

"THE BRAVE NEW HOME"

IF the family is to maintain its value as a social foundation in a world where industry is more and more detached from the home, the home must be as carefully planned to meet the needs of individual life (expression, intellectual sustenance, spiritual repose and security), as the factories have got to be planned for optimum production for national and international needs. The amount of time in a person's life given to wage-earning is being reduced, and so the amount of time to be "filled in" after work (and after retirement on pension), is being increased. Are we going to leave this time to be merely "filled in" or are we going to plan it so that it becomes the richest part of our lives?

"Where Shall We Go?"

When a man gets home to a tired wife and noisily tired children, are they merely going to say "Where shall we go to-night? Is there any picture on worth seeing? Is there anything on the radio worth listening to? By-the-by, have you had the radio mended? No? Did you go to the library to change my book? "No, I didn't have time even to remember it." "Oh, hell, well what is there to do? Work and eat and sleep—life's not worth living! . . ."

Our Own Time

This time is our own. Should it not be most carefully planned, and since some sort of home is inevitable, must this home not be planned to suit? The home is the real spiritual centre of the individual life—there is nothing which can replace the loveliness of the continued intimacy of individual with individual. The churches in these days (let us say it without any irreverence), are the factories of spiritual material. Industrial factories produce articles to be used by individuals at their own sweet will. So churches should stimulate spiritual activities which can be used by individuals especially in the home.

What then, should the home be?
A centre of spiritual repose?
A secure haven for children?

Written for "The Listener" by
NEW ORDER

A social centre for man, woman and children? Especially woman?
A place for intellectual retirement?
A place for creative expression?
A centre to bind together the outside interests of its members?

A place for the freeing of the spirit and emotional unbending?

And what are the material needs of such a home? What special rooms should it have?

The Fireplace or the Teapot?

Radio laid out to living room and retiring room—i.e., the possibility of communal and also of individual listening?

A quiet reading and writing place, with a book-shelf of reference books and treasured stories?

A private picture gallery? Magnificent prints are available.

Why not a lending library of pictures?

What should be the social centre of a room? The fireplace?

If not, what? People need some sort of "shrine" round which to gather (Perhaps a teapot would serve in New Zealand!).

And what about the cultural organisation of small numbers of homes?

What about the drudgery of home cleaning etc? Men are not required to live their private lives in their workshops or factories or offices as women are at home.

What about the ordering and delivery of goods? Bread comes at one time, meat at another, vegetables at another (some even at 8 p.m. on Saturday!).

How many rooms in a reasonable house? What should they be like? What about a garden? (Surely everybody should grow vegetables and flowers—especially children!).

What Do People Think?

What does the housewife think about these things?
Or an architect?
Or a schoolchild?

Or a girl of 18 who is walking out with a boy?

Or a boy who is keen on hiking and sport?

Or a man in an office?

Or a man in a factory?

Or a retired worker?

Or a horticulturist?

Then let us look a little further. What connection shall the home maintain with educational agencies? Why should we not see visiting scholars, craftsmen, to advise and supply necessary material and thus keep contact with our universities and schools?

In other words, why not education from the cradle to the grave—the Plunket system applied to all spheres and all ages? I should like a "plunket nurse" with grey beard to come and inform me of the latest works on art for example. Why should the "under six months" have it all their own way?

THE NEW HOUSE An Official View

THE Rehabilitation Board, which is concerned with the housing question particularly as it affects the returned soldier, aims to inaugurate at the earliest possible moment a huge building scheme. Naturally, therefore, we submitted some of "New Order's" questions to Mr. M. Moohan, chairman of the board, who told *The Listener* that the new house should be designed for the convenience of the housewife, who after all, spent most of her life in it.

"When materials are plentiful, washing machines will replace the copper in the laundry, and the kitchen will be the most scientifically designed room in the house. The house should be designed as a home for children, with a place for them to play under the mother's eye while the house work is done, and a safe place to play outside. Such a feature as a pram garage, which was incorporated in the prize-winning design for the pre-fabricated house will be incorporated as often as possible.

"There are a number of things—conventional necessities—that should be built into the walls, with two obvious advantages, more open space and less dusting. There is no real reason why the ironing board or a small kitchen table should not be built in.

A Sociable Animal

"Then we want to recognise that man is a sociable animal, but not necessarily in the formal way, and often an alcove in the kitchen may be substituted for the formal dining room. We hope to see the disappearance, eventually, of the corrugated iron roof, and the use in its place of New Zealand-made tiles. A shower cabinet, which saves time, energy and water, should be installed in every bathroom, and lavatories in all cases should be separate from the bathroom.

"I have always felt that women who have reared families are really the best people to consult in designing a house, and for that reason, two housewives, both with families, acted as assessors in the recent Rehabilitation Housing Competition."

(Some unofficial opinions will be found on Page 4).

Is my
face
RED!

....says **RADIOTRONS**

I feel so embarrassed, I'm in such demand. The Army, the Navy and the Air Force clamour for me—whilst on the other hand civilians are equally insistent in their demands . . . such popularity is indeed embarrassing. Although winning the war must come first, I am doing all I can to serve civilian radios too.



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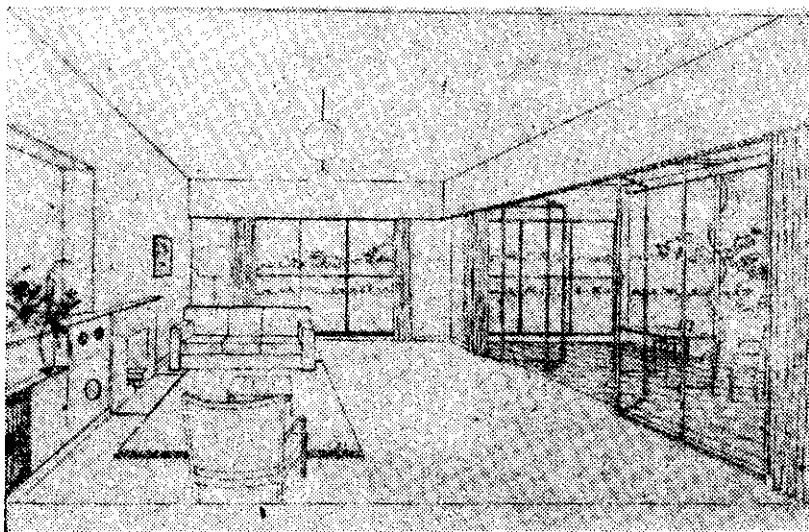
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In this drawing the sashes are of steel, which is dearer than wood. There is, however, no reason why wood could not be used. The sashes are designed to slide back so that terrace and living room become one. You not only get the space: you get the feeling of space. On the interior wall will be seen a built-in radio and a built-in electric clock