

# Summary

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## Projet pour une maison familiale avec appartement adjoint ou atelier (pages 98—99)

Ce projet a été développé pour une concurrence ayant le titre «Formes actuelles d'habitation». Une maison était à projeter de sorte que, suivant les besoins, un appartement séparé ou des localités de bureau ou d'atelier puissent être aménagés sans difficulté. Un hall adjoignant l'entrée sert de pièce centrale à plusieurs fonctions: les jeux des enfants sont sans danger aux meubles et aux autres possessions et faciles à surveiller depuis la cuisine ou la pièce de séjour adjacentes, et même les adultes viendront jouer ici. En été, la grande paroi vitrée vers le sud est reculée, faisant du hall un espace en plein air. Le hall divise la maison en deux parties. Garage et atelier se trouvent situés vers l'est; ce dernier peut faire fonction d'appartement indépendant, étant accessible du hall et tournant dos au séjour et à la partie principale du jardin. L'aile opposée s'oriente vers le sud, avec la salle commune qui se divise en coin des repas, séjour et bibliothèque. Les chambres sont accessibles d'ici par un petit vestibule ouvert. WC et bain se trouvent commodément accessibles du séjour et des chambres. L'aménagement du plan donne la possibilité de créer un appartement séparé et indépendant. En ce cas, l'accès à la cave devrait se trouver en dehors de l'appartement. L'entrée est trop étroite. Le hall ouvert vers le jardin donne une belle relation entre jardin et intérieur, et la pièce de séjour est agréablement différenciée. L'aménagement de la cuisine se trouve quelque peu gêné par les portes.

## Projet pour une maison familiale (pages 100)

Projet pour une maison de cinq lits à plan presque carré qui pourrait s'exécuter en maçonnerie de briques ou de pierres de taille. Toit plat massif double à drainage intérieur. La zone des chambres est entourée de murs portants. La zone ménagère et le séjour ont une construction en acier.

Le plan est aménagé de sorte qu'un appartement indépendant à une ou deux chambres, douche, WC, cuisinette et entrée séparée peut facilement y être installé; il logerait aussi deux maisons semi-indépendantes, en quel cas le mur mitoyen serait allongé d'env. 5m vers le nord et le sud.

## Nouveaux jardins et projets de jardins (pages 101—108)

Si nous publions ici de nouveau quelques jardins ou projets de jardins, ce n'est point que nous soyons à la recherche de créations nouvelles ou d'idées d'une originalité forcée, mais bien parce que nous désirons contribuer aussi objectivement que possible à faire connaître les développements actuels sur ce plan de la création. Les jardins montrés sont de grandeur et de fonctions très différentes. Qu'il s'agisse de compositions sévères n'utilisant presque que des lignes droites ou de créations dynamiques et mouvementées, ce sont des jardins projetés ou exécutés pour l'homme de notre temps.



## Summary

### New One-family Houses (page 73)

Modern construction methods have not yet prevailed to nearly such a far-reaching extent as many people assume. Many people think they have because the urban landscape is dominated by so many large-scale buildings serving industrial, administrative and commercial purposes, which display many of the characteristics of modern design, if, as at all periods, of the most various quality. Nevertheless, the fact remains that the great mass of the building being done today, in particular the large apartment houses and one-family houses fall far below the level which could be regarded as at all satisfactory. What is more, we should not be under any illusions as to the fact that the one-family houses depicted in books and technical journals represent only a tiny fraction of all the building under way at the present time, such as the houses erected by housing development companies, building and loan societies or private contractors, which are such eyesores on the outskirts of our cities. The spectacle of all these houses almost tempts us to say that a definite style has triumphed, a style which with Giedion we should like to designate "Modern Traditional Style." This style has become inordinately popular and is to be seen everywhere in depressing uniformity, even if with all the modern trimmings. These houses all have the same 30° roof pitch, the same "functional" windows, etc. Often, and this applies especially to the apartment houses, they are provided with utterly useless balconies. The "better" one-family houses stress their modernity by a conscious avoidance of the right angle.

A reactionary development set in during the thirties throughout the world. "Heimatstil" was not confined to Germany, where building under the Nazis was forced to follow national traditionalist lines. After the war German architects in droves travelled over the world and met with other nuances of the bourgeois-classical traditional style so familiar to them. German architects in particular were enthusiastic over the "modern" style. They saw in it a reconciliation between Modern Style and the Traditional Style of the Third Reich. This new style is the product of an anxiety, which is afraid to make an open break with the old, and by preserving the appearance of solid bourgeois qualities seeks to create the effect of progressive modernity. What is the essential difference between the genuine modern one-family house and this pseudo-traditional style? The good house should answer to modern man's profound need to get back into touch with physical nature: it is at grade level and is closely integrated with its garden. The construction can be light, as only the roof has to be supported. The walls are mere partitions and can be shifted about to meet various requirements. It should be alterable to meet changing family needs. Therefore the less rigid its structure, the better it is and the more capable of being adapted to the demands of real life.

