

1977

EC77-2043 Housing Needs and Wants

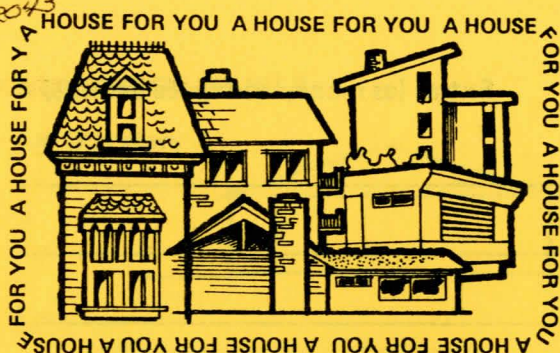
Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist>

"EC77-2043 Housing Needs and Wants" (1977). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 4523.
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/extensionhist/4523>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Extension at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

AGR1
3
85
67
#77-2043
c-1

EC 77-2043



Housing Needs and Wants

What are your plans for providing for future housing needs? Building a new house? Remodeling? Or buying or renting a house, apartment or pre-built home?

Whatever your choice, you want to select a home that expresses the things which are important to and will work well for your family. To

achieve this type of a "you" house, first read the extension circular, "Why You Choose a Home — Castle, Cave or Igloo," pages 12-16. After reading and discussing each point have every member of the family on a separate piece of paper indicate the importance of each statement in the housing values checklist. What is important to your family?

Housing Values Checklist

For your own enjoyment check these statements as they represent your feelings. This will help to point out your housing values and to provide for them.

	Importance		
	Very Important	Fairly Important	Not Important
1. "A house that is <i>comfortable</i> to live in."	_____	_____	_____
2. "A house that is <i>beautiful</i> to look at."	_____	_____	_____
3. "A house that is <i>economical</i> to maintain."	_____	_____	_____
4. "A house that has <i>privacy</i> for each family member."	_____	_____	_____
5. "A house that friends and neighbors will <i>admire</i> ."	_____	_____	_____
6. "A house that will help the family to <i>work</i> and <i>play</i> together."	_____	_____	_____
7. "A house that will give <i>quiet</i> and <i>peace</i> of mind."	_____	_____	_____
8. "A house that is <i>adequate</i> for recreation."	_____	_____	_____
9. "A house that <i>meets the needs</i> of all family members."	_____	_____	_____
10. "A house that gives the <i>feeling</i> of belonging."	_____	_____	_____
11. "A house that makes for <i>ease</i> in living."	_____	_____	_____
12. "A house that <i>protects</i> the health of the family."	_____	_____	_____

Perhaps you haven't given much thought — or at least put into words — how you feel about some of these values. Which values did all of you agree on?

Use the knowledge of what is important to your family to make a listing of "Needs" and "Wants." For the most satisfactory results, let everyone in the family contribute to this list.

Must Have

Would Like

Extras (as money and space permits)

Must Have Would Like Extras (as money and space permits)

Now look over your list. Have you considered all aspects of your housing? It should include social and psychological needs as well as physical needs.

Be sure to take into account the future needs of your family. Where are you now in the family life cycle? Read the extension circular "Why You Choose a Home — Castle, Cave or Igloo," pages 1-11. What does the crystal ball tell of your future? A house that you plan to live in for the rest of your life must be able to adjust to changing needs.

If you are planning to rent, a change can be rather easily made. In a small town, selling a larger home to build or buy a smaller one might prove impossible. The newlyweds should consider an expanding family. Their parents should consider a family of less members but perhaps with the addition of grandparents needing a degree of care.

With this additional thought, fill out the following checklist of features a house should have to meet your present and future needs. Use this list to evaluate and compare houses or house plans you look at.

House Check Sheet						
Features a house should have (in priority listing)	House No. 1		House No. 2		House No. 3	
	Has	Could be added	Has	Could be added	Has	Could be added
1. _____						
2. _____						
3. _____						
4. _____						
5. _____						
6. _____						
7. _____						
8. _____						

HOUSING SHAPES & STYLES

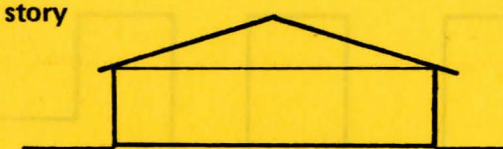
What shape should your house be?

There are many different styles and shapes of houses. A few basic styles and shapes are listed

here. Under each is listed some of the pros and cons that you should be aware of when making a choice.

NUMBER OF LEVELS

● One story



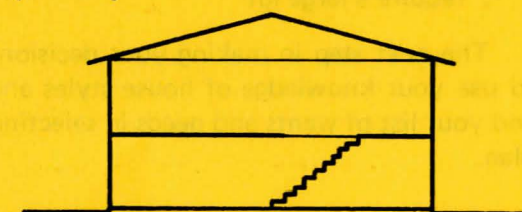
For

- . is the best plan for a small house
- . avoids stairways
- . is preferable for children and the aged
- . is a good plan for flat land

Against

- . requires more land for a larger house
- . is more expensive
- . gives less natural privacy

● Multiple story



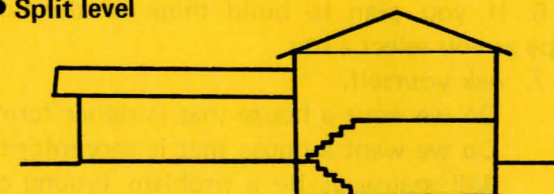
For

- . is less expensive (less roof, foundation)
- . is less costly to heat
- . has good possibilities for separation of activity areas
- . allows more yard space
- . is more formal than one story

