

Summary

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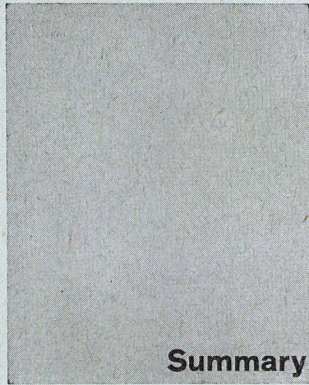
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Summary

Franz Füg
Associate Gérard Staub

Single-family house near Solothurn (Pages 132-138)

Planned 1959, built 1962

Site:

in a suburb without any industry on a hill with a view extending over fields, forests, Jura and Alps.

This house for two teachers and their two children and numerous guests was built largely by the owners themselves with the assistance of colleagues, artists and professional builders.

The plan measuring 12 meters by 12 meters is made up of a covered terrace 12 meters \times 2 meters, a living room 4 meters \times 10 meters, bedrooms 4 meters \times 10 meters, an entrance, a dining-nook and sanitary facilities designed as acoustic insulation between the sleeping and living tracts, measuring 4 meters \times 10 meters.

This square plan is the result of a restricted budget, the choice of a wooden skeleton and a heating system with hot air intake and exhaust in the interior partitions.

The glazed and movable partitions, in curtain form, permit the family to adapt their house to variations of weather, to social requirements and to different furniture arrangements.

Thus the emotional and functional requirements can be better satisfied than by an ever more arbitrary arrangement of apertures in the elevations.

The house is also flexible in plan: the residents can themselves take down the interior partitions, the cupboards and the doors and rearrange them at will. Also the house can be extended for another child without losing partition and elevation elements.

Owing to the large glazed surfaces, the house is vulnerable to changes in temperature. Rapid heating from the sun in winter entails savings in fuel. In summer, aluminium slats and cross ventilation guarantee a comfortable interior climate, for the thermal theories regarding glazed faces do not apply to such a small building. As regards the insulation principles, the choice of the heating system remains a secondary factor. For hot-air heat it is necessary to ensure a continual renewal of air, even when the desired temperature has been reached.

The hot air, filtered and humidified, is distributed from an area measuring 4 meters \times 5 meters above the sanitary facilities. The arrangement of the rooms does away with the need for long ducts.

The module for plan, elevation and detailing is ϕ 10 cm.

The simplicity of the architecture and of the elements ought to create a feeling of freedom in the house, whose owners are open to all kinds of experiment.

Carl Maston, Los Angeles

Complex of 3 studio apartments in Gardena, California (Pages 139-141)

A complex with a very restrained and sober architectural design accommodates 10 studio apartments, all duplexes, which have considerable privacy although they all look onto a green zone in common.

External materials: steel skeleton, untreated brick and rendering.

The lower level constitutes one single volume, made up of the living room, dining room and studio. A two-flight

staircase leads to the upper floor, with 2 bedrooms, the large parents' room being adjoined by a spacious dressing room and 2 baths.

Dailey Associates, Alfred N. Beadle,
Phoenix, Arizona

3 carpet houses in Arizona (Pages 142-145)

We concur in the architects' wish, expressed in "Art et Architecture" that these houses have as much success and earn as much respect as other family houses conceived in the same spirit. The Editors.

These 3 rather unusual houses are not designed for ordinary citizens. They go with a special way of life not open to the public at large. Moreover, the average buyer is very suspicious of this type of architecture and the banks hesitate to extend credit to finance houses of this kind.

Quality is irreconcilable with the quantitative principle which dominates our age (increase in production and consumption). Distributors are omnipotent and consumers enjoy only a limited choice. Moreover, in the USA, speculators require a return of 15%.

The 3 family houses are arranged around a large interior courtyard, which is quiet and intimate.

The design features and the construction materials are applied with a great deal of sobriety and restraint. The whole complex appears very discreet. A rent of \$ 150 for a house measuring 75 square yards is very economical in the USA.

