

THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Build Your Own Summer Resort

By DAVID L. BOWEN

Instead of a hectic race to stake your claim to a picnic table on a beach awash with Memorial Day water-worshippers, next year how would you like a quiet drive down a back road to your own cool and private summer retreat?

This House of the Week plan may help you make that tantalizing thought a reality. Applying his talent for residential design in a new direction, Architect Samuel Paul here presents a plan for a summer cottage delightfully different both in appearance and construction.

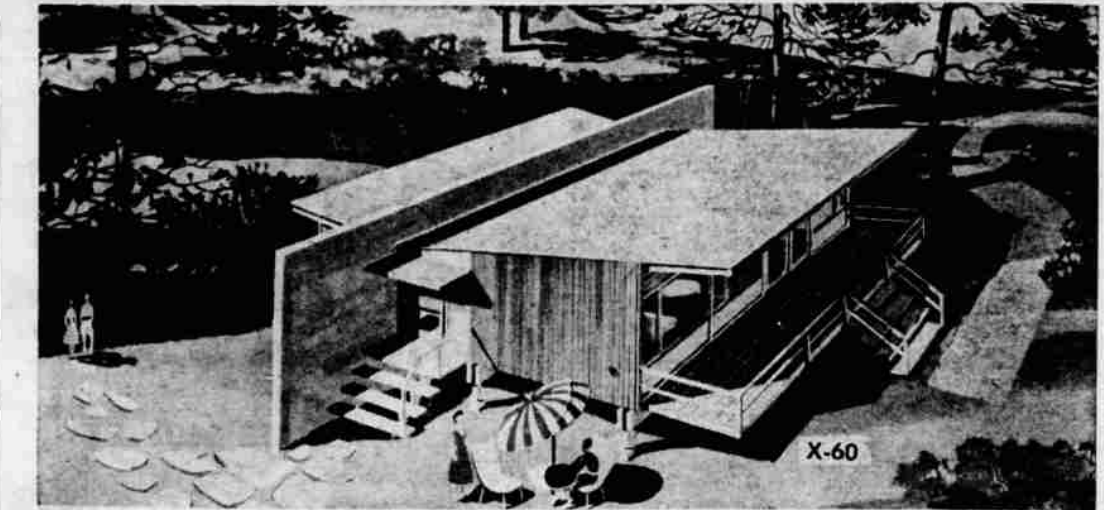
In addition to its clean, modern simplicity, the chief advantages of X-60 are low building cost and great flexibility in floor plan. This summer haven can literally grow with the family. It also could be used as a retirement home.

Wall Insures Privacy

The most striking feature of the house is a continuous masonry "wing wall" providing the structural starting point for original construction and future expansion. It also acts as a decorative and protective screen.

The house should be placed on the site in such a way that this wall becomes a buffer shielding the living and relaxing areas from a nearby road or any other form of encroaching civilization. This greatly heightens the feeling of seclusion essential to a summer home.

Sweeping outward from this "wing wall" is the basic unit of X-60, a large open room with a wall of glass overlooking a wide sun deck in front. The rear part of this space is partitioned to make



SETTING FOR THE SUMMER: This modern and marvelously flexible summer home can be built to accommodate anything from a retired couple to a family requiring five bedrooms.

a bath, storage and utility room and kitchen. The front part remains open as a 14 by 32-foot living and dining area.

Wide sliding glass doors connect this big multi-purpose room with the front deck, insuring the proper resort atmosphere. If the climate calls for it, a freestanding fireplace can be installed near the center of the room.

Has Full Kitchen

A breakfast bar separates the "L" shaped kitchen from the multi-purpose room. Space for built-in TV, hi-fi, bar or clothes closet is provided against the bath-utility room wall.

The house rests on a raised platform. This makes the structure perfectly adaptable to any site condition and contributes to its economy. Instead of the usual perimeter foundation, platform construction requires merely the use of isolated concrete piers that can be pre-cast or poured into place.

Cost of the home will vary widely depending on local labor markets, accessibility of the site, and how much work the owner is willing to do himself. To get an estimate, write for the X-60 Study Plan and take it to a contractor. It provides four elevations drawn to scale and a list of necessary building materials.

The secret of X-60's flexibility lies in the utility core—the complete centralization of plumbing in the compact bath, utility and kitchen area. No matter how many sleeping rooms are put into the plan either originally or later, the basic plumbing remains undisturbed.

Add In Stages

A small family, or one willing to sleep together in the living room for the first few summers to hold cost down, could get along with the cottage extending mainly one-way from the "wing wall," with only a narrow rear deck behind it.

