

HALFWAY HOME

by

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ABSTRACT

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Submitted to the Department of Architecture on
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Architecture.

This is a handbook for anyone involved in the
process of setting up a halfway house or changing
the environment of an existing halfway house for
persons making the journey from mental hospitals
to their own "homes".

I have tried to understand the needs of the
residents of this particular kind of home and
to interpret them in environmental terms. Hope-
fully, psychologists and others in the field of
mental health, architects and residents will find
this handbook helpful in selecting appropriate
houses and in making homes beneficial to comfort
and emotional and psychological well-being.

Thesis Supervisor: Jan Wampler

Title: Assistant Professor of Architecture

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I'd like to thank Frank Ehrental who, when a suitable "house" is found, will be a houseparent for a halfway home. Without his help I would have had very little feedback on the specific needs of a halfway house.

And I am most grateful to Jan Wampler who encouraged me at all stages of this project, who believes in "homes" not houses.

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INTRODUCTION

"The effect of physical environment upon the behavior of living organisms has been of modern scientific inquiry since the time of Charles Darwin."

"Yet despite the general acceptance of the proposition that environment can profoundly affect our health, our comfort, our moods, and perhaps our emotional stability, the arrangements of the houses in which man finds himself living today have probably been influenced more by imitation, convention, and tradition, and in occasional rare instances the genius of an individual architect than by the data so far accumulated by scientists." 1.

Whether overtly affected by the architecture of a towering building which blocks our sunlight or subconsciously inhibited by a monument which inspires or corrupts us, we are all affected by design of the environment. It is probably impossible to determine the extent of the effect. Fortunately, with the increased input of environmental psychologists, sociologists and behavioral scientists and the receptivity of more designers to the implicit as well as explicit needs of people, better buildings may be forthcoming.

In the area of housing there is a special need for examination of the criteria for design. The majority of housing is not constructed on the basis of input from its inhabitants. Housing codes specify room sizes and safety factors but do not touch the idea of what makes a house a home. Yet our lives are intimately influenced by the subtleties in design of our own residences.

The extent to which architects must realize this fact is apparent in their attitudes toward the design of a home for a specific client. They say this is the most difficult problem in architecture. It entails a probing analysis of the client's lifestyle and personal philosophies - understanding of private needs which the client may not previously have known but may subconsciously expect the architect to provide for.

What happens in the situation where the architect does not have a real client? There is some leeway in the problem because one can expect a variety of housing solutions from a variety of architects. The individual looking for a home can then choose the solution which best meets his or her needs. This is a specious answer to the question, however. Often, due to economics or supply and demand, there is no freedom of choice. And, if there is some choice, individuals are often not aware of the consequences or possibilities of their selections.

Even when a representative tenant group is asked to participate in the design process of a particular project, it rapidly becomes evident that expectations of individuals and designers are separated by wide gaps of experience and understanding. Often the tenants want the stereotype - suburban plot in the city - or copies of the newest and most expensive housing (and therefore the best?) in the area. The designer, if he/she is willing, must spend a great deal of time explaining implications of the numerous expectations while bringing forth his/her own suggestions and knowledge of further possibilities.

Having been involved in this kind of process, I have experienced some of the difficulties and rewards of designing housing which will hopefully have the qualities of homes. The problem of providing a supportive rather than a debilitating environment continues to trouble me. Working directly with clients is helpful but often not enough. Making choices in criteria for a home presupposes knowledge of a range of possibilities. If existing buildings, glossy magazines, and newspaper articles are the only examples available to individuals, their choices and understanding of those choices is bound to be limited. It is virtually impossible for someone to request something - a specific design configuration for instance - if one has no experience of it.

An adjunct to working with clients has recently developed. This is the input of the social sciences. Currently there is a growing trend toward the evaluation of design in use. In an effort to determine why some spaces work and others do not, sociologists and psychologists have started challenging the architect with studies of behavior within specific environments.

Often, because of the problems of translation between professions, much of this information is not used. The social scientist often does not understand the problems and complexity of design. The architect does not take time to find and read material relevant to particular design issues. The actual user of the environment is probably not aware of the problems or intentions of either professional group and is left only with inexplicable dissatisfactions.

The intent of this handbook is to start bridging the gap of intentions and needs between architect, social scientist and user. The specific housing problem involved - the Halfway Home - presents special challenges to the designer. Personal coping mechanisms of the users cannot be expected to make up for a designer's lack of understanding basic needs. Thus, it is crucial that the environment be as carefully planned as possible.

By analyzing the problem through writings and discussions of psychologists, psychiatrists and behavioral scientists and presenting solutions in terms of design implications, I hope I have given the client a handbook which he/she can use to demand and make a home.

I have by no means covered all areas within the house, not found all possible answers to the question of what makes supportive places within a home. This is a beginning - an outline which should be infinitely expanded.

THE PROBLEM

"The halfway house, having moved a greater distance from the medical milieu, offers a new field for studying and for helping to solve some of the problems of living for those who have suffered severe psychological upset." 1.

The treatment of mental illness has a relatively recent history of significant progress. Fortunately, there are fewer persons now confined to the traditional "institution". New drug treatment methods account for much of this change. But we have a long way to go toward developing methods and facilities for treating psychological and psychosocial problems.

The enactment of legislation - Public Law 88-164, October, 1963 - earmarking funds for the development of community mental health centers was a step toward implementing new knowledge and experience in the field. It recognized the need for re-orientation of services toward integration with rather than separation from the community. The halfway house program is an extension of this integration.

Essentially the halfway house is a semi-controlled environment for the patient who does not need intensive care - hospitalization - but has no

alternative. His or her home environment may be personally destructive. Living alone or with others who cannot provide the necessary supports for mental stability may lead the individual back to the hospital.

The halfway house offers an opportunity for gradual adjustment to the problems of coping with everyday life. Whereas hospitals have high readmittance rates, individuals who move from the hospital to the community via halfway houses are much less likely to return to a hospital.

There is also the possibility that a person might avoid hospitalization altogether if it were possible to live in a halfway house instead. At present there are no provisions for such as an established pattern. (Although perhaps many communes, in providing personal support to individuals, do at times perform this function).

I became interested in this concept as a design problem for many reasons. Having friends who work at the Lindemann Mental Health Center and at McCleans Hospital, I had often discussed the problems of the environment and its influence on behavior. When Lindemann Center started to plan a program for establishing halfway houses in the communities which it serves, I offered to give any design assistance that I could. My primary

involvement to date has been in helping the North Suffolk Mental Health Clinic with its search for a building suitable for a halfway house in East Boston.

Because the residents of the house cannot be known until there is a certainty that there will be an established house at a specific time, I have not been able to work with most of the "clients" involved. I have worked most closely with one known client, Frank Ehrenthal. While he is presently heading the search for a house, he will eventually make it his own home as a "house parent".

I should mention that we have not entertained the idea of building a new house due to the expense and time involved in such an undertaking. I had thought of designing an "ideal" halfway house as a possible means of exploring design criteria. But as this would not be relevant to the actual situation, it seems much more useful to examine the possibilities and problems of existing structures.

In advising Frank on his selection, I have tried to analyze the implications of houses we have considered. I think both of us have broadened our criteria as we have seen the benefits and disadvantages of different housing. Our experience should be useful to others involved in selection

of a house - whether for a halfway house, commune,
cooperative or extended family.

PROGRAM/CRITERIA

EIGHT RESIDENTS

The minimum number of residents considered reasonable in this particular case is eight - probably four men and four women. Initially, we looked at houses with this number in mind, roughly outlining the space necessary. Only when we were shown a house permitting separation of the sexes (four bedroom areas on one floor, four on another) did this issue arise. It was stated that sexual involvement among residents might cause unnecessary and disruptive problems. Whether control by spatial separation is wise or even possible remains a question to me, but I have considered the problem while planning for private areas of the house.

HOUSEPARENTS

The houseparents will have the heaviest responsibility in assuring success of the house. Although they will have the assistance of other staff and clinical and community organizations, they will be living in the house responding to problems at any time. Hopefully, they will remain with the house for a substantial period of time. Residents will benefit from the continuity of their support and their accumulation of experience.

Just as parents in the nuclear family need a place to get away, the houseparents will need their own

area for retreat from constant demands and for entertaining alone with friends. Their private apartment should be easily opened to the rest of the house but also conveniently separable.

STAFF

One full-time staff member, probably a psychology or sociology student, will make the halfway house his or her full-time home for the minimum of a year. His/her role will be similar to that of the houseparents, assisting residents with day to day conflicts and encouraging individual growth and responsibility.

Since the time commitment of the staff member is not expected to be as long as the houseparents it is not necessary to provide an additional separate apartment. However, it would be preferable to have both a bedroom and study/living area for periods of retreat from general house problems.

In constantly referring to retreat and getting away, it may seem that I am contradicting the idea of the halfway house resembling a family. I must emphasize that many of the residents would still be in the hospital were there no halfway house to come to. Their problems may be quite severe and demand extraordinary attention. Resident staff will often be under great strain and need separation to maintain their own perspectives and abilities to cope.

GUESTS

Once the house is established and running well new residents will move in as others leave to set up their own homes elsewhere. A guest room should be provided to facilitate transitions to and from the house. Potential new residents can visit before making a decision to join the house. Residents who have left may return for brief visits during periods of crisis.

PLACE FOR SELF

"The need for personal territory appears in the child around the age of seven..." 1.

"The feeling of ownership, whether of a room or of an object, can be very important in the creation of a feeling of self-esteem." 2.

In order to interrelate with others, a person needs a sense of self. Everyday this self is presented to others in the course of normal social encounters. It is challenged, questioned, encouraged, admired, threatened and protected in many ways. Hopefully, it is preserved and expanded with time and experience.

The self needs outlets for expression in order to develop and to endure. The body itself is the most basic means for expression. A smile or frown, a light step or a dragging of the feet, sitting up straight or drooping in one's chair, singing or crying, laughing or screaming; all indicate states of self.

Clothing is perhaps the next means available for saying who one is, how one feels, how one sees one self. Although it certainly is a mistake to judge

people by the clothes they wear, clothing does reflect attitudes, beliefs and feelings of self. Businessmen wear suits which establish their identities in relation to other businessmen. College students tend to adopt the dress which identifies them among friends.

Similarly, within certain ranges of style, colors indicate daily variations in feelings - a brightly colored shirt might indicate "I feel good today." Sloppy clothes might mean "I've been working on the car" or "I don't care about myself today so I didn't bother about what I'm wearing." The body and its cocoon of clothing establish an identity, a travelling, broadly presented visual image of self, sometimes private and often times public.

Also vital to personal identity is the idea of one's "place" in the world. The "homeless" are spoken of with great compassion not only because they are not sheltered from weather but because they have no "place" to put them"selves".

Having "no place to call my own" is a well understood dilemma. A personal space is an additional necessity for development and presentation of self. This is seen in dormitory rooms where students identify themselves through personal paraphanelia. The pictures over one's own bed, the mementoes on one's own desk, the clippings and notes on one's own bulletin board signal one's self. In double and triple rooms it is usually possible to dis-

tinguish one person's area from another's by these objects.

Chermayeff and Alexander, in Community and Privacy, investigate the need for private places by children and parents in the nuclear family. They emphasize privacy of bedrooms and separate outdoor areas with visual and auditory separation even to the extent of spatial "locks" governing transition from one area to another. Perhaps this is necessary in the nuclear family where personal freedoms are limited by the external social pressures enforcing continual preservation of the unit regardless of its viability.

The intentional family, whether it be residents of any number of kinds of halfway houses - psychiatric, drug or alcohol related, etc. - differs from the nuclear family in that members are not blood-related. They are brought together by common needs, beliefs and goals. They choose each other as members of a special family and in this make a commitment to help each other, to understand each other and to interact with each other.

In order to fulfill this commitment to others it is essential to maintain or develop one's self in relation to the group. There is a need to be alone.

