

Summary

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Summary

Richard Neutra, Benno Fischer,
Serge Koschin, John Blanton

A Shipbuilder's House in San Pedro, Los Angeles (pages 445—450)

Richard Neutra built this house for a shipbuilder, overlooking the Pacific Ocean. It commands a magnificent view of the sea and the port. The hill on which the villa is sited is terraced and can only be reached via the parking area. A small and unostentatious entrance leads the visitor into a large and effective living-room. The view of the sea from here is quite unique. This living-room is completely glazed on three sides and opens onto a large terrace. The breakfast area also has its own terrace, which is protected from the wind by a glazed screen and from the cold by a radiant ceiling. To the rear we find the kitchen. In a separate wing there are various bedrooms, each with a bathroom and a cloakroom. Two separate staircases take the visitor down to the level of the garden which is given over to guests' bedrooms, a lounge with a bar and fireplace and a large terrace with a swimming-pool. The villa's cellars are set into the hill.

The kitchen is extremely well-equipped and has, as a matter of course, every possible comfort (electronic machines of every kind). The interior lay-out of the villa often brings to mind the construction of a ship. To a certain extent the detailed work has been carried out in the client's yard, e.g. the steps, the fireplace, and the ceiling among other things. Once again Neutra has shown himself capable of lending an entirely personal note to this luxurious villa.

Jacques Rivet and Henrik Lassen

A Doctor's House in Ozoir-la-Ferrière near Paris (pages 451—453)

The problem is the following: a one-storey villa has to be built which will include the doctor's consulting-room. Apart from this one condition the architect is free as regards the lay-out, the architectural design and, above all, the building-time. This amounted to six months, no detail having to be altered. The lay-out of the plan almost forms a square, three main sections constituting the building as a whole. First, there is the consulting-room to the left of the entrance; this area is completely independent. Second, there is the staff section of the house comprising a double garage, a maid's room, a kitchen and a terrace. Third, on the side of the garden, lies the private section of the house with a living-room, a dining-area, four bedrooms, showers and a bathroom. The plan is based on a cruciform flow pattern. Both furniture and garden have been designed by the architects. In conclusion, we should note the extremely ingenious roof system and the windows, which all open outwards.

Hans Günther Hofmann

Private House on two levels in Darmstadt (pages 454—457)

A site initially selected for an apartment on one level was clearly too small. It was necessary to decide on a neighbouring site permitting only a two-storey structure. The disposition of the plan is excellent. The structural detailing of this building will be studied carefully by specialists.

Ibsen A. Nelsen and Russell B. Sabin

A Painter's and a Musician's House in Seattle, Washington (pages 458—461)

The house consists of two very different sections: on the one hand, there are the garages and, on the other, the living-quarters themselves. These two sections are connected by way of a glazed entrance hall. The entrance is set at half-storey height and leads half a storey higher to the bedrooms and half a storey lower to the studio and the various living-areas. All the main rooms face south. The building is surrounded by huge trees, the rhythm of which is picked up in the spatial sequence of the window posts. To the question whether the client (the painter) would be distracted by the south light, he replied that the superb view would more than compensate for this trifling drawback.

Construction details:

Distance between pillars 60 cm; window posts (2" x 4"); joists (2" x 6"); cedar facing (1" x 4"); strip aluminium insulation; furniture and internal walls in wood.

Robert Hofer

Private House at Amriswil (pages 462—463)

The owner wished a large living area capable of being used at the same time as a dining-room, a studio, a children's play room, parents' bedroom as well as two supplementary bedrooms for the children. The basic conception underlying the whole complex allows for continuously close contact between the living area and the garden, which commands an admirable view. A T-plan guarantees the success of this conception. The house is constructed of reinforced concrete and stone. The windows are of wood and with double panes.

Joachim Schürmann

Architect's House on the outskirts of Cologne (pages 464—467)

The problem:

The villa under discussion here is located on a 1200 sq. m. site west of Cologne. It is intended for a family of four children and to accommodate an architecture office. The site is on a higher level than the street and is practically flat. The construction demanded has to be simple, economical and flexible. At the outset it should be possible to be satisfied with simple installations that can be improved progressively without occasioning technical difficulties. The three neighbouring villas (of wood) are based on the same principles, and so the whole group constitutes a harmonious whole.

Solution:

The office—apartment connecting section gives rise to the conception with two wings. Each wing possesses an interior garden court; in this way the villa is shut off from the street. The steel skeleton is placed on a concrete platform. The empty space beneath the platform serves as an installations room. Only the office section has a real basement, where cloakrooms, WC, kitchenette, records, office of works foreman, heating, etc. are housed. The construction of the building is based on a 92.5 sq. m. grid. The building storey height is 2.35. The structure is plain and spare. The interior plan is extremely modest and clearly conceived.

