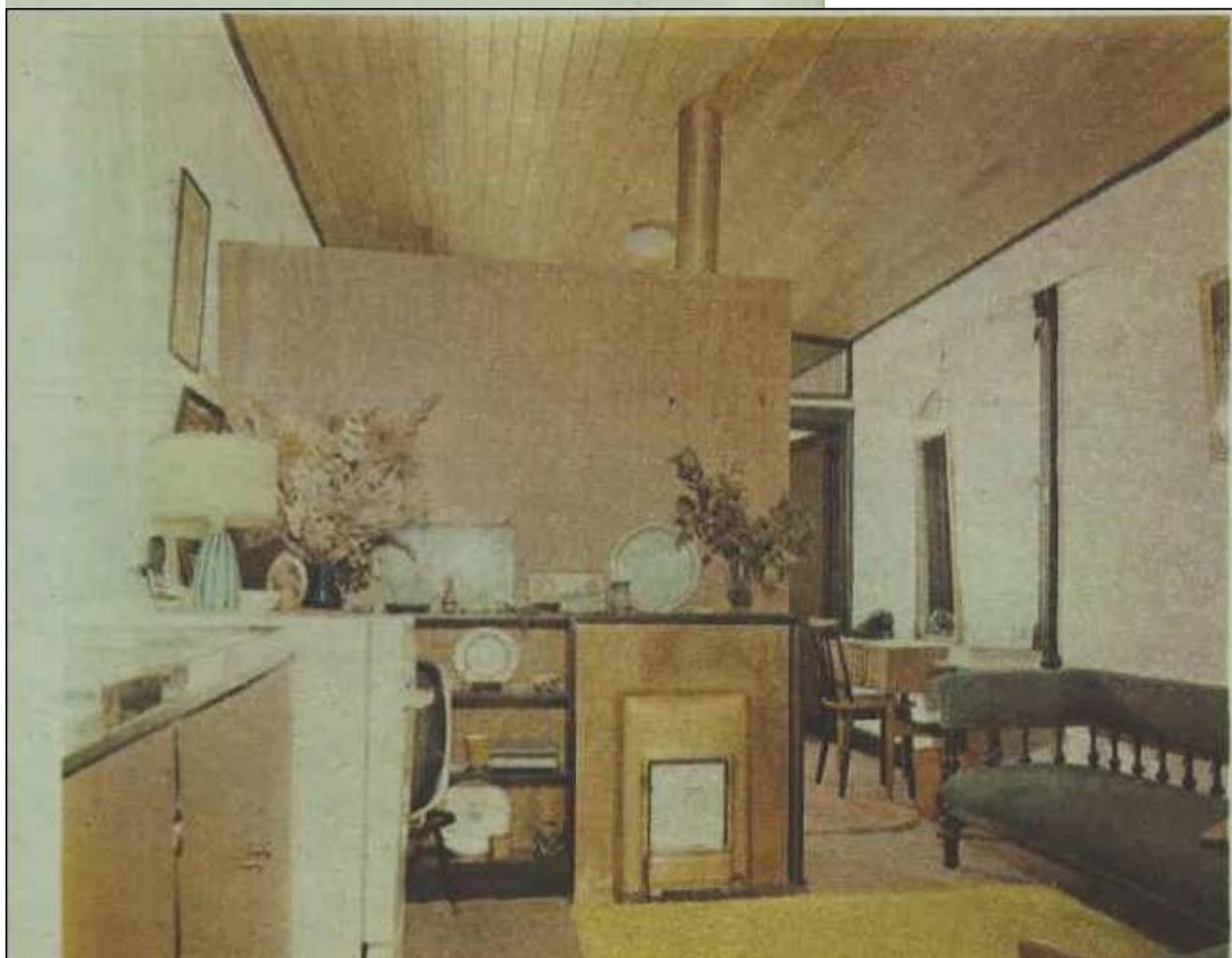
