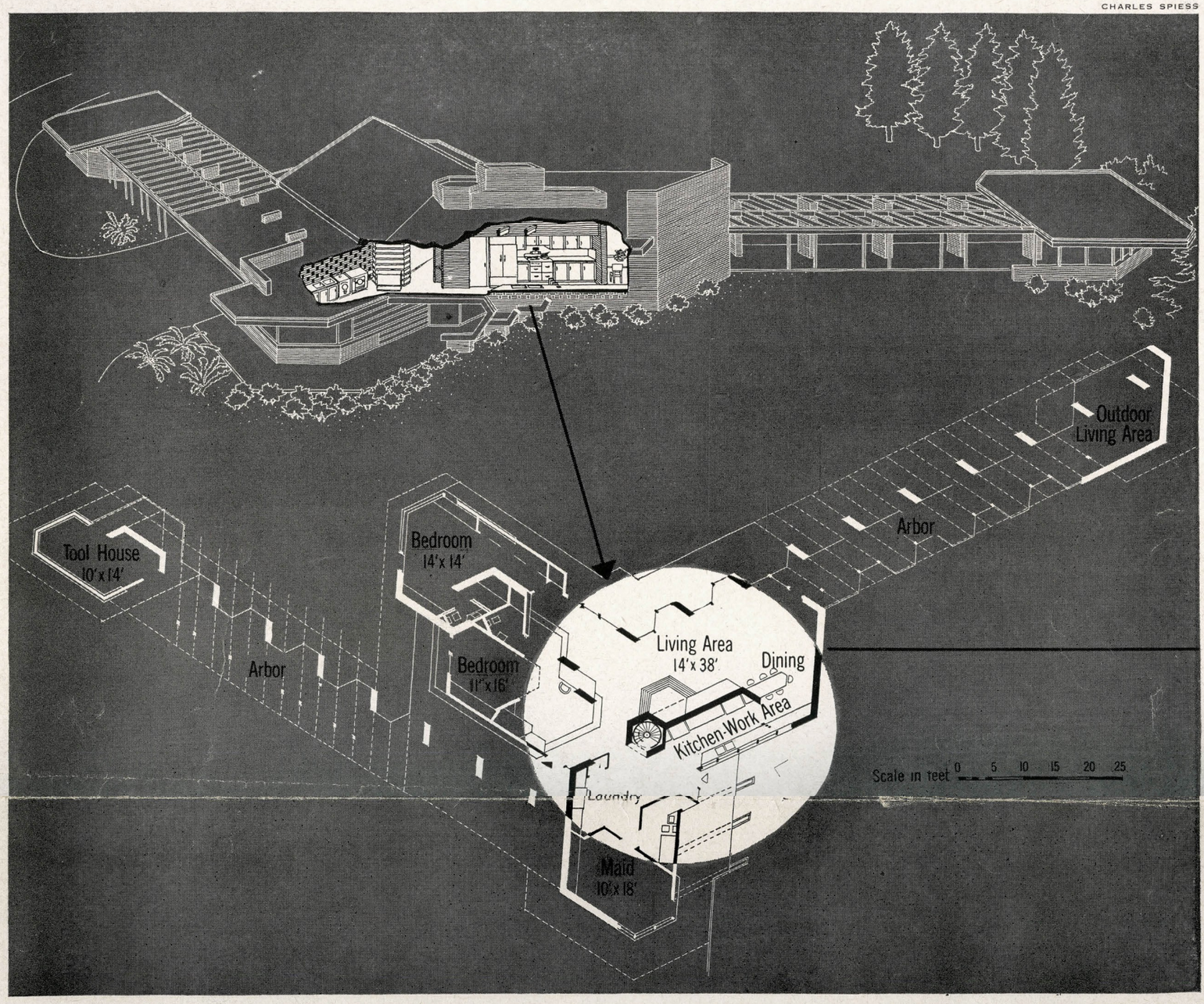
CHARLES SPIESS



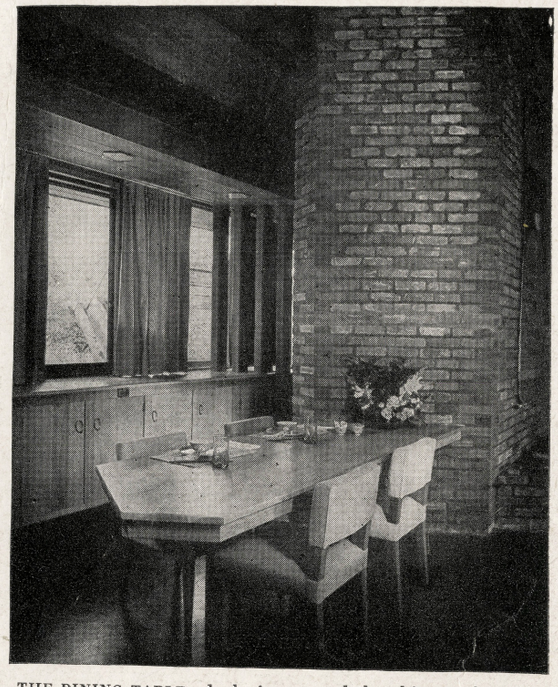
THE KITCHEN is the heart of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence L. Brotherton's house at Mount Vernon, Washington, designed by Smith and Van Fossen