Karl A. Strauss

Villa on the Ohio, USA (pages 468—471)

The architect has known how to profit by the situation on a slope above the Valley of the Ohio. A rather difficult driveway leads up to the villa and takes advantage of the admirable landscape. A courtyard surrounded by a large wall houses 4 garages. A small bridge gives access to the entrance hall, located in the centre of the house. In the right-hand section are the living-room and the studio-bar. The central stairway serves the different levels of the house, whose plans are extremely well worked out. A steel skeleton constitutes the basic structure of the villa. The non-supporting walls are of brick. The means employed are sober and in good taste. The simplicity and the clarity of this architectural conception are an enchantment to the spectator.

A. E. Reidy

Week-End House at Itaipava in Brazil (pages 472—473)

This villa is set above an open level used exclusively as a car park, the site of the guests' bedroom and a flight of steps to the entrance. The plan of the house is in the form of a square and comprises an atrium, a large living-room, the parents' bedroom, showers, WC, studio and the kitchen. The pillars and roof repay careful study. The wall areas between each pair of pillars are carried out in brick.

Victor de la Lama

Patio House at Cuernavaca, Mexico (pages 474—476)

The architect takes advantage of the existing stand of magnificent trees by integrating them in his plan. Four patios emphasize this conception. A wall surrounds the entire site. One single opening serves as the driveway into the villa. This is where the garage is located. Near to it we find the main entrance of the house. Behind the cloakroom area the visitor is surprised to find a very roomy living-room; this room is entirely glazed on one side. The interior plan is very carefully worked out and pleasant. The grounds are also very well arranged.

Samuel Dory Carson, Los Angeles

Experimental House in nine sections (page 477)

This house is located in a vast open landscape. Snow and rain storms are frequent here. A sharply pitched roof is thus a necessity. The residents have two children, aged 14 and 16. The interior plan is such that each person has his own living area. An entrance area, sited in the centre, ties together the different elements of the complex. The plan—a very ingenious one—is composed of 9 squares of 6.6 meters on a side. Each element is structurally independent and possesses 4 steel pillars. The other supporting members are of wood. Each element can be prefabricated and allows for the installation of windows in the roof section. A very original pool surrounding the house to some extent permits temperature control.

Samuel Dory Carson, Los Angeles

Experimental House in Southern California (page 478)

Here again the problem was to build a house for a family with two children. Each member of the family insists on having his own living area. The driveway leads in between the two garages; to the left and to the right of the entrance are two pools. To the left of the main entrance is the parents' living-room; to the right of this entrance is the large children's play room. Between these two groups we find the kitchen; to the north of the kitchen is located the dining area. Two main corridors lead, on the one hand, to the parents' section (bedroom, powder room, cloakroom etc.) and, on the other hand, to the children's section. Each group obviously has its own complete bathroom. An interior garden and a library embellish the section between the two corridors. The plan of the building is composed of 35 nearly square elements measuring 3x3.9 meters. The skeleton of the villa is of steel. The main rooms of the house have upper windows of varying sizes depending on use.

Rasser and Vadi

House at Orselina above Locarno (pages 479—480)

This house, placed on a terrace, is the residence of a family with two children. The terrace is built on a steep slope overlooking Lago Maggiore. The entrance—including the parking area—is sited on the roof section of the villa. The general layout of the building is very well arranged. The structural detailing and the general silhouette deserve our careful study.

Tapio Wirkkala

Various Finnish Chairs (pages 481—483)

In this issue we are presenting a number of Finnish chairs. Finland, situated in the very north of our continent, is the country par excellence for wooden furniture. Generally speaking, Finnish furniture is

exemplary from the point of view of its construction. In this issue the reader will find an armchair, an extremely ingenious table unit and a settee. These Finnish products will be of especial interest to specialists.

Max Braun

Ventilator HL 1 (page 487)

This is a table ventilator with a tangential blower and a spiral replacing the fan. The strength of the current of air can be regulated. The apparatus can also be fixed on the wall. The motor box is of synthetic resin (white-grey), the blower of polystyrol (grey-white), the base of the apparatus is chromed, the diffuser is of transparent thermoplast.

Trial stages:

1. Vertical setting (ill. 1). The motor box here serves as a base. Advantages: economical solution. Disadvantages: impossible to regulate upwards and downwards. No shield could be provided for the blower. An attempt to set a ball-bearing between the motor and the ventilator failed (see ill. 2).

2. Motor and ventilator attached with an iron rod (see second attempt, Fig. 3 and 4). The height of this attachment can be adjusted; it is possible to shield the ventilator. The diffuser, which acts as a handle, is of thermoplast, the base is chromed. Main disadvantage of this solution: unsatisfactory stability. This fault led to the alternative in ill. 5.

3. The following attempts were made in an effort to improve the stability of the apparatus by making use of an aluminized casting. As this proved far too expensive it was abandoned. Nevertheless ill. 6 shows that the final solution was the logical consequence of the preceding work. As is always the case, the HL 1 ventilator is evidence of the logical turn of mind possessed by the designers working for the firm of Braun.