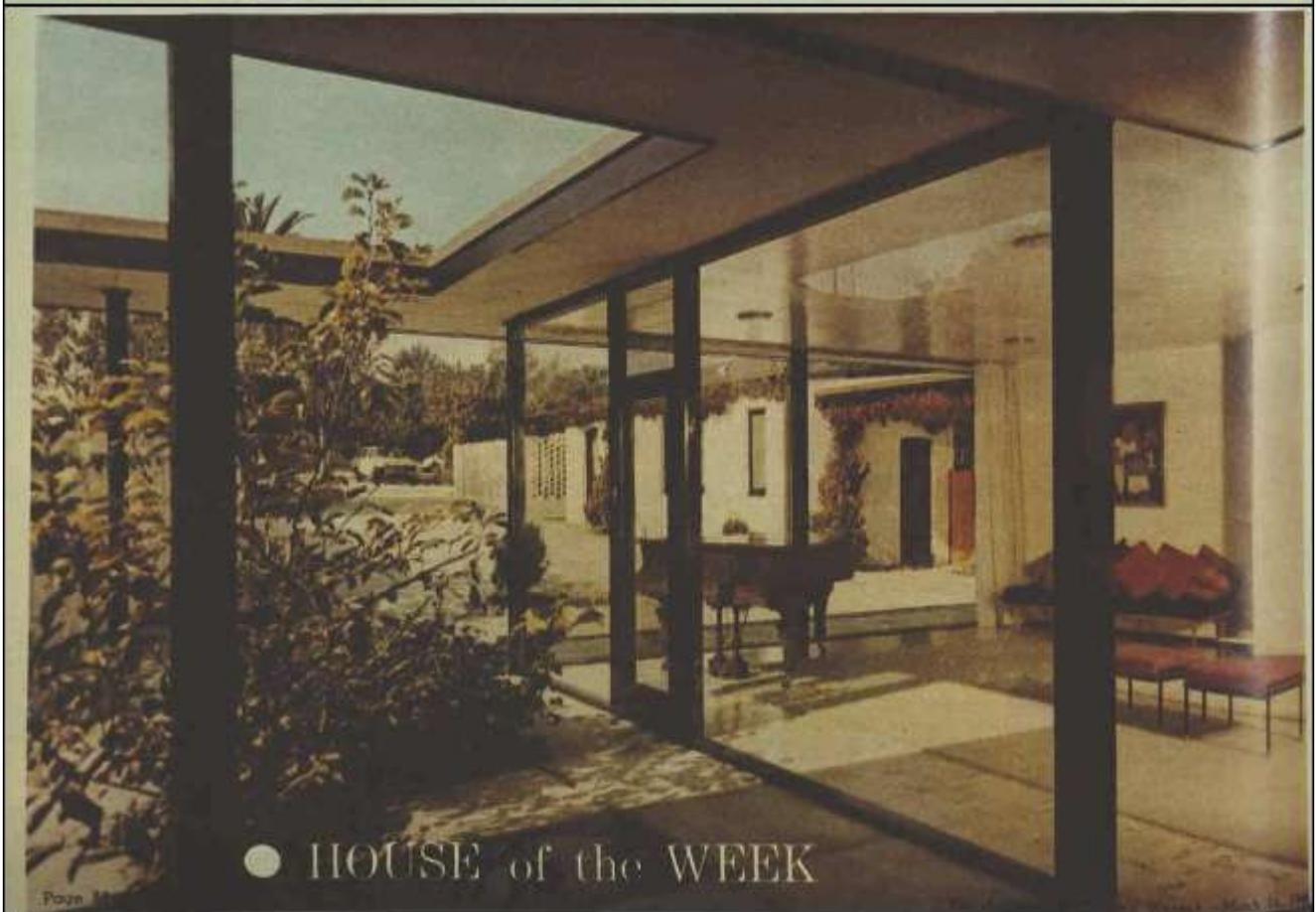


