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Summary

Donald Olsen, Berkeley, California
One-storey house with two patios, near San Rafael, California

(Pages 460-464)

Site:
North of San Francisco in a valley filled with oaks. The owner, a very hospitable man, envisaged a very spacious program for his house designed for entertaining: it is composed of a large living room with fireplace, lounges and covered outside areas facing a patio and the park.

This big living zone, with all parts intercommunicating, is accompanied by a low entrance area and a service wing, comprising the servants' bedrooms and an area designed for breakfasts.

The bedroom tract, closed in from the outside, is located around a patio: it is made up of a master bedroom, a study and four children's rooms, with 2 beds each, numerous lavatories and exterior extensions, where the children are separated from the parents, whose room projects in a semicircle into a patio.

The residence pavilion, located in the garden beside a swimming pool and a terrace, comprises a bar, showers and toilets.

The house is constructed of timber except for the bedroom area, which is of brick and the garages of concrete. The floors are of marble, the walls of white-painted plaster; the interior partitions of the study are of dark walnut. The built-in lockers are of natural wood. Radiant floor heating. The lighting is indirect everywhere, the park and the patios have artificial illumination. All the rooms are equipped with television.

Robbin & Railla, Encino, California
Four-wing house on one level in Los Angeles

(Pages 465-469)

The vast program involved in this big house situated on a relatively restricted lot comprises living tracts shielded from the gaze of the neighbours, parents' bedrooms isolated from the children's quarters and a guest room with independent entrance, the latter room capable of being converted either into a study or a maid's room. The core of the house is formed by the swimming-pool and by a tract which serves as an entrance and then widens into a living and dining room, to become a passage giving access to the children's bedrooms and leading into the pool. Flower troughs surround this tract. Illumination is provided by skylights; they are located between the centre and the wing with the study and the bar, whose roof structure is staggered in relation to that of the children's wing, comprising their bedrooms, the lavatories, storage space and two patios, as well as in relation to the guest wing with bedroom and installations and to the kitchen wing. Now then, the articulation into four distinct parts is emphasized by the different levels of their respective roof structures. The construction is of timber, based on a module of 2.64 m. The partitions and some ceilings are clad with redwood or are rendered. The wall with the fireplaces is of travertine. The furniture is by Knoll Associates.

Y. O. Wong et R. Ogden Hannaford, Chicago

House with two-storey on the ground-plain of 80 m² in Chicago

(Pages 470-471)

This small house was built on top of the existing groundwalls of a house which was pulled down because of its state of decay. The living- and dining-room, the kitchen and an office are 1.30 meters beneath the terrain.

The façades are of astonishing simpli-

city and clearness. In little recesses the windows form groups. Washed lime sandstone is used for the outer walls.

William Morgan, Atlantic Beach, Florida

House with two-storey steel-skeleton structure, near Jacksonville

(Pages 472-476)

Situated transversely, this house divides the site along a river, into a driveway area with parking space for visitors on the west and a living area on the east looking on to a swimming pool which is connected with the river by a long catwalk. This perfectly symmetrical house is made up of a living tract on two levels, in the centre, with a double fireplace and a stairway leading to the gallery, which provides access to the four bedrooms with their balconies, from where there is direct access to the swimming pool via spiral staircases.

On either side of the sharply recessed ground level are the dining room and the game room. The technical installations are accommodated in quarry-stone "towers", which constitute the supporting elements for the canopy roof, which covers the kitchen, the utility rooms, the utensils as well as a garden lavatory, below, and the upper lavatories accessible from either side via sliding doors.

The bedroom floors are of terra cotta flagging (Botticino), the partitions and the ceilings of plaster panels, the living room ceiling being covered with walnut wainscoting. The faces are made up of visible steel supports and of cedarwood boarding.