The core of this house is its kitchen

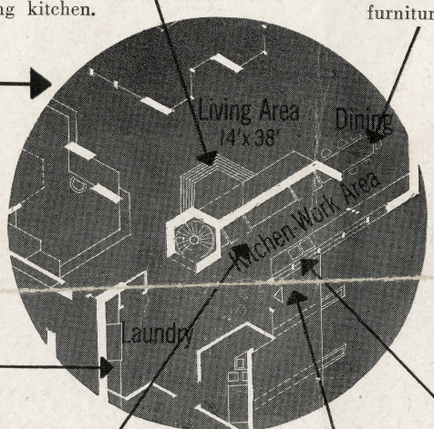
A new design trend puts the kitchen (once housed in a service wing) in the center of the house

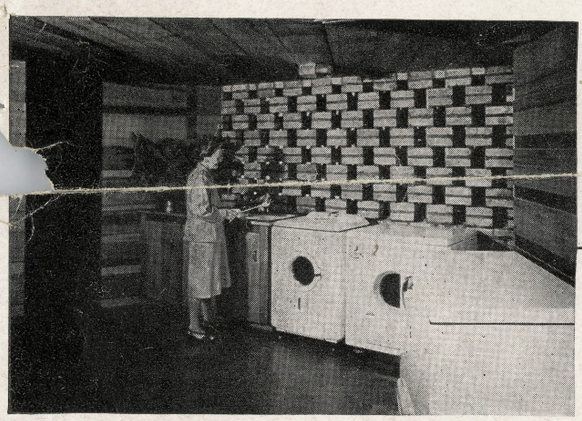
When servants were plentiful, kitchen, laundry and maids' rooms were usually grouped in their own wing and visited periodically by the lady of the house. But Mrs. Lawrence L. Brotherton wanted her kitchen to be the pivot of her house, to facilitate her management of it. To this end a giant chimney jointly serves living room and kitchen as core of the house. The other rooms wing out from them, interrupted by a minimum of walls at wide angles, to give freedom of movement. Directly under the kitchen, the room for the GE furnace is reached by a spiral staircase in a hexagonal stairwell. The whole house has continuity, both as to plan and materials (the same ones are used indoors and out with special emphasis on the grain of vertical cedar wood, the rosy tones of old bricks combined with new ones fired to give them a purplish tone). Waxed concrete floors, in which radiant-heating pipes are embedded, are matched by the red linoleum in kitchen and laundry. Nowhere in this house are surfaces painted.

LIVING ROOM CHIMNEY of old rosy bricks interspersed with hard-fired purplish ones. This part of the core of the house shares the chimney with the adjoining kitchen.

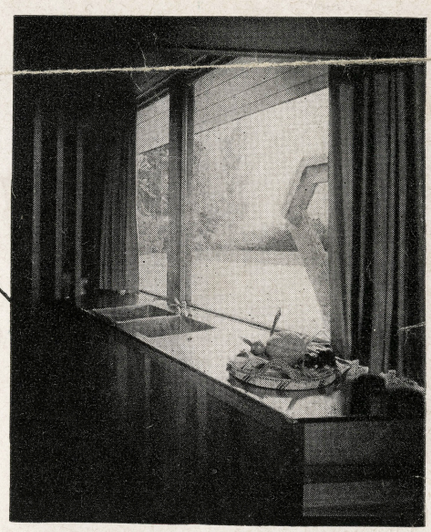


THE DINING TABLE, clockwise around the chimney from the fireplace, makes a transition to the kitchen. Light wood furniture picks up the golden brown of kitchen curtains.



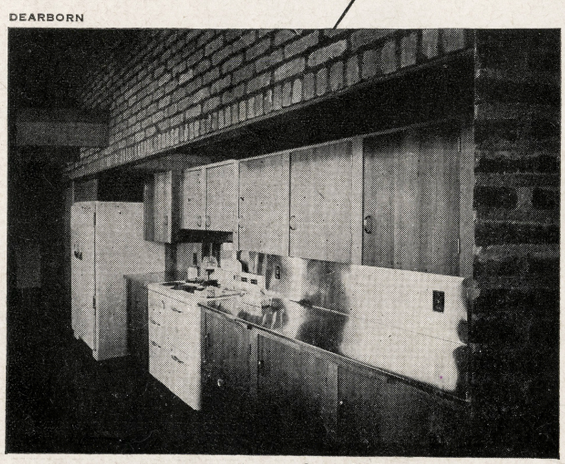


LAUNDRY WALL is of bottle green glass, bricks and cedar. Laundry equipment, Bendix; GE freezer in foreground.

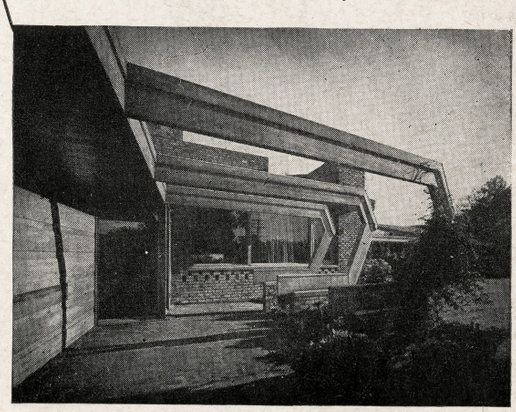


THE KITCHEN has Monel Metal sink tops which take color from the cedar boards in ceiling and cabinets and the view beyond the windows.

DEARBORN



KITCHEN WORK AREA is condensed for maximum efficiency and comfort. Range, Monarch; refrigerator, Frigidaire.



KITCHEN WINDOW VIEW is of a modern arbor, which repeats the materials and colors of the interior of the kitchen.