# THREE-GENERATION LIVING

● How to provide harmonious living conditions for members of a family representing three generations was the most important problem that faced architect Mr. R. van Rompaey when he was designing their home, "White Lodge," at Camberwell, Victoria.





● HOUSE of the WEEK

## ● HOUSE of the WEEK

Mr. van Rompaey had to consider his wife, mother-in-law and two (then school-aged) sons in his plans. The problem was solved when they found a block of land which was the original tennis court and part of the garden of an old estate, complete with the original outhouses.

**CONVERTED** brick outhouses dating back to the 1890s make a cosy cottage (left) for Mrs. van Rompaey's mother, Mrs. A. E. Coote. Behind the partition is a fitted wardrobe and divan bed.

**MAIN HOUSE** (below), the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. van Rompaey, at Camberwell, Vic., and the cottage are connected by a pergola covered with grapevine. Living-room is in foreground.

**DINING - ROOM** (right), kitchen (behind book-lined, panelled wall), and entrance hall are all one open area. Bedroom wing is to the right of the entrance.

**I**N designing "White Lodge" at Camberwell, Vic., Mr. van Rompaey's first step was to make the outhouses, which date back to the 1890s, into a habitable and comfortable cottage in which his 85-year-old mother-in-law, Mrs. A. E. Coote, could live.

Originally a wash-house, coal-shed, and toilet for a gardener and handyman, the three-square building was converted for an approximate cost of £1500 (\$3000).

Interior and exterior brick walls were painted white and the ceiling was lined with varnished boards.

A partition of varnished wood was built; it now divides what was one long room into sitting-room and bedroom. Wardrobes line the bedroom side and bookshelves and a gas heater line the lower half of the sitting-room side.

Along one wall of the sitting-room is a kitchenette,

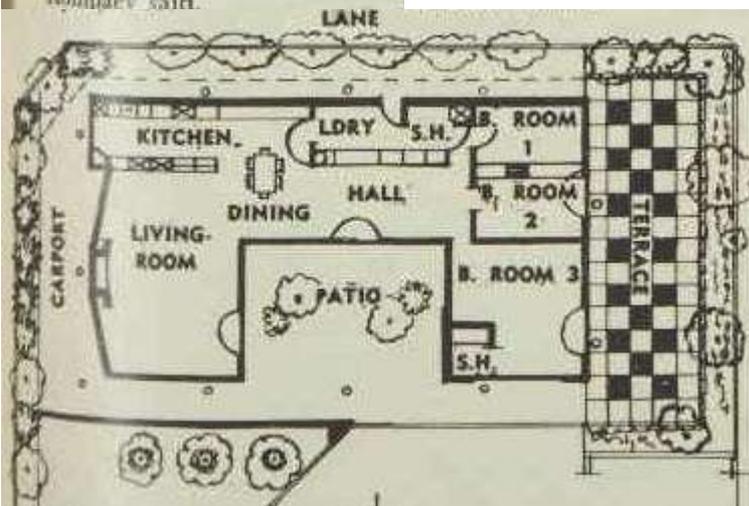
along one wall of the sitting-room is a kitchenette, comprising workbench and cupboards, table-model stove, stainless-steel sink, and refrigerator.

