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"Many of the houses people live in are impersonal and conventional—they have no faces! Often the house itself doesn't look as if it belongs to the garden, or the garden, seen from the inside, look as if it belongs to the house. By using longer stretches of glass, we can eliminate that boxlike look. People whose work may be mentally constrictive, will need houses which will help their leisure to be mentally expansive and flexible. And it is the simplest thing in the world for an architect to make a house that will do this—without costing one penny more than a house that actually does the opposite.

"You say we have impersonal, conventional houses, but you also say we must accept modern mechanical methods of manufacture?"

"You needn't finish that question," he interrupted. "I know, you are wondering how we can avoid sameness and standardisation. Again, it is simple. Beyond, say, 50 different designs of a chair, it doesn't much matter how many more you have to choose from. For every different factory you can have one design, produced by mass methods—it is quite wrong to suppose that mass production means restriction of choice in designs. And as long as you can have a choice, your home need not be impersonal."

EDUCATIONIST

"If houses are going to change with our way of life," said an educationist, "then I can see that there may be quite a change in our ideas. We have tended to look upon houses as units in which each individual family lives. Each household is self-contained and complete in itself. When a household was a large unit with a number of people co-operating in its running, this was perhaps all right, but we have in many ways developed away from that stage. Our lives, especially under war-time conditions, are forcing us to do things in groups, co-operatively. I think our houses will be less and less pretentious pieces of private property and more and more homes where a minimum number of domestic jobs will be performed. They will be sleeping places, they will be the background of security for the growing child, but I think there will be a movement among women towards co-operation which will relieve them of much of the work that small individual households demand. Think how much more sensible it would be to have one large and convenient and well equipped laundry for every so many houses. This idea may even be applied to other rooms. A community centre might provide a radio room, which would be acoustically good, and where programmes could be heard to the best advantage. Community libraries have advantages over the individual library, and community nurseries and play rooms would be much better equipped than individual ones."

MOTHER OF TWO

"I WISH I were optimistic enough to think that our houses would be much changed after the war," said a housewife when questioned. "I am afraid it will be a long time before all of us housewives are in really convenient houses with labour-saving devices and space and light and all the things which

we are told are necessary to health these days. The changes which are affecting our lives are in some ways contradictory. On the one hand, there are labour-saving devices that will reduce our hard work to a minimum. These should give us leisure. The war, on the other hand, has given a good many of us the impetus to go to work or to do work of some sort or another that has taken away our leisure. Personally, I think this is quite a good thing. Several of the women I know who have taken jobs have realised for the first time the need to do their housework quickly as well as efficiently.

"This may seem a far cry from houses and architecture, but it isn't. So long as we expect to spend all our lives in one house, we will do so, and we will put up with sprawling and inconvenient houses. The war will have taught many of us to be more independent and more demanding, and also to eliminate all those things in a house that make for unnecessary work. We will no longer want drawing rooms for entertaining. We won't want special dining rooms, but will eat in alcoves off the kitchen—a great time saver for the housewife. I think, too, that bedrooms may well become bed-sitting rooms, instead of shrines devoted exclusively to slumber. Then all the new ideas on bringing up children should be reflected in our homes. A modern mother will want a really good specially built room for a nursery. Personally, I think that if parents want a quiet life, this should be the largest and best room of the house. Parents can make themselves comfortable with a couple of easy chairs and a fire. Children need yards of floor and tables and shelves and walls for their drawings, and a whole lot of other things.

"My own feelings would incline me to a house in which the interior walls could be altered from time to time. I would like to be able to alter the walls so that in winter our living room could be smaller and in summer larger; so that we could enlarge the nursery if necessary or wall off a spare bedroom if we wished. I resent the rigidity of our houses, and I believe architecturally it is quite possible to have movable interior walls.

"If there is anything else that I would like to see changed it is the general sprawling suburb of to-day. It has neither the advantages of a town nor the joys of the country. It is merely a place where town workers come home to sleep. The inhabitants of a big suburb are neither sociable to their neighbours nor community-minded. I hope that after the war we shall abandon the suburb idea and group our houses more into communities round the natural centre of a community, school, church, library, kindergarten, and I would add eating house or club. We all have in the past, in the suburbs of big towns, anyway, given too much time to our own individual houses and gardens. The new world will, I think, expect a little more of us."

FLAT DWELLER

AN experienced flat-dweller said she had only one demand to make on flats planned for the Better Life: that all radios should be one-mouse-power incapable of being tuned loudly for any subject whatever, especially football and racing commentaries.