

BETTER LIVING



NEW HOMES, WACKY AND STAID

A Bird, a Beast and a Bargain





Birdlike house outside Norman, Okla. is Architect Greene's own residence. Left is gallery whose walls, like all in house, are shingled for easier

maintenance. Narrow ends of the house (above) deflect most winds. The covered ramp serves as entrance and carport. House cost about \$25,000.

Snug Shelters for Windy Prairie

Faced with the diversity of the American landscape, architects come up with designs that are wildly different—and sometimes just plain wild. The fantastic houses on this and the preceding two pages were built for the prairie and are practical, if way out, solutions to the problems of living on the wind-swept plains. The suburban house on the next page wears an entirely practical look but makes imaginative use of a small wooded tract.

The prairie houses were done by Architect Herb Greene of

Norman, Okla. He planned them with plenty of windows to survey the wide and endless view but also with rooms inside that provide snug retreats from overwhelming space. Most important, the houses are shaped and angled to withstand winds which often reach 80 mph. This produces odd bird- and beast-like shapes—the one above and on the preceding page, which resembles a prairie chicken and the one below which recalls a unicorn. Cedar shingles and boards are used because they weather to a handsome silver color.



Unicorn house in Snyder, Okla. is owned by the John Joyces who have built most of it themselves over the past four years, still have work to do. The

horn on top houses an air-conditioner. Nose at right is a rainspout. Assorted hoods over windows were individually designed to reduce sun's glare.

CONTINUED



A Sensible Buy in the Suburbs

A house that is tailored to one specific family can be as eccentric as the owner wishes. But when a house is to be built by the dozens in a development, its design must fulfill the basic needs and tastes of a lot of families. Among the best builder-architect teams in the country are Robert Davenport and Charles M. Goodman who are responsible for this pleasant house, one of 65 in a development 10 miles from Washington, D.C. Goodman planned the house for

family comfort, not fanciness. It is big for its price—1,700 square feet of living space with three bedrooms, two baths—and it is a bargain at only \$23,500 with land. A huge used-brick chimney gives the outside (above) a look of solidity and provides an 8-foot-wide fireplace for the living room (below). Roof overhangs cut down glare on wide windows that add to the spacious feeling of the house. For a provocative critique of this housing buy see page 116.

