

THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Choose Your Own Exterior for This Budget House

By DAVID L. BOWEN

Here's an economy-sized plan with a high glamor-per-dollar ratio.

Low building cost was one of the major considerations influencing the design, but it was not allowed to stifle inspiration. Even though the habitable area is only 966 square feet, the home has a surprising number of luxury features; an entrance foyer and a service vestibule, good isolation for its three bedrooms, an excellent circulation pattern, and an interesting exterior facade.

Split Down The Middle

In fact, Architect Samuel Paul has developed two alternate exteriors for X-87 in the House of the Week series. One is smartly modern, the other closer to American residential tradition. Although the floor plan remains identical behind either exterior, the roof and ceilings are drastically different.

For the modern exterior, the roof is pitched from the centerline down toward each side. The underside of the pitched roof forms the ceilings in all rooms. This makes possible a spectacular window wall, with the glass rising to the roof beams, in the living-dining room. At the front of the house, exposed rafters on one side dramatize an entrance court.

For the traditional exterior, the roof is a conventional gable-type with a wide, modern overhang. Inside, ceilings are flat.

Architect Paul maintains that the modern version, which eliminates some of the carpentry involved in a conventional ceiling, would be cheaper to build than the traditional house.

The secret of X-87's room arrangement is its simplicity. Placing the long 24-foot living-dining room at the back isolates this area from ordinary traffic. The kitchen profits from its front location because it's handy to both main and service entrances.

Over-all dimensions are 51'3" width by 36'2" depth.

The front foyer is a convenient go-between for all areas. The bedrooms are all handy to the bath and open on the short hallway with a minimum of waste space.

One of the plan's most unusual features is the location of the basement stairway. The narrowest part of the house was lengthened a few feet to make room for these stairs. The benefits stemming from this move are well worth the trouble.

The extension creates a service vestibule off the kitchen. Leading down from this vestibule, the basement stairs have a maximum proximity to the outside door plus perfect accessibility from the kitchen. A storage room opening to the outside occupies the space behind the stairs.

Additional Details

The architect suggests a developed basement with this house, and has partitioned it off to create a 34 x 21-foot playroom, a utilities room for laundry and furnace, storage areas, and a room for a possible future bath.

Plans call for a carport, but in areas with severe winter weather this space could be enclosed to make a garage.

The suggested exterior is red-wood siding with white trim and light roof with either traditional or modern exterior alternates.



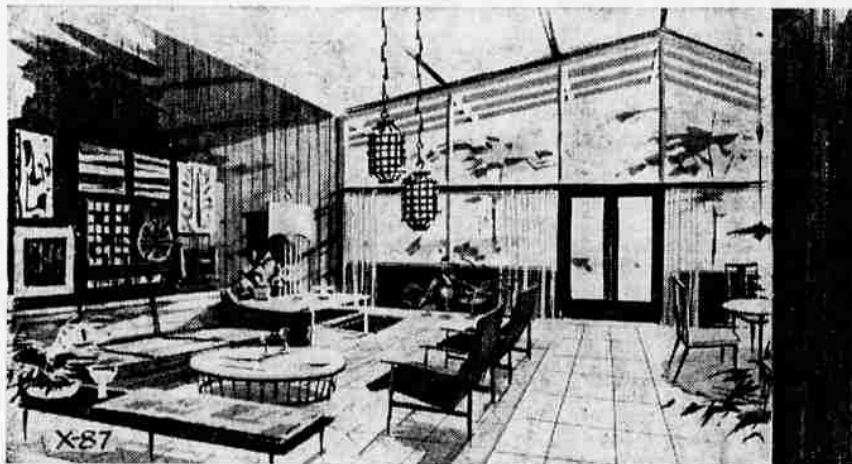
BASEMENT: Plans call for large recreation room and a laundry in the basement.



GO MODERN: If you like to be ahead of the crowd, X-87 can be built on these smart modern lines. The roof treatment provides for sloping ceilings in all rooms.



CONSERVATIVE DRESS: X-87 also has strong appeal in more traditional lines. The floor plan, with three bedrooms, large living-dining combination, and front kitchen, is identical behind either exterior.



LOOK OF LUXURY: This artist's view from foyer toward spectacular glass wall in living-dining room combination shows the ceiling treatment and decoration possibilities under modern exterior.

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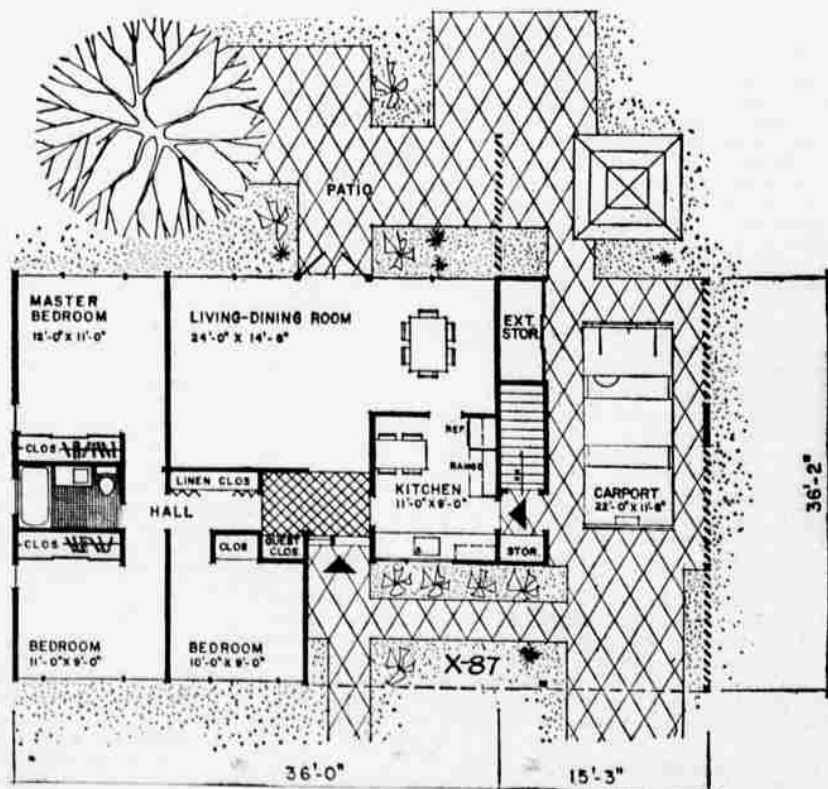
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FLOOR PLAN: Simplicity is the keynote of this small house plan. Habitable area is only 966 square feet. Note the convenient location of the basement stairway.