

THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

In This Ranch:

First - and Last - Impression Is Striking

By DAVID L. BOWEN

There's classic beauty in this design for a ranch home and—like most works of art—the beauty is soundly based on simplicity.

Simplicity is apparent in the outline of the exterior walls, which form a long rectangle with a minimum of projections, insets and corners. The interior room arrangement is so natural it's hard to imagine any better way the architect could have handled the space.

The design is X-99 in the House of the Week series and was created by Architect Rudolph Matern. Despite the luxury of two fireplaces, a flagstoned foyer at front and mud room at back, a big family room and separate dining room, the habitable area is only 1,492 square feet. There are seven rooms and 1½ baths.

Two areas are worthy of special examination. One is the entrance foyer, where clever design increases the dramatic impact of the home without materially affecting the cost, and the other is the rear entranceway. Overlapping the

garage and mudroom helps make this area a model of efficiency and convenience. Access is excellent from kitchen to garage, from kitchen to basement, from outdoors to



REGAL RANCH: This average-size three-bedroom ranch has far more than average glamor, convenience and comfort. There are two fireplaces and a sunken living room, large

recreation room, separate dining room and dramatic entrance foyer.

basement, from basement to garage or any other conceivable route.

A half bath serves play areas outside and is the perfect clean-up spot for lunch-bound children. The mudroom also provides space for laundry equipment.

The kitchen, with counters arranged in the front of the house, still the favorite location for millions of homeowners. In-line dining room adds apparent length and size to the formal entertainment area. Wide windows allow both rooms to be cheerfully sun-lit; roof overhang and drapes control the direct rays. Short walls, wrought iron rails and sunken floor effectively define the two rooms.

Including the one-car garage, the over-all width is 73'8". The depth is 25'11". The entire front and portions of the side are brick.

stacked" to produce unbroken vertical lines.

Additional Details

The three bedrooms are grouped together in one wing of the house for privacy and quiet. A soundproof wall between bedroom No. 3 and the family room insures necessary quiet in the sleeping room. The bath was carefully located to serve the bedrooms with privacy and ease while doubling as a guest powder room.

Architect Matern is convinced that the mudroom off the kitchen, although only 5 by 8 feet in size, offers more household utility and prevents more jangled nerves than any other room twice its size.

"It means," he says, "an end to dirt tracking through the house, it restricts service men going to the basement from traveling through the house, it provides handy lavatory facilities for kitchen, basement, garage and outdoors, the wash can be attended to without interrupting kitchen duties and the yard is just a few steps away."

Center For Informality

The large family room is the center of family informality. Full privacy from the foyer can be obtained by closing the attractive louvered double doors at the entrance. The fireplace adds its cheer, the sliding glass doors of-

fer an outside view and the storage closets help keep the room shipshape.

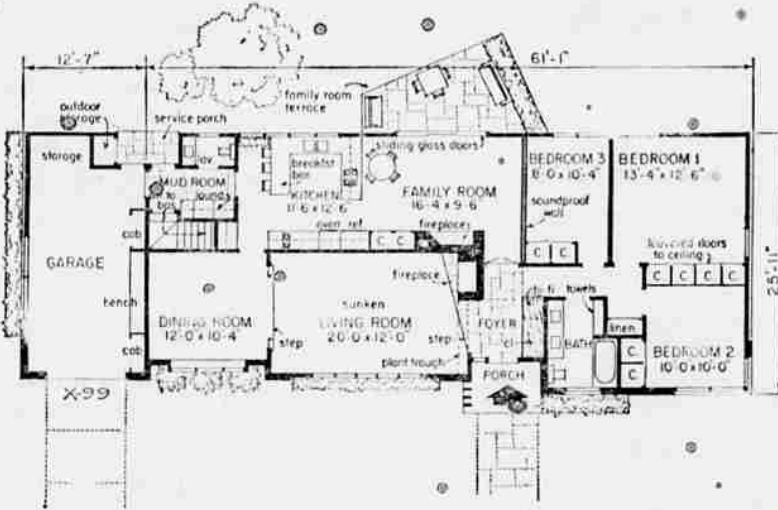
The front entrance is shielded by the porch roof and opens on a 9-foot-deep flagstone foyer. The core of this area is a double fireplace chimney block. The foyer floor angles into the living room and forms the raised hearth of the fireplace. The chimney block of stacked brick forms one wall of the foyer and disappears into the family room. There it forms the other fireplace.

On the opposite side of the foyer, a 6-foot-high cabinet contains a coat closet and hi-fi space. This cabinet is capped by a planter and a plant trough runs across the living room at the foyer end adding to the atmosphere of glamor and spaciousness.

X-99 STATISTICS

This ranch design offers a total of seven rooms in 1,492 square feet of habitable area. There are three bedrooms and 1½ baths.

There's a full basement and one-car garage. Over-all width is 73' 8" and depth is 25' 11".



FLOOR PLAN: Although no aspect of modern living is left out and rooms have air of spaciousness, this plan covers only 1,492 square feet of space, not including garage.



FANCY FOYER: Artist's view shows the unusual foyer arrangement, with angled edge of foyer forming raised hearth for fireplace.

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