

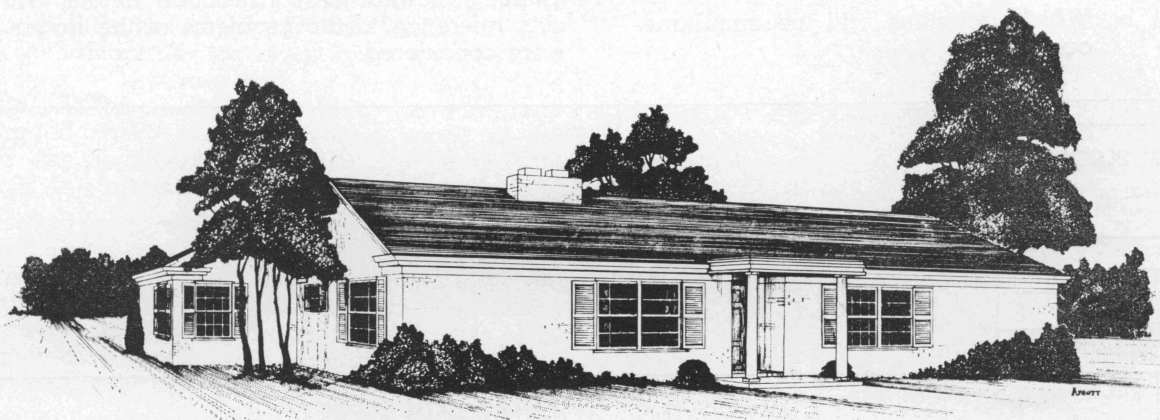
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# *A Liberal House--Planned for Family Activities and Entertaining*

## STUDY PLAN 3



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THE FAMILY contemplating building a large house should give careful consideration to the space needed for the functions to be served. Too often houses are planned to encompass a large amount of space, with some of it not used efficiently or wasted. Overly large passage areas or a plan which requires too much hall space and has poorly located window and door openings reduce the usable area. This wasted space costs as much as usable space. Therefore, guide points should be established for planning or designing the floor plan of a house. In this study plan, two major factors are emphasized and certain questions asked about each factor. Providing adequate answers to each question will help determine the adequacy of the house-plan designed for a given family and the ultimate satisfaction of the finished house as a home. Factors considered and the procedure used in developing this plan are:

**A. Privacy and Freedom of Activity for Family Members**

1. Which activities are important to the family and to each of its members?
2. How many people will use each room?
  - a. What activities will be carried on in each room?
  - b. Which activities will be simultaneous?

c. How much space will be required for each activity?

3. Are special features desired by the family, such as an entrance hall?

**B. Social Activities and Family Entertaining**

1. What kinds of family group activities need to be planned for?
  - a. How can larger areas be provided for social activities while remaining close and comfortable for family living?
2. Are there special social obligations for family members?
  - a. How often?
  - b. What size group?
  - c. Are there special requirements for specific types of entertaining or group activity?
3. Are there special features for entertaining, such as a fireplace, entrance hall with wrap closet?

In addition to these two factors, which were of prime importance in the preparation of this study guide, structural or construction details with specific reference to the problems of the larger house were considered.

