Family room of Gates home in Pacific Palisades serves as a center for family activities. Children often eat at informal dining table. Just beyond divider is kitchen, with formal dining room to right of kitchen. Natural atmosphere of wooded site is picked up in resawn redwood used in much of the house. Family portion connects to rest of the house by galleries.

Formal dining room (at left) is located conveniently to kitchen, looks out to small entrance patio. Looking from children’s playroom (above) note how house “walks” down the hill. Extensive use of glass takes optimum advantage of the natural surroundings which were once part of an arboretum. Kitchen (right) is located for supervision of both indoor and outdoor areas.

Togetherness is rarely a problem with the large family. More often, attaining a degree of privacy for each individual presents the difficulty. Architect Raymond Kappe, A.I.A., solved this problem for the Howard Gates, whose five children range in age from 4 to 17.

The wooded site in Pacific Palisades is an up-hill half-acre located in what was once an arboretum. The hillside site was particularly suited to zoning the house for privacy. The togetherness portion of the house, containing the kitchen, family room and formal dining

Parent and children like this brand of private togetherness

IT’S ZONED

by ROSALIE FAY
room, is placed at the top of the slope between the two rows of eucalyptus and pine trees.

The children’s wing, including a bedroom for each child and a “community” playroom, is on the level surface at the top of the hill. The small bedrooms will eventually be enlarged by knocking out walls as the children grow up and leave home. The swimming pool is also located on this level.

Adult living space is put on the sloping part of the lot. Living room is open to the master bedroom, but is separated with shelving.

Children’s bedrooms are located on the level portion of the hillside lot, can be made larger by knocking out walls as children grow older. Playroom (foreground) leads out to swimming pool which can be supervised from kitchen.
Unusual concrete-block fireplace is the focal point of the living room which has a glass wall (to left of photo) and a view window opposite. Both the living room and master bedroom have their own decks.

The formal living room (above), reserved for adult entertaining, is situated on the slope of the hill. The master bedroom is open to the living room, but separated by a series of shelves that create privacy.

FOR ADULTS
Floor plan above shows layout of Gates House designed by Raymond Kappe, A.I.A. Entrance is up a steep driveway (bottom) and stairs. Children’s wing is on flat surface at top of plan; “community” portion is between that and adult wing. In photo below is exterior of the house. One long gabled roof spans the house from front to rear, with a trellis-like slat roof covering the family portion of the house.
Swimming pool (left) and children’s wing take up level land at the top of the half-acre lot. Preserving the natural beauty of the site was major consideration in designing the house. Note the provision for existing trees.

Extensive use of glass and outdoor decks creates a strong indoor-outdoor relationship in Gates home. Both living room and master bedroom have adjacent decks (above). Photo at left shows the degree of steepness in the site — steps lead from auto court, through a small entry garden and to the front door. Materials used in the house — redwood, concrete block and plaster — were left in natural state.

ROOM FOR RECREATION