



The house in Frognal, Hamstead, showing the large living-room window from the terrace at first-floor level.

Against the plain white walls of the modern house, the moving shadows of leaves and boughs can make a pleasant pattern.

"In England we have not yet (1935) a great number of these machines for living. The best, perhaps, and certainly the best known, is the house on the hill at Amersham, called 'High and Over' which Professor Ashmole built for himself when he retired from the directorship of the British School at Rome—with the aid of Amyas Connell, Rome Scholar in architecture, and Basil Ward, his partner—an interesting conclusion to living among classical surroundings."

The unusual design of the house at Amersham, built in 1929, provoked long discussion among architects. The whole conception was almost entirely novel to English eyes at the time. It is probably true to say that the building of "High and Over" laid the foundation of the firm's reputation for advanced and courageous planning, a reputation which the later work of the partners has served to increase.

The difficulties that beset the paths of many of the more modern architects were shown by the Ruislip Case, an architectural *cause célèbre* in 1934. Messrs Connell and Ward were commissioned by Walter Taylor (Builders), Ltd., to draw up designs for two semi-detached homes at

Ruislip, Middlesex. On the advice of an advisory panel of local architects, the Ruislip-Northwood Urban Council rejected the designs on the grounds that they were "injurious to the amenities of the neighbourhood."

Connell and Ward were fortunate in having a client both persistent and far-sighted, who was prepared to spend time and money in fighting what he felt to be injustice. The architects appealed against the decision of the local authority, but lost their case. The arbitrator appointed by the Royal Institute of British Architects required the Council to inform the client of the modification it required in the designs. The Council was in any case required to do this under the terms of the Town and Country Planning Act. It asked for a new design for the staircase wings with reduced height and width for the enclosure and a reduction in the area of glazing. It also required a new design for the bedroom windows to provide breaks in the continuity of the glass.

The Council's requests were accompanied by a statement that a drawing had been prepared unofficially to give some indication of what it had in mind, and by an invitation to the architects to inspect the drawing at its offices. Connell and Ward were able to show that the Council's design introduced structural weaknesses