

This is a room in the Massachusetts home with inexpensive but attractive furniture. The chairs of laminated wood came from Finland and sell by the thousands in America

(Continued from previous page)

"Not as an alternative to houses. These big blocks of flats are entirely different things. They are in general unsuitable for bringing up children. I think that there will be more flats, especially near secondary industries. They can be convenient and pleasing, and in many ways I would prefer them to the wide spread of suburbs. But they need careful planning and space, gardens and so on.

"In the last 25 years, there have been so many big changes—radio is here, television will come, there will be more communal living. Don't you think these will affect our houses and our way of living?" we asked.

"It will affect other countries more than New Zealand. The emphasis here is more on sport and gardening. Women are imprisoned partly by long tradition and habit. If men had to do all the domestic jobs that women have to do, every house would be equipped with mechanical devices to make the work easier."

YOUNG WIFE

A YOUNG woman, a research chemist, whose husband is working for the army and waiting for the war to be over to take up a scholarship overseas, explained that she and her husband after the war would be living on the smell of the proverbial oily rag—only she wasn't sure where the oil would come from—so she would be on the look-out for the cheapest possible living. "I believe in the principle that families should live in houses, each family with its own bit of ground," she said. "But in the meantime, what we want is a very convenient flat with not too much housework involved. In the new order I'd like to see every house and flat equipped with an electric washing-machine, and in every block of flats an arrangement for removing the rubbish daily. Also I think people who live in flats should all have at least six square feet of garden, because then when they do graduate to

a house with a bit of land, their agricultural abilities won't have atrophied completely. But," she concluded with a vehemence born of long suffering in boarding houses, "the one thing I'm really mad about is hot water. In every house a tap labelled HOT should run HOT. So we've all got to have thermostat controlled water heaters as well as washing-machines and a daily garbage service and six square feet of garden... and cheap rents. O, dear!"

EUROPEAN ARCHITECT

"ONE of the most serious problems of our time is the individual's relation to mechanisation and standardisation," said an architect from overseas who has made it his chief interest to design houses that will make life fuller.

"The Listener doesn't want to start discussing whether a lorry which serves its purpose is beautiful, I know, but what about the purpose of a house? Is it only a shelter? Surely it is more a framework in which we live our lives? But our lives don't consist merely of working, eating, and sleeping. They would be very poor if they did, because that sort of life is what we inflict on offenders against the law.

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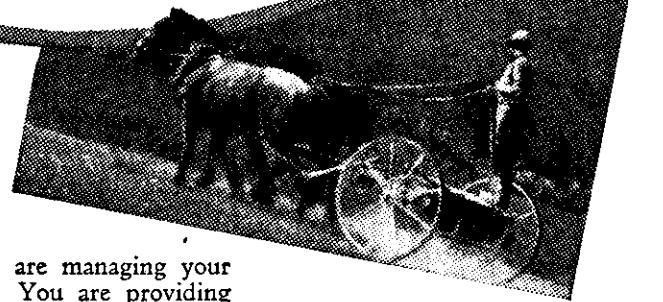
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