Cost of site measuring 1230 sq. yards: \$ 6000.

Cost of construction: \$ 21,600 for 240 cubic yards.

This group of three family houses is the prototype of a complex of 80 units (cf. site plan).

Construction:

Skeleton of Douglas pine, studding and beams 10'/14'; external walls and fire walls of rendered cement blocks, interior partitions of plywood panels affixed to a timber framework, opaque panes between patios and gardens, sliding doors of aluminium, floors of white Formica, patios covered with "Lumite-Nylon". Very fine detailing: passageways surfaced with clinker between the 3 garages with common laundry and storage facilities, wooden entrance bridges, tastefully conceived landscaping.

Jörgen Bo and Vilhelm Wohlert,
Copenhagen

Seven homes at Piniehøj Vest near Rungsted (Pages 148-151)

On the east coast north of Copenhagen up as far as Helsingør there are located the most beautiful properties in northern Europe. The Louisiana Museum, one of the first constructions in this region with its scattered beech forests, entailed the building of a whole series of country houses on the Oeresund. The strict building code of Rungsted resulted in this happily conceived complex on a site that is surrounded by apple-trees. One row of three and one of four houses of the same type constitute the complex on a large flat meadow without any fences or enclosures; the latter is possible owing to the Scandinavian respect for privacy. Thus, each family can enjoy an open terrain without sacrificing the privacy that is ensured in any case by walls and by an adroit disposition of the building masses. An architectural effect of open-mindedness is created by the extremely sober use of materials: whitewashed brick inside and out, floors and ceilings of natural wood, red tiling at entrance, dark-stained woodwork.

The plans are made up of long walls, which project beneath the roofs to provide shelter for the gardens, and large apertures toward the south and west. The access to the site runs along the north wall, which connects the entrances of three houses. A bathroom on the south side closes off the row of 3 to 4 bedrooms; the kitchen on the east side serves to balance the plan; the living room lies perpendicular to this wing of the house. The principal orientation of the houses is either north-south or east-west, the dispo-

sition of the bedroom tract always being the same.

The Danes are to be envied for the refinement of their art of home-making: immemorial traditions are perpetuated harmoniously in the formal designs of modern times.

René Pythoud, La Tour de Peilz

Architect's House with central skylight, in the vineyards of La Tour de Peilz, Vaud (Pages 152-155)

In the midst of the vineyards of La Tour de Peilz the architect has built this little country-house for himself.

The extensive views over the Lake of Geneva and the vineyards induced him to build entirely glazed walls on east, south and west; the north face, on the other hand, is completely closed in.

The large living room facing south is on the north separated from an entrance zone by door-high cupboards. Here is situated the dining area, facing west and a garden exit, in direct open connection with the kitchen located in the centre of the house. This kitchen along with the bathroom constitutes the installations core. It is lighted by means of a skylight set over the roof. Four bedrooms are grouped around the bath, on the east and west.

For reasons of integration in the landscape, the architect elevated the ground-floor level about one meter above grade level. This created at the same time a well lighted basement with an additional bathroom, a playroom, utility rooms and garage. The ground-floor projects on all sides beyond the garden level.

Twin posts support the roof over the ground-floor. This has a free span of over 11 meters, is constructed of metal and wood.

This small house is given pleasant uniformity by the deliberate restriction to few materials: garden level walls and ceiling are of unfinished concrete. Grey concrete slabs are used on the floor of the ground-floor rooms. The ceiling on ground-floor level is faced with Canadian pine beading. The walls are furnished with coloured natural rendering.

The furnishings are also intended to be ascetic in effect, in harmony with the house as a whole. Some of the furniture was designed by the architect himself. Built-in cupboards were installed as elements, composed of beechwood supporting elements and white spray-painted panelling.

Only very little landscaping was undertaken. A narrow path runs to the garage and the main entrance.