"In a very general way, all higher living beings, practically all the vertebrates, exhibit a double need, analogous and related to the need to eat and reproduce: the need to maintain a territory, and to keep some distance from other beings." 3.

The identity of a person is exhibited in the making of places/spaces of personal meaning. Furniture and other objects are the most common materials for defining spatial intentions and uses. The most private territory claimed by any person is his or her sleeping place. Even if the economics or socio-dynamics of a situation dictate the sharing of a room in which one sleeps, there is a claiming of personal space by the act of laying oneself down in a particular area to rest, or sleep or dream. Since sleeping generally requires some kind of bed, or soft surface, the space is maintained by a personal object (furniture - bed) even when the person claiming it is absent.

Since the "bed" place is one's most private territory it becomes a locus for the storage and use of personal possessions. Bedside tables, closets, bureaus, desks accompany the bed in establishing perimeters of privacy.

"Wardrobes with their shelves, desks with their drawers, and desks with their false bottoms are veritable organs of the secret psychological life. Indeed, without these 'objects' and a few

others in equally high favor, our intimate life would lack a model of intimacy. They are hybrid objects, subject objects. Like us, through us and for us, they have a quality of intimacy." 4.

Acknowledging that there is an elemental need for a private place, that the sleeping space is the most intimate and that "furniture" performs the function of demarcation - what furnishing materials can be used? What functions can they be expected to fulfill, what needs satisfy? There are a number of criteria to be kept in mind when deciding upon furnishings.

COST

SOURCES

FLEXIBILITY

DURABILITY/USE SPAN

SPACE AVAILABLE

PORTABILITY

It should always be kept in mind that furniture not only fulfils the distinct purpose for which it is intended, i.e. sitting, writing surface, storage, lying upon. It also partakes of and exhibits the personality and needs of its owner.

PERSONAL FURNITURE:

BED

CLOSET

Existing houses often do not have sufficient closet space. A closet as furniture takes care of the problem while giving an additional benefit - its use for spatial definition.

DESK

Surface usable for writing - letters, diaries, etc. and for organization of activities, storage of articles pertaining to private activities.

CHAIR/S

For use with desk and by visitors.

BULLETIN
BOARD

Surface to display personal items.

CATEGORIES OF PERSONAL FURNITURE

READY-MADE

The term ready-made here means that a piece of furniture is fully assembled for use as a particular, distinct item. The halfway house may acquire a stockpile of such furniture through donations or purchase at Goodwill Stores, Morgan Memorial, etc.

DISADVANTAGES

It is not flexible and may be cumbersome, difficult to rearrange in personal space in different ways.

If part of halfway houses resources, a resident may not take it away when setting up own residence at a later time. Yet personal belongings, including furniture, may be welcome support in a new environment.

It is not personalized if resident has not had free choice in selection.

ADVANTAGES

The advantage of ready-made furniture is that no time or effort is expended in construction. It is complete as a piece of furniture. Many pieces

might also be previous possessions of the residents. In this there would be an identity and pride invested in ownership and exhibition of choice.

FOUND OR ASSEMBLED

Found or assembled furniture indicates using doors, boards, bricks, blocks, spool tables, packing crates, sauna tubes, etc. to put together needed storage and sleeping space.

DISADVANTAGES

It may be difficult to start a house with this kind of furniture at the beginning of occupancy. New residents will require a place to sleep when they arrive and cannot be expected to go on a furniture assembling trip on their first day.

ADVANTAGES

Assembling furniture encourages individual participation - expression of self, declaration of self. For residents who have been in long term care this may be a first opportunity to exert control on their environment in a positive, visible, physical way. Assembling their own beds, storage areas, secret places would be a choice entirely their own. (This might be preliminary to assembling furniture for communal use - which would necessitate

give and take with others - a presentation and judging of self in a social context)

If assembled the furniture can probably be disassembled, and residents may take it with them when they leave. Assembling encourages leaving the home to look for new materials - a reason to interact with the outside world - to make use of the outside world for one's own benefit! rather than feel alienated by it.

DESIGNED/MODULAR

Modular refers to units of furniture that are complete in themselves but can also fit together in a variety of ways. Most modular units on the market today are expensive. Many are imported; others are designed for exclusive markets. I assume it is possible to design and either construct or have constructed a reasonable system which is less expensive.

DISADVANTAGES

The expense of having modular units constructed or the more complicated process of building them in the house makes them the least accessible of the three types.

ADVANTAGES

Residents may be provided with the basic pieces of furniture as separate, distinct, traditional units. But, with understanding of the potentials of the system, residents can initiate their own personal arrangements.

Personalization may be initially easier and occur earlier than with "assembled/found materials."
(As a basic environment, modular units would not preclude, in fact they might lead to, additional personal assemblage.)

PERSONAL TERRITORY

There seems to be very little agreement as to whether residents will be better served by totally private rooms or by having a roommate. At Wellmet, a halfway house in Cambridge, there is only one single room. It is usually given to a resident prior to leaving the house. I was told that a roommate situation is better because this prevents total withdrawal or isolation particularly of new residents.

At Lindemann Center the opposite procedure prevails. New patients; if paranoid, violent or unable to sleep in a room with another patient; are given single rooms. As they become better able to cope with others they move to doubles.

Robert Sommer in his study of mental hospitals found "long-stay patients preferred sleeping dormitories or had no expressed preferences, while short-and medium-stay patients wanted smaller bedrooms or single rooms. Less than 30 percent of the patients in any category explicitly preferred single rooms, although it is not known how these figures would have changed if single rooms had been available." 5.

It is a somewhat moot point whether single or

double rooms are preferable although privacy should be possible in either situation. In most cases existing bedrooms are intended to accommodate two persons. Since we must accommodate a minimum of eight residents, the bedrooms will probably be used for double occupancy. However, there are ways of using the existing areas to conform to privacy needs.

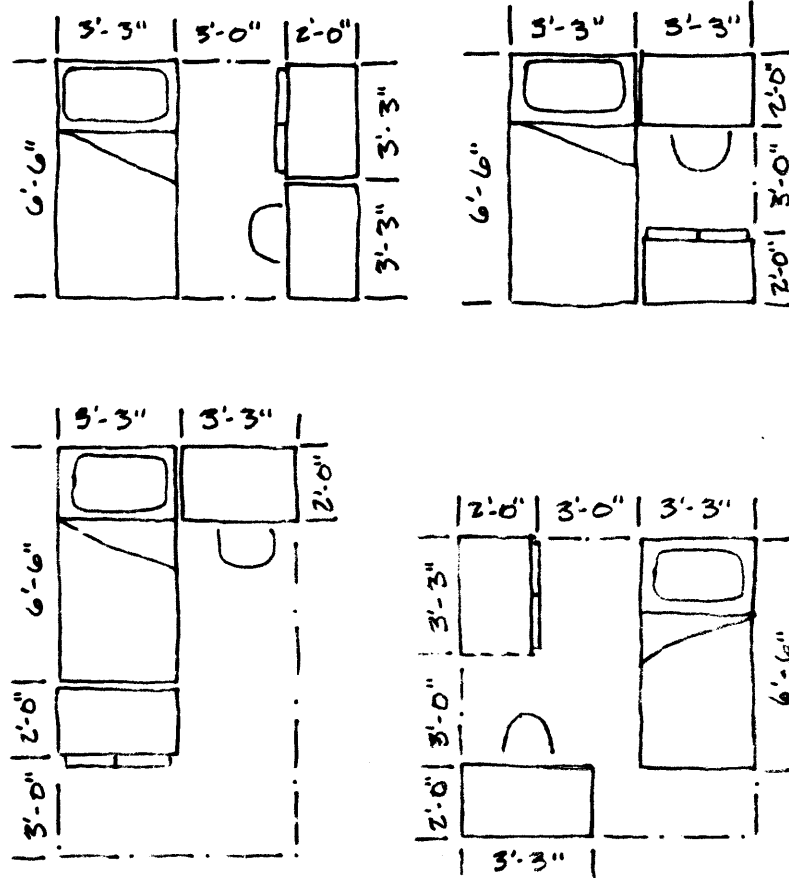
Criteria of space, light, ventilation, and access determine the preference for particular existing conditions.

CRITERIA FOR PRIVATE PLACE

I. CRITICAL DIMENSIONS

IN EXAMINING THE CRITICAL SPATIAL DIMENSIONS FOR PRIVATE PLACE I ASSUME THE USE OF MODULAR FURNITURE. THE SAME PRINCIPLES APPLY WHEN READY-MADE & ASSEMBLED FURNITURE ARE USED BUT THE DIMENSIONS MAY VARY CONSIDERABLY, i.e. A WARD-ROBE CLOSET PURCHASED AT THE GOODWILL MAY BE EITHER SMALLER OR LARGER THAN THE MODULAR 2' x 3'-3" USED HERE. THIS WOULD ALTER BASIC REQUIREMENTS IN A MINOR WAY.

INITIAL PLANNING ASSUMES A PLACE FOR ALL FURNITURE ON THE FLOOR. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CEILING HEIGHTS MAY PERMIT LOFT SPACE, NO ONE SHOULD BE FORCED INTO THIS. IT SHOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED AS AN ADVANTAGEOUS ALTERNATIVE.

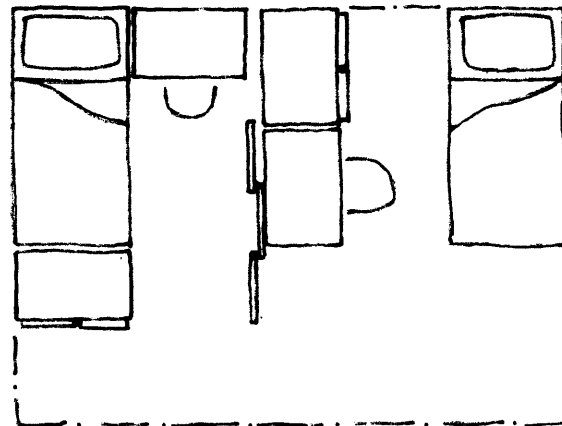


2. VISUAL AND ACOUSTICAL PRIVACY

"THAT PRIVACY FOR DORMITORY RESIDENTS WAS LARGELY A MATTER OF VISUAL PROTECTION BECAME CLEAR DURING SEVERAL SURVEYS OF CONVERTED ARMY BARRACKS THAT HAVE SERVED AS "TEMPORARY" STUDENT HOUSING FOR SOME DECADES. ALTHOUGH THE BARRACKS WERE UNAPPEALING FROM AN AESTHETIC STANDPOINT, THEY WERE FAVORED BY STUDENTS BECAUSE, FOR ONE THING, THEY WERE THE ONLY DORMITORIES ON CAMPUS WITH SINGLE ROOMS. THE ONE ITEM ON A LIST OF 20 FOR WHICH THESE BARRACKS WERE RATED EXCELLENT WAS PRIVACY, WHEREAS THEY WERE RATED AS 'TERRIBLE' IN REGARD TO SOUND-PROOFING. THE WALLS WERE TYPICAL BARRACKS CONSTRUCTION, AND ONE COULD HEAR CONVERSATIONS OR NOISE FROM ADJOINING ROOMS. HOWEVER IT WAS STILL EASIER FOR A GIRL TO GAIN AUDITORY PRIVACY BY TALKING LOW IN HER SINGLE ROOM THAN FOR

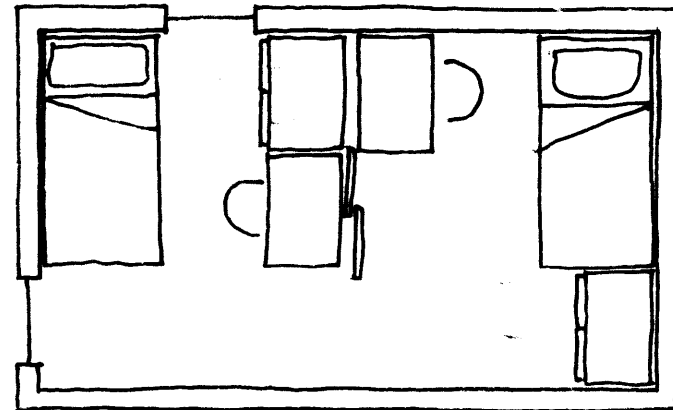
A GIRL IN A DOUBLE ROOM TO GAIN VISUAL PRIVACY FROM A PHYSICALLY PRESENT ROOMMATE.