Extension of the building toward the rear, however, can provide up to five bedrooms. What was the rear deck becomes the bedroom hall. A new door is cut so that entry into the original bath is from the bedroom section. If desired, a second bath can be installed in the storage and utility room. These are the only disturbances of original construction necessary to go from no bedrooms to five bedrooms!

The advantage of this is that cost per square foot for expansion is considerably lower than the cost per square foot for the first part of the house, because all utilities remain the same. And nothing has to be torn out to permit expansion. Thus you can start with the bare minimum and expand economically in stages.

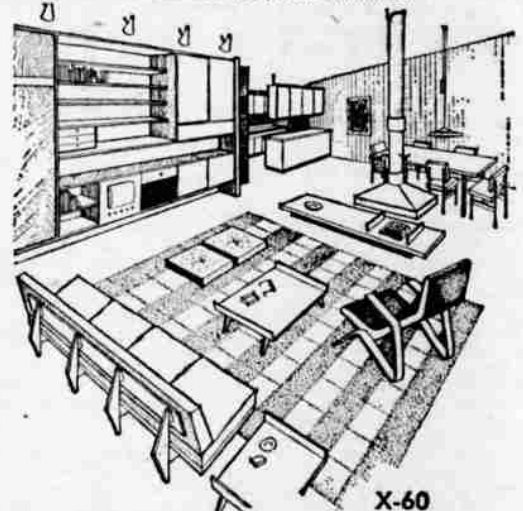
Plan Is Flexible

Size of rooms in the sleeping section is completely flexible. They also could serve as dressing rooms or study as easily as for bedrooms.

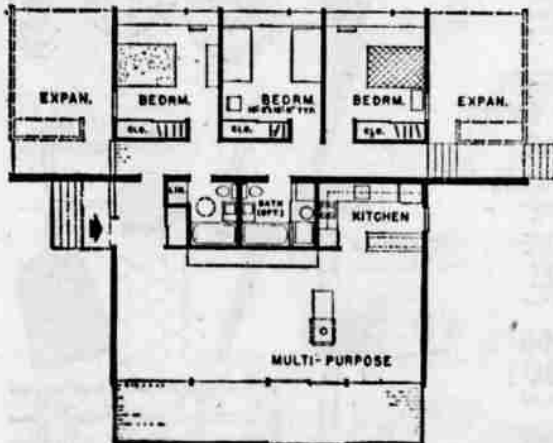
The primary exterior finish is vertical natural wood siding, extending from the basic masonry "wing wall." This wall may be of brick, concrete block either left unfinished or covered with stucco, or local stone. Choice of material depends on site location. A five-ply built-up shed roof serves both

The "starter" house (with no bedrooms at all) is shown here. It's designed for easy expansion toward the left to provide space for desired number of sleeping rooms.

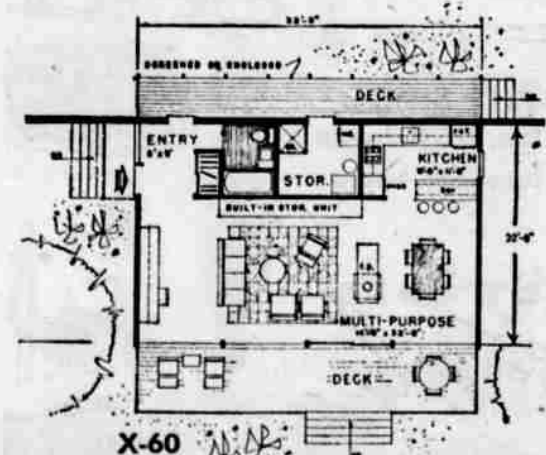
The basic house and the extension, divides another 102 square feet. The basic living section of the house covers 704 square feet of enclosed area. The main deck provides another 102 square feet. Square footage in the sleeping section depends on the number of bedrooms demanded.



ROOM FOR ROMPING: This is an artist's conception of the big multi-purpose room, looking from a front corner toward the kitchen. The free-standing fireplace could be installed anywhere in the room.



X-60



X-60

VARIATIONS ON A VACATION THEME: The "starter" plan at bottom shows the arrangement of the basic unit. The "expansion" plan at top shows how from three to five bedrooms can be added, either during original construction or later. Size of the bedrooms can be adjusted to meet any need.

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This study plan shows each floor of the house together with each of the four elevations, front, rear and sides of the house. It is scaled at 1/8-inch per foot. It includes a guide on "How to Get Your House Built."

You can take this study plan to your bank or other mortgage lender and to your builder and get rough estimates on the cost of construction in this area, as well as an idea of the cost in relation to your budget.

With this information you will know whether you will want to proceed with construction by ordering working blueprints direct from the architect and asking for bids for the work.

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