

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

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Coincident with the opening of its Exhibition of Modern European Art on Wednesday, October 4, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53d Street, will show in its permanent architecture room the model of a two-story suburban or town house, with garden, by Richard Wood of New York.

The house, of stucco or other composition with steel frame, is designed to take full advantage of two fifty-foot lots in the residential section of a city or exclusive suburb where land values are high. It is set within a few feet of the street and fills the entire width of the two lots from party line to party line. On the street side the first floor contains double garage, kitchen, and a long windowed corridor off which are the main stairway, lavatory, three closets, and maid's room and bath. At the back, or garden side, are dining room, huge living room, and master bedroom and bath. A bricked terrace runs from one party line across dining room and living room and is enlarged and lengthened as it nears the blank wall of the master bedroom, which has an unbroken line of windows looking out on its own small garden or close, made private at side and back by high walls or hedges and effectually set off from the larger garden by its own out-jutting blank wall and well-placed clumps of shrubbery.

One large and two smaller bedrooms and two baths are above the master bedroom and terrace. A secondary stairway separates these rooms from the library, at the front of the upper floor. The library leads into a many windowed balcony overlooking the living room, two stories high. At the far end of the balcony and actually a part of it, the sun room opens on the broad upstairs terrace.

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The features of this very modern and extremely livable house are the maximum advantage it takes of its comparatively small land area and the privacy it achieves in a close-built neighborhood. Instead of being set in or near the center of the plot, this dwelling is placed so near the street that the greater part of its land is conserved at the rear for garden or lawn, further secluded by a wall or high hedge at back and sides. Few windows look out on the street side of the first floor and these are all in corridor or service rooms. There are no windows on either side of the house, as the walls are set flush with the party lines. The entire width of the house as it fronts on the garden, however, is an almost unbroken line of windows on upper and lower floors. This practical and interesting arrangement serves the ends of both beauty and privacy.

A novel feature of the kitchen is that it has no windows. Instead, a wide, flat skylight diffuses an even illumination and leaves the walls free for cupboard and closet space. An air-conditioning system is, of course, planned for this room. Worthy of special notice also is the unit treatment which makes the long, windowed balcony and sun room on the second floor an integral part of the living room below. The same idea is carried out by treating the master bedroom and its small private garden as a unit, where room is separated from garden only by what is virtually a wall of glass.

In addition to the large model to be shown by the Museum of Modern Art in October, a small one is on display at the Chicago Fair in the "Design for Living" house which Mr. Wood designed in association with Mr. John C. B. Moore.