

Here we have a road of just sufficient width to accommodate the traffic, bordered on either side by pleasant grass plots of, say, five to eight feet wide, with shady trees and flowering shrubs flanked on either side by flagged or concreted footpaths.

We saw one charming road in California which was planted on either side with rose bushes. These were simply masses of bloom, and anything more delightful would be difficult to imagine. What a striking contrast these two types present, and how much more pleasant to have our homes situated in such surroundings. It is essential that, without delay, plans for the future growth of our cities and townships should be prepared by architects of repute who have given study to this branch of the profession, and suburbs should be encouraged to compete with each other for beauty of surroundings.

Again, the individual setting of the house has been too frequently neglected by both owners and architects. How seldom has any garden been planned with any thought of the houses on either side.

A GREAT deal may be said for the American system of omitting front garden fences, thus binding all the gardens into one, and encouraging everyone in the street to maintain a high horticultural standard.

Another point to be observed while dealing with the gardens and their settings is the general design of the house, and selection of building materials which necessarily must harmonise with the surroundings. For instance, do not make the common mistake of erecting a home quite out of sympathy with those adjoining; nothing would be more distressing than to see a bungalow flanked on one side by possibly a pretentious palace of Gothic influence, while on the other may be a restrained Georgian house, each doing its best to ignore its neighbour.

With regard to the planning of the home itself there is great scope for improvement. The modern housewife will not put up with the drudgery which the old types of homes necessitated, as illustrated in the earlier part of this article. Here we must turn to America for the greatest improvement. America, having long been faced with the lack of domestic help has revolutionised the inconvenient home, and with the sympathetic help of manufacturers of labour-saving devices has evolved what is generally known as the labour-saving house. It is impossible to adopt the American home entirely, as it has been designed to meet racial and climatic conditions very different from ours, except perhaps in parts of California. The idea behind this type is the elimination of all waste space, and the convenient and economical disposition of the various units of the house.

FIRST of all take the kitchen, which is the workroom and laboratory of the house, and on the correct placing of which depends the success of the working of the home. It should be easily accessible to the front and tradesmen's entrances, and at the same time should have direct access to the dining-room by way either of service pantry or connecting lobby. It should be just large enough to take care of the efficient and easy preparation of food, the washing of dirty dishes, etc. It should be designed so that the food from the delivery at the door should proceed in an orderly and direct way through the stages of preparation and cooking to the table, and unnecessary steps reduced to a minimum. All fittings should be built in, avoiding dust catching ledges, and all metal work necessitating cleaning should be eliminated. Floor and wall surfaces should be faced with easily cleaned materials requiring the minimum attention, and ventilation should

be given due consideration. The result will be a bright easily worked kitchen, the pride of any housewife.

Of the reception rooms the dining-room should be used for meals only, and therefore should be as small as practicable, while the living or music rooms should be large and roomy enough to meet all needs. This should be the real heart of the home, decorated in a bright cheerful manner with well made furniture of good design. What pictures and ornaments there are should be of good taste, carefully placed to get the best effect, and in perfect harmony with the furniture and colour scheme. This room might be designed so that sliding-doors will give direct access to the dining-room, so allowing for any large function, and the same applies to the reception hall, if any.

The bedrooms should be grouped so that while easily accessible from the reception part of the house, they will have the utmost privacy, and bathroom or bathrooms should be equally convenient to all bedrooms. Large roomy closets should open off each bedroom to obviate the necessity for bulky wardrobes, which usually do not fit into their surroundings. The decoration and the furnishing should be quiet and refined.

Where expense will allow, a cloak room and lavatory should be placed in close proximity to the front entrance, for the use of guests.

WITH regard to heating, it is probable that one of the various systems of central heating, as used in the States, would be a great improvement on the old fireplace system, common to New Zealand, although in America it is usual to have, in addition to the heating system, a large cheerful fire-



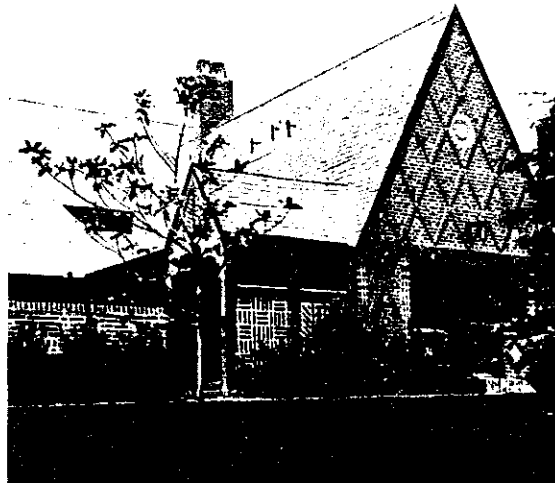
House at Hollywood, containing five rooms and a garage. Note absence of front fence. Cost about £1200.

place in the living rooms. The central heating system ensures uniform heat all over the house, and with our frame houses, which are extremely cold in winter, this would be a great advantage, especially as the cost of installation and upkeep is well within the average person's means.

The success of the future Domestic Architecture of New Zealand lies in sound constructive criticism from the public, the co-operation of manu-

facturers and importers of building material, general publicity of the latest developments of housing design of the various countries of the world, and annual exhibitions of recent architectural work executed in our own country.

Public interest in architecture is of immense national importance, for architecture infallibly records the spirit of the community in which it is produced.



Dignified small brick house. Effect is simple and harmonious, relying on proportion and colour. Cost from £1500 to £1600.



Simple treatment of dining-room, showing restraint in the use of furnishings. The furniture shows taste in design. Note absence of useless ornaments.