

# Western Homes

NOVEMBER, 1957  
VANCOUVER

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and living



THE R. A. POPES IN WEST VANCOUVER SAY

# "we would build the same again"



**M**OST people have fairly strong preferences or prejudices about the style of home they want to live in, and their reaction to a new house is largely determined by these established tastes. Those who already prefer contemporary design are prepared to accept its special features. A confirmed traditionalist, on the other hand, is reluctant to accept any radical changes from the conventional pattern.

To Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Pope of West Vancouver, however, living in a contemporary home was a new and almost unexpected experience. When they bought the property a few years ago they wanted a house that would suit the hillside setting, fit its contours, and take advantage of the skyline view. Bob Pope, a forest engineer, also wanted a house that made intelligent use of wood.

On the question of style, however, they had no particular preference and probably would have been satisfied at that stage with a very conventional design.

They took their problem to Vancouver architect W. H. Birmingham, whose design associate, Fred Thornton Hollingsworth, is an ardent follower of Frank Lloyd Wright's "organic architecture". Until the moment they saw Fred's sketch plan for their house, the Popes hadn't given

**TOP LEFT—**  
Gabled dormers add an almost traditional touch to the strictly contemporary Robert A. Pope house in West Vancouver. Tinted cathedral glass in dormers adds soft north light to living area. Low lines of house blend naturally into setting. Note decorative use of batten lines in siding, screen fence, chimney, etc.

The Pope house opens to two streets in the back. Facing to the view, and away from the street, this is actually the "front" of the house. Main floor living area opens to deep balcony leading onto patio and steps to lower garden. A 12' gully, the remains of an early logging railroad, ran down through the property on the left, was partly filled with excavation for basement recreation room.

any particular thought to the possibilities of contemporary design. They liked it at first look, and with only minor changes the house was built to the original sketch.

Now, after nearly two years, how do they feel about it?

"If we were building again we would want the same type of house. The open plan gives a feeling of freedom and spaciousness we never found in the boxed-off rooms of a traditional house. The high ceiling and informal atmosphere are particularly relaxing after the hectic business day.

"We like the way the house blends naturally with its scenic surroundings, the way the enclosed living areas seem to flow out and become part of the landscape. In this sense the garden areas, paths, patio, and lawns are actually part of the house itself, a natural extension of the indoor space.

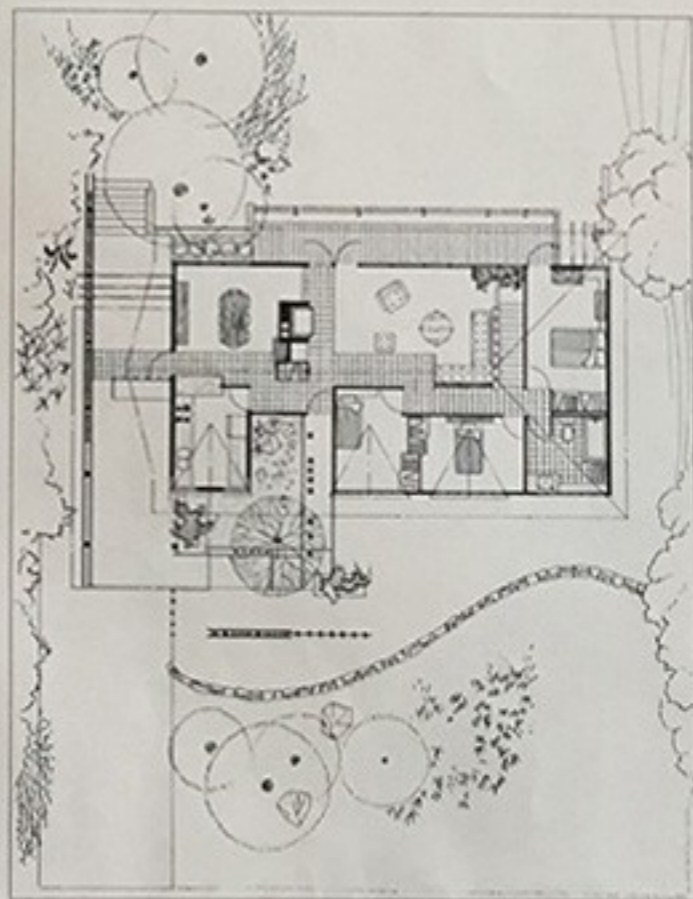
"It's an easy house to look after, and has a logical arrangement that seems to discourage clutter and confusion. Some people think that the large window areas mean high fuel bills, but the south wall lets in the winter sun to warm the house even on the coldest days. The deep overhang, on the other hand, keeps out the hot summer sun.