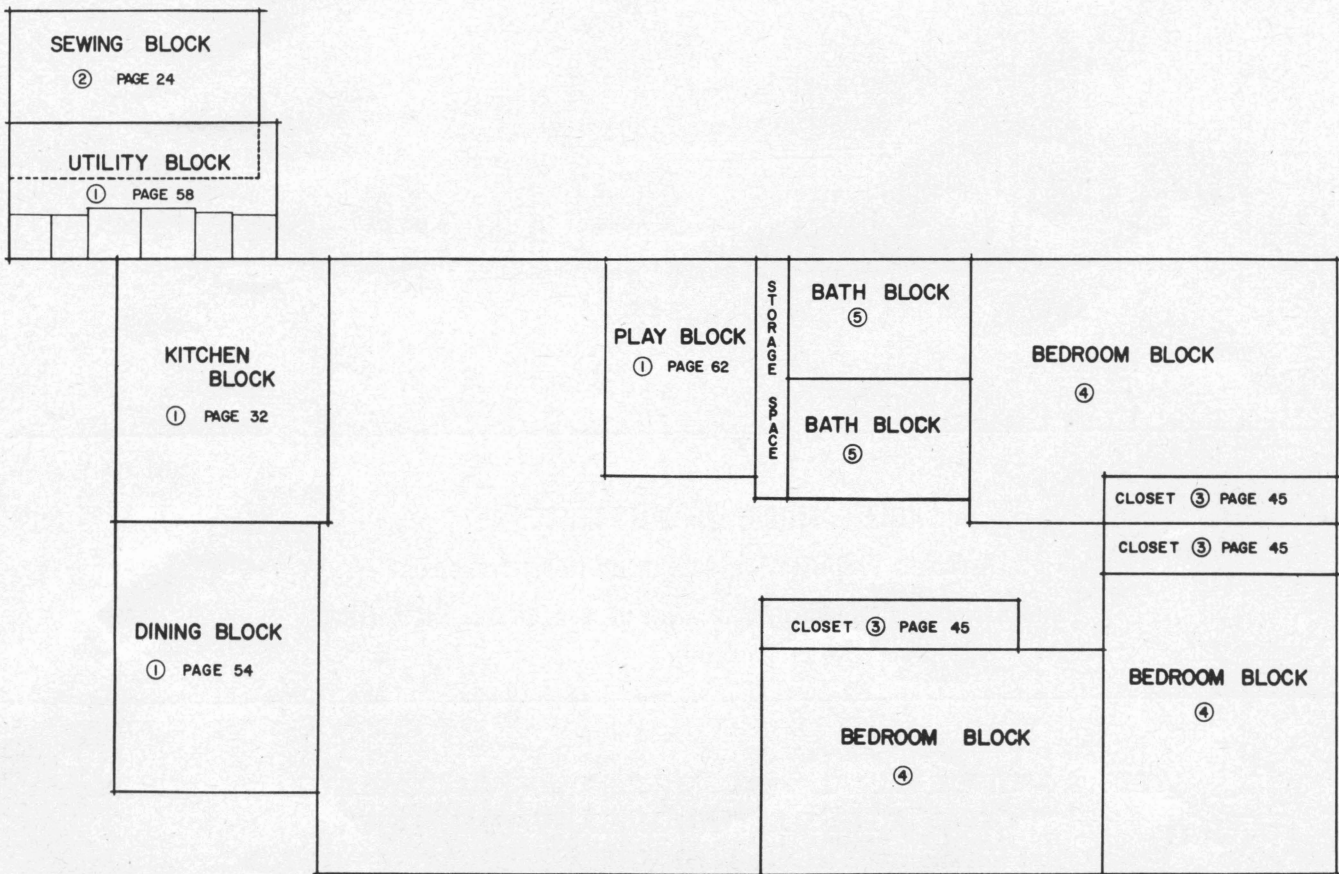


Figure 1. Block design, showing placing of research-based space recommendations in initial planning stage.



