

J. MICHAEL CAREY City Clerk

FRANK T. MARTINEZ **Executive Officer**

When making inquiries relative to this matter refer to File No.

01-0517

CD 11





Office of the CITY CLERK Council and Public Services Room 615, City Hall Los Angeles, CA 90012 Council File Information - (213) 485-5703 General Information - (213) 485-5705 Fax: (213) 847-0636 Fax: (213) 485-8944

HELEN GINSBURG Chief, Council and Public Services Division

PLACE IN FILES

MAY 0 2 2001

April 27, 2001

Clifford and Diane Phillips 914 Bluegrass Lane Los Angeles, CA 90049

Honorable Richard Riordan, Mayor Department of Cultural Affairs

Councilmember Miscikowski Cultural Heritage Commission

RE: INCLUSION OF THE ISRAEL HOUSE IN THE LIST OF HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENTS

At the meeting of the Council held April 24, 2001, the following action was taken:

Attached report adopted	X
Attached motion (-) adopted	
Attached resolution adopted	
Mayor concurred	
FORTHWITH	
Motion adopted to approve attached report	
Motion adopted to approve communication	
To the Mayor FORTHWITH	
Mayor failed to act - deemed approved	
Findings adopted	
Negative Declaration adopted	
Categorically exempt	
Generally Exempt	

J. Michael Carey
City Clerk
vp
steno\010517



ARTS, HEALTH & HUMANITIES COMMITTEE Report/Communication for Signature

Council File Number 01-05			
Committee Meeting Date 3-26	01		
Council Date 4-24			
COMMITTEE MEMBER	YES	ИО	ABSENT
COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS, CHAIR	/		
COUNCILMEMBER BERNSON			
COUNCILMEMBER PADILLA			,

Remarks Inclusion of the Israel House (W-11) in Historic Cutivial Monument List

Alan Alietti, Legislative Assistant, I ---- Telephone 495-4836

19

TO THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Your

ARTS, HEALTH AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE

reports as follows:

Public Comments XX ____

ARTS, HEALTH AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE REPORT relative to the inclusion of the Israel House in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

Recommendation for Council action:

APPROVE the recommendation of the Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) to include the Israel House, located at 914 Bluegrass Lane, in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

<u>Fiscal Impact Statement:</u> None submitted by the CHC. Neither the Office of Administrative Research and Services nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Summary:

In its transmittal dated March 8, 2001, the CHC requests approval to include the Israel House, located at 914 Bluegrass Lane, in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments. As required under the provisions of Section 22.126 of Los Angeles Administrative Code, the CHC has solicited the opinions and information from the office of Council District 11, in which the site is located, and from any Department or Bureau of the City whose operations may be affected by the designation of such site as a Historic-Cultural Monument. Such designation in and of itself has no fiscal impact. Future applications for permits may cause minimal administrative costs.

At its regular meeting held March 26, 2001, the Arts, Health and Humanities Committee considered this matter and recommended that Council approve the CHC's recommendation to include the Israel House, located at 914 Bluegrass Lane, in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments. This matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTS, MEALTH AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE

APR 2 4 2001

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

AA 04/10/01 CD11 #010517

COUNCIL VOTE

24-Apr-01 10:59:15 AM, #2

Items for Which Public Hearings Have Been Held - Items 8-23

Voting on Item(s): 8,10-23

Roll Call

BERNSON Yes CHICK Yes FEUER Yes HERNANDEZ Yes HOLDEN Absent MISCIKOWSKI Yes PACHECO Yes PADILLA Yes RIDLEY-THOMAS Yes SVORINICH Yes WACHS Yes WALTERS Yes *GALANTER Yes Absent

Absent

Present: 12, Yes: 12 No: 0

ARTS, HEALTH AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE SUGGESTED NOTIFICATION OF COUNCIL ACTION

Council File No. <u>Q1-Q517</u>

X	Petitioner/Communicant OWNEC
\square	Council Member(s)
	Mayor (with/without file)
	City Administrative Officer
	Chief Legislative Analyst
	City Attorney
	Controller
	Department of Recreation and Parks
	Community Redevelopment Agency
	Library Department
	Library Commission
X	Department of Cultural Affairs
	Department of Aging
	Community Development Department
	Mayor's Office On Disabled
	Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning
	Department on Disability
\mathbf{X}	Cutural Heritage Commission
	, and the second



J. MICHAEL CAREY
City Clerk

FRANK T. MARTINEZ
Executive Officer

When making inquiries relative to this matter refer to File No.