IF VISUAL PRIVACY IS INDEED MORE IMPORTANT THAN ACOUSTICAL PRIVACY THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY FOR INCREASED FLEXIBILITY IN THE PRIVATE AREAS OF THE HOME. FURNITURE, MOVABLE PANELS AND SIMPLE 2'x4' AND HOMOSOTE WALLS (BULLETIN BOARD USE) CAN BE USED TO VISUALLY DIVIDE SPACES.

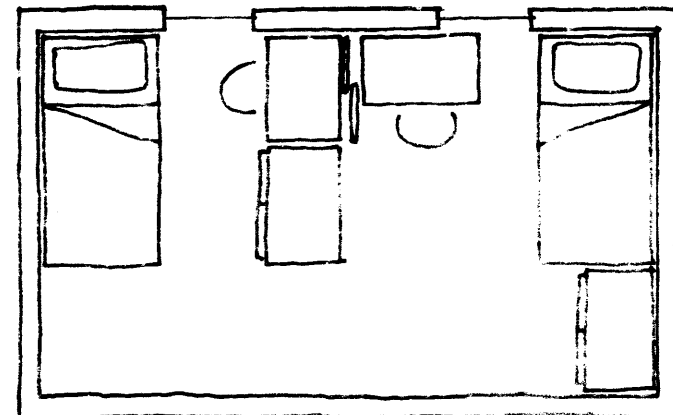


3. LIGHT AND VENTILATION

WINDOWS, FOR BOTH LIGHT AND VENTILATION, DICTATE WHETHER A ROOM WHICH IS QUITE ADEQUATE IN SIZE CAN BE DIVIDED FOR INCREASED PRIVACY. WHEN A ROOM IS DIVIDED BY A LIGHT WALL, PANELS, CLOSET PLACEMENT OR OTHER FURNITURE BOTH USERS SHOULD RETAIN ACCESS TO NATURAL LIGHT AND VENTILATION.



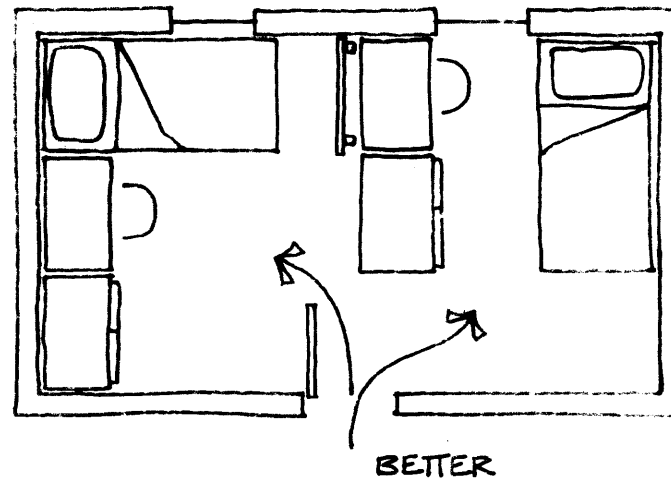
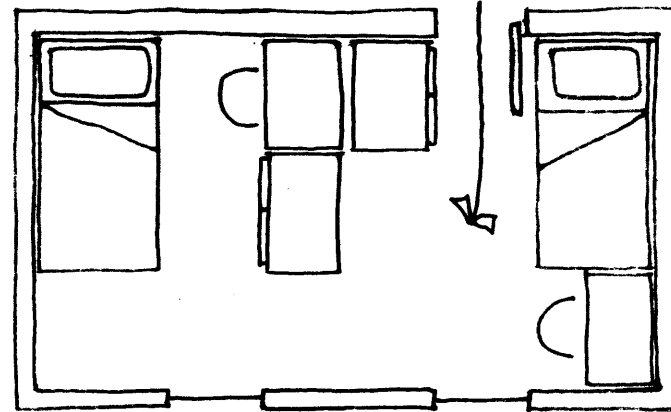
ONE PERSON LOSES ACCESS

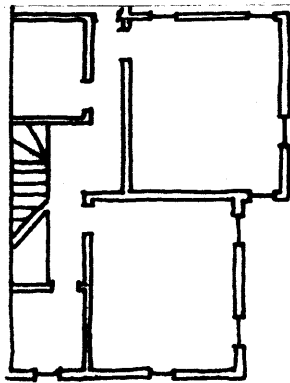


BOTH RETAIN ACCESS WITH PRIVACY

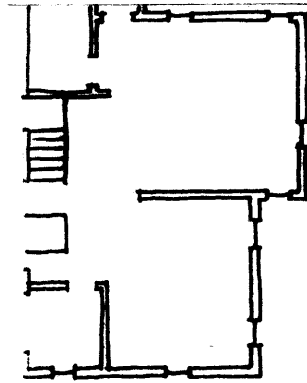
4. ACCESS

A FOURTH CRITICAL FACTOR OF DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS ACCESS TO THE ROOM. ONE PERSON SHOULD NOT HAVE TO CROSS THE PRIVATE TERRITORY OF ANOTHER.





EXISTING

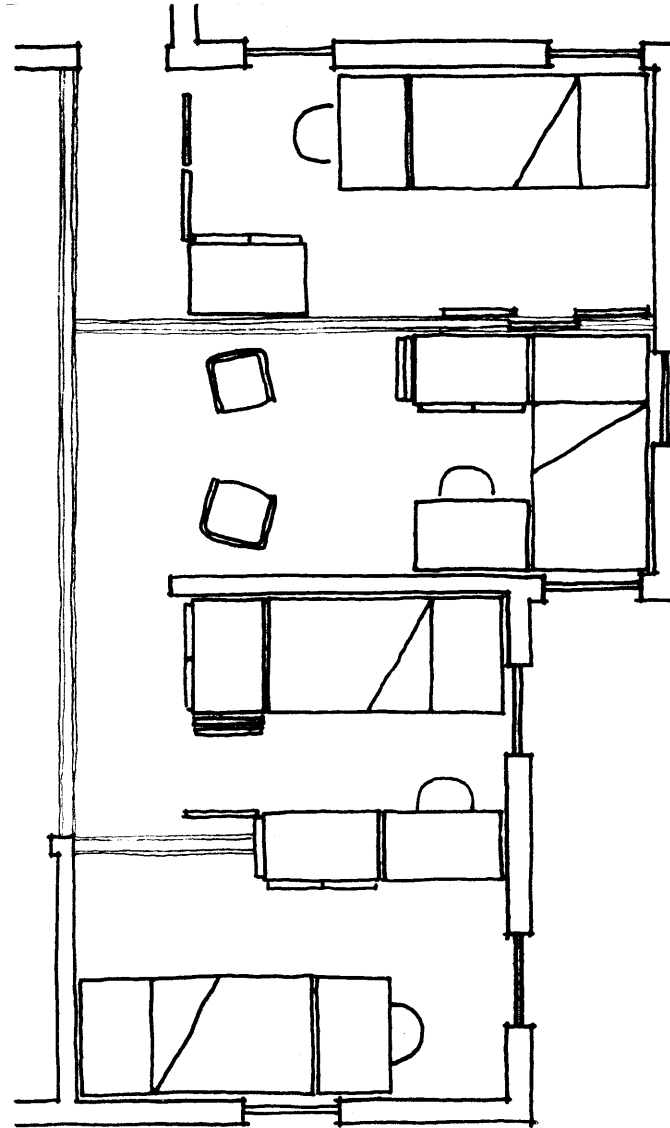


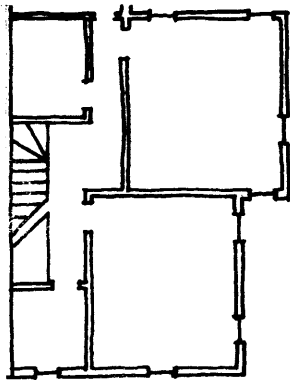
NEW

THE EXISTING PLAN HAS GOOD POSSIBILITIES IN TERMS OF CRITICAL DIMENSIONS AND WINDOW PLACEMENT.

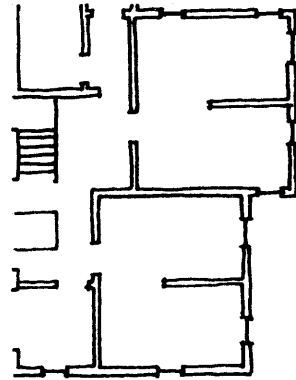
BY REMOVING THE HALLWAY WALLS THE AREA BECOMES COMPLETELY FLEXIBLE. TRACKS IN FLOOR AND CEILING PERMIT USE OF FIXED OR SLIDING PANELS. OTHER DIVISIONS ARE MADE BY CLOSET ARRANGEMENT.

ATTACHING DOUBLE-HINGED FOLDING DOORS TO CLOSETS ALLOWS FURTHER DIVISION.





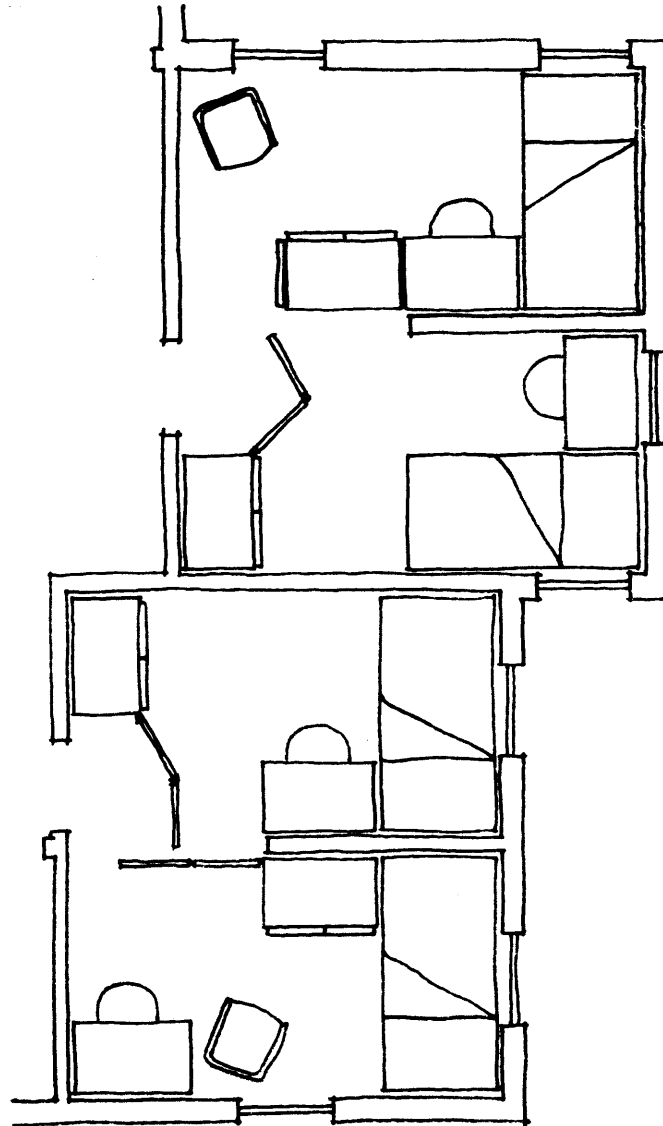
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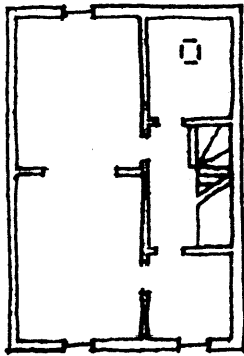


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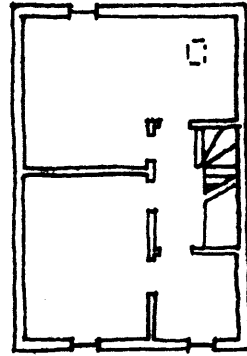
NOT SO RADICAL A CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE HERE. THE DOOR LOCATIONS HAVE BEEN SHIFTED FOR MORE CENTRAL ACCESS. CLOSET DOORS PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BUFFERS.