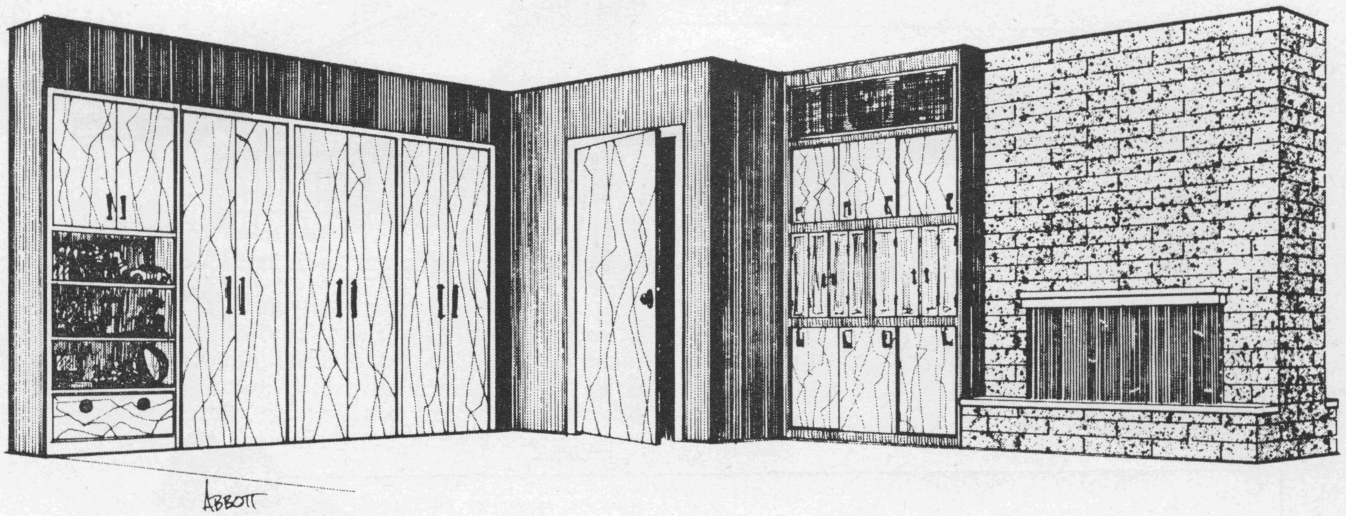


Figure 2. Family room perspective, showing fireplace, door to hall and storage units.

### C. Structural Guide Points

1. What style house is desired by the family?
  - a. How will the proposed arrangement fit into construction limitations of the style desired?
2. How can this plan be roofed?
3. What special foundation features are required?
4. How will the site affect the construction method proposed?
5. What materials are best suited to the construction?
  - a. Are the materials readily available?
  - b. What materials are most durable?<sup>1,2,3</sup>
6. Can the design desired be oriented properly for protection against cold winds in winter and sun in summer?

It is obvious that all of these factors are applicable to the smaller houses as well as to the larger ones. They should be a basis for any house plan. These considerations, therefore, were given special attention in this study-plan.

### PROCEDURE

STEP 1. Use of block designs of space recommendations serve to give an over-all view of possible room arrangements, Figure 1. Research data furnished block designs for the kitchen, dining room, utility room, bathroom, children's play area and special storage units, such as rod closets, linen closets, cleaning closet, wrap closets, canned food storage and sewing closet. (See references 4 through 14.) Unpublished data furnished guides for bedroom, living room and family room space needs. Minimum hall widths were determined from research experience of members of the Southern Region Technical Committee on Housing Research.

When working with block designs, it is important to remember that the first design selected may

not always work into a desirable plan. It may be necessary to change from a continuous U kitchen, as on page 23 of Southern Region Cooperative Series Bulletin 58, to a broken U, as on page 33 of the same publication. The broken U was used in this study guide. It also is possible to overlap areas that are not used simultaneously. The planner may desire to add to the space recommendations determined from research data. Under these circumstances, maximum research space recommendations were made on the basis of actual activities performed in the given area. Maximum recommendations were found to be the area used most often, or the largest area used consistently, or largest area needed for the most efficient and comfortable performance of the activity under study. With these factors in mind, the designer should consider:

1. What use will be made of the additional space?
2. Will it be needed for any specific purpose that justifies its inclusion?

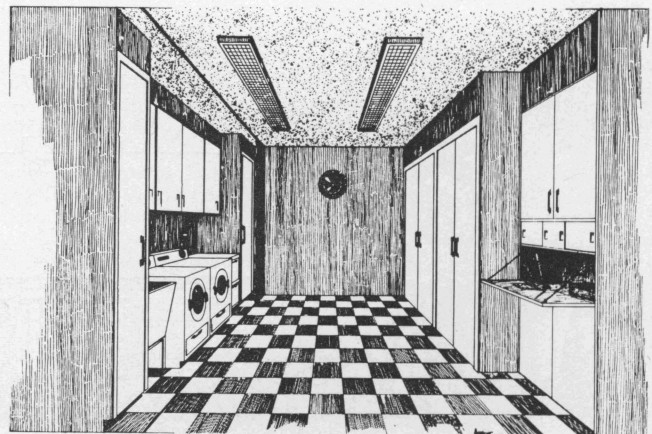


Figure 3. Utility-study perspective, showing desk area to the right and laundry area to the left of the plan.

STEP 2. Special features desired by the family should be worked into the over-all pattern of the house. These design features may include a fireplace, desk area, special storage units, terraces for open living and similar features. Each of these features was included in this study plan. Kitchen plans in Southern Regional Cooperative Series Bulletin 58 do not provide space for a dishwasher or freezer. If these appliances are desired, they must be added to the space recommendations for the

kitchen area. Space for these appliances was added in this study plan.

