Spaciousness Characterizes Award-Winning Homes

Wood grilles secure privacy and serve as sunshades for this home in Savannah, Ga., chosen by Architectural Record, the professional magazine, as one of the best-designed houses of the year. Mark Hampton is the architect.

Hillside dwelling in Hanover, N. H., has been planned to blend into site. Architects are E. H. and M. R. Hunter.

Twin gables flank pitched ceiling of home in Barrington, Ill., designed by Harry Weese, architect, for himself.

Uncluttered Living Areas Provided by Architects

By GLENN FOWLER

Twenty houses representing all sections of the continental United States and Hawaii, picked for their architectural excellence, share the common characteristic of spaciousness. Whether large or small in overall dimensions, they reflect the primary concern of their designers to provide as much uncluttered living area as possible. The houses, chosen by the editors of the professional magazine Architectural Record, and presented in the annual publication, Record Houses of 1960, encompass a wide variety of styles within the contemporary idiom. And the range of building materials is perhaps greater than at any time in the past, owing to the eagerness of today's architects to experiment with new products.

The houses, the work of twenty different architects and architectural firms, are situated in fourteen continental states and Hawaii, and vary in cost from about $20,000 to $100,000. According to Herbert L. Smith Jr., editor of the annual, criteria for selection of the best-designed houses included interior and exterior appearances, spatial organization, structural design, and the inc.

A soaring glass pavilion, roofed by inverted umbrellas, is the dramatic design of Ulrich Franzen, architect, for hilltop dwelling near Essex, Conn.

A masonry sun screen shelters the upper level of New Orleans residence, designed for future expansion. Architects of the home are Curtis & Davis.

Continued on Page 14, Column 5
20 HOUSES WIN DESIGN AWARDS

Continued from Page 1

genuity of their electrical and mechanical systems. An additional consideration was the ability of the architect to design a house to fill the particular needs of his client.

The dominant theme of the twenty houses is their open planning, the blending of interior and exterior areas in ingenious ways to enhance the living spaces. In the larger houses there are sweeping expanses of glass separating generously sized rooms from broad patios, and there is frequently wide separation of the living, dining and sleeping areas of a home.

In the smaller houses, trickier arrangement is called into play to separate the functional sections, and multiple levels replace simple one- or two-story design.

One of the most striking of the houses is at Essex, Conn., and was designed by Ulrich Franzen. The architect made dramatic use of a hilltop site, setting upon it a glassed-in pavilion roofed over by a framework of inverted umbrellas of steel, the underside being planked with treated natural cypress.

On this upper floor of the house, with its unobstructed view from the hilltop, are the living, dining, breakfast and kitchen areas, separated by head-high storage units rather than walls to preserve the sense of space and to avoid obstructing the roof. Broad decks surround the upper level.

The lower level of the house, set into the hillside and walled with granite contains the sleeping quarters and the laundry, storage and other service rooms.

Mr. Franzen, who did the interior designing and the landscaping as well as the architecture, estimates the cost of his house at about $20 per square foot.

Recent houses of 1960, published by F. W. Dodge Corporation, is priced at $2.95. In addition to photographs and descriptions of the twenty award-winning houses, it contains five planning guides intended for families planning to buy or build a house.