RICHARD J RIORDAN MAYOR Office of the
CITY CLERK
Council and Public Services
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Los Angeles, CA 90012
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Fax: (213) 485-8944

HELEN GINSBURG
Chief, Council and Public Services Division

01-0517 CD 11

March 12, 2001

ARTS, HEALTH & HUMANITIES COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Rules, communication from the Cultural Heritage Commission relative to the inclusion of Israel House at 914 Bluegrass Lane in the list of Historic-Cultural Monument, was referred on March 12, 2001, to the ARTS, HEALTH & HUMANITIES COMMITTEE.

J. Michael Carey

City Clerk amm



CALIFORNIA



DEPARTMENT

433 S SPRING ST , 10TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90013 (213) 473-7700

(213) 473-8352 FAX MARGIE J REESE GENERAL MANAGER

COMMISSION LEE RAMER

KIM L HUNTER VICE PRESIDENT

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

ALYCIA D ENCISO AUDREY GREENBERG JAYNE LEVANT DENNIS R MARTINEZ DONALD H SMITH



RICHARD 1. RIORDAN MAYOR

March 8, 2001

CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

HOLLY A WYM

KAYE M BECKHAM /ICE-PRESIDENT

VALERIE J ARONSON MICHAEL A CORNWELL MARY KLAUS-MARTIN

> Los Angeles City Council Room 615, City Hall East **MESSENGER STOP #160**

SUBJECT:

ISRAEL HOUSE 914 Bluegrass Lane

Honorable Members:

At the Cultural Heritage Commission meeting of March 7, 2001, the Commission moved to include the above property in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments, subject to adoption by the City Council.

As required under the provisions of Section 22.126 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, the Commission has solicited opinions and information from the office of the Council District in which the site is located and from any Department or Bureau of the City whose operations may be affected by the designation of such site as a Historic-Cultural Monument. Such designation in and of itself has no fiscal impact. Future applications for permits may cause minimal administrative costs.

Your adoption of this subject modification to the list of Historical and Cultural Monuments will be appreciated by the Cultural Heritage Commission.

Sincerely,

MARGIE J. REESE, GENERAL MANAGER

MARJORIE THAYNE

Commission Executive Assistant II

MT:efi

Enclosures

c: Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski **Zoning Coordinator** Preservation Coordinator Clifford and Diane Phillips

Bureau of Street Lighting Daniel M. Scott, Planning Department **CRA**

ARTS HEALTH & HUMANITIES



CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION
433 SOUTH SPRING STRUCT, 10TH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013
(213) 485-6793

HISTORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION

TY.	PE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS
	NTIFICATION NAME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT <i>ISRAEL HOUSE</i>
2.	STREET ADDRESS 914 BLUE GRASS LANE
	CITY 105 ANGELES ZIP CODE 9049 COUNCIL DISTRICT
3.	ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 44-93 -
4.	COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TRACT 149
	BLOCK LOT(S) ARB NO
5.	RANGE OF ADDRESSES ON PROPERTY ~/~
	•
5.	PRESENT OWNER CLIPPORD + DIANE PHILIPS
	STREET ADDRESS 914 BLUEGRASS LANE
	CITY L. A. STATE 9. ZIP 90049 PHONE (310) 472-0691
	OWNERSHIP IS: PRIVATEPUBLIC
7.	PRESENT USE SFR ORIGINAL USE SFR
3.	CRIPTION ARCHITECTURAL STYLE 50'S MODEL (See Style Guide) STATE PRESENT PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE OR STRUCTURE
	(See optional Description Work Sheet)
	STRUCTURE REMAINS AS ORIGINALLY
	DESIGNED EXCRPT WOOD EXTERIOR LOUVERS
	WERE REMOVED FROM UVING ROOM WINDOWS
	4 LOWER FLOOR ROOM FILLED IN A
	PARKING SPACE, ONE OF THE ORIGINAL FOST AND
	BEAM DESIGNE OF THE MUTUAL - HOUSING TRACT:

<u>HIS</u>	TORIC-CULTURAL MONUMENT APPLICATION PAGE 2 .
NAI	ME OF PROPOSED MONUMENT USRAEL HOUSE
	CONSTRUCTION DATE: FACTUAL ESTIMATED
11.	ARCHITECT, DESIGNER, OR ENGINEER A. QUINCY VONES + R. EMMONS
	CONTRACTOR OR OTHER BUILDER NOT KNOWN
13. 14.	DATES OF ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHS 2000 (8 x 10 Black and White Glossy) CONDITION: EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE
15.	ALTERATIONS LOWER PLOOR APPITION.
	EXTERIOR WOOD LOVVERS REMOVES.
16.	THREATS TO SITE: NONE KNOWN PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT VANDALISM PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT ZONING OTHER
17.	IS THE STRUCTURE: ON ITS ORIGINAL SITE X MOVED UNKNOWN
SIG : 18.	NIFICANCE BRIEFLY STATE HISTORICAL AND / OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE; INCLUDE DATES, EVENTS, AND PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE (See optional Significance Work Sheet) SEE ATTACHEO
19.	SOURCES (LIST BOOKS, DOCUMENTS, SURVEYS, PERSONAL INTERVIEWS
	WITH DATES) ARTS + ARCHITECTURE, SEPT. 1948
	PROGRESSIVE PRCHITECTURE, FRB. 1960
20.	DATE FORM PREPARED/2/20/00 PREPARER'S NAME CORY BUCKNEZ ORGANIZATION STREET ADDRESS 990 HANLEY AVE.
	ORGANIZATION STREET ADDRESS 990 HANLEY AVE.
	CITY L. A. STATE CA ZIP 90049 PHONE (310) 472.3373

DESCRIPTION WORK SHEET ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS. OR HAND PRINT IN TYPE THE ISRAEL HOUSE IS A 1/ name of proposed monument MODERN, SQUARE PLAN RESIDENCE architectural style (see Line 8 above) plan shape (see chart) WITH A WOOD SIDING FINISH AND WOOD TRIM.

material (wood siding, wood shingles, brick, stucco, etc.)

material (wood, metal, etc.) SLOPING IT'S GABLE ROOF IS ASPHAUT / ROCK roof shape (see chart) material (clay tile, asphalt or wood shingles, etc.) HORIZONTAL SUIDING WINDOWS ARE PART OF THE DESIGN. window type (double-hung [slides up & down], casement [opens out], horizontal sliding, etc.) THE ENTRY FEATURES A OFF - CENTER door location (recessed, centered, off-center, corner, etc.) SINGLE PANEL DOOR. ADDITIONAL CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS entry door style (see chart) OF THE STRUCTURE ARE POST + BEAM / CHIMNEY identify ORIGINAL FEATURES such as porches (see chart); YMMETRY OF PLAN PREPLECTED balconies; number and shape of dormers (see chart); number and location of chimneys; EXTERIOR., LARGE SLOPING CLASS WALLS shutters; secondary finish materials; parapets; metal trim; decorative tile or cast stone; arches; ornamental woodwork; symmetry or asymmetry; cornices; friezes; towers or turrets; bay windows; halftimbering; horizontality; verticality; formality or informality; garden walls; etc. SECONDARY BUILDINGS CONSIST OF A DETACHED + ATTACHED CARPORT identify garage; garden shelter; etc. SIGNIFICANT INTERIOR SPACES INCLUDE ORIGINAL WOOD POST + identify ORIGINAL FEATURES such as wood BRAM + EXPOSED CONCRETE BLOCK paneling; moldings and trim; special glass windows; ornate ceilings; plaster moldings; light fixtures; painted decoration; ceramic tile; stair balustrades; built-in furniture; etc.