LIGHTWEIGHT PARTITIONS ARE USED TO ESTABLISH BOUNDARIES. THIS MAY BE A USEFUL EXPERIMENT TO EXPLORE THE BENEFITS OF STRICTLY DIVIDING THE ROOMS ALTHOUGH IT DOES LIMIT FLEXIBILITY.





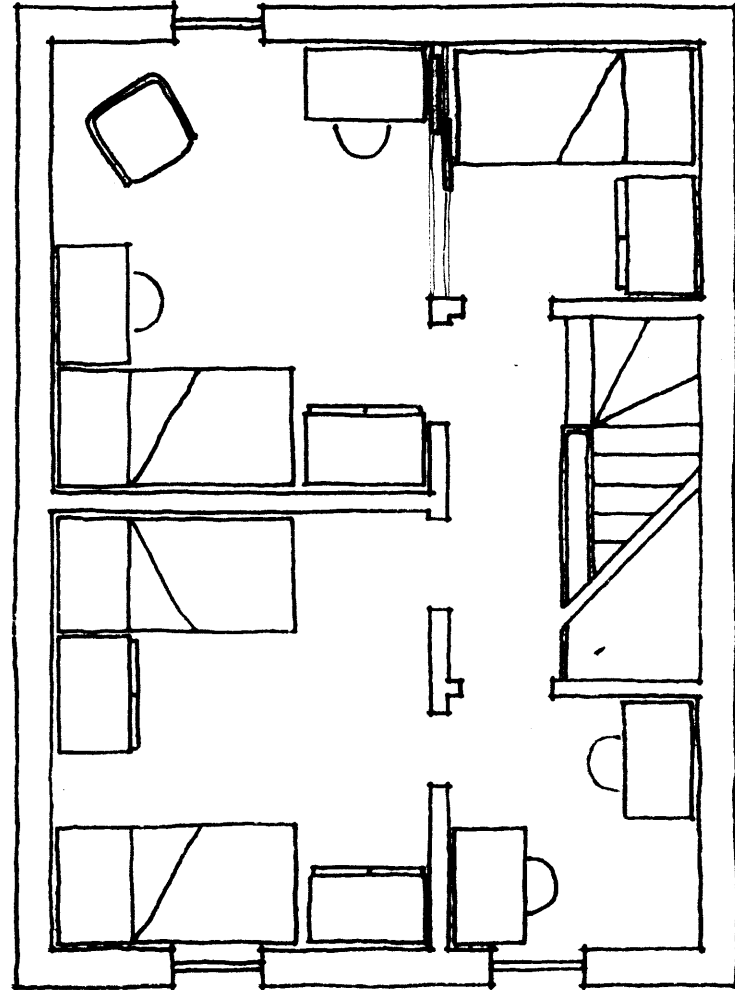
EXISTING



NEW

THIS PLAN HAS BUILT-IN FLEXIBILITY. ALTHOUGH THE ROOMS ARE OF UNEQUAL SIZE, THEIR CONFIGURATION ALLOWS A VARIETY OF USE.

FOUR PRIVATE PLACES OR A COMBINATION OF SHARED SLEEPING AND 'STUDY' AREAS ARE POSSIBLE.



PLACES TO BE WITH OTHERS

"What Erikson has described as a search for identity - finding one's identity in relation to social groups - is a process of exploring social realities through group identification. It is an enlarging of social judgements, so that ultimately individual judgement, the ability to see oneself "as one is", cannot be separated from the capacity to identify with others. It is a sharing of group judgements; the individual finds his own identity in relationship to the community's response." 1.

"We will stress the importance of the spatial framework which conditions the relationship of distance and position of human beings, one to the other, and is likely to create a feeling of security or insecurity, depending on its form and dimension. From this come various medical and particularly architectural applications." 2.

A vital complement to personal space is communal space. A primary function of the halfway house is to help a resident toward integration or re-integration with the community at large. This begins with establishing structures, means of interrelating within the home itself. One gains a sense of personal value in being able to help another, in being listened to by others, in working toward specific goals with others.

In the home, all territory which is not claimed as specific private space becomes "public" within the domain of the residents. "Public" territory requires group decisions on use - kinds of activities allowed within areas, times of occupancy and use, rules governing conduct while in "public" space, etc. The home, in this sense, becomes a microcosm of the community.

The need for cooperative decision-making, individual give and take, simulates society as a whole. But, at the same time the home acts as a socially supportive environment. A certain amount of control is automatically rendered to each person on the basis of his or her residence.

A major consideration in the treatment of mental disorientation is the provision of "normal" environments. (natural, standard, regular) Since a family of more than ten individuals varies from the average, a "normal" home in this case can be taken to mean one which satisfies the natural needs of its inhabitants.

"(Even) the inside of the Western home is organized spatially. Not only are there special rooms for special functions - food preparation, eating, entertaining and socializing, rest, recuperation and procreation - but for sanitation as well." 3.

Special consideration at all times must be given to the special needs of a large family and the necessary props to encourage, not interfere with, group cooperation, i.e. - a kitchen enabling convenient food preparation by more than one person at a time; dining area sufficient for all eating together; entertaining and socializing spaces permitting intimate and large group uses; and work areas for projects of personal and general house interest. Primarily the contrast between private and public areas within the house lies in the desire for accessibility in the latter. While individuals must not feel "exposed" in the public areas, there should be an easy flow into activities occurring within them.

In practice this indicates that public areas should be visually open for casual joining in. One should not be forced to open doors, having all eyes suddenly directed at one, in order to enter a group situation. This criteria will be further elaborated upon in the following examination of particular public areas within the home.

DINING ROOM

In the halfway house as in the nuclear family, communes, and cooperative living situations, eating together is a major opportunity for social contact. Dining is both an opportunity and a reason for sitting down together in close association.

The impracticality of eleven or more people sharing all meals together indicates that all residents will probably not come together for breakfast and lunch. But provision should be made for sharing the evening meal. Here I have assumed it reasonable to plan for 14 persons at a common meal. This accounts for 8 residents, the houseparents, a staff member and guests. The house would probably have to set up rules governing when and how many guests could come. In the present discussion I will set the table for three.

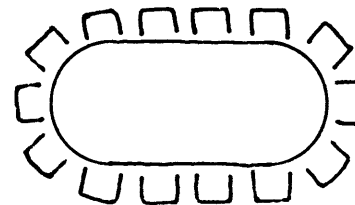
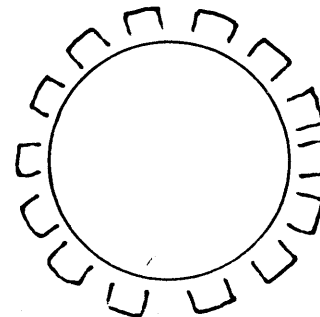
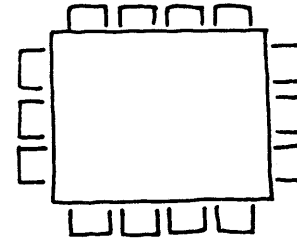
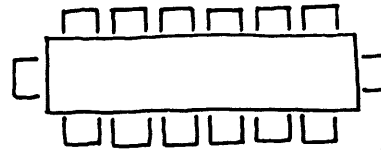
For comfortable seating there is a minimum amount of space required per person at the table - 26"/person is the general rule. This is the most easily specified concern in planning the dining area. However, it is not in any way a sufficient criterion.

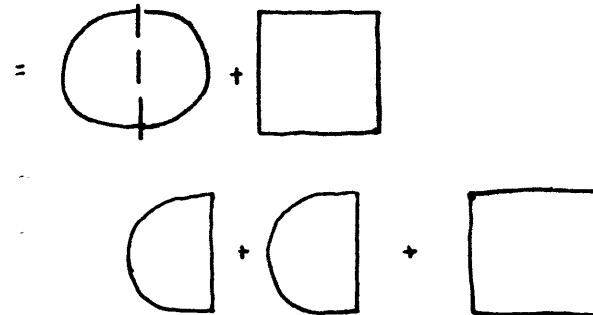
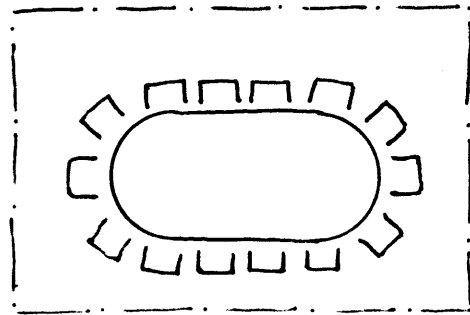
DINING TABLE

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SHAPE OF THE DINING TABLE CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED. SOMMER AND OSMOND DEMONSTRATED THAT "CROSS-CORNER CONVERSATIONS WERE TWICE AS FREQUENT AS SIDE BY SIDE, WHICH IN TURN WERE THREE TIMES AS FREQUENT AS THOSE ACROSS THE TABLE." 4.

WHEN I HAD DINNER AT WELLMET I WAS TOLD IT WOULD BE BETTER IF THE DINING ROOM COULD HOLD A ROUND TABLE RATHER THAN ITS LONG, NARROW ONE.

A ROUND TABLE FOR FOURTEEN PEOPLE IS RATHER CUMBERSOME BUT AN OVAL TABLE APPROACHES A REASONABLE COMPROMISE.

