House of Mr Ernest J. Smith, Architect
Winnipeg, Manitoba

The house is designed for a family of 4 — mother and father and two small girls, one five years and one one year. General plan organization consisted of a complete separation of daytime and nighttime activities. The plan evolved into a strict rectangle with a central core appendage for entry. A breezeway and garage were developed on the north side of the house. Living, dining and kitchen areas were conceived a general square form with door height solid partition division for kitchen which was glazed from door height to sloped ceiling. The open fireplace forms a sufficient division between the living and dining. The dining area is a long form opening out to the east through a large gable end window. The south end of this dining area is to be developed as a music area. The bedroom section divides into a master bedroom on the northwest and the two children's rooms on the southwest. The division between the children's rooms is a modernfold partition which can be opened up for a play area.

Entry is made at ground level (eliminating outside steps which are a dangerous element in Winnipeg's snow and ice winter) and from this entry the level is split so that the major part of the house is on an upper level and the study, guest room, recreation, laundry — sewing, workshop and heating are on a lower level. This lower level attains a good light from an adequate depth of window since house is raised off the ground. The main living area being up about 3' from grade level allows for a pleasant overlook down onto the proper from the living room to a pleasant prairie scene view to the south.

Finishes generally are plaster ceilings (sand finish in main living, dining, kitchen area), walls of smooth finish plaster and 3" V-joint cedar in living areas, floors are of linoleum in kitchen, bedrooms, bathroom and cork tile in living, dining and entry. Base throughout is a recessed asphalt tile cove. Details throughout the house were carefully worked through with lightness and feeling for the material used. The breezeway between garage and main house is screened in for pleasant summer living free of flies and mosquitoes.
Exterior view

Fireplace end of living area

Kitchen and breakfast area