IMPORTANT LANDSCAPING INCLUDES

identify notable mature trees and shrubs



TYPE OR HAND PRINT IN ALL CAPITAL BLOCK LETTERS

COMPLETE ONE OR BOTH OF THE UPPER AND LOWER PORTIONS OF THIS PAGE

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

THE SRAFEL HOW name of proposed monument	IS AN IMPORTANT EXAMPLE	OF
5 1 1	ARCHITECTURE AND MEETS THE CULTUI	
HERITAGE ORDINANCE BECA	SE OF THE HIGH QUALITY OF ITS DESIGN A	AND
THE RETENTION OF ITS ORIG	NAL FORM, DETAILING AND INTEGRITY.	
	-AND / OR	
HISTO	PRICAL SIGNIFICANCE	
THE ISRAEL HO	WAS BUILT IN 1949 year built	<u>?</u> .
	WAS IMPORTANT TO TI	
DEVELOPMENT OF LOS ANGEL	ES BECAUSE	

MUTUAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION
Sherwood House
Waggoner House
Israel House
Dubin House

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Mutual Housing Association Site Office is a significant part of Crestwood Hills (formerly Mutual Housing Association), the only successful large-scale cooperative housing development in California. Planned to provide 500 houses and community facilities on a hillside site at the edge of the Santa Monica Mountains, Crestwood Hills is one of the few fully realized modernist projects in the state. In 1946, four musicians formed the Cooperative Housing Group as a viable way to obtain inexpensive houses by pooling their resources. The Association grew rapidly to 400 members, each member put down \$25 to join, and three months later put in \$500 every three months so that at the end of the year they had paid in \$2,000 for their lots. Through conferences and lecture courses, the Association made contact with other California cooperatives and the members studied the principles of the cooperative movement. The initial management of the Association was an eleven-person elected Board of Directors that hired an Executive Director and was answerable to General Meetings of the Association. The MHA's initial hopes of creating a true communitarian association in which the community owns the land in common and the members are entitled to use a lot in exchange for their membership proved unfeasible because of financing difficulties. In 1947, before the Association even broke ground on the site, members founded the credit union, and began plans for the nursery school. Well aware of their predecessors in the Cooperative movement, the MHA founders named a street after Rochdale, England, where the first cooperative society was founded in 1844. In 1954, with the development of the neighborhood substantially complete, the members formed the Crestwood Hills Association with a nine-member board to manage the day-to-day running of the neighborhood, leaving the Mutual Housing Association as the shell organization owning the undeveloped properties. The MHA architects formed an Architectural Committee to review all proposals for new and remodeled houses in accordance with the Association's Architectural Guidelines

The master plan uses the rugged terrain to provide a balance of single-family homes, communal facilities, and a public park. The MHA chose 800 acres of undeveloped land in the Santa Monica Mountains, in an area of Brentwood that they named Crestwood Hills. The houses are arranged on the hills, each one at an angle to the street to give a primary view and a private open space secluded from the street and the neighbors. The community facilities, the park, nursery school, and community center, were planned for the best flat land at the center of the tract. The plan also called for a neighborhood coop store and gas station but after the members moved into their houses the impetus to develop the other communal facilities dwindled. The Association deeded the park to the City of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Department for maintenance and in 1961 the City built the clubhouse, with sliding doors that open to an outside amphitheater. Ever since, the clubhouse has been the focus of musical and theater events put on by the community. The nursery school continues to thrive and is still run on a cooperative basis.