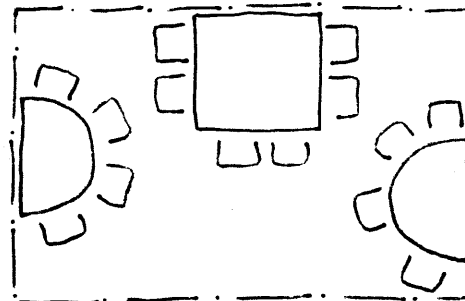


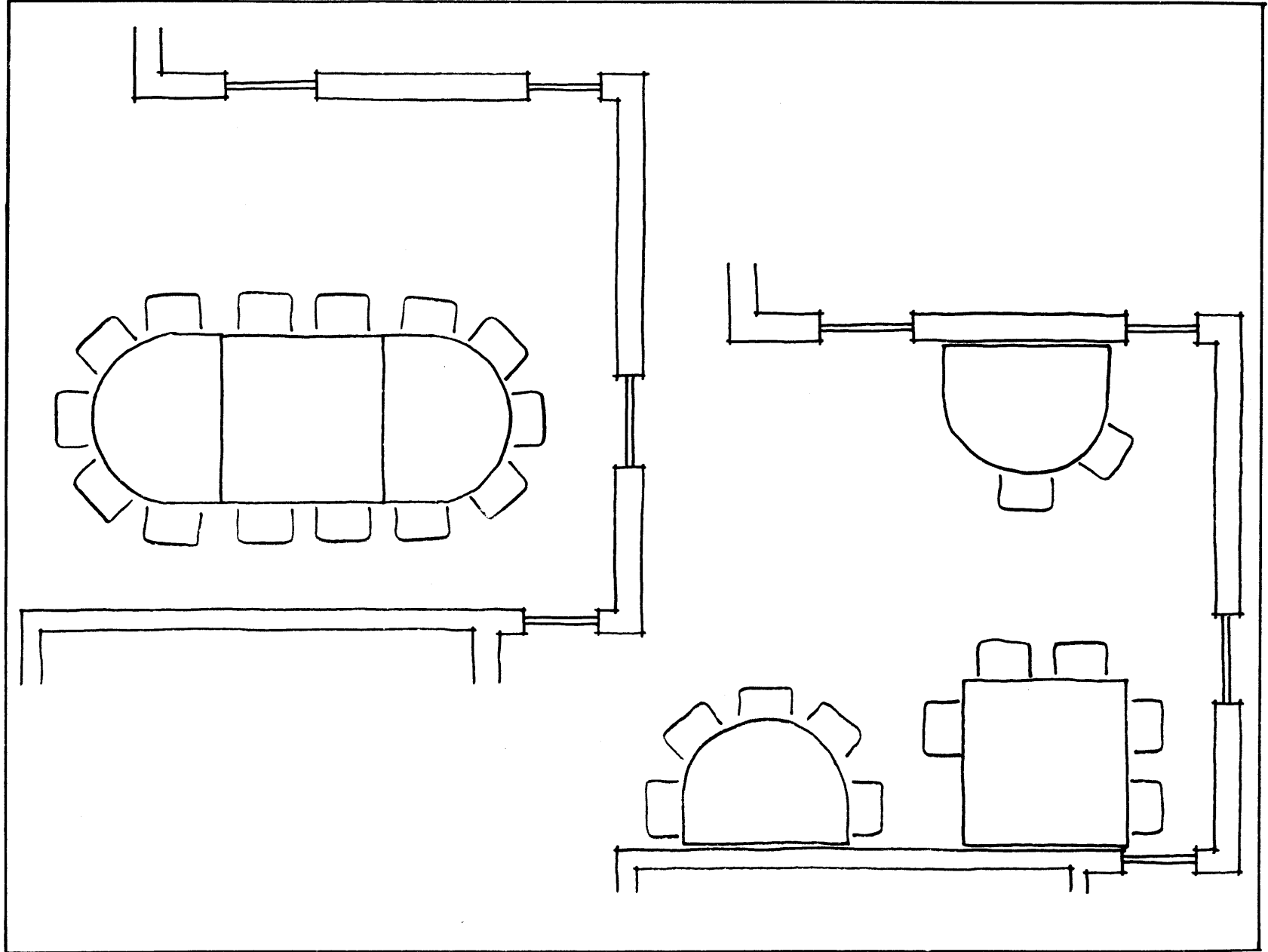


THIS/THESE TABLE/S CAN BE CONSTRUCTED WITH RELATIVE EASE USING A SPOOL OR STANDARD TABLE BASE.

FOURTEEN PEOPLE CONVERSING AT THE SAME TABLE MAY NOT BE PREFERABLE AT ALL TIMES. THE COMMUNAL MEAL CAN OCCUR AT THE SAME TABLE ON WEEKENDS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS. AT OTHER TIMES SMALL GROUPS CAN FORM.

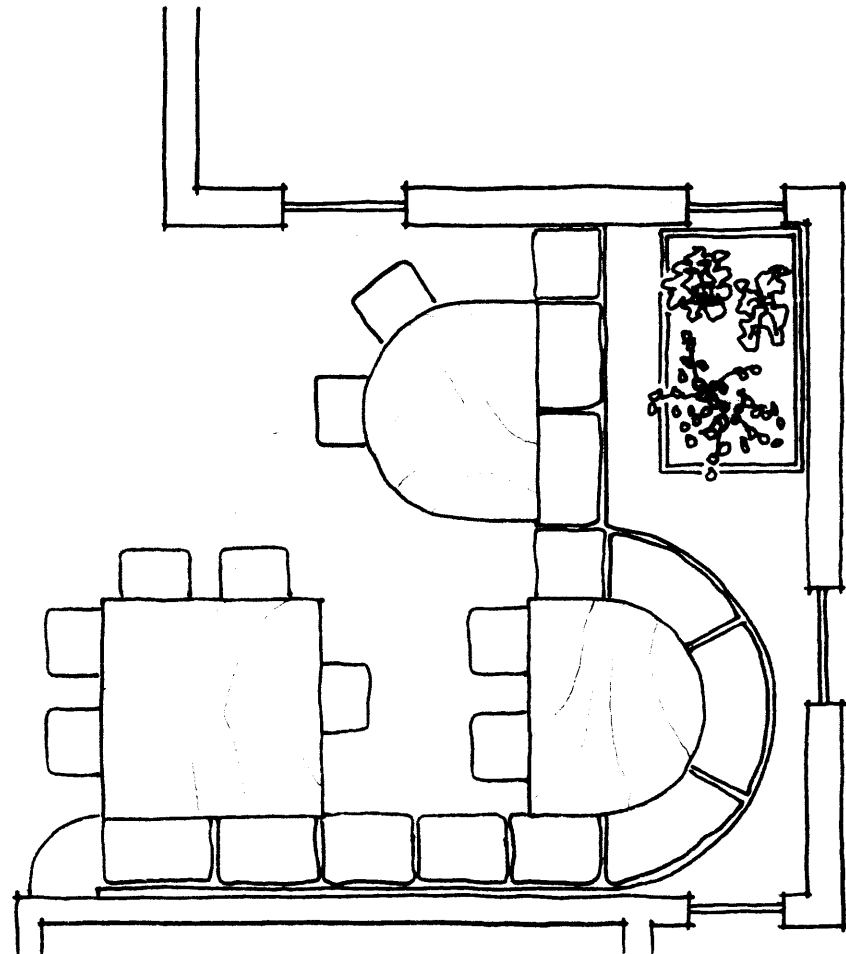
TABLES CAN ALSO BE USED FOR CRAFTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

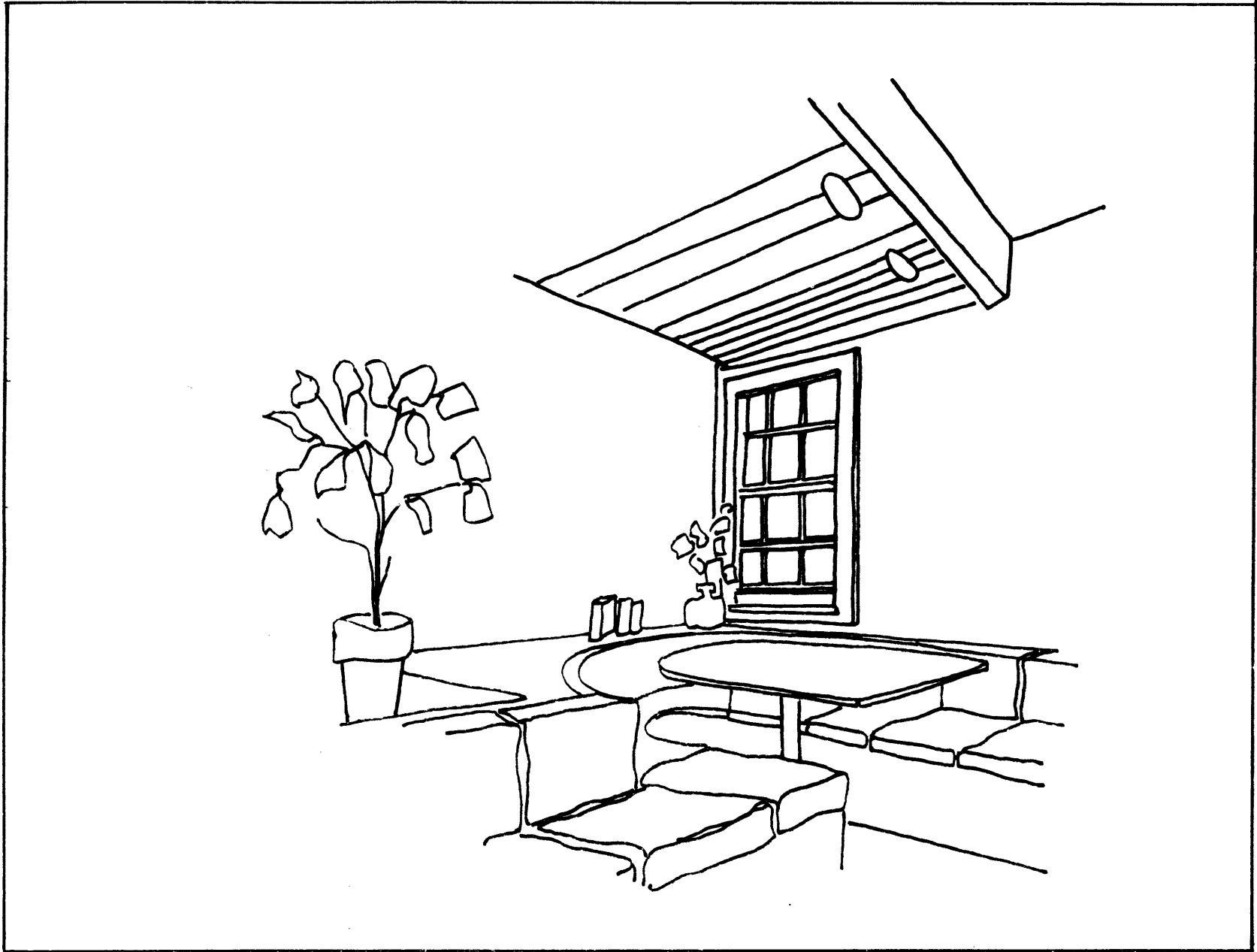




MOVING AN APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF TABLES AROUND DOES NOT MAKE A DINING ROOM. HERE A BUILT-IN BENCH HELPS TO FORM SPECIAL PLACES WHILE STILL ALLOWING ASSEMBLY OF ONE LARGE TABLE.

FOR A PARTY OR OTHER OCCASION REQUIRING FLOOR SPACE THE TABLES CAN BE MOVED OUT LEAVING THE BENCH SEATING, STORAGE AND RAISED PLANT / DISPLAY AREA - NOT AN EMPTY ROOM.





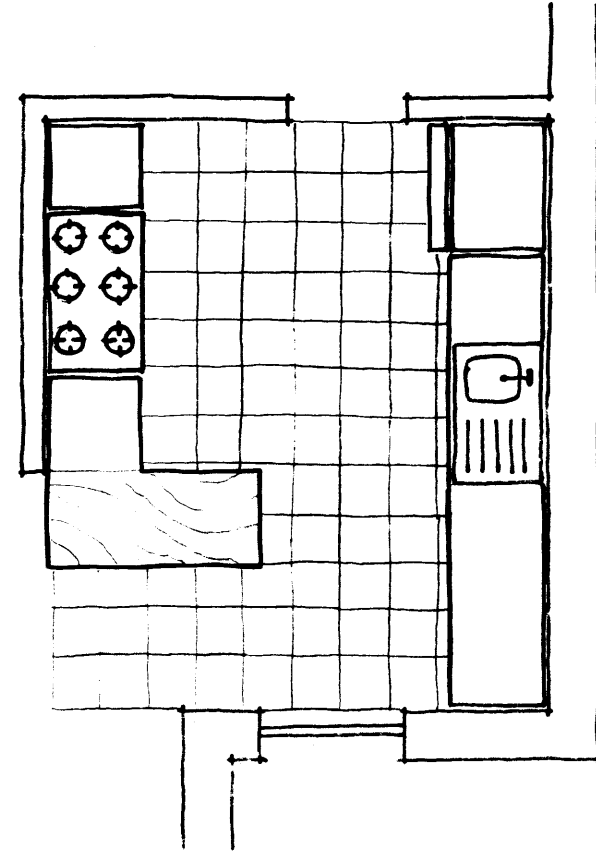
KITCHEN PLANNING

A WELL PLANNED KITCHEN EASES THE TASK OF FOOD PREPARATION AND ADDS TO THE PLEASURE OF COOKING. GENERAL USE PATTERNS INDICATE THE LOCATION OF MAJOR ELEMENTS - SINK, STOVE AND REFRIGERATOR.