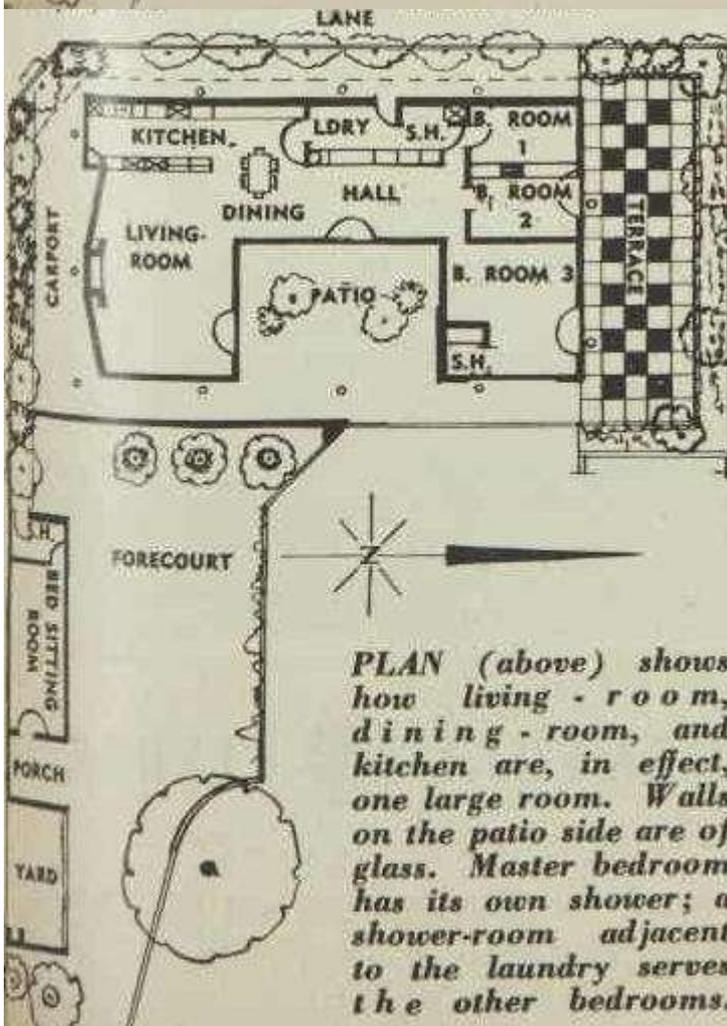
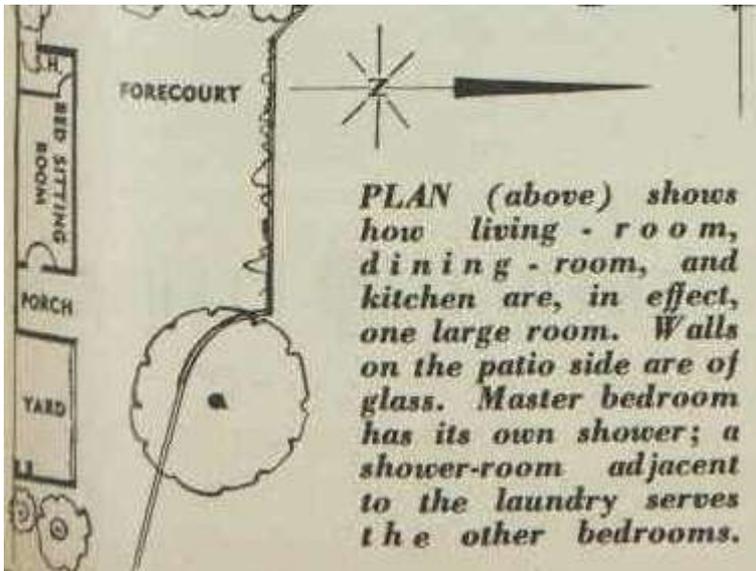
There is also room here for a settee, a cosy rocking-chair, television set, and small folding dining-table and chairs.

A door leads from the bedroom into a tiny but well-appointed bathroom and this in turn into the original toilet, which has been modernised.

So he could personally supervise the building of his own house, Mr. van Rompaey, his wife, and their younger son, Julian, lived in the little cottage during construction.

"There was only room for three of us and even then it was a tight squeeze, so our elder son, Christopher, stayed with my parents and Mrs. Coote stayed with another of her daughters," Mr. van Rompaey said.







During this time a tiny courtyard with built-in barbecue was constructed outside the front door of the cottage. This is enclosed on three sides — the cottage itself making the first wall, the high brick barbecue the second, and the "lacy" brick wall of the adjoining service yard (another innovation) the third.

Barbecue area and part of the service area, where Mr. van Rompaey and his sons keep their workbench and tools, are roofed in with clear perspex. On the other end of the elongated cottage, a vine-covered pergola links it with the house.

Although there is a 70-year gap between the architecture of the cottage and house, and the latter is starkly modern, the two are aesthetically blended.

Most of the walls of the house are of ceiling-to-floor

Most of the walls of the house are of ceiling-to-floor glass but the solid walls are of whitewashed brick, and all trims such as window and door surrounds are of french polished blackwood to match the cottage.

The 194-square house which cost £10,000 (\$20,000) to build, is designed on free open lines. The kitchen, lounge, dining-room, an entrance hall are virtually one enormous room.

The lounge and/or kitchen can be secluded by drawing a most decorative curtain right or part of the way across this area.

The curtain (a "long winter's night project" for

**Continued on page 66**



Photographs by Mark Strizic and Brian Ferguson



**CURTAIN** (above) dividing the living-room from the kitchen and dining area was made by Mr. van Rompaey, using fisherman's net, gold gift ribbon, and jewelled discs. A bright red rug complements the black-and-white vinyl flooring and the dining suite. **SECTION** of the string-colored net curtain (left), against a dark background, shows the decoration.

## Beautify Your Hair



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## ● HOUSE of the WEEK



BEDROOM WING (above), to the right of the area behind drawn curtains, in Mr. and Mrs. van Rompaey's home.

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... Continued from page 59

Mr. van Rompaey, who made it) is the focal point of conversation when newcomers visit the house, but, to quote Mrs. van Rompaey, "It nearly drove me up the wall while it was being made."