### Private Home in Obermenzing (pages 74—77)

This house was built by a couple, both of whom are architects, for themselves and their four sons. Usually, when an architect builds a house for his own family, the role of owner is taken by his wife. In this case, however, as the wife too is an architect, owner and architect are one and the same person. Hans Maurer tells us that the conception which he had developed of his own house since his years as a student had been appreciably modi-

fied not only by his practical experiences as architect but also especially by his experience of life in general. The site is in meadowland with fine old trees following the course of a brook, the whole being a nature preserve. There is a view from the house and terrace out over the garden on to the wide grassy banks of the stream. The site was divided up into a grid with squares measuring 4 x 4 m. Four of these squares constitute the ground plan of the house (16 x 16 m.), half of which is provided with a cellar (8 x 8 m.). Along the lines of the co-ordinates there were placed the steel supports, bearing on the outside the cork-insulated felt-lined concrete slabs of the roof. Within this structural system, the rooms can be separated from one another, if need be, as in modern office buildings. The intention behind this was to render possible a different arrangement of rooms from the present one, as would be needed after the children grow up. The house also contains the architect's office, but except for the common entrance and vestibule it is completely cut off from the rest of the house. The terrace also is comprised within the house area of 16 x 16 m. The living terrace can be cut off from the garden by light metal blinds built into concrete beams lying over the supports. The hallway with dining area extends to the west and south to the living-room, which is cut off from the west by a curving wall. On the southwest and north-west it opens on to a covered terrace with glass walls and French doors. The parents' bedroom and the children's room are on both sides accessible from the living-room by way of a hall. Hallway and living-room have floating asphalt floor. The non-supporting masonry consists of Yton stones. Other partitions, such as the wall between living-room and kitchen, pantry, bedroom are developed as wall cupboards. In the doors the thermopane glazing is set in steel frames. Elsewhere the metal frames are covered with rendering. Steel supports are black, wall panels white, only the curving wall is dark-red, the front ends of the roof slab are stone-grey.

### One-Family House at Grünwald near Munich (pages 78—80)

This is a one-storey, one-family house on a site in a wooded area south of Munich. As many of the fine old trees as possible were preserved. The day rooms and bedrooms are sharply separated from each other. This leads to a lucid and attractive arrangement. The house is integrated with a patio, which can be cut off by a screen so that it forms a cozy secluded lounging area. A great deal of open space was left in the plan so that outdoor living can be indulged in depending on the angle of the sun and the season. Masonry: 30 cm. trellis bricks. In garage and front side of bedroom area concrete. Windows and glass walls: thermopanes with steel frames. Floor: partly linoleum, partly crushed cinder. Roof: timber construction, of glued double-T-beams with rock-wool insulation and roofing felt. All rooms have floors of pine beading all laid in the same direction. Front ends of roofs with aluminium coping. All rendered wall sections are white inside and out. Also window-frames painted white. Individual parts, e. g. radiators, blinds are painted dark-blue and lemon-yellow.

### Holiday house at Water mill, Long Island, USA (pages 81—83)

Idea: a summer vacation house should have a variety of views, and it should be possible on occasion to cut out a view or glaring hot sunlight, etc., and the living quarters should be as spacious as possible and sleeping quarters kept to a minimum.

Solution: The pinwheel house was the obvious solution to these problems. Two elements: 24' by 24' living area upstairs, a 19' by 19' sleeping-bathing-utility area below. Four large sliding walls—18' long and 8' high—one for each side of house: key to whole plan. Walls can be slid around to shield interior from sun and rain, etc., still leaving views of landscape open, or can be slid over entire side covering house completely during hurricanes or in winter. This versatility makes it the universal vacation house for any site. The house is very simple to build and very simple to prefabricate in part, at a great saving in construction costs. The only unusual point about the construction is the use of light steel I-beams for the 12

columns that hold up the house. Steel was adopted to provide bracing against the wind when the walls are extended. The solid, plywood-faced panels fixed in each wall were designed for lateral bracing of the structure. The rigidity of the house under extremely high wind pressures is due to a large extent to the structural qualities of the plywood.

