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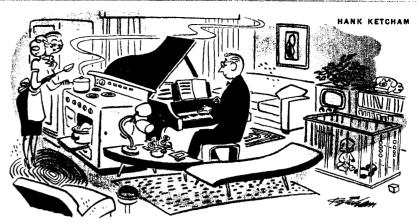
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...THROUGH CHEMISTRY



In modern architecture, a home is simply a matter of . . .

A Room Is A Room Is A Room

By PARKE CUMMINGS

were separated from one another by fairly thick (and entirely permanent) walls. In certain cases a door led from one room to the next. It was made of wood, swung on hinges, and had knobs on each side of it. When it was shut it made even more distinct the separation between rooms. You were very defi-nitely "inside" a certain room or "out-side," and that was it.

Rooms were not only distinct from one another physically but in atmosphere and décor. You could tell that the kitchen was the kitchen because it contained a stove, a sink, a refrigeratorand no overstuffed chairs. A dining table identified the dining room, and the presence of comfortable chairs and a

sofa made the parlor's function clear.
Our house had stairs. This meant that, even though you might not know the exact whereabouts of a member of the family you could give somebody at least a partial clue by saying: "He's upstairs," or "She's downstairs."
All of this presents a vivid contrast to

some of the houses I see nowadays. In them the exact line of demarcation between a certain room and another is at least as nebulous as that between left field and center field when two outfield-ers are hotfooting it after the same fly ball. The same holds true with many of the drawn plans I see in various publications—coupled with an announcement that the architect responsible for them has pulled down a \$1,500 award for dreaming up a house more "func-tional" than anything that has been dreamed up before.

The basis of these awards all seem to be the same: no matter what size the house (though most of them are pretty small), it should have as few rooms as possible and each room should have as many different purposes as an active family (for an ingenious architect) can think up. A budding architect drawing a plan with a separate room labeled "dining room" would be thrown out of school as quickly as a basketball player convicted of taking a bribe. In fact, in some modern architectural schools and firms the very mention of that term is cause for immediate dismissal.

There are several new-style houses in my general neighborhood, some of which I had occasion to visit recently when I canvassed for one of the major fund drives. I came to the first one, and knocked on the varicolored plywood

WHEN I was a lad we lived in a door. The lady of the house opened it, seven-room house. The rooms and the first thing that caught my eye was an electric range.

"Pardon me," I apologized. "I'll go around to the front door."

"This is the front door," she said. 'Won't you come in?"

I entered a large, rambling, low-studded room and commented: "Lovely kitchen you have."

"Food preparation area," she said. "Won't you come into the living space?" I followed her for a few steps, at which point she sat down in an easy chair and signaled me to do likewise. I drew out a cigarette, offered her one, and then fumbled unsuccessfully in my pocket for matches. "Never mind," she said. "There are some in the den."

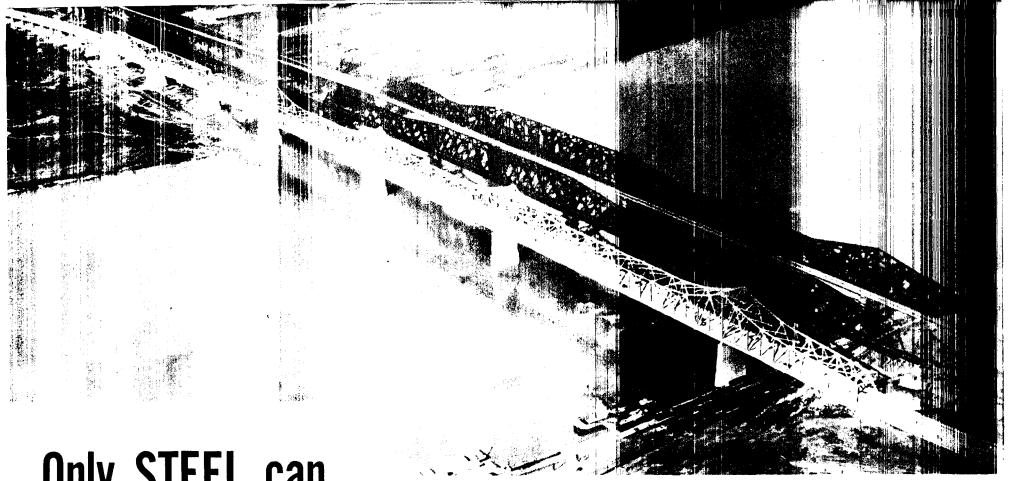
She arose, took six steps in a northwesterly direction, and secured them from a low table. As we smoked, and she gave me her donation, she pointed out several other "rooms." There were, if I recall correctly, a music room (midget piano), a social room (divan), and a library (bookcase). All three of them, I finally came to perceive, were distinctly separated from one another

