

THE HOUSE OF THE WEEK

A Modest Mount Vernon for Moderns

By DAVID L. BOWEN

This nine-room home has the step-saving floor arrangement of a ranch design, the bountiful space of two-story, and the look of a Southern mansion.

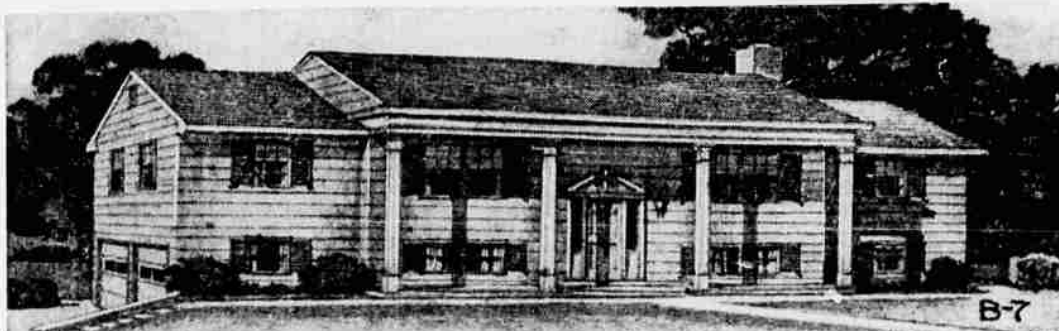
It's essentially a ranch plan. It gains all its grandeur through a simple architectural device: raising the basement out of a hole in the ground and making the lower level completely useful and livable.

Through use of this device B-7 in the House of the Week series becomes a story and a half high in the front—setting the stage for the impressive portico entrance—and offers as a structural bonus space for a den or fourth bedroom, a large recreation room, and a two-car garage.

This style, with the entrance foyer midway between the upper and lower levels, has been labeled a "raised ranch." You could also call it a ranch with a "daylight basement." Under either name, the idea is that the basement is dressed up for normal habitation.

The fresh and unusual arrangement is the creation of Architect Lester Cohen, who points out that another way of thinking of B-7 is as a house "with an expansion basement." Everybody has heard of expansion attics, but this is one of the first in the House of the Week series with the potential for additional living space in what ordinarily would be called the basement. By putting a temporary door at the foot of the stairs, the lower level could be left unfinished during original construction and later completed by the owner himself.

One of the major advantages of the plan is that it can be



MODEST MT. VERNON: This mansion-like home combines a rare look of magnificence with a modest building budget. It's essentially a ranch, with the basement raised to make the lower level completely useful. Entrance is

built in areas where the water table is high and a full basement would not be practical. It is also a money-saver for rocky terrain where blasting would be necessary to dig a conventional basement. The ideal site would slope from front to rear but the home could be placed on a nearly flat lot with the use of fill at the front.

The habitable area of the main floor is 1,530 square feet. This level has three bedrooms, two baths, a living-dining room 30-feet long, and a 22-foot family room-kitchen. Den or fourth bedroom, a recreation room and bath on the lower level add 465 square feet. Width is an even 60' and depth is 30' 6".

Additional Details

Columns with an atmosphere of Mt. Vernon form a portico loggia at the front of the house and the Colonial door with traditional side-lights testifies to the welcome within. The roof overhang is not just a decorative facing; it shields the windows at the front of the house from direct sun in a fine example of weather-conditioning construction. The principle is modern but the technique is as old as Southern architecture.

Entry midway between the two levels protects the living room from drafts and unnecessary traffic and provides visitors with an impressive welcome. Up six steps they see the balcony railing of the upper foyer. Six steps down is the bright recreation area.

The upper level in B-7 is self-sufficient. All the essential room

services except laundry are on this one floor. Through an interesting angled archway off the upper foyer, the living room opens up across the back of the house. An unusual corner fireplace highlights the room and marks the division between living and dining rooms. An optional outside balcony is shown and if built would be reached by sliding doors.

A pocket door between dining room and kitchen is a perfect space saver, since it does not intrude either room. The kitchen has lots of counter and cabinet footage, a wall oven and counter range, and a service entrance. A snack bar with free-hanging cabinets above separates kitchen and family room, which has plenty of space for family eating and a big pantry closet.

Big Master Bedroom

To the left from the upper foyer are the bedrooms—two modest sized chambers and a large master bedroom. All have abundant closet space and the master bedroom has its own stall-shower lavatory and its own entry on the optional rear balcony. The family bathroom is extra large, with a separate powder room with double vanity and toilet and alcove tub beyond. The two bathrooms are back-to-back for plumbing economy. On the lower level is a multi-purpose room that could be a fourth bedroom or den with a convenient shower-bathroom.

The main casual area is on the lower level. Sliding glass doors in a window wall lead out to the rear garden or terrace. The corner fireplace above in the living room can be duplicated for this room, or could be placed here and eliminated in the formal living room.