The living room and dining room were planned in this house specifically to meet the needs of families who want areas that may be used for more formal entertaining. The living room may be made larger by opening the wide doorway between the living room and dining room, or the latter may be kept small for more intimate friendly occasions by closing the wide doorway. The family room also

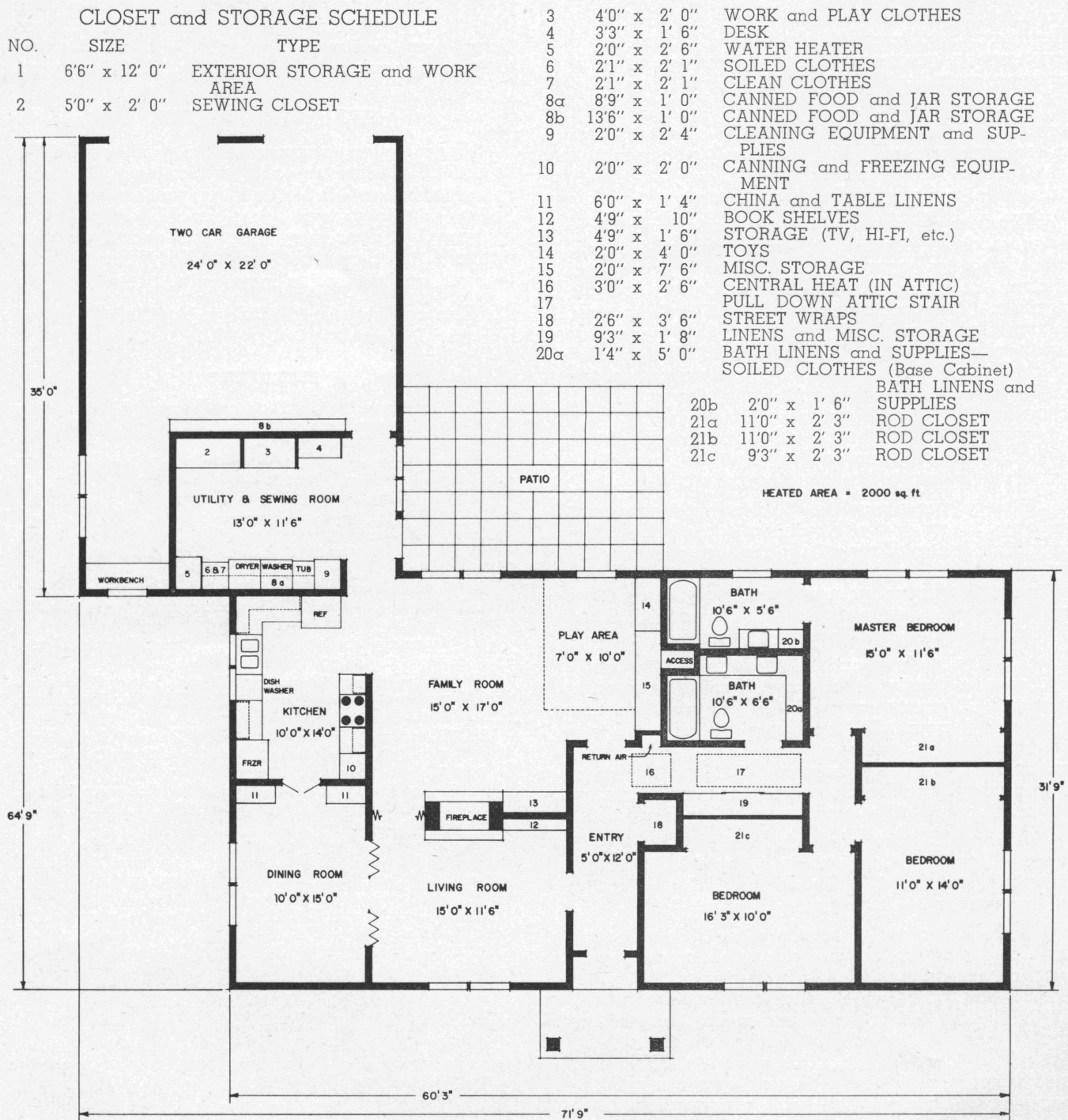


Figure 4. Finished floor plan with adjustments for specific space use and location of window and door openings.



can be used in conjunction with the living room for larger groups.

A chimney was located so that two fireplaces are provided, one in the living room and one in the family room, Figure 2. A shadow panel is an added feature in the double fireplace to give privacy in both the family room and living room. A storage wall to one side of the fireplace provides space for TV, stereo or record player, books, recreational items and art objects. The living and dining rooms have privacy, as does the bedroom area, but the family must pass through the family room to get to the kitchen and the back entrance to the house. There is space, however, in the family room, for a conversation group around the fireplace with the passage areas to the sides and behind the conversation grouping.

