

# THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

## Women Call the Tune for Ideal House

By DAVID L. BOWEN

Eighty women from all sections of the United States traveled to Washington recently to tell the nation's homebuilders what they wanted in a house.

Here is a home designed to their specifications.

It has eight rooms, two and one half baths, a glamorized center hall, both a balconied dinette and a formal dining room, a fireplace, a centrally located work or hobby area plus a family room off by itself at one end of the house.

The plan, X-41 in the House of the Week series, is a composite built on the main preferences expressed by delegates attending the Women's Conference on Housing, sponsored by the National Assn. of Home Builders and the United Industry Committee for Housing. This, incidentally, was one of two women's conferences on housing at Washington last fall.

One of the moderators at the three-day conference was Herman H. York, prize-winning architect and frequent designer of House of the Week plans. As a participant in the discussions, he was in an ideal position to get a detailed picture of the elements delegates believed should be included in a modern home.

Here's how he put them together:

### Entertainment Area

The living room is in the front of the house, with direct access from a domed ceiling entrance foyer. This foyer, incidentally, connects

with a flagstoned rear foyer two steps lower to make a "center hall" connection so that children can come in the back door and go out the front without crossing a single room.

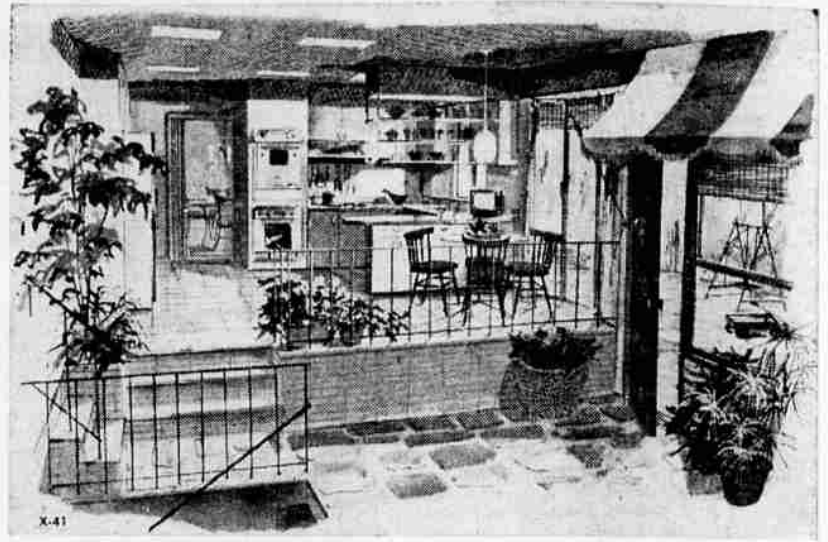
The living room has a bowed multiple pane window, instead of the conventional picture window—which found no approval at the conference. It also has a fireplace, a luxury feature high on the delegates desired list.

The dining room has a "semi-separate" location, a compromise between the totally separate and the "L" shaped arrangement which appeared equally popular among the women.

### Informal Living

A special feature of X-41 is a room in the sleeping section set aside for study, quiet hobbies, sewing or similar activities. Architect York has further increased its multiple use by making provision for a hideaway bed and a folding partition, so that when needed it can serve as a guest sleeping room.

In addition to this relaxation or work room, a large family room or den is located beyond the dining room. This room is intended for noisier family activities and connects through sliding glass doors with the huge terrace which runs most of the length of the house at the rear. The plans allow for yet another private family area as an optional arrangement in the basement.



LOW FLAGSTONED FOYER and iron railings add to glamor of the kitchen area, which includes ample space for informal family meals. The formal dining room is visible in background.

### Kitchen Detail

Women at the conference insisted that kitchens should be large enough to provide an eating space for informal meals. Most of the delegates also wanted kitchen cabinets out of sight from the living and dining rooms. The kitchen in X-41 not only answers these demands but also gives control of the rear yard play area. Among other desirable features: a built-in cut-

ting board, a planning desk, a broom closet (often overlooked nowadays).

### Sleeping Wing

The three bedrooms are isolated from the noise areas. All have two closets, and both of the two in the master bedroom are "walk-ins." The master bedroom has a private full bath, and sliding glass doors lead to a balcony terrace overlooking the rear yard.

