

THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

# Ranch House Riddle Solved

By DAVID L. BOWEN

When you strip away the frills, most ranch homes designed today are basically a rectangle with the big side to the street.

Attempts to turn the rectangle around usually run into trouble because the narrow end does not make an impressive front.

Architect Herman H. York has come up with a new way to skin this architectural cat and the result is X-64 in the House of the Week series of distinctive homes.

York succeeds in turning the rectangle and achieving an impressive front by adding a family room and garage to the front line. This gives the house the width it needs to look impressive from the street while permitting these advantages in room layout behind the facade:

1. The bedrooms are isolated in the rear of the house for maximum privacy.
2. The principal sections of the living and dining rooms are well outside traffic paths.
3. The kitchen is centrally located, with near perfect access to all sections and the outside.

One of the bonuses in X-64 is the laundry and bath arrangement. The laundry is only steps away from the kitchen, and a door leads from the laundry into the main bath. Thus children can reach the bath from the terrace entrance without tracking through living rooms.

The plan is economically designed with a simple rectangular basement—if desired—under all but family room and garage.

Here is an area-by-area run-down:

**Living and Entertainment Area**

The living room offers a formal entertainment space 13 feet deep by nearly 24 feet wide. A big bow window lets in the light on the front wall. A long section of unbroken wall on the left makes furniture arrangement easy. The dining room adds to the illusion of space in the living room and is directly off the kitchen.



**RANCH WITH A DIFFERENCE:** This seven-room home is arranged in an "L" shape, with family room and garage helping provide a wide front elevation. The home offers 1,481 square feet of habitable space and 1½ baths.

The family room, adjacent to the front door and one step down, is the avenue to informal living. It would make an excellent TV or play room, and opens on the terrace at rear.

Large glass areas enable a mother to watch children on the terrace from nearly anywhere in laundry, kitchen or family room. Easy access from kitchen to terrace simplifies outdoor dining.

**Sleeping Area**

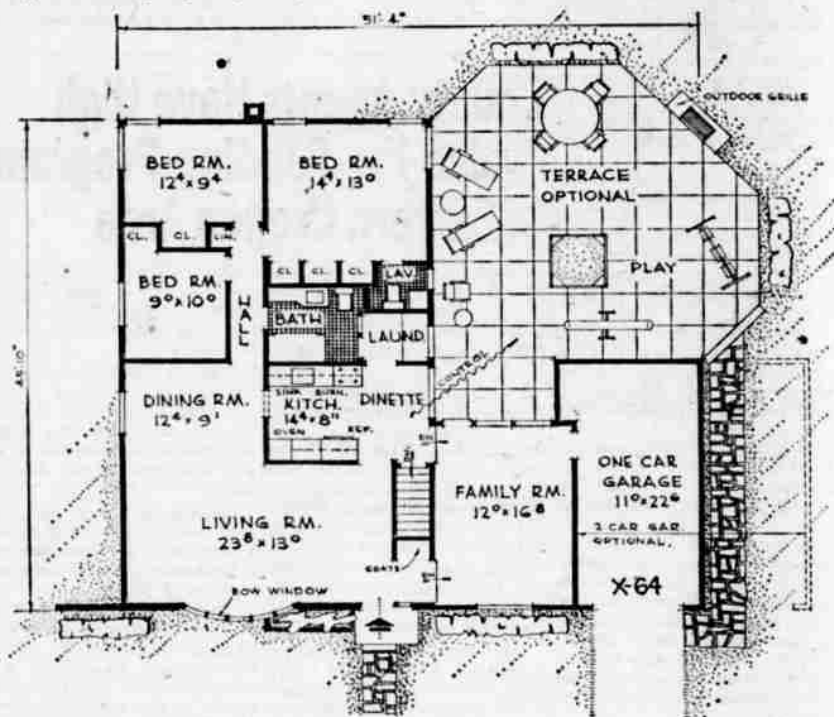
Three bedrooms and 1½ baths are located in the rear part of the house. The bathroom and kitchen serve as noise buffers. As indicated earlier, the main bath can be entered either from bedroom hall or laundry. Master bedroom has its own lavatory.

**Storage**

Seven closets plus storage space in the garage add to the storage possibilities of the full basement. The house could easily be constructed without a basement, with furnace and hot water heater located where basement stairway is shown.

**Exterior Design**

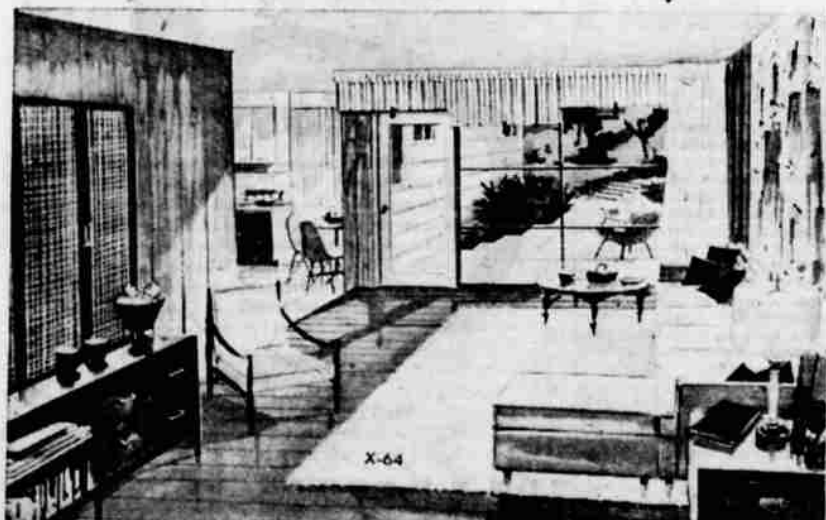
The architect's first choice is wood sawn shingles on the exterior walls. There are other materials which could be used, such as vertical battens on exterior plywood, varboard, clap boards. A brick wall gives the entrance an accent, and is carried behind the end of the building to create a long horizontal line.



**FLOOR PLAN:** Family room and garage provide X-64 with a wide front wall, even though main section of the house is a rectangle with narrow end at front. Central location of kitchen makes it easy for housewife to reach any section of the home.

**Dimensions**

The house contains 1,268 square feet in the main section, with another 213 in the family room and 270 in a one-car garage. Overall length is 51'4" by 45'10". If a two-car garage is built, an additional " will be added to width



**DECORATOR'S DREAM:** This is an artist's conception of the family room, with terrace visible through glass wall at rear and dinette and part of kitchen in background at left.

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