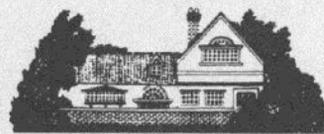


HOUSE BEAUTIFUL



INFORMATION

HOUSE BEAUTIFUL'S "BEST SMALL HOUSE '84"

BACKGROUND: At the end of 1982 it was clear that the typical American home was getting smaller. With the recession, the energy crunch, inflation, the scarcity of mortgages, higher interest rates and smaller families, the average new single-family house had shrunk from 2,000 to 2,500 square feet in the late '60s to just under 1,600 square feet. Builders were touting small "stripped down," "affordable," "no-frills" housing. It was at this time that House Beautiful editors, knowing our readers' taste and interests, decided to initiate a "small house program" that would produce polar opposites of the "stripped-down" house -- houses that would be luxurious and packed with amenities, houses that people today could live in without feeling compromised.

THE PLAN: In March 1983, House Beautiful joined forces with the American Wood Council -- a partner in previous house projects -- to design, build and publish what was hoped would be the best small house in America.

THE COMPETITION: Five leading residential architects were invited to submit proposals, which varied from tissue drawings to scale models. The winning design, as selected by House Beautiful editors and the American Wood Council, was the work of Lester Walker, a Woodstock, New York, architect and author (American Shelter, Overlook Press, 1982).

CONCEPT: A house that is romantic and nostalgic, a cottage-style structure made of wood that has state-of-the-art amenities plus a very specific personality -- in other words a House Beautiful house. Lacking regional, structural or site limitations, it can be built on any medium-size lot in any suburb in America.

SIZE: Seven rooms -- living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms (two and a half baths) plus a "bonus" home office/study/guest room -- contained in 1,500 square feet. Spaces flow together; the house opens to the outdoors -- for light and views -- with generous windows and skylights. There is also a screen porch and an extended wrap-around deck.

THE SITE: A wooded half-acre in Reston, Virginia, that is broader than deep. Near neighbors are obscured by trees. Anyone living in this house will enjoy the feeling of being in an idyllic country setting.

MAJOR PARTICIPANTS: House Beautiful magazine; the American Wood Council; Reston Land Corp.; Habersham Plantation; Woodward & Lothrop; AT&T;

Lester Walker, Architect; Carolyn Guttilla, Interior Designer; Seneca Falls Greenhouses and Nursery, Landscaping