## E. H. AND M. K. HUNTER, ARCHITECTS

Residence for Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wagner Hanover, New Hampshire Edward E. Bebeau, Building Contractor

PHOTOS: JOSEPH W. MOLITOR





## SMALL HOUSE FOR AN ARTIST'S FAMILY

This small house in the New Hampshire countryside lends itself comfortably and naturally to the informal and gregarious life of the family who lives here. Mr. Wagner, besides being chairman of Dartmouth's art department, is an active painter; studio space therefore became one of the first requirements of the house. Privacy, however, was not a requirement of the studio, since the artist can work without it, and since the entire familyparents and two young children-takes, and is encouraged to take, an interest in art projects. For these reasons, the upper, and main, floor of the house was designed on an extremely open plan, with each room visible from the others. This openness also visually enlarges a space which might have seemed cramped had it been divided by a number of full partitions.

Bedrooms and a family room are located on the lower floor. This reversal of the usual position of living and bedroom floors was called for by the site; to take advantage of the views of New Hampshire foliage, the main floor, with large windows, was lifted above the hill on which the house sits. The lower floor, being built into the hillside, has views from two sides. NATURAL FINISH, WARM COLORS MAKE FOR A SNUG PORT IN A NEW HAMPSHIRE WINTER



SITE PLANNING: Some cutting and filling was needed to fit the site for building the Wagner house. The steep, narrow shoulder on which the house sits was cut to accommodate the lower story. This earth was used as fill for the driveway, a causeway built over one of the brooks which flow on either side of the hill. The causeway does double duty as a carrier for utility connections.

STRUCTURE AND MATERIALS: The foundation and the walls of the lower level are concrete block, as are the exterior walls of the stairwell tower. The upper floor has a wood stud frame, with exterior walls of painted wood. Interior finishes include painted scored pine sheathing on walls in the living area, and plastic-surfaced hardboard panels in the kitchen and bathroom. Flooring is rift-sawn fir on the upper level, painted concrete downstairs, except in the kitchen and bathroom, which are finished with asphalt tile. Little was required in the way of special equipment, except in the studio, where a stainless steel sink was installed, and where lighting fixtures providing both diffused light and bright spots were installed to augment the natural illumination transmitted by a large window.

DECORATION: The decoration of an artist's house comes, in a way, as a matter of course. In this case, the owner not only hung some of his own paintings, but also chose the interior colors, which were mixed by him from artists' colors.









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