LOCATING THE SINK CENTRALLY ACCOMMODATES WASHING AND PREPARING OF PRODUCE FROM THE REFRIGERATOR AS WELL AS WASHING OF COOKING UTENSILS AFTER USE.

A HEAT PROOF SURFACE ADJACENT TO THE STOVE AND CLOSE TO THE DINING ROOM MAKES SERVING A SIMPLER TASK.

IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT MORE THAN ONE PERSON WILL BE USING THE KITCHEN AT THE SAME TIME. SPACE FOR PASSAGE AND MORE THAN ONE WORK SURFACE ARE REQUISITE.



STORAGE

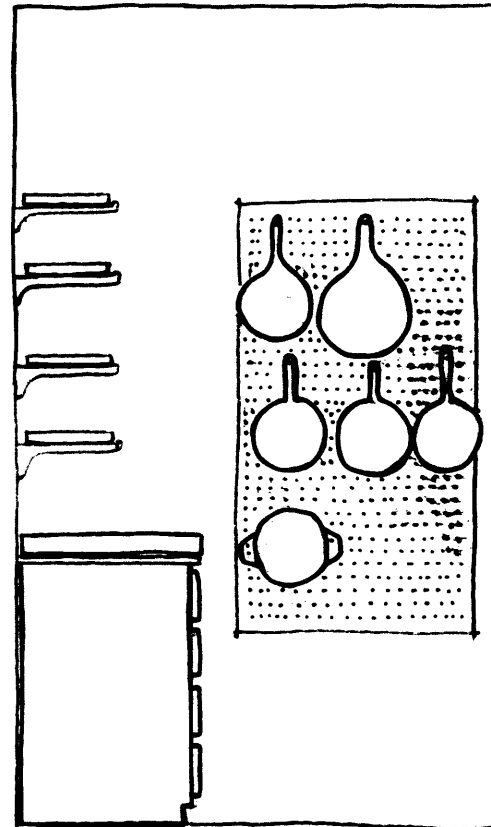
TYPICAL KITCHEN CABINETS ARE EXPENSIVE. THEY DO NOT MAKE SENSE HERE FOR OTHER REASONS AS WELL.

ALL PERSONS SHOULD BE ABLE TO USE THE KITCHEN WITH EQUAL EASE, TO FIND EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES WITHOUT MEMORIZING LOCATIONS.

VISIBILITY IS A PRIME FACTOR. DRAWERS AND BINS RATHER THAN BASE CABINETS PROVIDE EASE OF ASSESS AT MINIMUM EXPENSE.

OPEN SHELVING CONSTRUCTED WITH SHELVING STANDARDS, CRATES AND OTHER FOUND MATERIALS ENCOURAGE VARIETY DENOTING SPECIFIC STORAGE AREAS.

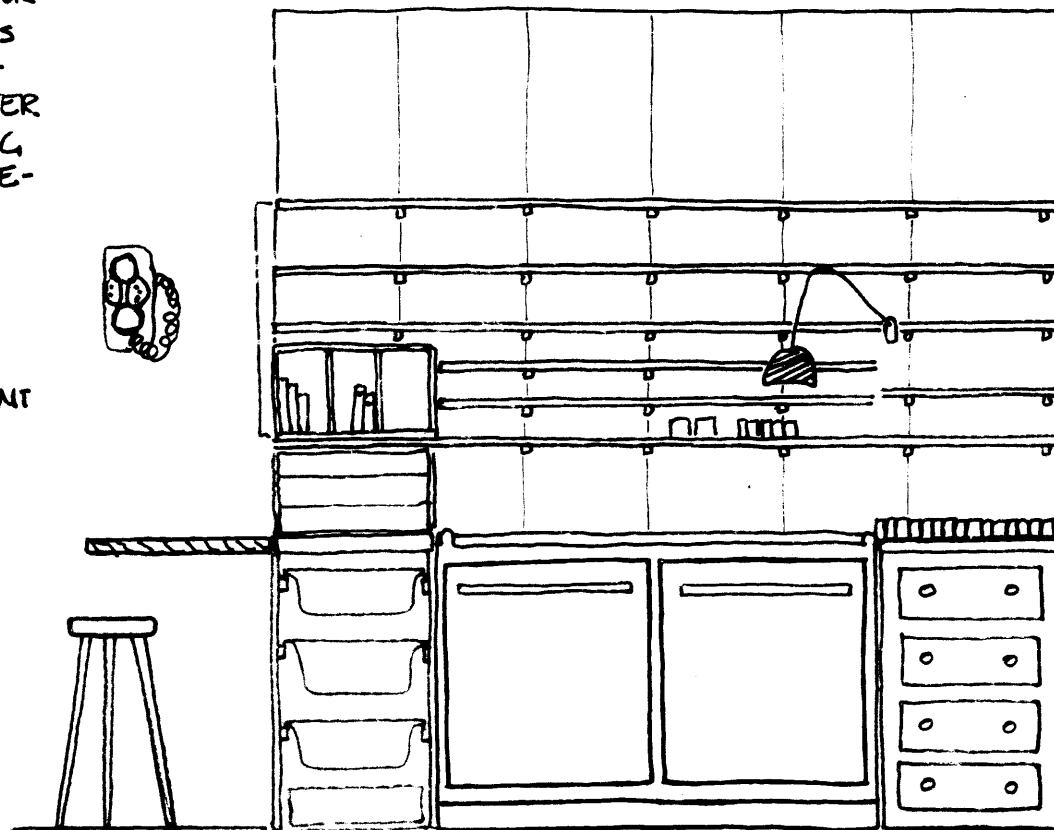
PEGBOARDS FOR COOKING UTENSILS KEEP THEM IN CONSTANT VIEW AND EASY REACH.



A BUREAU WORKS WELL FOR KITCHEN STORAGE. 2'x4's LAMINATED TO TOP SURFACE RAISE IT TO COUNTER HEIGHT. WHILE PROVIDING CUTTING & WORK SURFACE- HOMEMADE 'BUTCHER BLOCK'.

COLORFUL STRIPES MEET AT STUD LOCATIONS SIMPLIFYING ATTACHMENT OF SHELVES AND OTHER CONTAINERS.

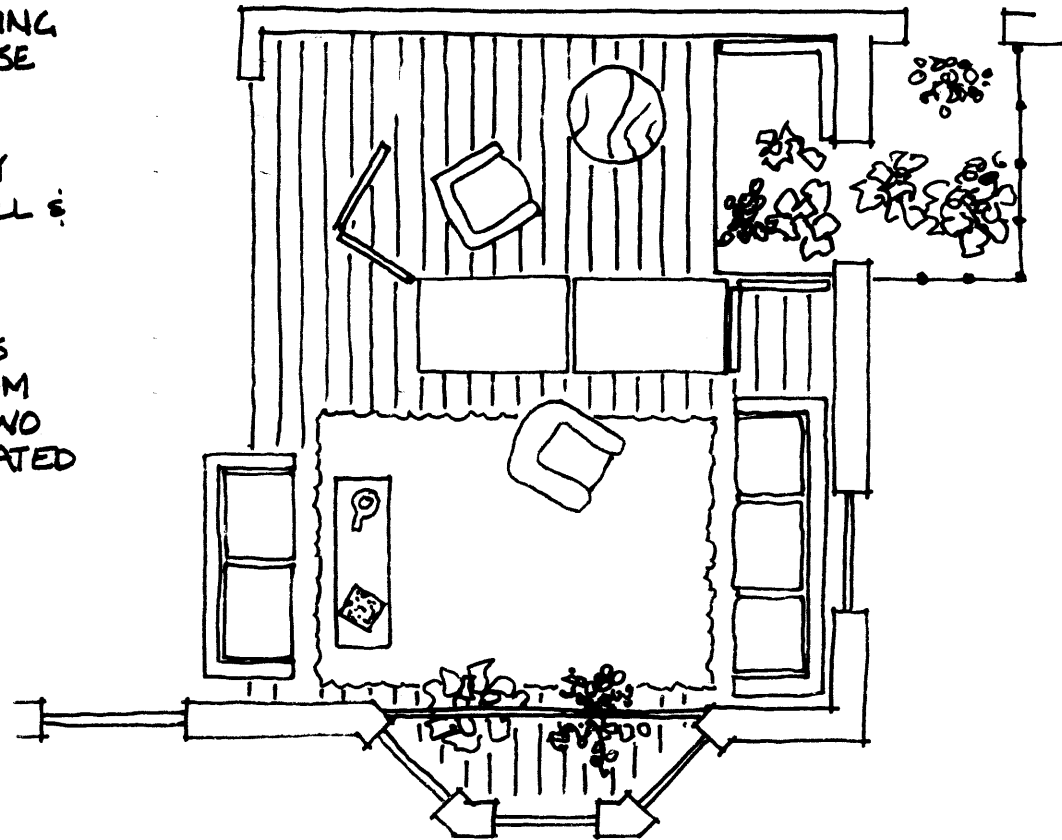
RUBBER 'DISHPANS' PULL OUT TO DISPLAY THEIR CONTENTS.



'LIVING' ROOM

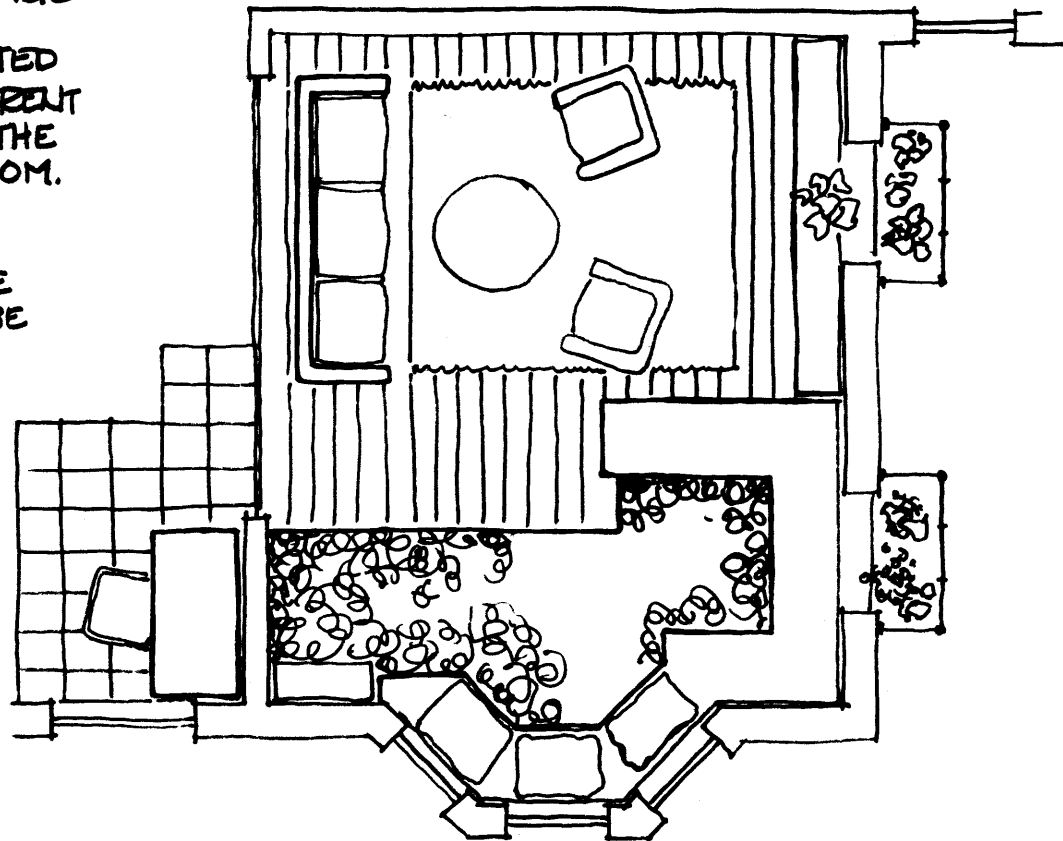
THE LIVING ROOM IS THE PRIMARY PLACE FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION, ENTERTAINING AND RELAXATION. FOR USE BY ELEVEN PEOPLE IT SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO COMFORTABLY ACCOMMODATE BOTH SMALL & LARGE GROUPS.

