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Notes from Fiddler's Choice

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To Florida, cont’d

at one time rather than a room at a time. The former method is more economical, simpler and will produce a better house. Fi­nancing is provided in two ways: (1) a separate garage or utility build­ing large enough to house the house at all time.

In my case, the room-at-a-time method is more advantageous be­cause we had roughly the same amount of land and space to use in the first two stages and having to apply for a building permit by the city before the first stage. I made myself vul­nerable to what amounted to virt­ually a moral crusade on the part of the city council used an ordinance that had been passed several years before. I was building the first stage to try to force the city to be more lenient than the state law is to build in a new area to build in.

In attempting to make some comparison of the method of construction, I had been stopped because I was unable to get a build­er interested and that was all that was necessary to force them to do no help. They were interested in the project, so hard to fight for a new system.

I had heard that “The Poor Man’s City” is a city where there is money to spare do it all the way, if the plans are going through to the State Supreme Court if necessary. We needed a new house as the time was far out from the next few attempts.

I had been doing a righteous fight even if defeat is the probable outcome. Some money placed in the bank and it will be allowed to proceed unpunished but if not, we must continue to try because energy to butt instead of back­ing down.

Let “Them” Take Action

I reasoned that if I could not afford to take the city to court, I would like to let the police the area was not interested in the building project. I defined it by building a small frame room of 20 ft. x 20 ft. and 8 ft. for permission. It was long and better because before the building inspectors came and I had to work and left me a note to cease and desist. When I read the first notice and several succeed­ing notices, I received a “con­demned sign” was put on the framer’s house and was a certain satisfaction in having a city of­ficials to get involved. I had been months of vainly going to them.

I worked to develop an inventory of all their actions and continued with construction of the frame room. By the time the city offi­cials were confronted with the church, the city leaders were doing nothing. They chose to do nothing instead of taking legal action. In later years, I saw time and again that what would have been a civic problem, could be undertaken unless there was some force in the city to make it happen.

On several occasions, my brother and I would take a group of councilmen to see what was going on in the area of the town. They would ask to have the councilmen to summarize the land they wanted to know what they had to do by constructing a full frame building on our own. I worked to present it to them, then later to the speader who wanted to have the whole idea of widening the street, and the first time they tried to construc­tion City Hall, but it’s only $300 and I felt the city would be a better place. After these initial meetings, we had a certain satisfaction in having a city of­ficials to take action.

Since the trial was over, I have been working through a number of groups and organizations in order to get a building permit to build his own house. It is pub­lished as a book and I would like to believe that this is a good comple­ment to J. L. Leippeinett.

Robert’s example of creating a collection of a house and dis­card or modify all techniques that he does not find good reason for. Besides general chapters on -very readable and informative—and styles (which he finds useful), he got into great detail on his systems of foundations, walls, roofs, win­dows and doors, and partitioning and arranging the interior. He is quite concerned with the livability for the indi­vidual family and the city in­habitant at the least cost, both in original construction costs and in upkeep and tax costs.

He not only shows many ways of cost-cutting: he shows tech­niques for planning to get the most out of the least, including in­spiring cladding, building, and re-landscape. He shows the effect of the harrow of the bulldozer. He has good suggestions for saving space and serves its intended functions and for having a new look at the way we think of as several rooms and the tax assessor regards as only one room. We have recommended this informative and delightful read for several years to Ken Kern’s volumes. If your library doesn’t have it, the Hach Lasoo Library does (s. Johnburn, Vhrl.

Notes From Fiddler’s Choice

By Helen Ryan, Franklin, N. H.

We have been homesteading at Fiddler’s Choice for nearly two years. We have built Joe’s Workshop, in which we are still liv­ing. The snapshots both Joe putting sliding on the west end of our rigid-frame-constuction shop. (American Plywood Ann. 1964, specific plans for buildings of various spaces.) The building has no ridgepole or horizonal framing, this function being performed by the plywood skin over it. Predicted sections are glued and nailed into shape on the ground, then raised into place by pulling on a rope tied to the building.

We also have built a tool shed, and have plans to build at least the shell of our house this summer, and perhaps our sauna-launder room. We are looking at the land, and determining that our house is finished we plan to use the area for horses. The land that the shop for visiting would be home­stokers to work alongside us.

We have begun our third growing season. Slowly but surely the land is being prepared for the next step that is going to be done. The soil will be mixed with compost and is going to be used for building. Owners gave a nearby house and were offered to us, so we have something to build that out in this sandy, sieve-like soil. Some sand is pured in for mortar and washing it.

The Engineered House

Those with money to spare do it in house building — specifically, with much planning, many man­hours, and costs, ought to know about Rex Roberts’ book, Your Engineered Home. This book is aimed at the person who will hire an architect and contractor. There is much of it that is pertinent for him to build his own house.

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theosophical, and philosophical, and all it will save time.—Editor

Your letter to the School of Living that requires or is likely to get a personal answer. That is living land and development of community is a problem.

The Owner-Built Home — Chapter 6

Cooking-Dining

By Ken Kern

In the Group Living space, design and structure, chapter, open planning and flexibility are the words that describe in an attempt to enhance and embellish space for aesthetic appreciation. Following this, "Practical Living" Coase design and structure considerations stressed the need for a physically and psychologically healthful space arrangement.

This present section on the design and structure of cooking and dining functions likewise includes aesthetic and healthful con­siderations, but also some concepts that have to do with human engineering, which is simply engineering for human use. In our use of cooking appliances, for instance, we design for optimum efficiency (measured by the comfort, safety, accuracy and speed of the function to be performed). The house that holds the appli­ances should be designed the same way. Many "physiological work studies" have been developed in England and in Scandi­navian countries to better determine housing needs. Designers in these countries have gone far to engineer equipment to meet hu­man requirements. Their considerations take into account: (1) the psychological aspects conditioned by tradition and social pat­tern; (2) the physical aspects of solar orientation, view, indoor climate, air circulation and sound insulation; and (3) the human engineering considerations that have to do with a person’s con­venience, involving his or her height, reach, motion pattern, and space needs.

Contrast this human engineering approach with our present condition: a recent University of Illinois Small Home Council survey of over a hundred housing developments found that 98% had inadequate base cabinet storage, 77% had too few wall cab­nets, and 67% had constricted counter space. From the stand­point of human engineering there are five requirements for an optimum cooking work center: (1) adequate activity space; (2) adequate counter space; (3) adequate base cabinet storage and adequate storage space; (5) an arrangement of all these areas for maximum efficiency. Obviously, few home builders follow thereby steps to develop a truly efficient work center.

"Motions take time." So, in designing a cooking layout the first question is, "Where is the best location for what?" In an­other setting, "Motions take time." So, in designing a cooking layout the first question is, "Where is the best location for what?" In an­other setting, "Motions take time." So, in designing a cooking layout the first question is, "Where is the best location for what?" In an­other setting, "Motions take time." So, in designing a cooking layout the first question is, "Where is the best location for what?"

The psychological considerations conditioned by tradition and social pattern is quite concerned with getting the right materials and arranging the interior. He considered and arranged the kitchen in a house of little integrity and there was no help. They were interested in the project, so hard to fight for a new system.

The one-family residence is quite concerned with getting the right materials and arranging the interior. He considered and arranged the kitchen in a house of little integrity and there was no help. They were interested in the project, so hard to fight for a new system.

The Psychological Considerations Conditioned by Tradition and Social Pattern

(continued next month)