for most of the year at considerably reduced cost. The "outdoor" treatment means that much of the noise and confusion always produced by children at play is removed from the indoors area.

X-38 also has provision for a comfortably large and heated recreation room in the basement, so that during cold weather restless children need not invade the formal entertainment rooms.

This outdoor family room is just one unique feature of the plan. A careful look will show these others:

The Living Area

While the living room dimensions are shown as 12 by 17, the over-all length in the finished home would appear much more because the width of the glamorous entrance foyer and stairway is not included in the figure. And dining room and living room are joined in an "L," further increasing the air of spaciousness.

The large "California-type" awning window in the front wall of the living room provides abundant light and ventilation.

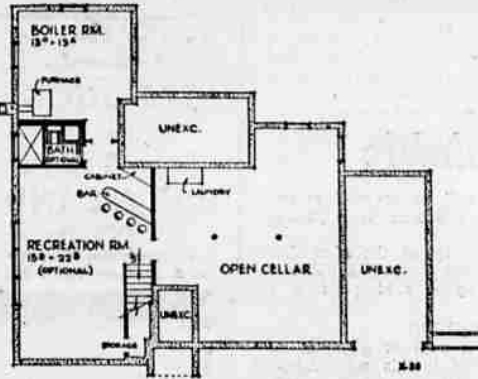
Housekeeping Area

The kitchen is practically at dead center in the floor plan, a location calculated to save the busy mother steps. If a circulation diagram were drawn, the kitchen would be at the hub with radial spokes going out in all directions.

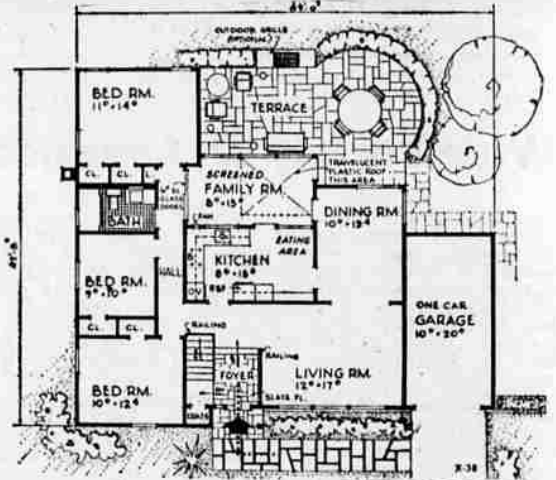
The kitchen cabinets have been

THIS ONE-STORY contemporary ranch has a unique "outside" family room, providing convenient main floor relaxation and play space at far lower cost than usual for this

luxury feature. The compact plan provides six additional rooms on the ground level, plus an all-weather recreation room in the basement.



BASEMENT PLAN: Lower level recreation room provides space for children's play or informal entertaining during cold weather. The recreation room and bath can be roughed in during original construction and finished later.



FIRST FLOOR: The plan shows the convenient central location of the kitchen and screened-in family room. Garage width was held to minimum, but could be expanded at low cost.

extended across the entire long ducted in the living room and the wall to form a pantry, an unusual casual living encouraged downfeature in a house of this size. stairs. The lower recreation room is 15 by 22 feet. It can be finished after occupation, if budget planning is necessary.

The Sleeping Area

The three bedrooms are grouped around a center hall and bath. The main bedroom is adjacent to the screened family room and all are of generous size for a home of low over-all dimensions.

The Exterior

The front facade has been designed with several details giving the appearance of a more expensive home. The brick planter with its wooden trellis, carried beyond the end of the house, adds very little cost but continues a horizontal line making the house appear to be about six feet longer than it actually is. The 16-inch overhang on each gable also adds to the appearance of length.

The Casual Areas

The convenient family room can be reached from the kitchen, the dining room, or through sliding glass doors from the bedroom hall. This latter opening, incidentally, makes it possible to reach the bathroom from the rear yard without going through other rooms.

Architect York has specified that one section of the roof over the family room be translucent plastic, assuring plentiful natural light in the kitchen.

The front entrance foyer with its stairs leading to the basement recreation area acts as a buffer between the formal entertaining con-

Storage Statistics

Because the main floor area has been kept to medium size, the major storage areas are located in the basement. The area of basement, not including recreation room, is approximately 550 square feet, with an additional 120 in the provided by increasing the width of the garage.

of the garage, which could be done at low cost.

Dimensions

X-38 has an over-all length of 48' and depth of 42'3". Minimum recommended is 65' by 100'. The habitable area is 1,248 square feet, with an additional 120 in the provided by increasing the width of the garage.



GLAMOROUS ENTRANCE FOYER: The slate-floored foyer with its eye-catching iron railings sets the tone of elegance in the living room. Kitchen is opposite the foyer; dining room at the right.

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