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This Home Has Just One Room

By Dick Cunningham
Minneapolis Tribune Staff Writer

Dr. and Mrs. Roger Ewert of St. Paul didn't want a huge house, but they did want a feeling of spaciousness. They don't have any children, so, why not make the house all one room?

That's the order they took to their architect, James E. Stagnberg of Minneapolis: a spacious, one-room house. And that's what they now have at 11 Sullman Lane in the North Oaks residential area of White Bear Township north of St. Paul.

Last week the house was named by *Architectural Record* magazine one of the 20 best architect-designed houses of 1962.

It's a big one room, 49 by 36 feet, but, except for the bathroom, there's not a single partition in it.

There are two sleeping areas, a kitchen area, dining area, garden living area and a fireplace sitting area. The principal method of defining the areas is by varying the levels of the floor.

ON THE ENTRANCE LEVEL, to the left of the main door (which is right in the center of the house's glass front) are the kitchen area and dining area. They are partly, but not completely, cut off by free-standing cabinets from Mrs. Ewert's modern furniture and gift shop.

To the right on the same level is a little Japanese garden bridge over a free from pool that has a fountain and goldfish in it. Beyond it is the garden area filled with plants.

Just ahead of the door and down three steps is the core of the house, a sunken elliptical sitting area 24 feet long and 14 feet wide at its center.

Couches are built into the elliptical edge of the depressed sitting area and a big fireplace with a copper hood dominates the wall opposite the front door.

The floor of the well is carpeted with an extra shaggy imported fabric which provides a contrasting texture with the terrazzo floor of the entrance area.

The sleeping areas are six feet above the entrance level at opposite ends of the fireplace and divided by the bathroom.

You reach them by circular steel stairs. They can be cut off by curtains from the rest of the house when there are guests. The covers formed under the house by the main sleeping areas is a drive-through garage connecting at both ends with the curved drive.

THE SLEEPING AREA opens onto its own sun deck off the back of the house looking toward the golf courses which the Everts spend much of their time. Additional sun decks run along the ends of the house toward the front, where there is a view over the road to Pleasant Lake.

The bathroom between the two bedrooms is fixed up for bathub readers.

The tile tub, which was built on the job, has a comfortably inclined back and a reading light over the bath's shoulder.

In the bathroom there is also a shower compartment and a 12-foot counter with two sinks in it.

The slick, cold look of most bathrooms is softened in the Everts' by the buff brick outside wall and the ceiling.

THE CEILING in the bathroom and throughout the house has exposed fir beams stained dark with a light-stained fir deck on top of them. They extend six feet out from the house.

The inside walls all through the house are the same as the outside brick. The wall is made up of two layers of brick with a two-inch space between filled with insulation.

All around the top of the walls under the roof is glass.

"We even have plastic joints at the corners so the light won't be interrupted," said Mrs. Ewert.

"It's a very odd house. Most people wouldn't want it. It's tricky for us, and we love it."

COLOR



KITCHEN and dining areas are at one end of the house on the entrance level. They are purposely only partly separated by the free-standing cabinets. At opposite end is a sitting area filled with plants.

Minneapolis Tribune Photos by Wayne Bell



Minneapolis Tribune Photos by Dwight Miller

If You Like African Violets...



MORE than 500 African violet plants will be on exhibition at the 12th annual African Violet show sponsored by Twin Cities African Violet clubs and Donaldson's - Golden Rule from 8:15 a.m. to 9 p.m. April 1 at Donaldson's. There also will be an exhibition with information on care and propagation of violets. Shows at right is a violet grown by the show chairman, Mrs. A. T. Diagsmann, 888 Av. NE, and Merrill.

Minneapolis Tribune Photo by Dwight Miller

COLOR