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Ahimsa Children's Camp

Paul Salstrom

Camp Ahimsa

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The Owner-Built Home — Chapter 4 Planning Systems: Group Living Space

Ken Kern

In planning group living space we seek first of all to satisfy our physical needs. The classic furniture groupings in (1) Primary Conversation; (2) Secondary Conversation; (3) Recreation and Social Grouping are all designed to furnish group arrangements thus made to constitute an interior view in the same way that window and door arrangements constitute an exterior view. A volumetric furniture sequence is suggested: placing the bulkiest furniture against solid walls, with medium-volume furniture between, closest to window and door openings. Under open-plan design concepts a light, adaptable type of furniture might be replaced by the spaciousness and flexibility found in the open plan. The open plan living arrangement provides for changing demands for the different stages of family development; simultaneously engaged active and passive activities are provided for. An almost unrestricted inside view prevails in the examples of open planning illustrated below. Cooking and eating areas are only a few steps apart, and a kitchen is cut off from the rest of the group living space. Quiet and passive functions are placed in areas adjacent to nature we prefer the cozy feeling of enclosure when reading.

GROUP LIVING PLANS

Open-planning concepts should serve as important tools to the modern architect; a means, however, when the disciplines of one tradition are replaced: substitutes merely, not alternatives, are established. Alternatives too often necessitate a painful thought process and a major change in basic living patterns. It may have been this notion that prompted Frank Lloyd Wright to say that:

In our country the chief obstacle to any real solution of the moderate-cost house problem is the fact that our people do not really know how to live.

Open-planning concepts enable us to satisfy our physical needs—this is only one surprise of "making spaces." It also design space to satisfy our impulses and add richness to our lives. These emotional qualities are too often overlooked by architects, who are often considered by Owner-Builders.

A surprise view or a changing vista in a room can add measurably to its charm. We should control the narrow, the light-dark, and the high-low characteristics of a room area. There should continually be a feeling of change in the places we use. We catch a glimpse of something new and bright, such as a glimpse of something new and bright, such as a glimpse of something new and bright, such as a glimpse of something new and bright, such as a glimpse of something new.

Educating At Home

Will Evan was born on Feb. 25th, 1966. Please write our first letter to him when he is old enough to read. We would love to hear from you. We are trying to help him understand that he is a member of a family and that we love him.

Wendy to Produce Better Chairs

One of the best bits of news we've had lately is that in Milton Wend's announcement that he is going into production on a full line of chairs. According to Wend, the American furniture body needs a chair that should suit the modern man, whose chair is a means to body support and comfort. The clinics are too well equipped. Selling is a mistake, the backs are not designed and usually the seat is too high.

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