



NORMAN MCGRATH



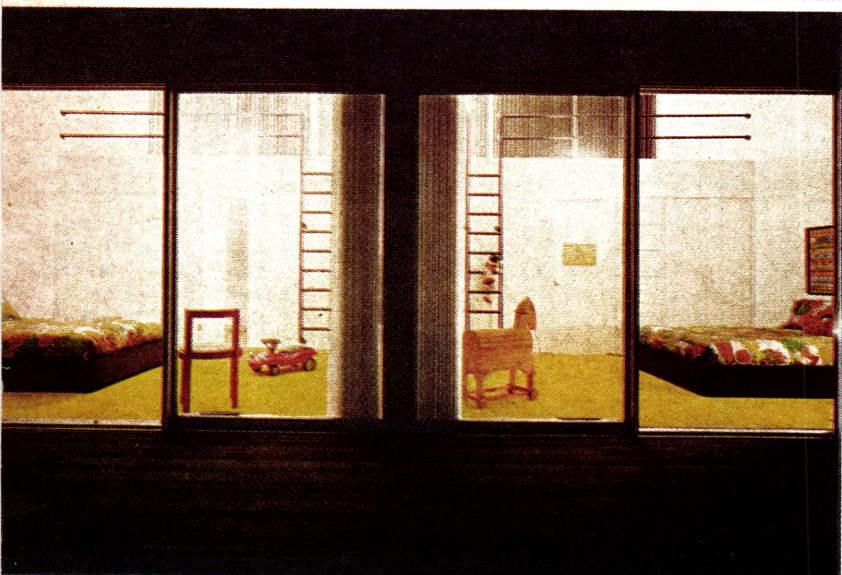
# a trio of towers with soaring roofs

A vacation house on the dunes should be so intriguing, believes architect Myron Goldfinger, that even on non-sunny days people will enjoy being there. His design for this towering house facing the beach has many exciting spaces, and largely responsible for them are the dramatic shed roofs. From the deck side that looks toward the ocean (above) the roofs slope up and away, creating great vertical areas. Diverse interior spaces interact to provide visual interest and a unique environment for an active family. The height endows the house with lofty living room and bedrooms. Far-up windows (left) serve interior balconied retreats for parents and children (see plan page 88). The soaring roofs are part of a modular system; so are the decks with their end walls continuing the pitch established by the roofs. This simplified geometry leads to order and rhythm in the design and also helps cut costs (repeating a few elements is less trouble for a contractor than creating many different ones). The cedar house, private on three sides, is light-catching and open to seascapes. From trios of wide windows, sliding glass doors and decks that thrust like prows, all major rooms have views of the beach and ocean. (continued)

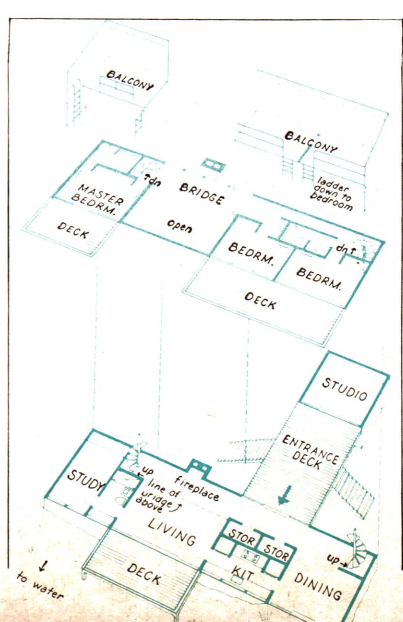








In the parents' isolated suite (above) storage fits neatly in front of the bath and beneath the balconied retreat. Children's side-by-side rooms (left) have sliding glass doors to a double-size play deck that faces the water.



Under the highest part of the pitched ceiling in the master bedroom is the small, well-lighted retreat (above) reached only by ladders. Vertical blinds screen all major glass areas.

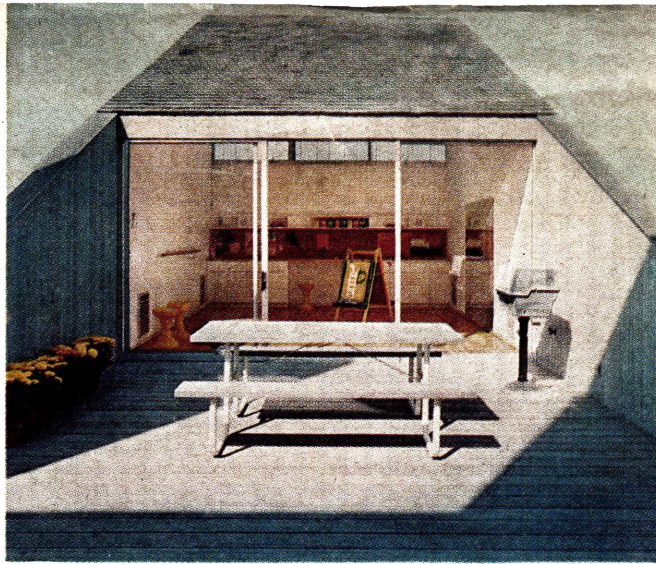
SIZE: 2,800 square feet  
 ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER: Myron Goldfinger  
 CONTRACTORS: Don and George Harse  
 BUILDING DATA: see page 194

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## **pitched roofs help catch light and provide privacy for every room and deck**

Under the shed roofs, the interflowing levels are seen at once as one huge pattern. Against the living room's white interior (opposite and cover) all things—plants, art, furniture—become strong design objects. "The white envelope creates excitement even on gray days," notes the architect. The soaring living room, which connects the two main towers, has a high bridge between the children's bedrooms and the parents' suite. Spiral stairs made of wood and metal are at each end. The dining room (opposite inset)

is an intimate low-ceilinged space under one bedroom (see plan next page). Jutting seaward from the living room is a deck (below) where a group can enjoy drinks along with the view. The house has four decks, each one's size carefully related to its special use. For large gatherings and barbecues, the raised entrance deck consists of two modules facing each other with stairs thrust between them. At one end of this deck, well apart in the third tower, is a studio (above left). The deck's pitched side walls add to the sense of isolation. The house, set on a two-acre site yet close to neighbors, has solid walls on two sides (above) for privacy, plus solid walls with high and decidedly snoop-proof windows facing the road. These bring sky panoramas to the indoors. (continued)

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