Dieter Rams, in association with the research department of Braun AG, attached to the electronic research divisions

New variable system for apparatuses for the recording and reproduction of acoustic and visual information in the home

(Pages 477-480)

For years now Braun AG has been among the leaders in the field of modern radio sets, recording equipment and television apparatus.

There is presented here a report on the current state of Braun's research program. The projects described consist of a systematic coordination and a spatial concentration of all the apparatus of the system. The coordinated grouping of the sets according to their possibilities of combination is intended to take the place of the current products on the ordinary market, which are not in any way interrelated and which are difficult to fit into the restricted spaces of modern homes.

This rational systematization is based on the following reflections: reduction of investments by means of greater adaptability of the different sets, which are made up of coordinated elements, increase in possibilities of utilization, concentrated switchboard, integration of the whole apparatus and of the various elements in the different spaces available in homes.

Up to the present time, industry has come out with sets that are completely independent of one another, in respect both of dimensions and of function. Only in the development of Hi-Fi equipment has there been envisaged a certain coordination. Up to now it has been possible to obtain in Europe only complete Hi-Fi equipment without any adaptability to other kinds of recording equipment and television sets.

Braun has studied the combination of the following apparatuses on the scale 1:5: Receiver with amplifier, turntable, recorder, TV, loudspeaker. In connection with electronic apparatus, there have been designed assembly furniture units: shelves, cupboards for building in, connecting rods, files, tables, switchboards, trolleys, built-in wall units. The example of kitchen installations shows that such an arrangement is proving to be effective.

All the switches and buttons are flush with the surface. Their arrangement, which is integrated, is flexible, and with the exception of the turntable and the pivoted TV unit, they can be installed vertically or horizontally. A horizontal arrangement generally

comprises the TV, the recording equipment, the radio and the turntable in combination.

A unit to accommodate all this has been specially designed. The supports are always made up of standard-dimension aluminium elements, easily adjustable, and interconnected by horizontal rods.

In order to guarantee maximum comfort and efficiency when manipulating the equipment, in seated or standing position, there has been designed a maximum height of 1.00 m. and a minimum height of 0.55 m. for the switchboards. The side of the typical model measures 0.62 m. Now then, a set which is not furnished with switches and buttons like a loudspeaker, for instance, is located outside this zone.

However, there are specific factors involved in such a system which is made up of juxtaposed elements, seeing that the buyer generally obtains his equipment bit by bit; the different elements ought to be autonomous and attractive per se, wholly apart from the whole system.

Each element can therefore function alone and be subsequently integrated into a complete system. Only for the recording equipment has there been designed an independent housing, for this instrument ought to movable for recordings to be made elsewhere.

J. S. Bonnington

Small house with steel skeleton forming an upper projecting level, at Harpenden, England

(Pages 481-484)

The trees of this very fine site have been preserved despite the construction of this house whose ground level is left open to allow for future extension and to avoid the sensation of smothering in all the excessive greenery. The house rests on a long wall at the end of which is located the garage as well as on two transverse walls forming the entrance hall with WC, cloakroom and stairs and marking off the covered shelter. As is the case for the houses of Bo and Wohlgert, these walls of yellow brick, laid on concrete foundations, are a very important architectural element, guaranteeing a smooth transition between the house and the natural setting.

The upper level, whose steel skeleton projects all around, comprises the dining room with kitchen on the south, with direct access from the entrance hall, a large living room on the east and two bedrooms on the west with bath and study. All the rooms are interconnecting and are separable by means of sliding doors faced with teakwood.

The structural and interior appointments module is 22.5 cm.

The welded steel skeleton, painted black, in one single plane, is sandblasted. The paneling elements, also practically in the same plane, are of double-layer glass in aluminium frames or of laminated cedar panels on the outside and on the inside of Sitka fir; between these two wood layers there is a core of tarpaper, a layer of polystyrene and a water-bar.

An installations room beside the garden cloakroom comprises the heating unit and the electric switchboards. The fuel oil tank is situated underneath the garage. The garden illumination system is built in, that of the living room consists of fluorescent tubing, this guaranteeing glancing indirect light. Most of the furniture is built in.