### Architect's home with office rooms in Charlottalund (pages 84—87)

The assignment was to work out a house without stairways with architect's studio, the most economical utility rooms possible, free of corridors, on a nearly square level site sloping south and with a light stand of old trees. The site is approached from the south; a driveway runs between garage and house and around to a parking area at the rear of the house. The main entrance is situated in the corner between a wing extending to the north, in which the studio is housed, and the main house. It leads into a small cloakroom hall, from which five doors open into various rooms, and, opposite the entrance, a sixth door into the garden to the west of the studio. The five doors lead, on the north, to the studio, a storeroom and a WC, on the south, to the spacious living-room and the kitchen. The living-room opens into the south garden with three broad studio windows and an exit furnished with wide sliding doors. The garden is secluded from the driveway by a wall and on the south is protected from the view of the street by a hedge. Adjoining the living-room there are the parents' bedrooms on the south, having direct access to a bath room and connected on the west with the children's room. Parents' and children's rooms have garden doors opening into a small secluded court, the north half of which is sheltered by a pergola. The latter is continued, in the plan, in the entrance hall and in a projecting roof extending in front of the main entrance. The garage forms a similarly continuous element, along with the projecting roof and a sub-division of the living-room. One might guess that the architect has been in Japan. Extreme simplicity in construction, all supporting elements of the roof left visible (purlins and rafters support the roof structure, consisting of plain boarding), walls which do not extend all the way up to the ceiling, as between kitchen and dining area: all these are characteristics which are also to be met with in the Japanese house. In line with this same architectural conception, the architect has not carried the parapets in the living-room all the way down to floor level, but has built in a glass element so that the room is visible at floor level from the outside. Material used in walls: plain wainscoting, both inside and outside. This markedly spatial conception is also applied to the disposition of the garden with its subdivisions between low walls and hedges.

### K. House in Cologne (pages 88—89)

This is a one-family house on a level site. It has the standard spatial disposition: in addition to a roomy living-room with dining nook it comprises a small study, a parents' and a children's bedroom. The house can be extended later in that an additional bedroom can be built on instead of the garage, which would then be shifted to the north in front of the present garage. The house is completely cut off from view of the street. It opens into the garden on the south side with large sliding windows extending from floor to ceiling, in living-room and study. A covered seating area extending into the garden gives the effect of a continuation of the living-room and study. The architecture is extremely restrained and simple. The masonry consists of bricks, whitewashed. Reinforced concrete beams are placed above the cellar and the ground floor. They are insulated in the room by a layer of glass wool. Ribbed cement flooring slabs are set on top of the suspender beams, above which, as roofing, there are two layers of roofing felt and aluman.

### S. House in Cologne (pages 89—91)

This is a house for a couple with three children; it is of standard size with a wing containing a flat for a married son and his wife. It is situated on a completely level site. The lay-out also comprises a double garage. The architect worked out a one-

storey plan so as to render the cleaning and maintenance of the house more easy, and as no stairs could be included. In the event married son moves out, the flat can be incorporated in the main house. As the son's flat was built as a separate wing between the street and the main house itself, the latter is completely shielded from street noise and dust, and is oriented around a small interior garden court. The main house is entered from a small hall running along the east side and leading directly into the large dining-room opening toward the north and south. The living-room is completely glazed along the south side, this being taken up by a sliding wall and a large west window reaching from the floor all the way up to the ceiling. The south wing comprises the children's bedrooms, an annex on the north the kitchen, and accessible only from the dining-room, the parents' bedroom and the bath. The son's flat consists of a living-room completely glazed on the south, a kitchen, a small bath and a bedroom with east window. The exterior masonry consists of hollow pumice stones. Ceilings above cellar and ground floor are of reinforced concrete, which above the ground floor are provided with suspender beams with ribbed cement flooring slabs placed on top. The resulting pitched roof is covered with roofing felt and aluman.

