

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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MODERN ARCHITECTURE FAVORED IN POLL: SURVEY OF VISITORS TO HOUSE IN MUSEUM GARDEN REVEALS MAJORITY LIKE NEW DESIGNS

A sample survey just completed by the Museum of Modern Art reveals that the most popular features of the House in the Museum Garden are its expandability, the butterfly roof and the landscaping layout around the building.

Most people, it seems, like the idea of a house that can be built in two stages. The House in the Garden, designed by Marcel Breuer for the Museum, is planned so that the basic house of two bedrooms, one bath, kitchen, utility room and children's playroom can be enlarged by the addition of a garage-storage room with a third bedroom and additional bath over it.

The unusual roof of the house, which forms a "V" rather than the conventional tent or pitched shape, was approved by 85% of those answering the questionnaire. This type of roof eliminates the need for gutters and drains at the roof's edges and allows space for a second story at the higher end of the house.

Three quarters of the people liked the division of the outdoor area which is separated by free standing louver partitions and bench like stone walls into a service yard, a play space with sand pile, and an outdoor eating place with fireplace.

The kitchen was voted the most popular room by a majority of the people answering the questionnaire, 84% of whom like its central

and 80% of whom like the two-way shelves making the division between the kitchen and dining room. Many people also added that they would like to incorporate the idea of the opening between the kitchen and the children's playroom in their own homes.

Runner-ups as favorite rooms were the living-room and first floor bedroom. Both of these rooms have entire walls of glass which were approved by more than 80% of those answering the questionnaire.

The unconventional lighting which eliminates floor and table lamps and which caused some controversy when the house was opened, was approved by 77%. Horizontal, wall-strip indirect fluorescent units and wall "spot" lights are used throughout.

The children's bedroom with adjacent playroom was liked by 84% of

the people, while 76% were particularly interested in the children's furniture. It consists mainly of open-end boxes and foam rubber cushions which can be arranged in many different ways to make tables, book shelves, doll houses, etc.

More than three-quarters of those queried also approved the exterior walls of cypress tongue-and-groove vertical boarding. Almost that many liked having all the storage space on one floor and eliminating the attic and cellar. A smaller number, but still a majority, liked the stone floors, and radiant heat in the floors was a very popular idea. A majority also thought the house would be easy to clean, comfortable and economical to run.

Many people indicated by their comments on the questionnaire that they intend to incorporate certain features into their own homes. Sliding doors on closets and shelves, glass walls, arrangement of the kitchen and utility room, the use of bright clear primary colors, the floor to ceiling draperies were among the most frequently mentioned.

The television set, which consists of two large pieces, was not liked by a majority of the people questioned. Some said that it was too large for the room, that they did not like its conspicuous placement and that it was too big and black.

Comments on the house as a whole ranged from "I want to build one just like it" to "I'm old-fashioned and prefer old-fashioned houses." One person said, "I am most impressed by a plan which enables a woman to cook and watch the children at the same time." Other comments included: "Roof and outside stairs good," "children's room is homey," Some people found the colors cold, others thought them too bright. Architectural students, housewives, businessmen, young mothers, grandmothers, all commented from their own points of view, tastes and needs. One woman redrew the floor plan to suit her family, while another answered the entire questionnaire by scrawling one large sentence at the bottom: "I like the whole set-up. Marvelous."

The survey was conducted by taking a random sample of visitors going through the house during one week in September. Saturday and Sunday crowds as well as weekday groups were given 18 questions to answer.

The house will remain open to visitors daily for about 3 weeks, when it will be dismantled. More than 80,000 people from New York, as well as other parts of the country and Europe, have visited the house since it opened on April 14.