

THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Efficiency PLUS Uncommon Beauty

By DAVID L. BOWEN

Great importance is placed these days on utility and floor plan efficiency in a home. But if a design had these virtues and none other, it would be as dreary—even if as practical—as an Army barracks.

Beauty of form, line, color and texture is essential to lasting employment of a home. X-50, today's House of the Week design, has such beauty in an unusual degree.

The architect who did not overlook his function as artist is Rudolph A. Matern. A glance at the drawing of the graceful exterior and close study of the floor diagrams will show how well he succeeded.

Here are some of the departures that make the home exceptional:

1. A single continuous roof covers the entire house (usually a split level has two separate roof areas).

2. The split is uneven; that is, there are only four steps from the lowest level to the middle level, and eight from the middle level to the bedroom level.

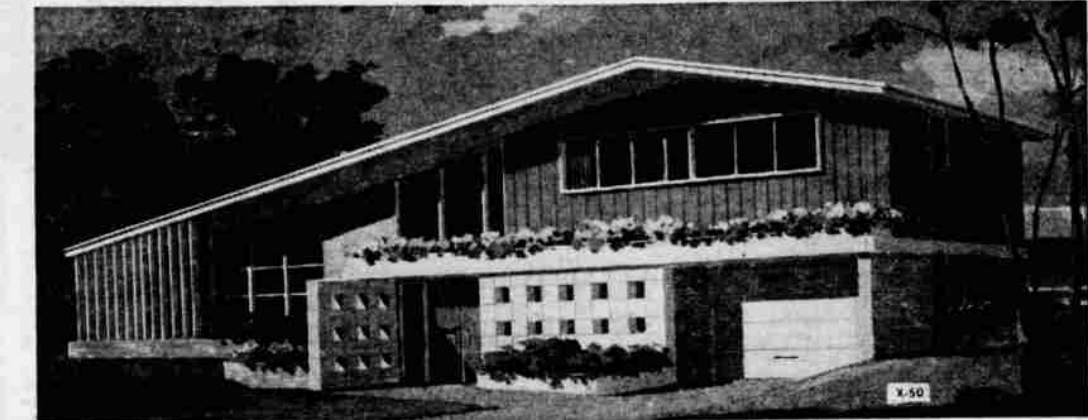
3. The main entrance is on the lowest level (instead of the middle level, as is customary).

Each of these features brings opportunity for dramatic treatment indoors.

The roof design makes possible a beamed and slanted "cathedral" ceiling over living room, dining room and kitchen.

The unevenness of the split increases the privacy of the bedroom section, makes possible a lovely balconied stairway leading to the bedroom hall, and permits a glamorous linking of the kitchen and the family room. Kitchen is completely open to the family room, but four steps higher. Dinettes space is provided against the wrought iron railing running along the kitchen balcony.

The combination of the cathedral ceiling and the position of the



WORTH DREAMING FOR: Engineering ingenuity and the artist's eye for beauty combined to produce this striking

main entrance on the lowest level brings an uncommon air of spaciousness to the entryway. The ceiling above the lower foyer is nearly two stories high. A visitor can move from the lower foyer either to the upper foyer or bypass through the family room to the kitchen and terrace in the rear.

From the upper foyer, the entire entertaining area comes into view: the living room with its large windows and sliding glass door leading to the porch, the impressive brick fireplace wall rising to the high ceiling, and the dining room.

Privacy was one of Architect Matern's principal aims in this house. That is one of the reasons he settled upon the split-level style—because it elevated the bedrooms well above the street. Because of this natural privacy, he was able to use larger windows than usual in the bedrooms. The master bedroom has a private bath and the bath serving the other two bedrooms is only steps away from their doorways.

The privacy theme also is apparent on the porch, which is completely open only toward the rear. The house protects it on two sides and a masonry screen shields

it on the third side.