#### One-family house in North Hollywood (pages 92—93)

The entrance to the house is situated in a corner on the north side. First comes a small cloakroom hall, which leads directly into the ample living-dining room and on into the garden. On the right there is access from the hall to a large study. Just opposite, the stairs lead up to the first floor with the bedrooms. The living-room consists of two parts designed for different purposes, one for music, the other for entertaining. In the seating area we can see a large corner settee and a broad fireplace. The dining-room is next on the east, again with access to the garden, separated from this living-room only by a curtain. The dining-room is directly accessible from a pantry, which is again connected with the roomy kitchen. There is room also in this kitchen for a breakfast nook, in addition to appliances and cupboards. Farther to the east there is a small laundry. The ground floor also comprises a guest cloakroom with WC, a maid's room with WC and a double garage with a small workshop. The first floor consists essentially of two bedrooms, a roomy

children's room with space for three beds, which also serves as a playroom, and a parents' bedroom with separate dressing-room. A small wash-room with shower forms a unit with the children's room; the parents' bedroom is connected with a spacious bath room with WC. The area above the ground floor which has not yet been built over serves for the time being as a roof terrace. The entire south elevation of the living-dining room is done in glass, consisting in part of fixed-pane, in part of sliding-door elements. The panes reach all the way from the floor to the ceiling. In contrast to this, the kitchen and laundry windows have a high parapet. The construction material utilized for the most part is wood, on the outside thin, narrow fibre-board beading, on the inside broad inlaid plywood slabs. The wild undeveloped surroundings form just the right setting for this spacious house.

#### One-family house at Kusnacht ZH (pages 94—96)

The client wanted a modern house in close contact with Nature. The steep slope of the ravine and the neighbouring trees determined the architectural concept. Construction: Drained concrete foundations and brick walls insulated with Zublanite and backed with cellular earthenware slabs. Lower ceiling reinforced concrete, upper ceiling with wooden beams representing roof construction at the same time. Under-ceilings pinewood strips, roof covered with asphalted gravel. Double wooden windows without lintels, partly with Alimil sills. Chimney wall in red brick with built-in inner and outdoor chimneys. Whitewashed, dispersion-painted walls. Beechwood parqueting on insulated underflooring.

#### Project of a holiday house in Arosa (page 97)

Spending a holiday in the mountains means above all lying in the sun, loafing, bathing, mountain climbing, skiing, etc. Our little example presented here is suffused with this holiday mood: Dining, sitting, sun-bathing, these three activities take place on the ground floor on the south side; the east rooms comprise the bedrooms and bath room. One storø lower, on the slope, at grade level, there is a spacious sun terrace, which can be comfortably furnished. It is to be regretted that the building permit for this house was

refused, the other plans being a jumble of log houses in the Hollywood pseudo-Alpine style.

#### Plan for a One-family house with tenant's flat or Studio (pages 98—99)

The present plan was worked out in a contest with the theme "Modern Housing." A requirement was to arrange the house in such a way that as need arose, a tenant's flat or studios could be installed without large-scale alterations. The introduction of a hallway, accessible from the vestibule, creates a central space serving as a multi-purpose room. It can be used as a children's play-room with little furniture to be damaged. It can also be used as a general recreation room, e. g. for table tennis, etc. In summer the south glass wall is shoved back, and in this way the hallway is given the character of an open-air room. The house is divided into two sections by this hallway. In the west section are the garage and the studio. The latter can also be utilized as a tenant's flat, since it is accessible from the vestibule and is separated from the main part of the house as well as from the garden. The long side of the east section faces south. It contains the living-room, which is sub-divided into dining nook, living area and reading nook. The bedrooms are accessible from here through an open passageway. The WC with bath is convenient to the living- and bedrooms. The disposition of the plan offers the possibility of creating a tenant's flat with separate entrance. The basement entrance to be sure would have to be situated outside the flat. The entrance is too narrow. The hallway area opening on to the garden makes for a neat connection between house and garden, and the living area is well sub-divided with its dining and seating areas. The fitting out of the kitchen will be somewhat restricted by the present arrangement of doors. The architecture is clearly conceived and consistently carried out.

#### Project for one-family house (page 100)

This is a typical house for five persons. Nearly all living functions are comprised within the closed, almost square plan. This small house can be built in plain bricks or also in quarry stone, depending on local sources of material and landscape. It is partly built over a cellar and has a solid flat roof with interior drainage and corresponding heat insulation. The bed-

rooms are surrounded by masonry. The living-room and utility area on the street side has a supporting structure of steel supports, upon which there are placed ceiling joists of corresponding dimensions. The house is provided with standard central heating, with new-style small radiators furnishing heat to the rooms. The living-room in addition has an open fireplace. It is possible with only slight alterations to create a flat within the house to be sub-let to a tenant. Moreover, the house can be constructed as a double-house, in which case the central partition is extended about 5 m. north and south.

#### New Gardens (pages 101—108)

Our purpose here is not to publish the most striking ideas in garden design, but merely to make a modest contribution on the state of affairs in this field of design. The gardens presented are of different dimensions and serve different purposes. Some have the most severe lines, others have flowing dynamic lines, but they were all created and planned for people who are awake to the demands of modern living.

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