"We like the comforting sound of rain beating on the shake roof above the pitched ceiling. We like the view glimpsed through graceful evergreens. We like the way the mood and character of the house changes with each hour, as the slanting light brings out new patterns and colors.

"We haven't given much thought to whether our house is classed as Contemporary, Functional, Organic, or whatever . . . we just know that it is pleasant and practical to live in . . . and that we like it."



View from the carport shows the concrete entrance landing and flagstone path leading around shaded garden. Batten siding alternates with clear plywood panels to form decorative exterior treatment. Shake roof has no eaves troughs . . . dispersed drip falls on gravel drainage strip. Concrete block used for entrance planter repeats chimney detail.



**PLAN —**  
With approximately 1300 square feet of living area on the main floor, the R. A. Pope house was designed by Fred Hollingsworth (W. H. Birmingham, architect) to embrace a logical flow of indoor and outdoor activities. Balcony deck extends entire living area on south side of house, facing view, is connected directly to master bedroom and living room. Steps from east patio lead to lower garden on a level with the basement and future recreation room under the living room and bedroom floor area.

Mme. Benoit helps you plan **FOUR HOLID**

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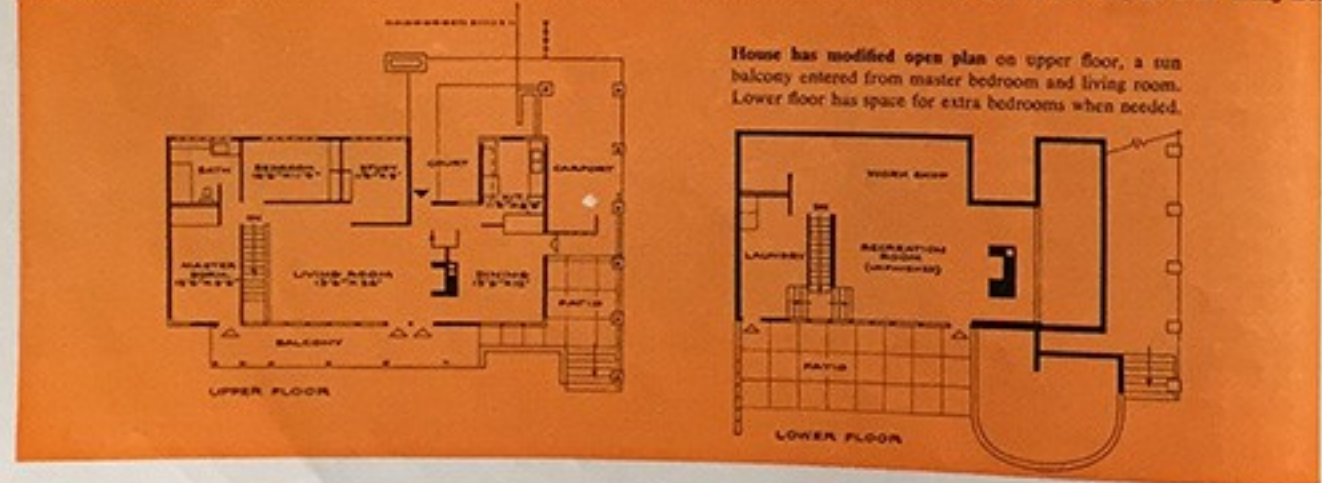
# Canadian homes and Gardens

DECEMBER 1957 25¢





From this living room, the Popes can enjoy the view (opposite) through wall-height windows beyond camera at right. Beyond fireplace is the dining area.



## TO SEE THIS VIEW THEY BUILT A TWO-STORY LOOKOUT



Inside the glass-walled façade, this West Vancouver house is a lesson in how to use different kinds of wood to create openness, privacy, and a warm richness. Even the bathroom cabinets, counters and walls are of wood

PHOTOSTORY BY PETER VARLEY



Other end of living room shows a hint of railing for stairs going down. Walls at right shield bedroom, study and have upper glass area to let light through.

As can be seen above, this West Vancouver house has a hard-to-beat view, and a two-story glass façade to enjoy it. The lot is on a slope, high above the panorama which includes Stanley Park, the harbor and the city of Vancouver sprawling out across the inlet. And every so often, a sleek liner glides under the bridge to add its graceful exclamation point to the view.

Owned by Robert and Helen Pope, this house has a one-story exterior on the street side (see next page) and a two-story exterior on the downslope side (above). At first glance, it seems to be a split-level built into the hilly slope, but as the plans on the opposite page show, the house is a full two-story design. Only one story shows on the street side because the north wall of the lower floor is fitted snugly into the slope and has no windows.

One aspect of this house which a visitor immediately notices is the prodigious and ingenious *Continued on next page*