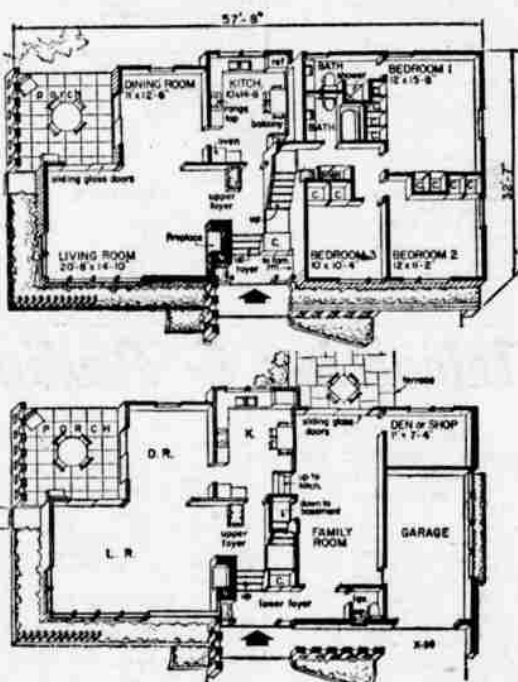
An unusual amount of screening is done elsewhere. Vertical louvers at the front corner act like a giant Venetian blind for the living room. The pierced masonry screen at front center shields the living room from observation by a person standing outside the main entrance. These screens permit use of large glass doors for light and ventilation in the living and dining rooms, without the penalty of loss of privacy.

"Exterior appearance of X-50," says Architect Matern, "is a perfect example of how a split-level house can be glamorized and made more interesting than the ranch, 1½-story or two-story house."

"Sweeping roof and horizontal planter tie both levels neatly together. Angled head windows, vertical louvers, planters, masonry walls and combination of brick and vertical boards all add interest and charm to the home."

Living and bedroom levels cover 1,486 square feet. This does not include area of lower foyer, family room, or the small den or shop behind the garage. Over-all width is 37' 8" and depth is 32' 7". Minimum lot size recommended is 80 by 100 feet.

split-level. The house has three bedrooms and 2½ baths. Living and bedroom levels cover 1,486 square feet.



FLOOR PLAN: Privacy was one of the principal design aims. It's obtained by elevated bedroom section and well-screened porch and living room. Main entrance is on the lowest level and balconied kitchen overlooks the large family room.

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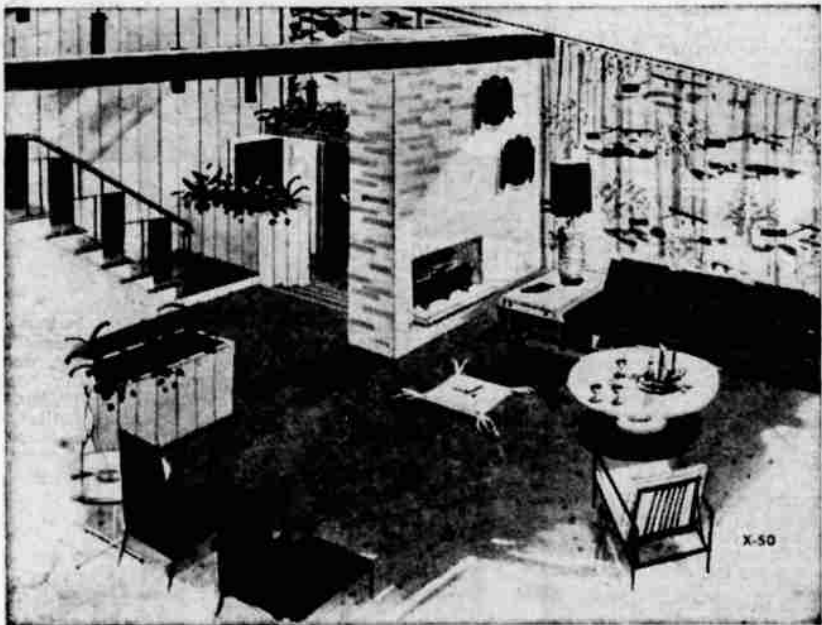
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LOOK OF LUXURY: Here's an artist's view looking down on the living room toward the unusual two-level front entrance foyer. Beamed ceiling slopes down from left to right.