The design of Mutual Housing Tract brought together many of the leading figures in post-war Southern California modernism. After interviewing architects such as Richard Neutra in the early stages of the planning process, by 1948 the team was listed as Whitney Smith AlA, A. Quincy Jones, AlA and Edgardo Contini, Engineer. In addition to Crestwood Hills, Jones (1913 - 1979), who received the national AIA Firm Award in 1969 and several AIA honor awards, is known for his Eichler homes in Northern California, his Annenburg School of Communication at USC, the University Research Library at UCLA, the US Embassy in Singapore, and a nationwide portfolio of institutional and residential projects. His teaching career at USC culminated in his appointment as Dean of School of Architecture and Fine Arts from 1975-78. Whitney Smith, who graduated in Architecture from the University of Southern California in 1934 and had taught at USC and Scripps College, designed two Case Study Houses as part of the "Arts & Architecture" magazine program. Edgardo Contini graduated from the University of Rome in 1937, came to the USA to work for Albert Kahn in 1939. Shortly after completing Crestwood Hills, he went into partnership with Victor Gruen, and was responsible for many of Gruen's early shopping centers and planned developments.

Garrett Eckbo, who was the landscape architect at the beginning of the project, left the team after a disagreement with the MHA over design. Eckbo's landscape plan acknowledged the natural topography with a clearly man-made pattern, using low spreading trees at the higher elevations and tall trees such as eucalyptus and sycamore in the canyons.

Julius Shulman illustrated the essence of MHA houses with his early photographs of the MHA Site Office that was featured in the September 1948 issue of Arts and Architecture. His later series of photographs of Crestwood Hills captured the simplicity and drama of the structures and has been extensively published.

PUBLICATIONS

Arts & Architecture, 9/48, 3/49

Patricia Bennett, "Sanctuary from City- Without Communte", Los Angeles Time, June 13, 1993

Aaron Betsky, "A Sense of Loss at a Unique Community", Los Angeles Times, September 24, 1992

Lesley Jackson, Contemporary

Sam H. Kaplan, LA Lost and Found

George Rand, "Evaluation: Three California Pioneers", Architecture, July 1985 Gebhard, D. and Winter, R. Architecture in Los Angeles, Salt Lake City: Gibbs M. Smith, 1985 PARCEL LEVEL INFORMATION SENERATED BY Z54EFH ON 01/10/2001

----- BOOK-PAGE-FARCEL: 4494 007 030 -----

PLUEGRASS LN LOS ANGELES CA 90049

PLANNING AREA: BRENTWOOD-PACIFIC PALIFADES CENSUS TRACT: 262301 DISTRICT MAP: 1359137

COUNCIL DIST: 11

TRACT BLK LOT ASP UNIT

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 14944 - -171 -ZONE : RE15-1-HX USECODE: 0100

BUILDING DESIGN: 0110 BUILDING CLASS: D656 YEAR BUILT: 51

IMPROVEMENT VALUE: # 30.900 LAND VALUE: \$ 62,466

LAST DWNER CHANGE: 00-00-2000 OWNER(COUNTY): PHILLIPS.DIANE A TR

> BLUEGRASE LM 914

LOS ANGELES CA 900.19

OWNER(CITY): BAERWALD, DIAME A. (TR) DIAME A. PHILLI AS CF DATE: 07-10-1998

914 BLUEGRASS LAME

LOS ANGELES CAPOQAC

PARCEL AREA(ACRES): .506 PARCEL AREA(SG FT): 22,041

GROSS S0 FT: 1,235 TOTAL UNITS: 1 SO FT/UNIT: TOTAL BATHROOM: 2 1,225

TOTAL PEDFORM : 3

EGD OF REPORT

METES AND BOUNDS

900N-P455-54RCEL: 4494-007-030

OWNER(COUNTY) : PHILLIPS.DIAME A TR

: 00914 BLUESRASE LT SITUS ADDRESS

> LOS AMBELES CA 940a9

TRACT GO 14944 LOT 171

METES AND BOUNDS ARE FOR TON-LINET DISPLAY ON L Y AND CAN

BE PRINTED ON L Y BY USING THE 'PRINT SCREEN' KEY.

ISRAEL HOUSE, MHA model 105 914 Bluegrass Lane, Los Angeles

After the war, in 1946, four musicians formed the Cooperative Housing Group to create the Mutual Housing Tract. The housing shortage for returning servicemen and the excitement of creating a model community through a cooperative method was forefront in the minds of the original founders. They purchased 800 acres in Brentwood and hired. A. Quincy Jones, Whitney R. Smith and structural engineer Edgardo Contini to design 27 modern house designs. As one of the original houses built in the community, the Israel House is a hillside house, model 105.