The front entrance hall provides private access to the bedroom and living areas of the house. A small wrap closet opening off of this hall is easily accessible to both family and guests.

Window area separating the terrace and family room gives a feeling of spaciousness. The terrace is easily accessible to the family room and kitchen and provides extra living area in suitable weather. The kitchen is planned so it will be easy to serve in either the dining room, family room or patio with little traffic through the kitchen at any time. The children's play area, while a part of the family area, is separate and out of the main flow of traffic. As the children grow older, this area may be adapted easily to the changing needs of the family. The bedrooms are large enough to provide private living areas for each occupant.

Storage space was provided in the dining room for guest china and other dining accessories. The room has been planned slightly larger than the largest plan in Southern Cooperative Series Bulletin 58 to provide space for more people and more elaborate service. Space recommendations in Bulletin 58 are for family and informal service.

A utility-study area is located convenient to the kitchen and family room, but separate from both, Figure 3. Laundry equipment is located along one wall of the room. On the opposite wall there is a sewing unit, a closet for work and play clothing and a desk for family business activities. The laundry facilities can be closed off to provide a very attractive small office-work room when desired.

A large cleaning closet is located in the utility area. It may be desirable to provide minimum cleaning equipment in the central hallway for the bedroom area of the house.

Both bathrooms are planned for a combination bath and shower. A family could keep this basic plan or use only a shower in one room, if so desired. Mechanical ventilation should be provided in the inside bathroom. Year-round temperature control was facilitated by limiting window areas. An added feature of this house is the small area in the garage which may be used as a workshop or extra storage room. The heating and cooling unit was placed in the attic. A pull-down stair in the central hall provides easy access to the unit.

STEP 3. When the over-all pattern of the house has been determined, the finished layout can be prepared, space for wall areas added and window location and type planned for attractive design and convenient interior arrangement of furnishings, Figure 4.

The floor plan may be adapted to several exterior treatments, however, not all floor plans are suited to all exterior styles. If the family desires a certain style of house or if the site is more suited to one style than another, this should be kept in mind when making the original block design. For this study-plan, a modified Georgian Colonial exterior was designed, Figure 5. A ranch style exterior also might be planned for this floor layout.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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This research contributes to Southern Regional Housing Project S-8.

