

DESIGN

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THE LONG ISLAND ARCHITECT AND THE SMALL HOUSE

Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island are among the fastest growing in the Nation. Between the end of 1948 and the end of 1963, a total of 392,870 homes have been erected in these counties and the population has increased 269 per cent. With this rapid growth, it is only natural that Long Island should set the pace for



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the country in home building and Long Island Architects are proud of the role they have played in bringing this about.

The relationship between the Architect and the Long Island Builder has been a cooperative and harmonious one. The former did not take long to appreciate the advantage of working with Architects who were able to



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translate their ideas and needs into better designs and more economical methods of construction. It may come as a surprise to many to read the following unsolicited item in the 1964 Catalog of Homes published by the Long Island Home Builders' Institute:

"ARCHITECT HELPS SAVE ON CONSTRUCTION COST. There was a time

when the services of an architect were thought too costly for single-family homes; that his role was primarily the design of large commercial and public buildings.



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But that idea is long since a thing of the past. Actually, when an architect works with a builder, the cost of the finished home is generally less than it would be were an architect not employed."

The same catalog illustrates 99 houses of which 61 were designed by Architects. The Long Island Home Builders Institute, which is presently the largest chapter in the National Association of Home Builders, has twelve Architects among its Associate members. Architects have long been active with the Institute. Herman H. York, A.I.A., whose reputation is national in scope is currently a Trustee of the Research and Technology Division of the N.A.H.B. and he and Leon Rosenthal, A.I.A., are co-chair-



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men of the New Methods and New Materials Committee of the L.I.H.B.I. Both are lecturers in the annual Home Builders' Course given by the

Institute. Alwyn Cassens, A.I.A. is a past member of the Associate Advisory Council and Sigmund Spiegel, A.I.A., is Chairman of the Committee of Housing for the Aged.

These homes, of course, are designed for the mass market and the styles are tailored to those which appeal to the public. Long Island has



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strong New England ties and Colonial Architecture is in demand. Economy is a prime factor in the design of these houses and all must make the most efficient use of space. Within these restrictions, the Architect's skill is put to a rigid test. Occasionally he is successful in breaking the barrier and manages to gain acceptance of contemporary designs. Education of



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both the builder and the public is part of his task.

Not all homes, however, are designed for the mass market. The Architect is also called upon to design many custom homes. In these, of course, there is much more latitude and the many fine homes in Long Island's suburbs are a tribute to the Architect's skill.