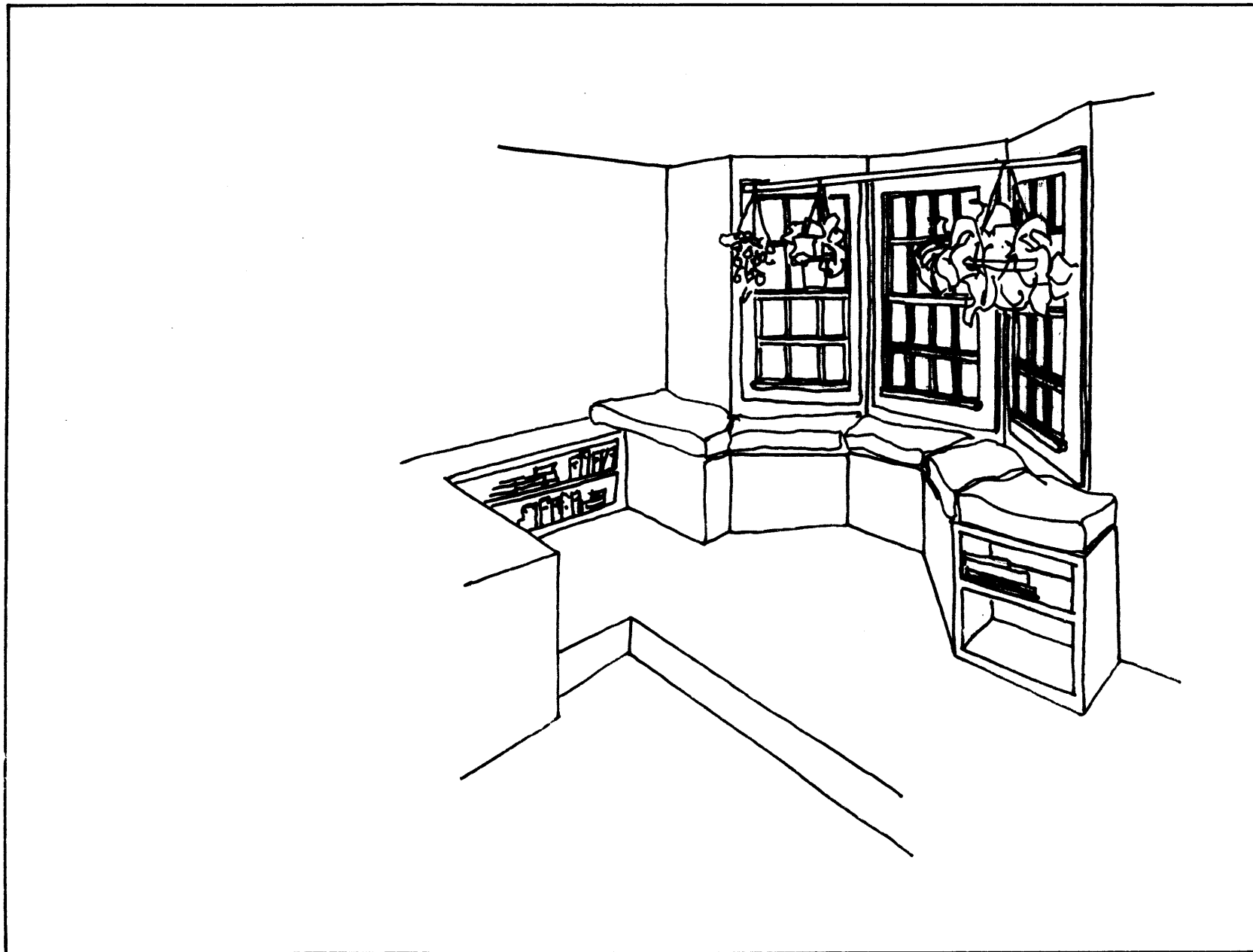
HERE A SEPARATION BY FURNITURE - SHELF UNITS SIMILAR TO THE BEDROOM CLOSET UNITS - FORMS TWO DISTINCT BUT NOT ISOLATED AREAS.



A SECOND MEANS OF
DEFINING CONVERSATION
AREAS IS BY LEVEL CHANGE
WITHIN THE ROOM. A
SLIGHTLY RAISED, CARPETED
AREA CREATES A DIFFERENT
ENVIRONMENT WITHIN THE
TRADITIONAL LIVING ROOM.

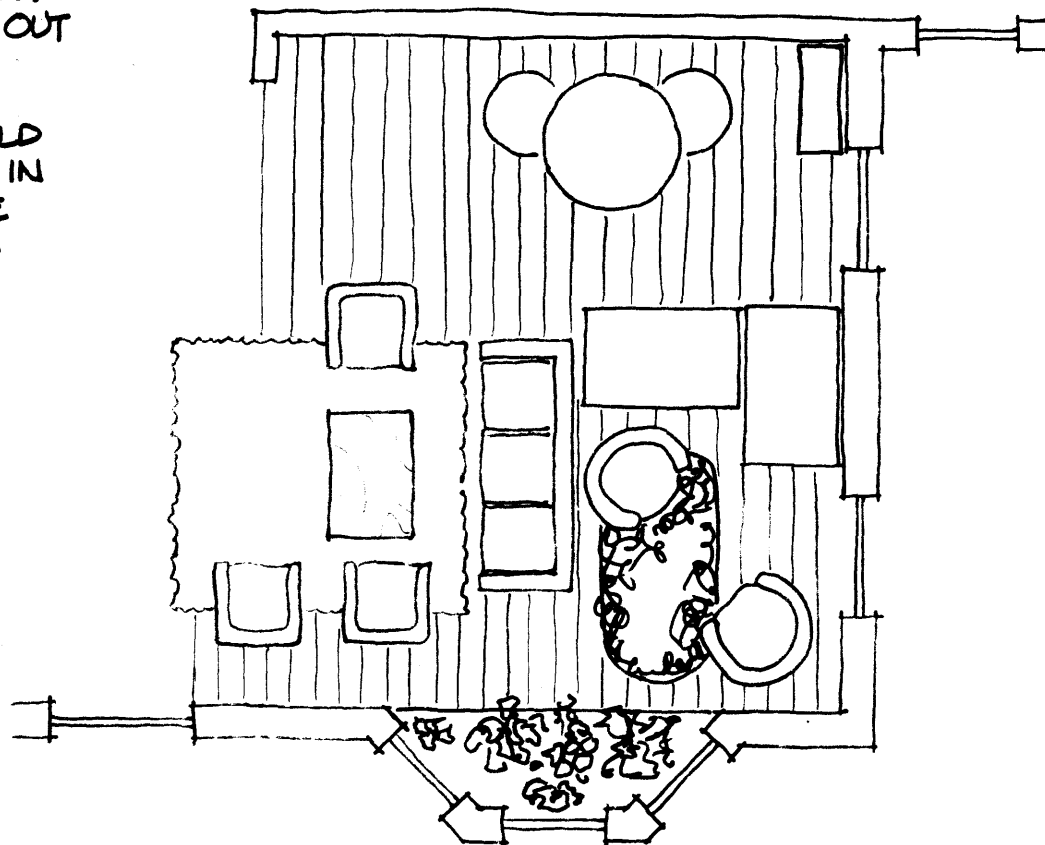
THE ROOM CAN STILL BE
USED AS A WHOLE. THE
PLATFORM MAT ALSO BE
USED AS A STAGE
FOR SMALL PSYCHO-
DRAMA OR ROLE-
PLAYING SESSIONS.





I PARTICULARLY LIKE THIS
ARRANGEMENT BECAUSE
ONE OF THE CONVERSATION
AREAS IS DIRECTED OUT
OF THE ROOM.

IN PASSING BY IT WOULD
BE EASY TO ENGAGE IN
ACTIVITY WITH SOMEONE
SITTING ON THE COUCH.

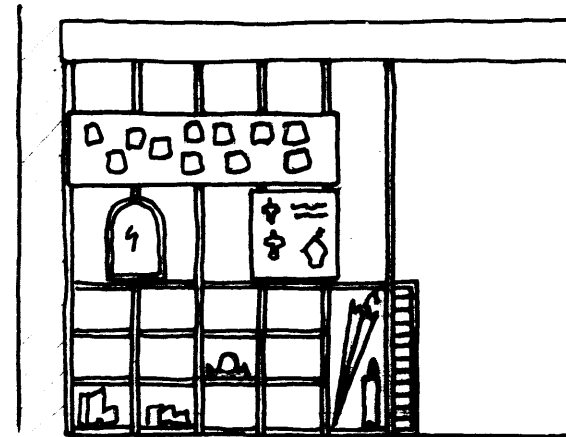


ENTRANCE

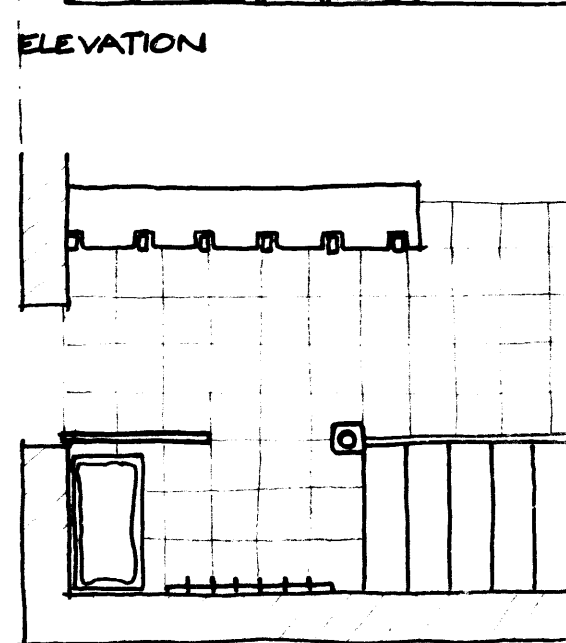
THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN FEELING BETWEEN WALKING INTO A DORMITORY AND ENTERING A HOME. THE ENTRANCE TO A HOME IS MORE PERSONALIZED. RATHER THAN TAKING ONE'S COAT AND OTHER OUTDOOR CLOTHING TO A PRIVATE CLOSET ONE CAN LEAVE THINGS AT THE DOOR - A MORE NATURAL PLACE FOR THEM.

A PLACE FOR MAIL, NOTES, PHOTOS OF RESIDENTS, A MIRROR, COAT RACK, CLOCK, KEYS AND OTHER ITEMS IDENTIFYING PEOPLE AND ACTIVITIES INTRODUCES THE HOUSE TO VISITORS AND HELPS RESIDENTS KEEP TRACK OF THEIR OWN AND MUTUAL INTERESTS.

HERE REMOVAL OF A PLASTER WALL, LEAVING THE STUDS, PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK FOR SHELVING AND DISPLAY SURFACES. IT ALSO FORMS A PENETRABLE BOUNDARY TO THE LIVING ROOM. PEOPLE ENTERING THE HOUSE CAN EASILY JOIN IN ACTIVITIES HAPPENING THERE.