Against

- . is less desirable for children and the aged (tiring or hazardous stairways)

● Split level



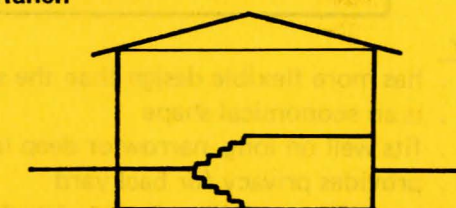
For

- . is interesting
- . is good for sloping lot
- . has other advantages of multiple story

Against

- . is awkward on some flat or steep lots
- . has many interior steps for children and the aged
- . exterior may be difficult to design

● Raised Ranch



For

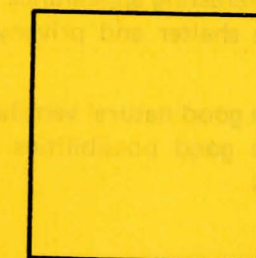
- . gives larger windows on lower level than possible in typical basement.
- . gives enclosed steps for entrance
- . provides good possibilities for separation of activity areas
- . advantages similar to multiple story

Against

- . may look awkward on lot
- . has stairways which make it less desirable for children and the aged
- . entry stairs can carry noise from one level to the other

DIFFERENT SHAPES

● Square



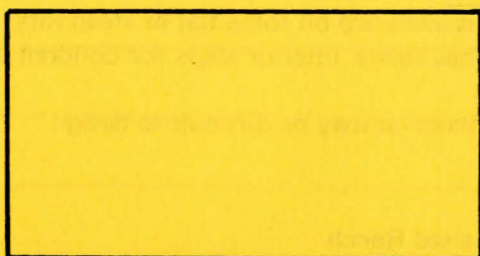
For

- . has less foundation for the square footage
- . has efficient plan for multiple level

Against

- . has a dark center
- . has poor natural ventilation in the center
- . has boxy appearance

● Rectangular



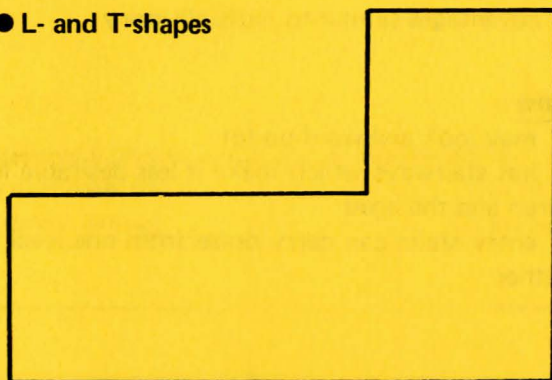
For

- . has more flexible design than the square
- . is an economical shape
- . fits well on long, narrow or deep lots
- . provides privacy for backyard
- . provides possibility for good traffic patterns and separation of activity areas

Against

- . can be an uninteresting design
- . requires a larger lot than the square

● L- and T-shapes



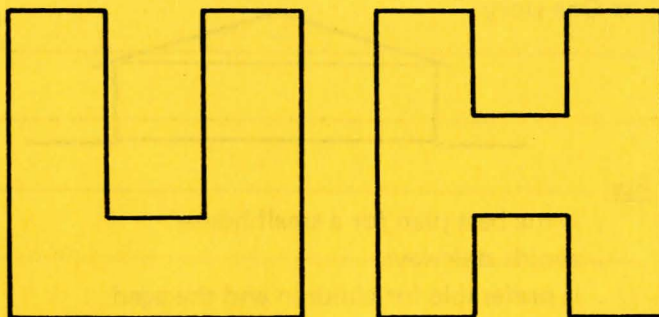
For

- . have interesting appearance
- . provide shelter and privacy for an outdoors living area
- . provide good natural ventilation
- . provide good possibilities for separation of activity areas

Against

- . have the extra construction cost of additional corners
- . possibly have higher heating and plumbing costs

● Other (U- or H-shaped)



For

- . provide good possibilities for separation of activity areas
- . have good design for unusual lot
- . have interesting appearances

Against

- . can be very expensive
- . require a large lot

The next step in making your decisions will be to use your knowledge of house styles and shapes and your list of wants and needs in selecting a floor plan.

Things To Do To Make Decisions Easier

1. Discuss the values checklist with all members of the family involved.
2. Talk with relatives outside the immediate family. Is it possible someone might be moving into your home later on?
3. Check costs for some of your wants and needs. Costs might make some of these wants and needs less essential in relation to others.
4. Use the "House Check Sheet" whenever you look at a house or plan.
5. Observe the different house shapes and styles of houses in your area. Which are most popular? Why?
6. If you plan to build think of the house shape as you select a site.
7. Ask yourself.
 - Do we want a house that is rather formal?
 - Do we want a house that is very informal?
 - Will stairways be a problem (young children or older adults)?
 - What style house looks best with land contour in your area?
 - How important is a private yard?

Extension work in "Agriculture, Home Economics and subjects relating thereto," The Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Cooperating with the Counties and the U.S. Department of Agriculture
Leo E. Lucas, Director

The Cooperative Extension Service provides information and educational programs to all people without regard to race, color or national origin.

Adapted by Betsy Gabb, Housing Specialist, from material prepared by Gwen Cooper, former Gage County Extension Agent, and Mary Dale Christensen, Former Housing Specialist.