Within the community, the best land was reserved for a community park and nursery school which, to this day, serves as meeting ground for a community that has remained close-knit since its inception as a cooperative community in the late 40's and early 50's. This early attention to site planning inspired others to consider a community as a whole development instead of isolated pods.

The Israel House was finished with unadomed materials in their natural state; concrete block, redwood siding, exposed Douglas fir plywood and tongue and groove ceiling planks, with no applied plaster or paint. Walls of glass gave a sensation of free flowing space, making a 1135 sq. ft. house seem twice the size by extending the sight line to the property line and eight foot wide steel sliding glass doors dissolved the boundary of house and garden. The original cost of construction was \$13,326.00.

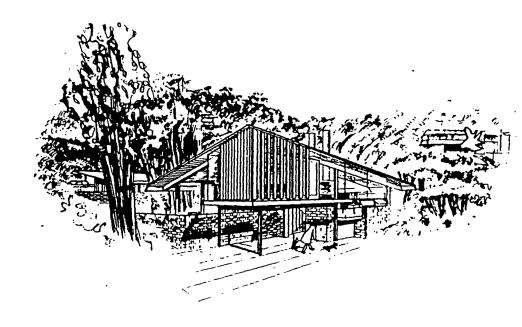
The Israel House steps up a sloping site. The plan consists of a ground floor, mezzanine, and upper floor living room. The roof ridge runs diagonally across the square plan of the house, and rises as the hill falls and creates greater space at the downhill corner. The square living room is located at this corner facing the view towards Santa Monica Bay. Moveable vertical louvers at the living room were part of the original design to allow control of the sun. These have been removed.

Eventually 150 of the houses were built. Only 33 remain in the spirit in which they were built. Only a couple of houses of this model were built. Two remain today. Declaring the MHA houses Cultural/Historic Monument is an attempt to preserve a very unique pocket of California Modernism.

An "L" shaped, controlled terrace formed sgeinst a rising hill is the earth foundation for House 105 Placed on this terrace is the square of the house. The roof ridge, which runs diagonally across the square, rises as the hill falls and creates a greater space volume at the downhill corner. At this point, the living room is alung high between the structural members. It is oriented two ways. From its messenine, it looks back into the public areas of the house or out over the view. Morable wartical louvres act to control the sun and give definition to the social deck. Vision is limit—less on either side of the louvres.

The private creas of the house are kept toward the outside ellowing the flexible use space and dining to extend from the meszenine. The bath, though compact, is made luxurious by its extension to a private sum court.

The oer shelter and game court are made possible by the space gained through the elevation of the living room. There are only ten sites for this house.



BASIC MATERIALS: Part wood, part concrete floor. Plywood or gless wells. Exposed plank and beam cailing, natural stain.

.... F14

ENTRY: LITCHER: Guest cost storege near.

Sliding doors above sink and drainboard allow supervision of flexible use space. Special floor

surface. Weshable wells.
Sliding door to terrace. Fireplace at this level.

DINING: SEVING, LAUNDRY AND CHILD'S FLAY:

Folding doors permit flexibility of use. Linen storage. Seving alcove. Laundry tray and automatic laundry space. Sliding door to terrace. Washable wells.

BERROOM NO. 1: Generous wardrobes. Optional division into two sleeping alcoves. Sliding doors expend room in

two directions.
Twin bed space. Sliding door to bedroom terrace.

BEDROOM NO. 2: BATH:

High windows over toilet and wash basin. Shower may have clear or frosted glass; opens to sun court. Privacy is achieved at sun court, making the limits of the bath coincident with the

limits of the sun court. Shower sunken - tub is elso. Washable walls.

LIVING ROOM:

Vertical louvres for sun control. Clear glass either side for maximum view. Fireplace. Builtin storage cabinets and shelves. Room looks down into dining, kitchen, entry and play areas.

CAR SHELTER: Large storage under house at car level.

