

THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Switch Hit Home for a Growing Family, And Then for Parents When Kids Leave

By DAVID L. BOWEN

"Sure, we need four bedrooms now, but what'll we do with all those sleeping rooms when the kids grow up?"

If that question from a cost-conscious spouse is blocking your road to home ownership, here's a plan that may help remove the obstruction.

It's a medium-sized four bedroom ranch with a built-in answer to middle age—the sleeping section can easily be converted from four bedrooms into two "his" and "her" suites. Removal of a few partitions turns a home that can easily accommodate from three to five children into one tailor-made for a pair of grandparents smart enough to plan for a comfortable life after the children are gone.

Forgotten Group

One executive in the housing industry has pointed out that most home design today is aimed at the young, expanding family—with little thought being given to the needs of a couple whose child-rearing days are over. Architect Rudolph A. Matern set out to remedy this lack of farsightedness, and his answer is House of the Week X-62.

The essential features of Matern's solution are in the bedroom section of the seven-room contemporary home. During the years children are part of the family, the roughly rectangular sleeping section is divided into four bedrooms. Two baths are in this part of the house, one handy to the fam-

LOADED WITH LONGEVITY: Architect Rudolph A. Matern designed this home so that it can change with the changing

ly room and the other at the end of the bedroom hall.

When the children grow older, marry, and move out to set up their own homes, the use of rooms in this section can be drastically altered with a little simple carpentry and redecoration.

The two rooms on the street side of the hall become a bedroom and connecting den (or office) for the man of the house, with easy access from the main entrance. Carpentry required: two doorways cut in partition walls, one sealed.

On the other side of the hall, the lady of the house gets a completely feminine suite composed of bedroom, sitting or sewing room, and connecting bath. Carpentry required: one archway and one doorway cut in partition walls, two doors sealed.

The unusual flexibility in the bedroom section is not the only advantage of this design. The important living and service areas of the house were laid out with both efficiency and beauty in mind. They would make living a comfort

needs of a family. It has a total of seven rooms, with two baths.

at any stage of family development.

A foyer at the front entrance routes traffic either into the formal living room, the informal family room and kitchen area, or the bedroom hall. The living and dining rooms are in line, providing an expanse more than 28 feet long. A fireplace in the center of the interior living room wall and a bow window on the exterior wall insure elegance. The dining room could be screened off or added to the formal entertain-

ment space, depending upon what the occasion required.

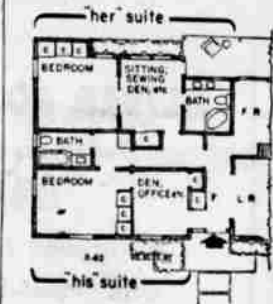
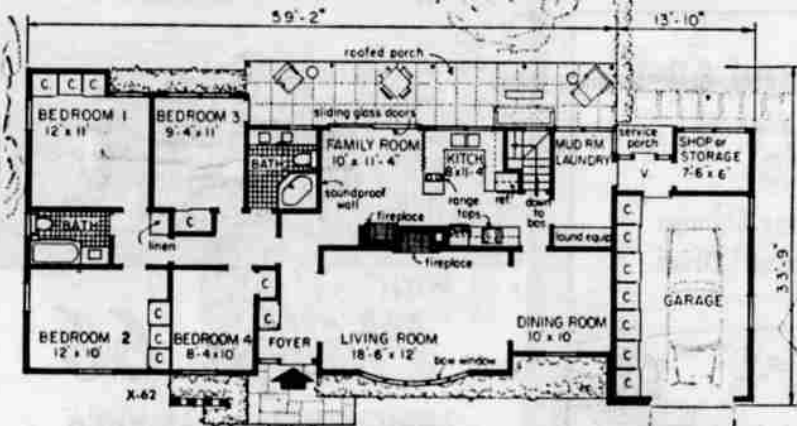
Good Control

The kitchen is well located for control of the rear play areas and has U-shaped counters. The family room adjoins the kitchen on the left and has wide sliding glass doors leading to the long roofed porch across the rear of the house.

A mud room and laundry are to the right of the kitchen with service porch, vestibule and shop or storage space beyond that. If built without a basement, furnace and hot water heater could be located where basement stairwell is shown.

This rear service and informal living area would also change its function during a family's later years, but these changes would mainly be in name. The family room would become a coffee or card room, the laundry area would be called a hobby room, and the shop or storage room (more storage than shop when bicycles were part of the family equipment) would become either a real shop or a garden hot house.

The design offers 1,492 square feet of habitable area, with 360 additional in the garage and shop. Over-all dimensions are 73' wide by 33' 9" deep.



FOR LATER YEARS: This is how bedroom section would look after conversion for use by middle aged couple.

DURING EARLY YEARS: Four bedrooms make this an ideal home for a family with growing children. But the rooms are laid out so they won't go to waste after children mature and leave home.



'HER SUITE': This artist's conception shows the rear part of the sleeping section after conversion from two bedrooms into one suite for the lady of the house. Connecting bath is visible in background at right. Doorway in background at left leads from sitting room to rear porch.

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