The main bath is "split" with a sliding door, a practical and desirable arrangement when two bedrooms are served by the same bath.

### The Exterior

On exteriors, women attending the housing conference expressed desire for a house which, whether traditional or modern, retained the warmth of domestic architecture. They like wood which shows its grain, or brick which "looks like it belongs on a house and not a gas station." Architect York had this in mind in fashioning a contemporary exterior with a fresh clean appearance. Its "homeyness" was achieved by limiting the exte-

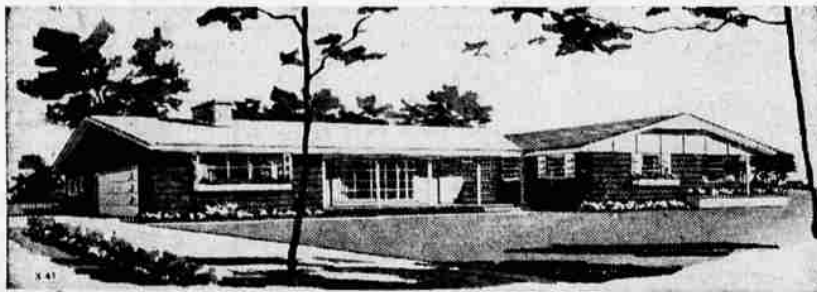
### Storage and Dimensions

The garage is generously oversized to provide for garden tool storage and work bench. A large cellar off the optional lower recreation room gives ample room for additional storage.

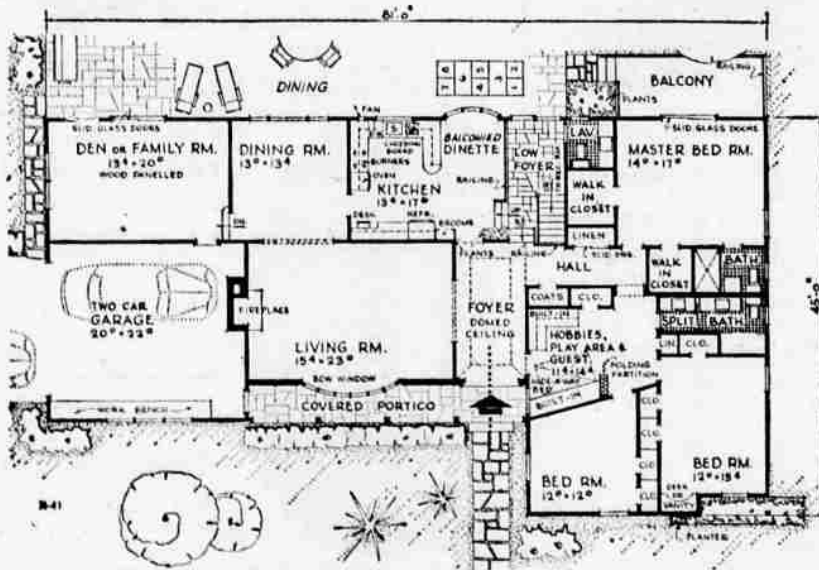
The habitable area of the house is 2,193 square feet, not including the family room which contains 284 square feet. The garage covers 453 square feet and another 1,042 square feet of space adaptable for finishing is enclosed by the basement.

The over-all length is 81 feet, the depth 45 feet. Minimum lot width recommended is 115 feet.

The square foot area of the house is higher than average, but necessary to make room for features delegates desired. Architect York reports the women at the conference were frank to admit that there were many things they wanted which they could not afford. That doesn't mean they'll never enjoy them; it just means they won't get them as soon.



WHAT THE WOMEN WANT: This eight-room contemporary home was designed to the specifications of 80 delegates from all parts of the United States who attended the Women's Conference on Housing in Washington, D.C. It has three bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths.



FLOOR PLAN: Wide foyer and hobbies, play or study area in the sleeping wing are two of the attractive features of X-41. The design includes a luxurious master bedroom, large living and dining rooms, a wide kitchen and dinette area, and a generous wood-paneled family room or den. The basement plan, not shown, includes an optional lower level recreation area and a maid's room.

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