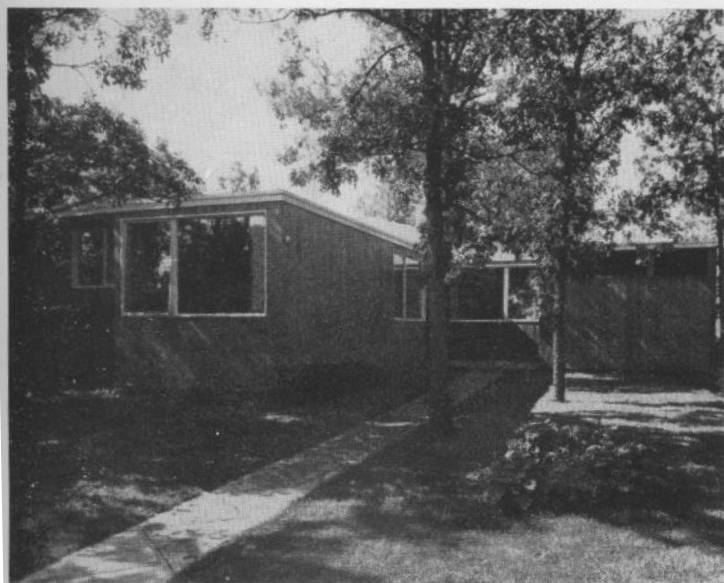


HOUSE OF MR. A. J. DONAHUE, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA; A. J. DONAHUE, ARCHITECT

The house could not be considered a radical departure in design. It has part of the roof area pitched, part flat. The pitched area is expressed inside giving greater volume to the living dining space. The location of the house on the lot was limited by setback laws. What appeared to be a relatively large city lot soon became extremely limited. It was possible however, to face most rooms south turning our backs to the prevailing north winds.

Added spaces, fences, screened areas were considered in the basic plan. The plan is essentially divided into sleeping and living wings. The house itself to be practical for resale took into consideration the amount of sleeping accommodation. Consequently bedroom areas are small. The study is self contained with bath giving multiple use of this room. To counteract this limitation it was felt that living dining area should be as open and flexible as possible. Living room ceiling is sloped and serves to break the monotony of a flat one storey scheme. The terrace between the wings is a much argued point in this area. It obviously fills up with snow. Nevertheless the warmth of the sun and extremely pleasant experience of passing this area far outweighs the snow collected. Liberal use was made of natural woods both inside and out. Strangely enough with the cold white winters so little color has been used in this part of Canada. White siding, plaster walls, hardwood floors have been the cold solution to housing.



The Architect I believe has of late been pushed out of one important field, namely, housing. Very few large homes in the city of Winnipeg have the benefit of architectural services. The resulting designs in most cases need no comment here. This situation can be defended by the Architect but nevertheless it poses a challenge. From my personal experience the Architect in the layman eye is mainly connected with the designing of the house. Today the house is considered a non-paying project done as a lead or favour to larger commitments.

The great sensitivity, maturity and care demanded of a successful home cannot be overemphasized. The house is a non-paying project mainly because we have gotten so far away from doing them. We have few men specializing in this field. The reorientation of thinking from banks, theatres and the like to house design is a step most people find too much too easy. It demands much more human and individual analysis, more than most of us care to be responsible for, as a result the house plan is often done by the junior draftsman. The least capable person to handle this problem. The compensation I presume comes from the fact that at least this is a solution to the overhead problem.

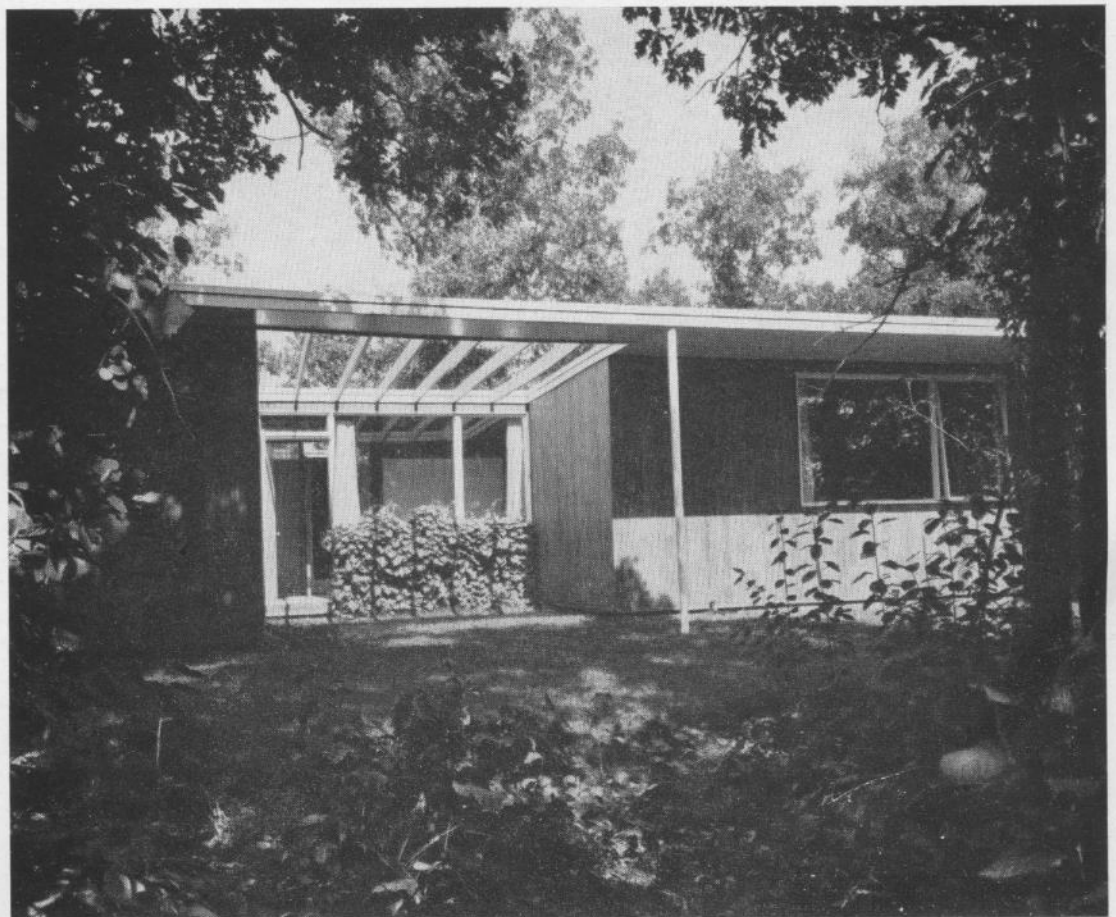
It would seem that mutual effort on the part of Architects in various regions could be made. Groups specializing in this aspect of our profession and aided by reference of other architects. Higher fees could be charged and the standard and efficiency of such offices could make house design pay. It is my belief that this important part of architecture has been forgotten for too great a length of time.