by small scatter rugs.

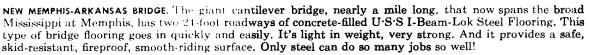
I did not inquire about the bedrooms although it is possible that I was unconsciously viewing the master one when I gazed at the two settees in one of the far corners of the room. If I am wrong in that assumption (maybe those settees were disguised frozen-food units) there is one thing I can guarantee—if the house boasted more than a single bed-room, these could instantly be converted into one large room (suitable for Pingpong or doing the laundry) simply by pushing back a sliding partition. In any event it is an absolute cinch

that these bedrooms (or sleeping areas) were on the ground floor. Next to putting permanent interior walls into an up-to-date house, the worst thing an architect can do is to call for—or even consider—stairs. The one-story house seems to be the rule these daysthat results in some phenomenally high television masts in low-lying localities.

I'm afraid I sound like a reactionary, but don't get me wrong. The kind of house that is becoming more and more prevalent these days has plenty in its favor in convenience and comfort. In fact, as the lady I visited pointed out the myriad advantages of her domicile, found myself completely converted. It's the best one-room house I ever saw. Or do I mean 11 rooms? THE END



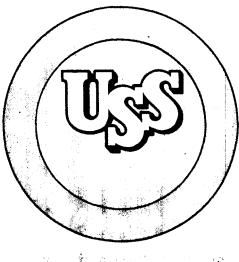
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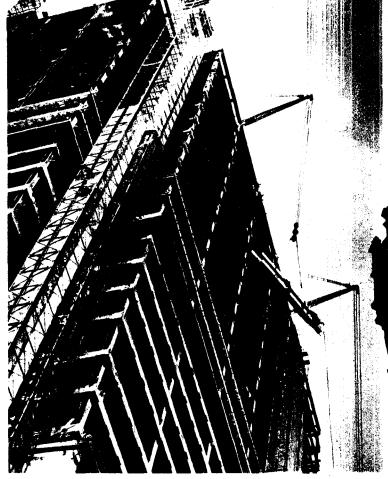