Paul Beyersdorf, Hanover

One-storey home with five exterior rooms in Hanover-Kirchrode (Pages 156-158)

Execution: 1962/63

Residence surface: 144 sq. meters

Office surface: 32 sq. meters

Constructed volume: 1150 cubic meters

Cost of construction: DM 135,000.-

This house is integrated in the complex of homes situated along the wall of a cemetery which is 3 meters high, the buildings not overtopping this wall. It is close to that of the architect (cf. 33 houses, 33 architects, B+W Publishers). The driveway, perpendicular to the neighbourhood road, ends in a small court opening into the garages.

Between the garage and the house, one proceeds beneath a pergola along the rose garden and the north face to enter a hall which serves as dining-room. To the left, it is connected with the kitchen the cellar and the maid's room, to the right, it gives access to a covered shelter with fireplace.

The living room, situated in back, opens entirely to the south onto a lawn. To the west, it is limited by the study and the offices of the owner; here there is a separate entrance.

A door situated beside the kitchen gives access to the sleeping tract, composed of two parents' rooms, two children's rooms and two bathrooms. A high brick wall separates the garden from the road on the west. The exterior is subdivided into five spaces: to the north, the rose garden and the kitchen-garden, the play area in front of the children's wing, the covered

shelter with fireplace and the large garden in front of the living tract. Everywhere pergolas connect the interior with the garden. A paved utility court is located behind the garage.

Construction:

Walls of greyish-yellow untreated brick, rendered on the inside or painted white. The roof, with cross ventilation, is covered with multi-ply roofing material. The lower boarding is of Finnish pine, untreated. All the external wood surfaces along with all the structural parts (windows, doors, etc.) are treated with blackish Solignum oil. Floors of tile or with wall-to-wall carpeting.

Lothar Götz, Heidelberg

House with three apartments in Heidelberg (Pages 159-162)

Site:

Suburb south of Heidelberg, large residential area with houses from before and especially after the war. The lack of architectural unity does not call for any integration.

Program:

Ground floor: garages and 4-room flat; upper level: 3 rooms and studio; access: steel stairways with pre-fab concrete slabs.

The large living rooms facing the garden on the west side constitute the main area of the flats, around which there are arranged rather small rooms.

There is a large storage space adjoining the kitchen, with direct exit from lavatories to washing-machines and from all the rooms on the east and west onto a balcony running along the entire façade.

The interior volumes are carried outdoors in the shape of two areaways by the entrance and near the garden. A certain degree of privacy is ensured by an enclosure 1.70 meters in height and covered with grass.

Construction:

Supports of steel in the façades on the east and west, taking lattice-girders; facing: pre-fab concrete panels, multi-ply; reinforcing struts of oblique steel tubes; metal parts sand-blasted. Non-supporting external skin made up of steel sections welded to the skeleton and solid panels, windows (fixed panes, except in the kitchen, constant integrated ventilation, Gretschnitas system, frames of Douglas pine), doors (facing of redwood, inside and outside, rockwool insulation); balconies: structure of steel, panelling of wood, canopy of light grey Detopak panels, Venetian blinds above the balustrade of steel cables with plastic handrail. Interior partitions of plaster panels, double partitioning for especially insulated rooms. Oil heat.

Mies van der Rohe, 2400 Lake View

28-storey apartment house in Chicago (Pages 169-172)

The building has just been occupied by residents.

This example illustrates the growing abstraction that is apparent in the architecture of Mies van der Rohe. The structural part as such is independent of the specific project. Thus constructions intended for completely different purposes are based on the same basic scheme. Unfortunately, the imitations of this scheme, from Iceland to Australia, are often bad applications, which have elicited as many adverse reactions as favourable ones.

This building with 364 apartments, where the small flats (36 of which are below), while the large flats for families with children are situated far from the ground level, calls for a certain amount of criticism, even if account is taken of the economic criteria which are not compatible with the interior equipment: complete adjustable air-conditioning for each room, synchronized lifts, independent ovens, fridges, dish-washing machines, one bath per bedroom, but dining nook and kitchen without outside windows. The luxury level of this building is rounded off by a heated swimming pool and by extreme acoustic insulation between the apartments.