

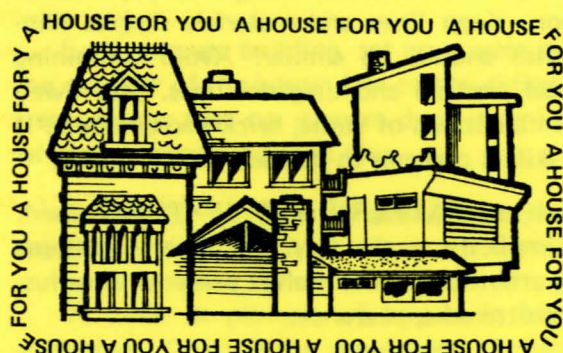
1977

EC77-2046 The house and the Site

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The House and The Site

Orientation

Be aware of the orientation (placement) of the house on a lot. If you are building you can develop the best use of a lot. If selecting an existing house, be careful to check the following points.

Views

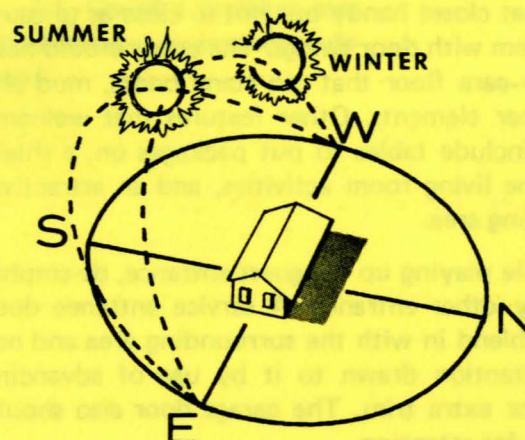
Homes should take advantage of good views. Areas of the home used during the day should have pleasant views. Living rooms, dining rooms and kitchens generally should have a nice view that can be seen from a seated position.

Be aware of changes in the view that might take place over a time. Plan to block off unsightly areas by using fences, screens or landscaping.

Sun

The house should be designed to make best use of the sun. A house placed on the lot with the largest areas facing north and south will provide protection from the heat and glare of the direct rays of the east and west sun. The north light is a soft light that causes few if any problems. The south can produce a heat and glare problem if not handled well. The sun can be controlled by the design of the roof overhang as well as by landscaping. The summer sun is higher in the sky than the winter sun. Therefore, a roof overhang can be designed to shield the interior from the heat and glare of the summer sun and still let in the warmth of the winter sun. With existing homes, trees, shrubs and screens can be used as shields.

In general it is best to place warm areas of the home (kitchen, workroom) on the cool side of the house (north). Bedroom and areas used at night can be placed on the warmer south and west.



Wind

Entrances and large glass areas should be shielded from the cold northwest wind. Ideally the entrance and large windows would not be placed on this side of the home. Shielding from the wind can be achieved by placing entrances in protected areas, formed by projecting walls, screens or landscape features.

Activities

Most homemakers like a view of the outside activities from the working area of the home. This may mean a kitchen and family room looking out on the play area. On a farm the necessity of viewing the coming and going of farm traffic must be recognized. The farm lots should be placed so the slope of the land and direction of the prevailing wind is away from the house.

The Entrance

"No one ever uses my front door." This common complaint many times can be traced back

4. Sketch placement of parking, walks and drive for the house.

5. If you are building, set up a scale model of the exterior of the house. Use colors, siding, model trees, scrubs (cut up sponges dyed green) and see what your house will look like.

6. Use the checklist to evaluate placement of the house on the lot.

7. Look at pictures of houses in books and magazines. Criticize the appearance of them. Find out what you like, don't like and why.

8. If you are planning to build, practice with different house plans and lots. How should each plan be placed on the lot?

9. If you are planning to buy or rent, look at houses with an eye to the wind and sun. What would the placement mean in terms of comfort and your heating and cooling bill?

10. Complete the following checklist for a house you are considering or for the one you are now living in.

9. Are there nice views from the dining and kitchen table? _____

10. Can all outside activities be "monitored" from the inside of the house? _____

11. Are there many different patterns and textures used on the exterior of the house? _____

12. Is there simplicity of line, color, texture and general design? _____

13. Do materials present a cluttered appearance? _____

14. Could a problem area be eliminated by landscape design? _____

CHECKLIST FOR HOUSE ORIENTATION AND APPEARANCE

	Yes	No
1. Would there be large unshaded window areas on the east or west?	_____	_____
2. Could plantings or shields improve a problem of sun or wind?	_____	_____
3. Is the guest entrance shielded from the elements?	_____	_____
4. Is the service entrance shielded from the elements?	_____	_____
5. Is there a large interesting guest entrance?	_____	_____
6. Does the entryway welcome people or discourage visitors and family from using it?	_____	_____
7. Does the house take advantage of interesting views?	_____	_____
8. Do you have an attractive view from the living area?	_____	_____

Adapted by Betsy Gabb, Housing Specialist, from material prepared by Mary Dale Christensen, former Housing Specialist.

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
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