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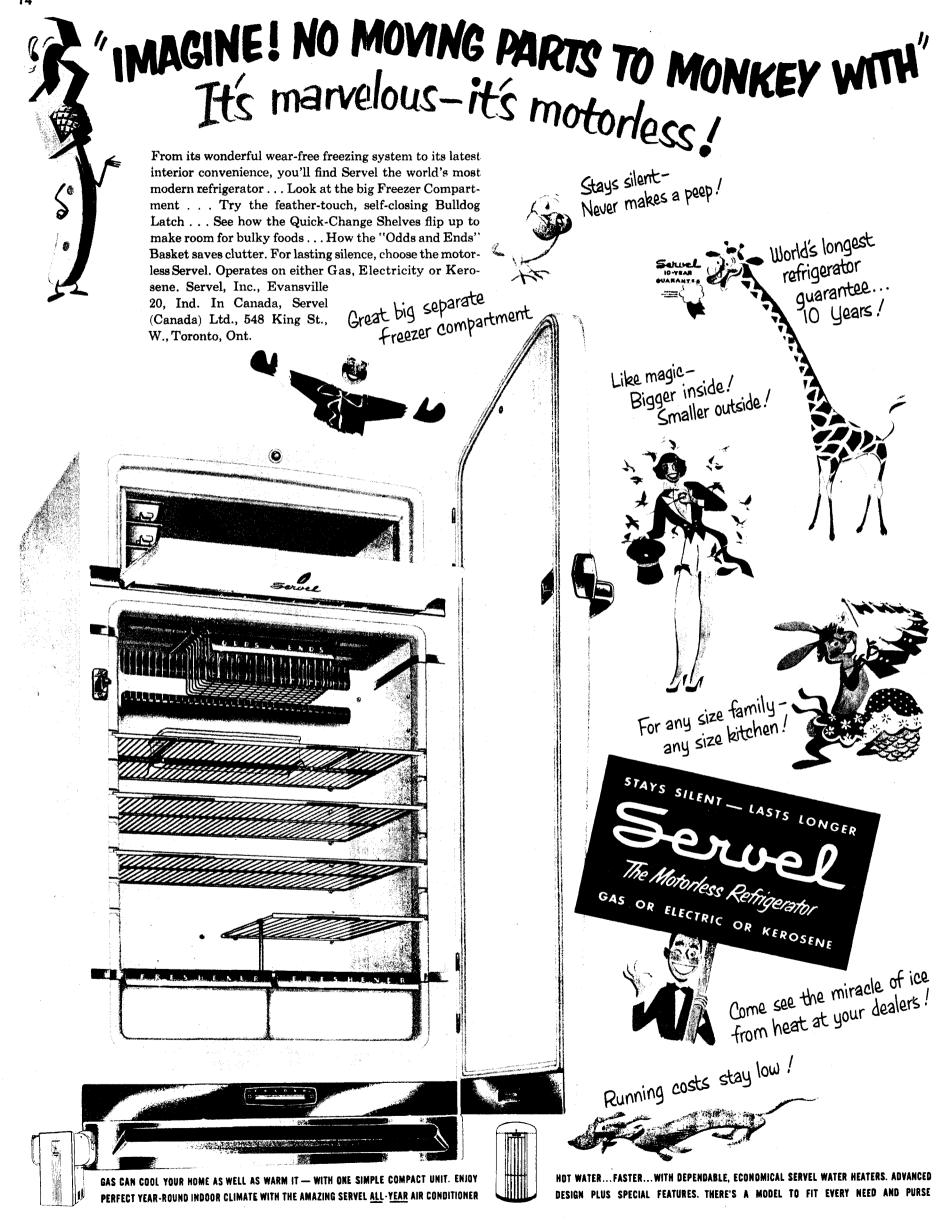


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Twenty years ago, when Thornton Sayre was a romantic movie hero, you might be in love with him. Now you will find him older, and wiser-and quite a bit more foolish

By JOHN D. WEAVER

LL through breakfast Carol Sayre waited for her father to explain the long-distance phone call, which she felt sure was connected with those mysterious letters he had been getting from New York all week. She sat at the opposite end of the table from him, the polished cherry expanse suggesting the thirty-year span which separated her untidy world of dungarees and lemon Cokes from Thornton Sayre's archpreserver shoes and digestive pills.
"New York, wasn't it?" Carol finally said, and

the Old Boy went on nibbling his Melba toast, apparently not hearing. "Wasn't it New York calling?"
"Yes."

"Business?"

"No." He adjusted his tortoise-shell glasses, then dropped a tiny saccharin pill into his coffee. He was a man of precise movements, seeming to attach importance to even the most trivial gesture, a trait which had become instinctive with him in the almost unremembered years when he had been

a professional actor.
"Stella get home?" Carol asked, drawing the tines of her fork across the tablecloth, making lines which always suggested railroad tracks. The Old Boy nodded, and she said, "She have a good

"Yes, I think so. Do you have any idea where my suitcase is? The good one?"
"I lent it to Dick last summer."

"Would you mind getting it back?"

Carol leaned forward, her dark eyes widening. 'You wouldn't go to New York without me?"

"Why did you lend him the good one?" "He can't travel around with the ball club looking like a hobo." She smiled across the table. "I've

ing like a hobo." Sne smiled across the table. The never been to New York."

"A great many people lead long, useful lives without ever visiting New York."

"But I've never been anywhere."

"You've been to Kansas City."

"You've been to Kansas City."
"When I was a child."
"You're still a child, and now will you please go get my suitcase?"

Carol, with a pouting frown, pushed away from the table. Never in her life, which seemed much longer to her than to old people her father's age,