The two-car garage also is located on the lower level, its doors facing the side and its extra alcoves adding substantially to the storage facilities.

How To Keep House Warm

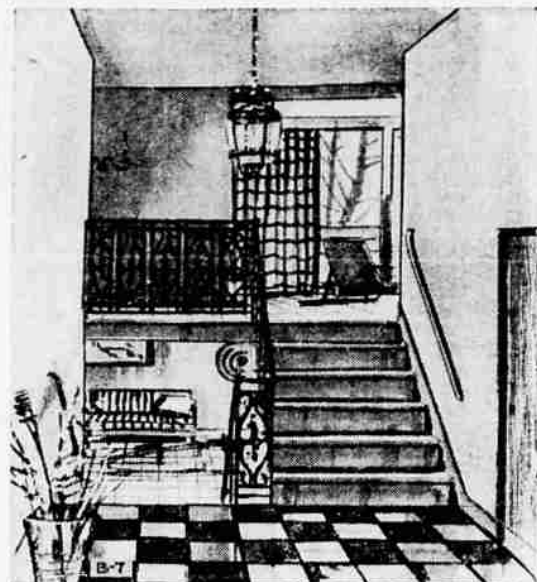
EAST LANSING, Mich. (UPI)—Home warmth depends on proper heating equipment, on the type of home in relation to the climate and on proper upkeep, says Coral Morris, home management specialist at Michigan State University.

A home which is kept in good repair will make you more comfortable and save on fuel bills, Morris said, also giving this advice:

Cracks around chimneys, vent pipes and roof corners should be caulked shut or repaired.

To prevent cold air from seeping in, weatherstrip around frames of doors and windows. Weatherstripping is available in

midway between the two levels. The design has nine rooms, with three or four bedrooms. Living area of the main level is 1,530 square feet.



ENTRANCE FOYER: Here's an artist's conception on the entranceway, with one end of living room visible beyond upper foyer and bright recreation room in view at lower level.

B-7 STATISTICS

There are 1,530 sq. ft. of habitable space on the main upper level of this unusual Colonial design. The basement is raised out of the ground, provided with plenty of windows, and adds substantially to the living area.

The two levels provide a total of nine rooms, four of them bedrooms. There are three baths and 13 closets.

Over-all dimensions are 60' width by 30' 6" depth.

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This study plan shows each floor of the house together with each of the four elevations, front, rear and sides of the house. It is scaled at 1/8-inch per foot. It includes a guide on "How to Get Your House Built."

You can take this study plan to your bank or other mortgage lender and to your builder and get rough estimates on the cost of construction in this area as well as an idea of the cost in relation in your budget.

With this information you will know whether you will want to proceed with construction by ordering working blueprints direct from the architect and asking for bids for the work.

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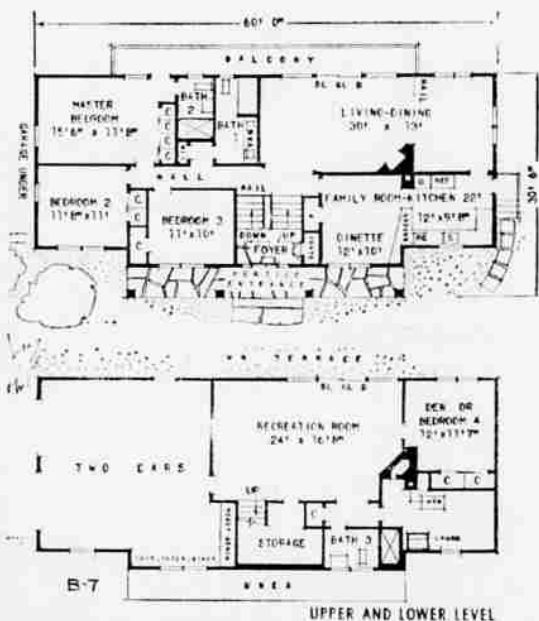
Building Editor:

Enclosed is 50 cents. Please send me a copy of the study plan of The House of The Week B-7

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FLOOR PLAN: All rooms essential for daily routine are on the main level, with bedrooms at left and entertainment and service rooms at right. Location of garage on lower level saves the usual cost of an attached garage. To hold down original cost, only upper level need be finished at first. Owner could complete lower rooms later on a do-it-yourself basis.

metal, plastic and felt and is easy to apply.

Insulation can also do much to slow down the loss of heat through walls and ceiling. Two to three inches of bulk insulation is best for walls, while three to six inches is advisable for ceilings. In houses built without insulation, protection can be obtained by insulating ceilings and floors with a blanket or a board type material.

Since heat is lost less easily through two sheets of glass than through one, it is a good idea to have storm doors and windows. Inexpensive but effective protection may be had by placing a plastic material over windows.

However, don't go to extremes in making your home draughttight. Adequate home ventilation is essential during all seasons for health and comfort.