"For weeks on end we tripped over what seemed like hundreds of yards (it was in fact only 30 yards) of coarse black and string-colored fisherman's net, strung out all over the floor."

First Mr. Rompaey threaded the net with vertical bands of gold ribbon. Then he stuck multi-colored jewels to either side of gilt dog tags and sewed these on to the curtains at three-inch intervals.

"I don't want to suggest that anybody else's husband does this, for the sake of his wife's sanity — but I have to concede it is the piece de resistance in our home!" she said.

All the other curtains throughout the house were also made by Mr. van Rompaey, who admitted it was a tedious job ("Bless the inventor of the sewing machine!" he added). Of white nylon net, with a separate lining of black polished cotton, they give a soft cloudy-grey effect to the rooms. The net curtains can be drawn alone, to filter strong sunlight, or if desired can be drawn with the lining when privacy is required.

Another unusual feature in the lounge is the concave south wall and fireplace. This was planned partly to give easier outside access to the adjacent carport but also to improve the acoustics in the room — for here Mrs. van Rompaey, who is musical director at the Methodist Ladies' College, Elsternwick, keeps her lovely grand piano.

The 10ft. wide floor-to-ceiling curved surround of the fireplace is made of tiny white mosaic tiles and has a broad hearth of black terrazzo.

It is placed about two feet out from the wall. Recesses behind either end provide ample storage space for fuel in one end, books and magazines in the other.

A wall of cupboards, with a recessed oven on the kitchen side and bookcase and cupboards on the lounge side, is all that separates these two rooms.

There are thirty feet of cantilevered cupboards, topped with a white laminated bench, on the opposite wall of the kitchen.

Recessed in this at one end are the sink and stove; the other end serves as a sideboard in the dining area, and the space between for food preparation.

A second set of cantilevered cupboards, well above the bench to allow room for working, have solid doors in the kitchen and glass ones in the dining-room. Here the van Rompaey's display heirloom china and glass.

At the opposite end of the shallow U-shaped house, the three bedrooms and Mr. and Mrs. van Rompaey's dressing-room (which leads into their bathroom) run in a line behind a glass exterior wall overlooking a terrace.

The checkerboard effect created with black and white marbled vinyl tiles in the interior is repeated on the terrace with alternating slabs of white concrete and squares of large black pebbles, embedded in concrete.

Because this area is sheltered by the high, vine-covered boundary walls, it is an ideal spot for the family to play one of their favorite sports — table tennis.

Cleverly utilising every available bit of space on the limited site, Mr. van Rompaey has erected a ladder here which gives access to the flat roof for sunbaking.

Although the boys' bedroom is really one big room, divided down the middle with built-in wardrobes, leaving space for an adjoining doorway, each has a separate entrance.

Like their parents, they have a glass door leading from their bedroom to the terrace and share a small bathroom, across a passage, which is built in one unit with the laundry.

—PATRICIA PECK

## Book for home-lovers

● Recently published is an extremely comprehensive guide for all would-be home decorators — "Australian Home Decorating Ideas," by Ayleen Lewis.

SPECIALLY geared to Australian demands, the book contains helpful suggestions for color and furnishing schemes, and also a wide variety of factual information on the practical aspects of all forms of decorating.

The planning and layout of every room in the house is carefully considered, with special emphasis placed on storage and space-saving.

Furniture arrangement, suited to individual room shapes, and floor treatment, considering the practical and effective merits of tiles, carpeting and timber, are dealt with separately and extensively.

At the beginning of the book is an explanation of the use of the color wheel, invaluable when planning schemes. There are also suggestions for focal points on which to base your color schemes.

The chapter on outdoor

living has suggestions for doing up and beautifying the tiny courtyards that are such a feature of the little terrace houses found in Australian cities; it gives a number of solutions to the ever-present problem in this climate of providing shelter from the heat of the sun without detracting from its light value.

There are also ideas for dealing with large blocks of land, and for planning outdoor entertainment.

The book is lavishly illustrated with color and black and white photographs and diagrams.

"Australian Home Decorating Ideas" costs \$1.60, post free, and is a really worthwhile investment.

Available from The Macquarie Color and Technical Service, 32 York St., Sydney; 276 Collins St., Melbourne; Garling St., Hilton Park, Perth; 121 John St., New Hindmarsh, Adelaide; Nudgee Rd., Hendra, Brisbane.