The architect has also designed the other furniture with rectangular steel sections, black leather and marble, glass or teak. All the accessories are of the same chromium-plated stainless metal.

F. Seeger, Worms, and E. Tempel, Worms and Tapiola

Guest house of an industrialist Worms on the Rhine

(Pages 485-488)

This house is the complement of an already existing home. Its location is determined by the presence of a swimming-pool and a tennis court. The T-plan of this light construction is composed of a long elevated part; it comprises the living tract with a round fireplace, which is free-standing, the diningroom with kitchen, bar and

exterior prolongation of the shelter in front of the large windows looking on to a park whose vegetation is very abundant; in it there is an outdoor fireplace.

The low-silhouette wing comprises cloakrooms for the tennis court, accessible from outside, two bedrooms with showers, a sauna and a large bathroom.

A concrete deck comprising all the incorporated installations receives wooden beams with interaxial space of 2.50 m. laid on steel brackets supporting glued wood girders with maximum span of 10 m. Module: 1.25 m. The partitions as well as the roof structure are of standardized wood panels which are available on the market. They are clad on both sides with Renolit, like the floors. Assembly required 6 weeks.

Esko Pajamies, Helsinki

Armchairs and tables of jacaranda wood, bronze and leather

(Pages 489-490)

The assignment comprised furniture of top quality for use in public premises serving prestige purposes. The prototypes shown here were fashioned on the basis of wooden models.

Kenzo Tange, Tokyo

Cathedral of St. Mary in Tokyo

(Pages 491-500)

Destroyed in 1945, the cathedral, dating from 1889 was planned from the outset to be rebuilt in the suburb of Sekiguchidaimachi of Tykkyo.

The first competition prize, awarded to Kenzo Tange, was carried into execution in 1964.

As in the European cities of the Middle Ages, this cathedral dominates this dense, low-silhouette quarter.

The plan of the church has the shape of a kite around which are grouped freely the sacristy and other subsidiary premises.

The roof structure of the church is made up of 8 hyperbolic paraboloids (cf. sports arenas, B+W 1/64 and 10/65) which, starting from the 8 basic elements, do not meet at the top, this arrangement creating overhead illumination in the shape of cruciform glazed strips, four branches of which extend down to ground level. At the highest point beneath this asymmetrical spatial cross there is located the altar. The concrete cruciform structure supporting the roof has replaced the transept of traditional-style churches. The raw concrete shells in the interior are clad with folded stainless sheet metal on the outside. The high windows are of transparent glass, except the one situated above the altar, which is of translucent marble. The artificial illumination is effected by means of Acryl glass elements, arranged underneath the luminous strips, where the natural light is replaced at night by fluorescent tubes. The interior is very subdued and its spatial conception symbolizes the Christian ideology, despite the fact that the author of the plan is a member of another faith; this building reflects the innate aesthetic feeling for design of the Japanese.

This construction is part of a series of highly individual plastic researches carried out by Kenzo Tange, who employed shell structures already for the children's library (unfortunately destroyed at Hiroshima in 1945), composed of a reversed conic shell from which are suspended curtain walls, and then for the Ehime Convention Center (1952), based on circles and finally for the sports arenas in Tokyo, whose metal roofs suggest gigantic tents.

The cathedral is entered via low lateral entrances which open into areas recalling the side aisles of a gothic church; here are the baptismal fonts and a series of chapels. Above the west portal, intended for processions, there are situated the organs, with access via a spiral staircase.

The subsidiary premises covered with large concrete slabs constitute a harmonious contrast to the main volume, which is clad with metal.

The crypt, situated beneath the central altar, is illuminated by skylights located outside the main roof structure.

This cathedral represents a new demonstration of the exceptional talent of Kenzo Tange, who knows how to synthesize the cultural traditions of East and West.