

# Better Homes and Gardens

1976 SPRING

\$1.75

## BUILDING IDEAS

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Better custom houses

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# BUILDING A CUSTOM HOUSE

MANVILL L. STIMPSON  
REGISTERED  
No. 170114  
(1973)  
BY ARCHITECT  
EXAMINATION

The classic way to get exactly the home you and your family have always wanted is to plan it from the ground up, using an architect who is sensitive to your needs and budget. But is working with an architect the most expensive way to build? Paul and Helen Lyon, of Portland, Oregon, don't think so.

They began by discussing their ideas with architect Jiro Yodogawa, who then helped them develop the very personal design shown here. The Lyons knew they were gambling extra dollars dur-

ing this stage, and that if they didn't go ahead, their preliminary design investment would go down the drain.

But build they did—and their architect rendered valuable assistance at each step of construction. First of all, he helped them make realistic decisions about the spaces they wanted. Then he made sure they selected materials that were easily available.

Next, the architect located a builder who had experience with custom houses. Builders who specialize in stan-

dardized, production models often bid unrealistically high on one-of-a-kind designs.

Finally, he checked work in progress—ironing out occasional misunderstandings with subcontractors and handling engineering compromises when necessary. In the end, the Lyons feel they got just the home they wanted—and they did it within their original budget.

The photographs on these pages show how the Lyons live. Their living





# Starting from scratch

room (opposite, far left and far right) measures just 15x20 feet, but its two-story-high paneled ceiling and a balcony master suite upstairs make it seem much larger. A study on the other side of the fireplace adds usable space, too, because the open plan lets both rooms function together for entertaining.

And a big deck (opposite, below) extends major living space into the backyard. Notice that doors to the deck are accessible from both the living room and kitchen (see plan).

From the front (opposite, above), the home appears to consist of four shed-roofed segments—with a fifth, separate unit for the carport. Standard-sized casement windows on this elevation helped keep costs in line and contribute to interior privacy.

Broad steps and a long deck (below left) lead to the recessed entry. Natural finishes on the decking and shingles simplify maintenance.

The house stairsteps up its gently sloping site. Entry, study, and one bed-

room are on the first level—living, dining, and kitchen three steps above. Centrally located, the chimney serves fireplaces in both the living room and study. There's plenty of space in the U-shaped kitchen for a breakfast table, next to a wall of windows overlooking the backyard.

Upstairs, the bedrooms share a single bath which is compartmented to do the job of two.

Architects: York/Yodanis  
Photographs: John Falker  
Square footage: 1,596

