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Beverly Hills Woman Helps With Dream Home's Design

By JULIE CANDLER
Staff Writer

Put a hundred women's dream houses together, and what do you have? An "idea home" — a house that is the answer to some of the homemaking problems confronting 1950 families.

Mrs. George Omelianoff, 16950 Birwood, Beverly Hills, helped dream up a 1959 idea home. It will have a separate dining room, a "mud room", a big kitchen and living room, and small bedrooms. It is designed to make housework easier, yet provide pleasant areas in which the family can play, relax, read, study, eat, or watch TV.

The house's designers got their heads together at a Woman's Conference on Housing sponsored by a national association of builders last October. The Builders' association of Metropolitan Detroit sponsored Mrs. Omelianoff's trip to Washington for the four-day conference. She was chosen from hundreds of Detroit area women who submitted essays on homes.

THE 100 young mothers and housewives—about two from each state—discussed their idea home, room by room, while a stenographer recorded their words.

A builders' association representative directed the discussions. He asked the women to think in terms of a moderate-price home costing from \$25,000 to \$30,000.

With every suggestion that was made, the women were asked,

"Would you be willing to pay extra for that?"

"We were asked what we would prefer if we had to make a choice between the bedroom, or a powder room or lavatory," Mrs. Omelianoff told us as she outlined the dream house's creation stage.

"THERE WAS no question about it," she said, "they preferred the powder room."

Daily the 100 women hashed over the ideas. Evenings, they were entertained at dinner parties and shows.

By the time they were ready to leave Washington, they had taken a vote on every important item in a house.

A composite of their ideas is being built in North Carolina, and will be on display to builders nationwide. It will be a tri-level, of contemporary exterior styling.

By A unanimous vote, its living room will not contain a dining ell. It will have a separate dining room, where the family and its guests can eat away from the kitchen's clutter; in an atmosphere to encourage the children's good manners.

The living room will be larger than average, for which the housewives are willing to sacrifice bedroom floor space. It will have wall to wall carpeting, a fireplace, a big picture window looking out the garden in the rear.

Positively no TV set will be placed in this living room—it's moved into the family room. Instead, the living room will have plenty of bookshelves, and good places to read.

The kitchen will "most emphatically" contain eating space, and, positively, according to Helen Omelianoff, it will have a garbage disposal unit.

"The efficiency kitchen is out," says the East Beverly housewife. "Women want larger kitchens, well laid out to avoid too much walking. They also want more kitchen counter space, cupboards and a chopping block."

AND BY all means, insists Mrs. Omelianoff and 99 other women, a kitchen should have a huge closet instead of a "broom closet" for storage of vacuum cleaners and other cleaning utensils.

Moving into the family room, the women wanted: space for a large table where food can be served to crowds like the teen agers' guests; vinyl tile flooring, a fireplace, plenty of room, and some paneling.

Off the family room, the 100 visualized a "mud room", where children can remove and store coats, snow suits, skates, and outdoor paraphernalia.

IN THE compact bedrooms, the women put big closets with sliding doors, high windows for privacy and furniture arrangement, vinyl tile flooring for children's bedrooms, and one lower conventional window for a fire escape route.

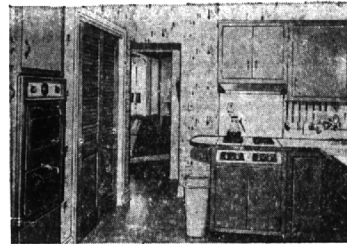
The 1959 home will have one bathroom for every two bedrooms. The bath room will be large, with a linen closet, but not necessarily a dressing table.

There will be a basement, where all laundry work would be done, with a plastered ceiling.

WHEN IT'S completed, the 1959 idea home should be quite different from the one-story colonial home the Omelianoff family lives in today.

When are they going to move into an idea home of their own? The answer is, they're not going to.

Says Helen Omelianoff, "The children and all the family like our present location so well, we wouldn't think of moving away to a new house!"



Efficient Kitchen

Bright and efficient is this modern kitchen which replaced the dull, cluttered set-up in a 40-year-old dwelling. Shallow cabinets at extreme left cover a brick chimney; there are deep storage areas above and below the built-in gas oven. Stainless steel is used on oven and surface units. Wallpaper is gay, multicolored pattern.



Two Cooks in the Kitchen

Built-in gas range permits two cooks in the kitchen at the same time, yet allows one cook to synchronize baking, broiling and cooking activities. Angle wall reduces steps between work areas, increases counter space and creates laundry area in this remodeled kitchen.

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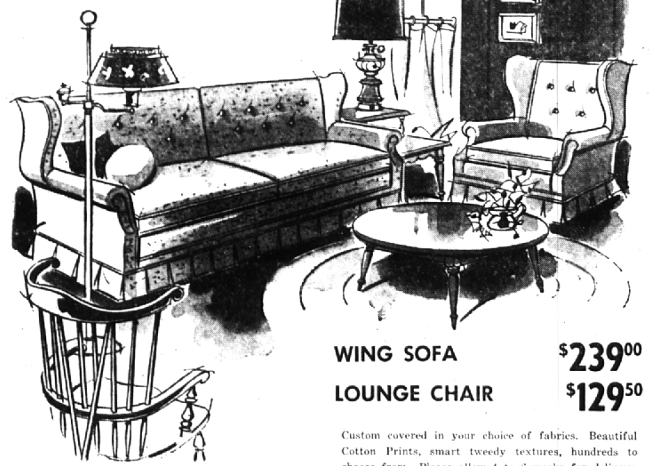
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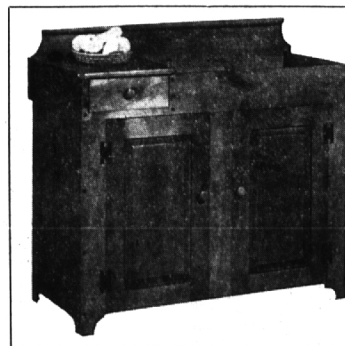
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