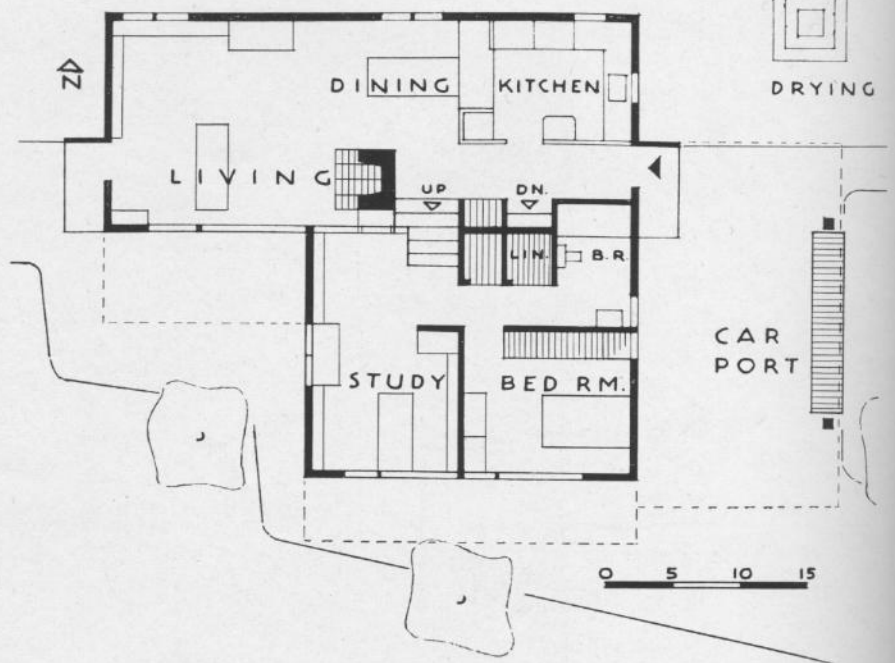
LIVING ROOM

Photographs by M. J. Sym

VIEW FROM GARDEN



HOUSE OF MR. H. A. ELARTH,
FORT GARRY, MANITOBA
H. A. ELARTH, ARCHITECT



Photograph by M. J. Sym



A first objective was to design a house fitted to the climatic conditions of Manitoba. After studying conditions of the site, a tri-level plan permitting an opening up of the house areas to the south was evolved.

The main level contains a comparatively open relationship of living, dining, and kitchen activities, which in turn open to study, bedroom and bath on the upper level and to guest room and lavatory on the lower level.

In defining this relationship a continuous roof plane rising from the low north side to a high point on the south was found to be satisfactory. Roof overhangs permit entry of solar heat through Thermopane glass areas during the winter season and shade during the summer. A central fireplace stack, connecting to the furnace area on the lower level, serves as a visual focal point as well as an additional source of heat. Leading into the house from the carport on the east is a dual-purpose entry serving as both main and delivery access and thereby fitting into the Wildwood Community plan with its loop road system.

Flexibility in planning for changing needs permits the conversion of main area of the study to serve as a bedroom and a portion of the living area to serve for study purposes.

Summary of Areas

Living-Dining	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	390 sq. ft.
Kitchen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115 sq. ft.
Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	180 sq. ft.
Bedroom	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120 sq. ft.
Baths	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85 sq. ft.
Guest Room	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120 sq. ft.
Laundry-furnace	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200 sq. ft.
Service-storage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	230 sq. ft.
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1440 sq. ft.

