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The Owner-Built Home - Chapter 2 - Volume IV - Design and Structure - Planning Systems: The Court-Garden House

Ken Kerns

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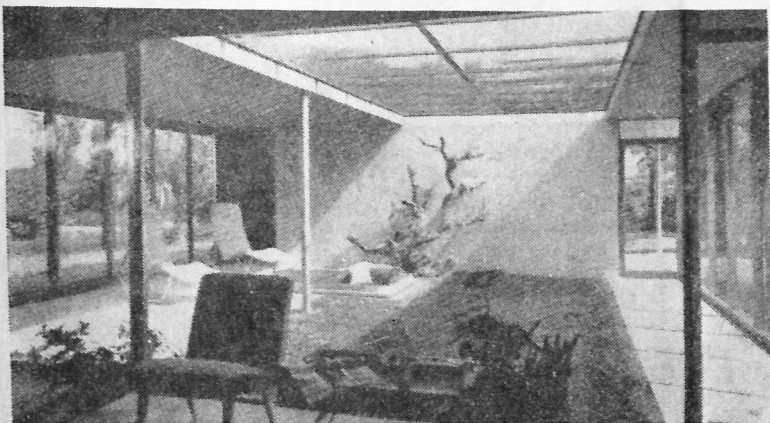
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Planning Systems: The Court-Garden House

By Ken Kern

(continued from last month)

A second universal constant in design and structure economy is the space-time relation. Many of us continue to live in the Newtonian world of three-dimensional static space. A building is of this static nature; we have to walk around it at ground level and view front, side, and rear elevations before we can comprehend its design and structure. But a building that offers continuously changing relationships depicts a certain space-time quality, a dynamic relativity, *motion in space*. Compare Le Corbusier's roof-garden designs with the usual steep-pitched shingle roof. The flat roof-garden offers the viewer a new dimension, a new space relation—a view from above as well as from below. The court-garden offers a similar illusion of motion in space. There is a certain floating continuity in window transparency and penetration of indoor-outdoor spaces.



COURT-GARDEN

Twitchell 1948

The purpose of achieving this space-time quality in our building design is simply to intensify our emotional reactions. An owner-builder should seek to develop new relations in his design which will make him more emotionally active and receptive. Much study has been given to this subject by psychologists. At a recent American Institute of Architect's convention, psychiatrist Humphrey Osmond said that the most carefully designed buildings today are zoos. An animal will die if not properly provided for. A human, however, learns to adjust. The emotional cost of this adjustment can hardly be assessed, but it must be considerable. Even under a perfect but *unchanging* condition a dulling effect is experienced that would, in a comparable situation, kill the most hearty beast. Freud has told us that *irritants generate life*. We really need the changing contrasts and tensions of opposing space situations.

Ecto-space, meso-space, endo-space relationships offer contrasts in terms of indoor-outdoor environment. Dr Osmond also distinguishes between sociopetal space and sociofugal space—a situation that brings people together and one that keeps them apart. Contrasts are also made between static space and fluid space. Motion in space is fluid whereas the eventual termination process is experienced as a static space.

(continued next month)

You Can, cont'd

and building up under the blade of the mower. I tried this same system once with the mower resting on the ground and it didn't work.

The comb guard on the front of the mower should be removed and arrangements made on the platform to raise the front wheels between 1 and 2 inches, and to block the mower so that it will stay fixed in place. And a skirt should be placed around the mower to force all the chopped mulch to be thrown out the spout

on the side.

Then a chute or funnel should be made to feed the stuff into the whirling blade at the front of the mower. This funnel should be placed so that the material will hit the blade at the farthest point from the exit spout. On my mower this is to the right when facing it, as the blade whirrs in a clockwise motion. The space from there to the spout under the mower must be blocked off, otherwise the material will be thrown out too soon.

This mulcher will chop or shred most any material that is dry and brittle. Green stuff will go through if the stalks are not large, or if the material is not viney so that it winds about the blade. If the mower stalls, either the stuff is too heavy or you are feeding it too fast. Brush up to half an inch in diameter will go through all right if it is dry and brittle. Turf with dirt on it must be dried first. Cornstalks should probably be laid by to partially decompose before being chopped. I haven't had any cornstalks to try on mine yet. I did put dry sunflower stalks through and they worked nicely. I built mine principally for palmetto fans and had to chop out the center stalk by hand, using a bench and a hatchet. I have laid these stalks by to become partially decomposed and then will chop them up.

Be Careful

A word of caution. Keeping hands and feet from under the mower still applies. Don't ever; I repeat, don't ever, try to push material on through the chute with your hands. You might

New York Green Revolutioners Meet

On Nov. 1, returning to Ohio from the School of Living activities in New England, Mildred Loomis met with New York City area readers of our journals. Thirty people, including Dave and Kitty Stephens and Bruce and Ruth Elwell, from Philadelphia, had a very lively get-acquainted and planning session at the Ten Park Ave. Hotel (the facilities were a courtesy of George E. Moesel, a long-time friend and aide of the School of Living). After reacting to, "What do you want from the School of Living and what can you give to it?" plans were laid for a follow-up meeting in late November or early December. Herbert Rauch, 280 9th Ave., volunteered as secretary, and Abigail Grafton, 170 E. 2nd St., as convener.

Concern Over Organization

Here, as is usual in School of Living members, they were reluctant to consider an organization. Many persons fear the bureaucracy and deadness that results in many groups when "organization" takes over and becomes the end, instead of the means. Yet School of Living people like and benefit from face to face association. This or any joint and cooperative action requires some organization, and we suffer from the lack of it.

Dr. Charles Raebeck, professor of education at Adelphi College, Suffolk, N. H., was present and expressed his concern to Mrs. Loomis. "I am concerned," he said, "that the School of Living is not a real 'school,' with facilities, classes and curriculum. I strongly believe that we should work to correct these conditions."

Letters, cont'd

tion and say frankly that had the owners of these bones lived longer, most would have passed on within 10 years from leukemia—blood cancer.

When radiated food is eaten, the radiation is released. Is it eliminated naturally? The radiochemists say it is merely added to the radiation already in the eater's marrow. Will the public be informed if it is eating this kind of food? Certainly, in tiny type nobody sees.

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(advertisement)

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THE GREEN REVOLUTION — 3 December, 1965

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MEETINGS FOR SCHOOL OF LIVING FRIENDS AND MEMBERS

The meeting scheduled at San Diego, Calif. with Life Science Foundation (Jan. 1) has been postponed. Watch for later announcement.

Jan. 29-30, 1966 — School of Living regional meeting, Community Hall, Melbourne Village Homestead Assn., Melbourne, Fla. Report on October New England meetings by Mildred J. Loomis. Write to: W. B. Newcomb, 8240 New Haven Ave., Melbourne, Fla.

Work on Old Mill, School of Living Center — weekends by arrangement. Write Mrs. Dee Hamilton, Heathcote Rd., Freeland, Md.