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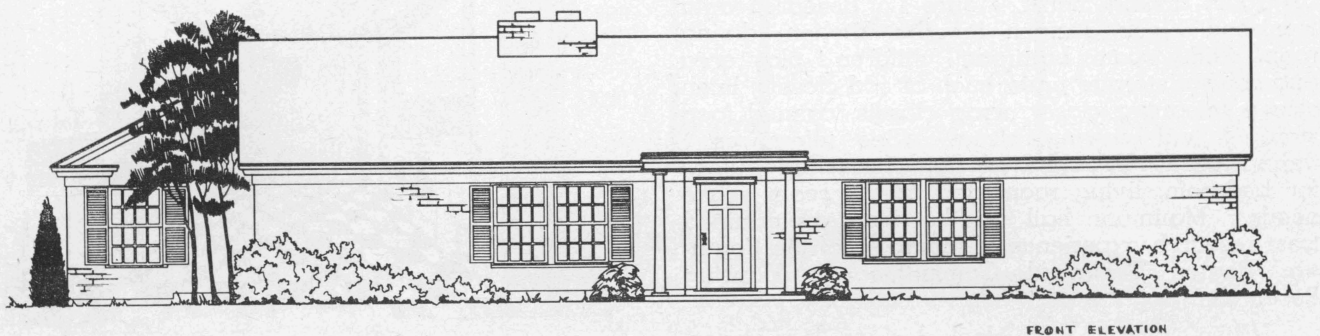
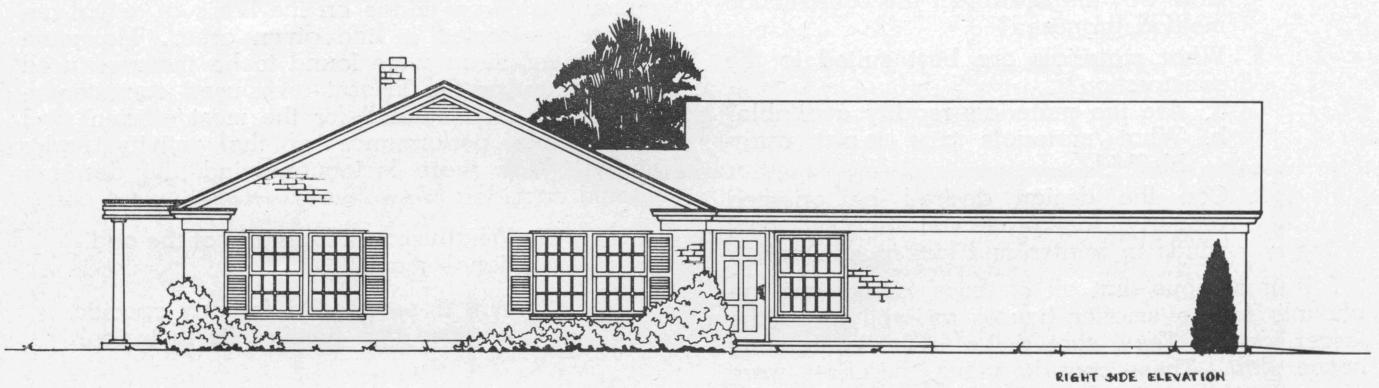
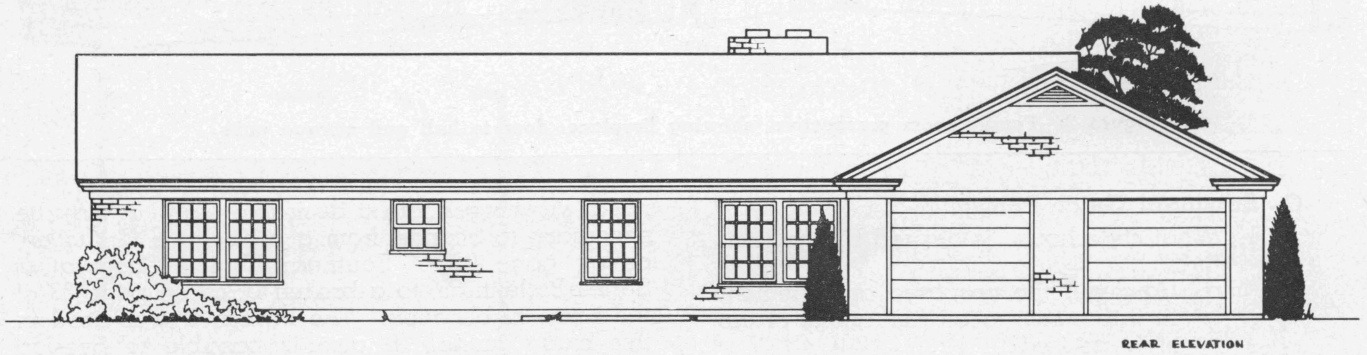
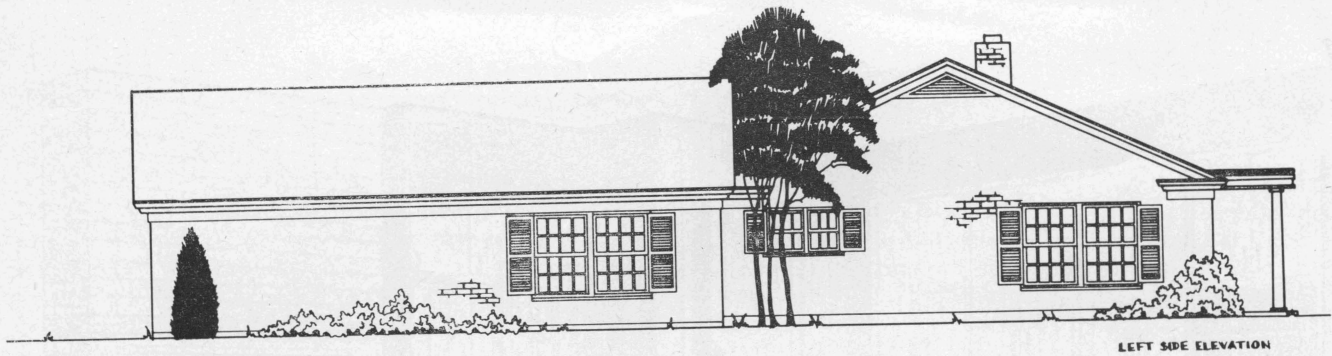


Figure 5. Elevations—The influence of Southern Colonial architectural type is seen in these suggestions.

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