

THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Home Tailored to Needs of Real People

By DAVID L. BOWEN

What are the features a woman looks for when she goes searching for a new house?

For architects and builders, the correct answer to that question is a matter of boom or bankruptcy. It's a rare husband who can override his wife's enthusiasm for a design which fits her idea of a perfect home.

But what are the elements that make up that idea?

One of the ways the home industry attempts to unlock this secret is an annual gathering in Washington called the Family Housing Conference. The conference is sponsored by the United Industry Committee for Housing, an organization of home product manufacturers, and the National Assn. of Home Builders, whose regional affiliates send about 100 delegate housewives, husbands and teen-agers to Washington for the sessions of organized day-dreaming about the ideal American home.

This plan, B-1 in the House of the Week series, is based on the results of the group discussions held at the conference late last year. The architect who paid heed to the voice of the people is Herman H. York, trustee of the Research Institute of the NAHB.

Here are the principal features requested at the conference and the manner in which they were incorporated into this design:

1. Separate Dining Room — Dining room in the eight-room ranch is isolated to heighten formality but readily accessible from the kitchen.
2. L-Shaped Kitchen — All units along the "L" are directly related to each other. Adjoining family room has separate fireplace and leads outside, through sliding glass doors.
3. Two Fireplaces — There's one fireplace for the family room and



TAILORED TO SUIT: Architect Herman H. York designed this three (or four) bedroom ranch home to the general specifications laid down by delegates from across the country at the Family Housing Conference held in Washington last fall.

another for the living room. Both are part of the same fireplace wall and a decorative brick planter adds to interest of foyer and living room.

4. More Study Area—A common complaint of teen-agers was that they have no place to study in the average home. Architect York met this specification with a room that could serve as a study for families which required only three sleeping rooms.

B-1 contains 1,788 square feet of living area, with a two-car garage and laundry area of 550 square feet. There are eight rooms, with 2½ baths.

Additional Details

The plan also meets the housing conference delegates' request for a laundry area which is outside, but convenient to, the kitchen. This facility is placed in a rear foyer with a quarry tile floor. The space also provides a lavatory and access to the basement and garage.

High on everybody's list of requirements for a front foyer is a handy coat closet. It's available here along with a hall door which can be closed to completely isolate

the bedroom section from the remainder of the house.

Abundant Closets

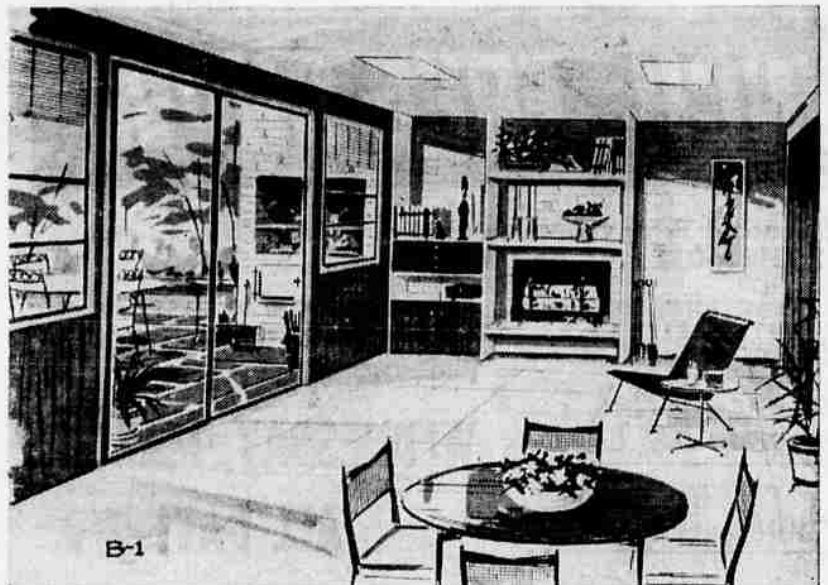
Special attention was given to closets in this home. The luxurious master bedroom, which also has a private full bath, is equipped with two huge closets filling one entire wall. Each of the other bed-

rooms and the study has one or more closets, and there are two in the bedroom hall.

On the outside, materials designed to reduce maintenance have been specified. Aluminum windows are used throughout. A combination of brick and aluminum siding is suggested, although wood can be substituted for the aluminum.

B-1 STATISTICS

This eight-room ranch home contains 1,788 square feet of habitable space. There are three bedrooms, with a study room that would be suitable as a fourth bedroom. The design provides for 2½ baths and a full basement. Exterior dimensions are 30' 8" in width by 42' 10" in depth.



FAMILY ROOM: Architect's conception shows fireplace wall of family room as seen from kitchen.

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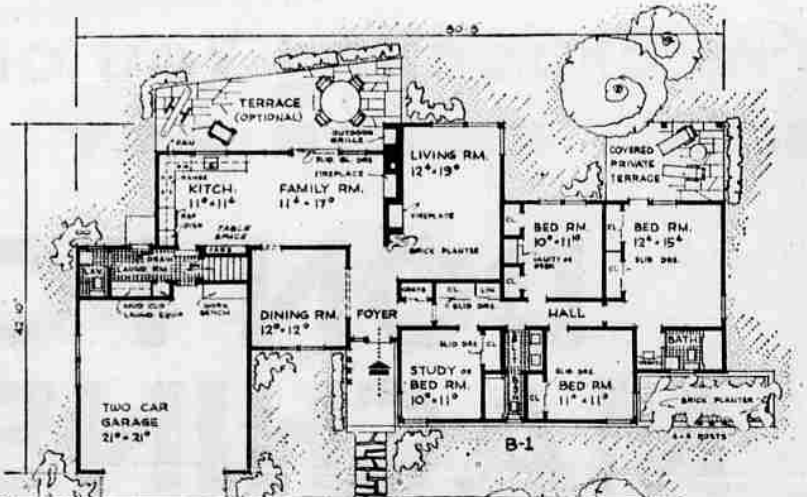
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FLOOR PLAN: Dining room location in B-1 gives it complete and luxurious separation from living room. Both living room and family room have fireplaces, and there's an outdoor grill on the family room terrace. Living area in the eight-room home is 1,788 square feet.