

THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

# Make It Low, Long And Handsome

By DAVID L. BOWEN

An architect whose usual range is New Jersey recently took a swing through Texas and discovered for himself that folks there have big ideas about living space. "Even in a home of moderate square foot area," Architect Lester Cohen reports, "I found combination living areas running about 500 square feet—much bigger than they usually are in the North and East."

Figuring that the rest of the country would find moving back the living room walls just as soul-satisfying as Texans do, Cohen came back to his drawing board, put on a 10-gallon hat, and laid out this home for people who don't like to feel fenced in. It looks like a mansion, but actually is a medium sized house.

**Something New**

The big departure from traditional design in X-63 is what Cohen calls the "ranch room," actually a combination living room and family or dining room that measures 23½ by 20 feet. While foldaway doors can divide the space when desired, there is no fixed divider at all in this huge living area.

It's the kind of room where you can entertain all the relatives without crowding anybody into the kitchen.

The "ranch room" runs from front to the back of the house, with through ventilation provided by floor-to-ceiling windows at the front and sliding glass doors opening to the terrace at back.

A handsome fireplace is set in a rear corner, with the chimney running through the wall and providing a terrace barbecue. Another set of sliding doors lead to the screened dining porch behind the kitchen.

**Two-Room Master Suite**

The house has a front foyer, routing traffic either into the big living room or into the center hall which services the sleeping wing. Cohen has provided a master bed-

room suite of two rooms and a bath, although slight changes would make each of these a sleeping room and run the bedroom total to four.

If only three bedrooms are required, however, the second room of the master suite will serve admirably as a dressing room, study or sewing room. It has all four closets for the two rooms to provide perfectly "clean" walls in the master bedroom itself.

The other two bedrooms are served by a large bathroom with an alcove tub and dual sink vanity.

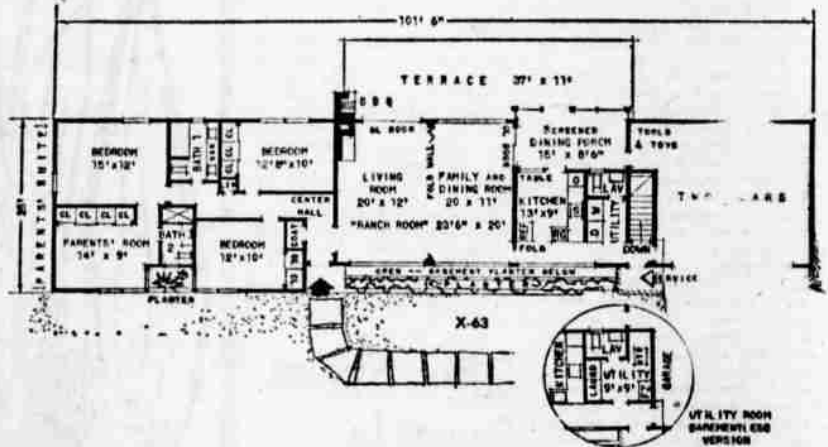
**Kitchen Is Wide Open**

The kitchen and utility area are compactly grouped near the service entrance. Walls on both sides of the kitchen stop short of the front wall, leaving a natural half-way and promoting the "wide open" feeling.

The house has been engineered for construction either with or without the basement. Both versions, however, have a utility room on the ground floor and a laundry in the service section.



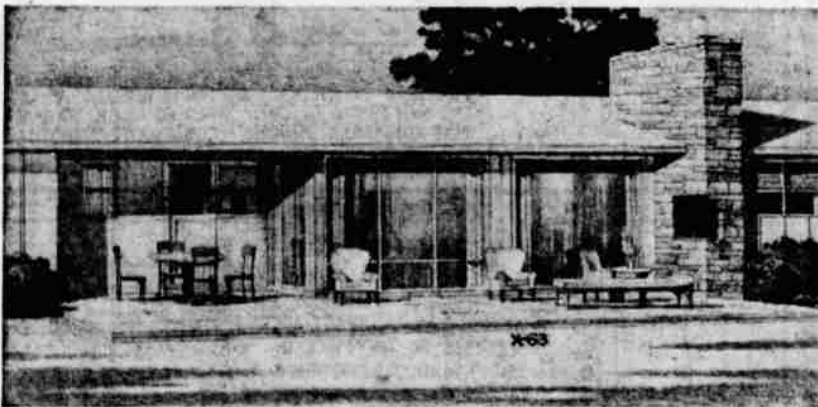
**MANSION-LIKE LENGTH:** This wide seven-room ranch was designed by Architect Lester Cohen with a Southwestern motif. Its huge combined living-family room measures 23 by 20 feet. There are three bedrooms, a dressing room, and 2½ baths.



**FLOOR PLAN:** The 101½-foot width of X-63 makes it look much bigger than it actually is. Secret is shallow depth. Habitable area measures 1,675 square feet. The house can be built either with or without a basement.

Windows in the front wall are an unusual feature of the basement. They look out on a sunken planter box. Another planter above this at ground level provides garden beauty for the wide windows of the "ranch room" and kitchen.

The house has a marble chip roof, and combines vertical siding, wide plywood panels, and big glass areas to achieve its warm, hospitable look. It covers 1,675 square feet, not including garage, terrace or outdoor dining porch. Over-all dimensions are 101' wide by 25' deep.



**DESIGNED FOR RELAXATION:** Here's an artist's conception of the graceful rear terrace, with terrace barbecue on right, sliding glass doors to "ranch room" near center, and dining porch (which would be screened) at left.

**PIKER!**  
LAKE CITY, Mich. (UPI) — A three-ounce walleye pike was good enough to win first prize of an outboard motor for fisherman Harold Plate of Lake City. Plate and 799 other anglers had gathered on the ice of Lake Pepin, Wis., for the fish derby. In three hours, the only fish caught was Plate's pigmy pike.

**NEW SUSPENSION POLICY**  
AMHERST, Mass. (UPI) — Amherst College students can be suspended for not working to full capacity as well as for failing their courses under a new school policy. It is expected to affect about a dozen students a year and is designed to make all students extend themselves as far as they can.

**WORKED TOO WELL**  
CANANDAIGUA, N.Y. (UPI) — Leo F. Seguin, 31, protecting his motor against freezing temperatures, wrapped a blanket around it and ran an extension cord from his house, lighting a system of electric bulbs to furnish additional heat. The motor didn't freeze, but the blanket caught fire and did \$100 damage.

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**X-63**

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