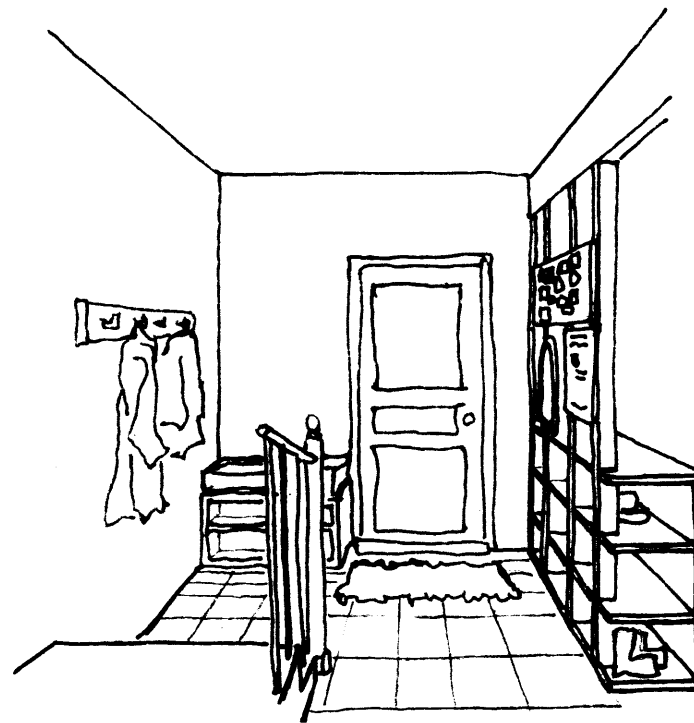
ELEVATION



PLAN

SOMEONE ENTERING HERE CAN SIT DOWN TO REMOVE BOOTS. MEANWHILE, OVERHEARING CONVERSATION IN THE ADJOINING LIVING ROOM, HE OR SHE MAY JOIN IN OR CONTINUE UPSTAIRS.

A VISITOR CAN BE INTRODUCED TO PHOTOGRAPHS OR DRAWINGS OF RESIDENTS AND STAFF THUS MAKING IT EASIER TO LATER RECALL NAMES. I FOUND MYSELF STUDYING THE DINNER LIST AT WELLMET (POSTED FOR THE COOK OF THE DAY INDICATING WHO WOULD BE PRESENT) BECAUSE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO REMEMBER FOURTEEN OR SO NAMES AFTER A BRIEF INTRODUCTION.

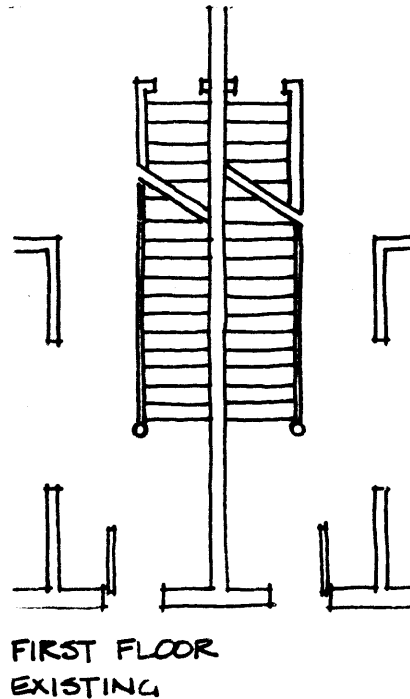


STAIRS

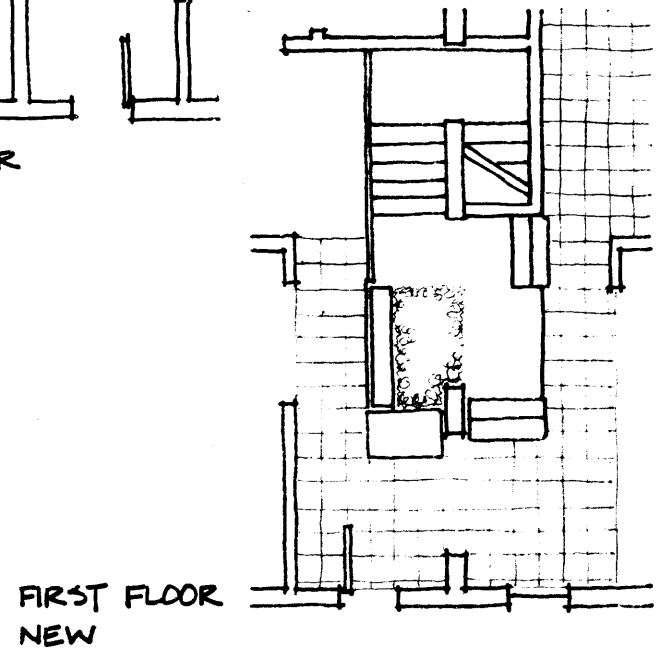
A TWO-FAMILY HOUSE WILL OFTEN MEET THE SIZE AND CONFIGURATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE HALFWAY HOUSE. IN CASES WHERE EACH FAMILY OCCUPIES HALF OF A TWO STORY DWELLING THE STAIRS ARE USUALLY LOCATED CENTRALLY, AGAINST THE PARTY WALL.

THE STAIRS WILL NEED REDESIGN TO UNIFY THE TWO UNITS INTO ONE HOME. THIS OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAKING A UNIQUE PLACE. AS PART OF THE ENTRANCE THE STAIRS CAN EXPAND TO HOLD QUALITIES DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY PLUS A LIBRARY, SMALL GAME AREA, A SITTING/WAITING PLACE.

A CENTRAL AREA BETWEEN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC ZONES, THE STAIRS PROVIDE AN OBSERVATION POINT SOMEWHAT REMOVED FROM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES, BUT NOT ISOLATED.



FIRST FLOOR
EXISTING

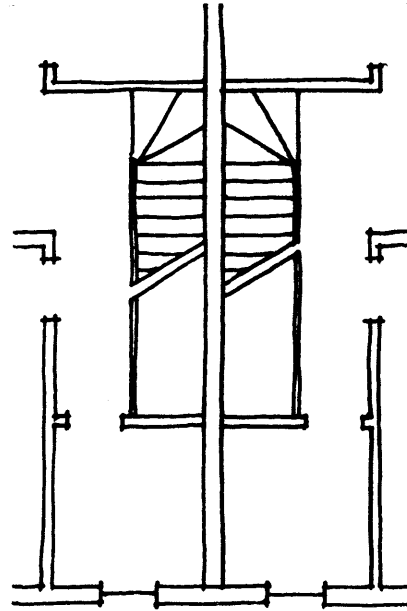


FIRST FLOOR
NEW

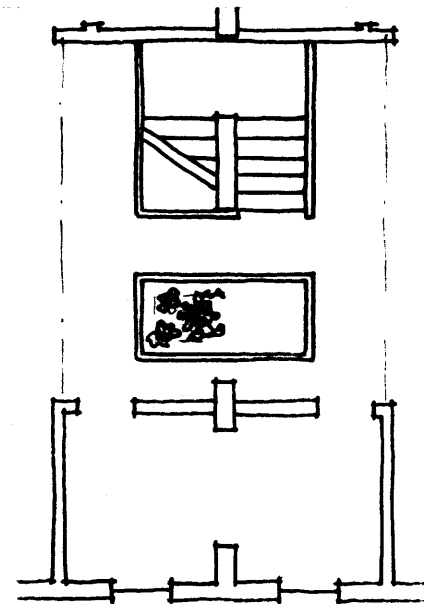
CENTRAL STAIRS HAVE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR THE SECOND FLOOR PRIVATE AREAS OF THE HOUSE. THEY PROVIDE EQUAL ACCESS FOR ALL RESIDENTS, FORM A BUFFER BETWEEN PRIVATE PLACES AND ACT AS A COMMON TRANSITION AREA TO THE FIRST FLOOR.

LOOKING DOWN FROM THE BRIDGE ONE CAN SEE VISITORS ENTERING AND CONTACT OTHERS ON THE FIRST FLOOR.

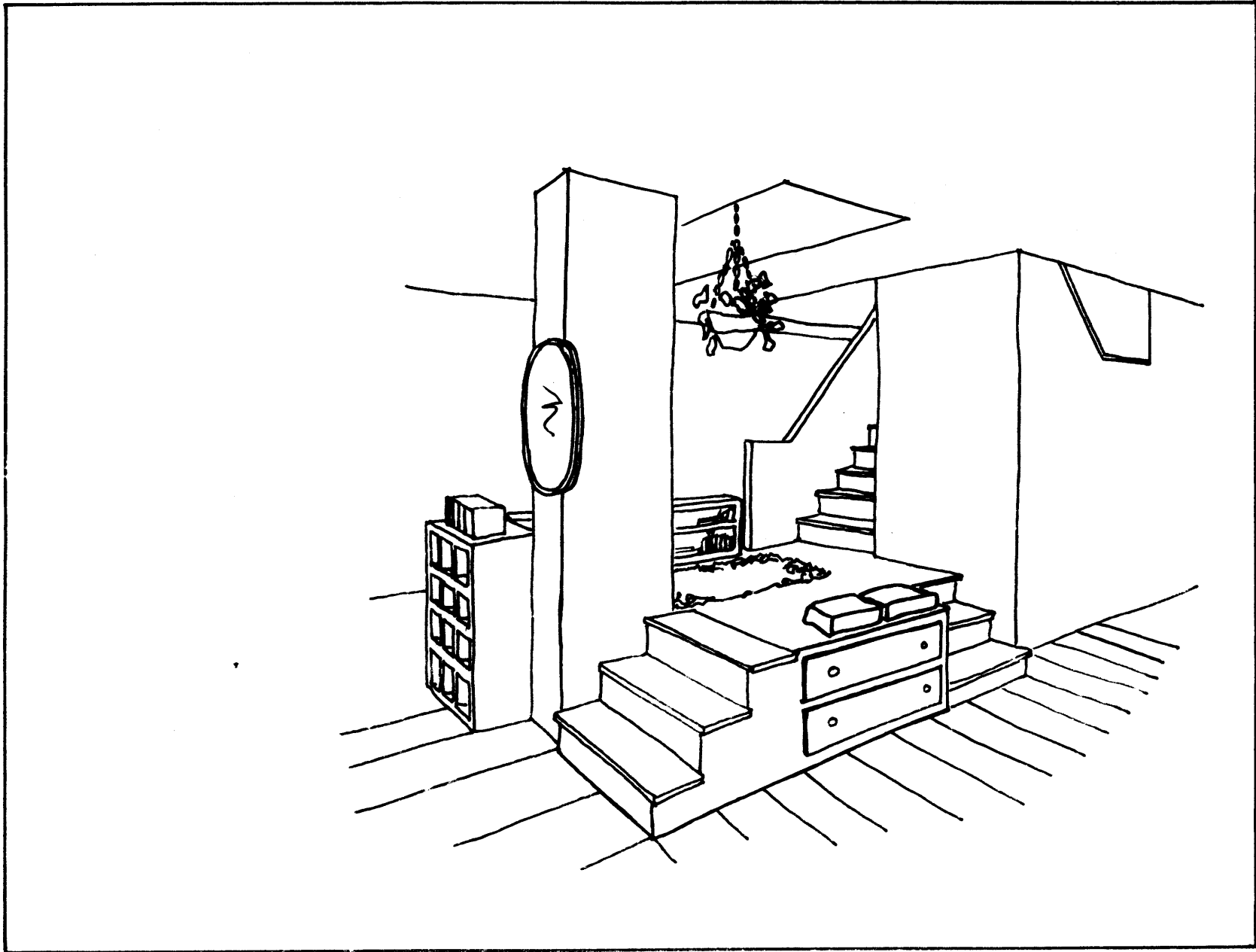
A SKYLIGHT PERMITS NATURAL LIGHT TO FALL ON THE PLATFORM BELOW AND ENCOURAGES PLANTS IN THE CENTER OF THE HOUSE.



SECOND FLOOR
EXISTING



SECOND FLOOR
NEW



CRITERIA CHECKLIST

The following list of criteria is a starting mechanism for planning, selecting and organizing a house. It is by no means a complete enumeration of all requirements. Nor should it be used as such. Rather it is a survey of information which I found useful and pertinent to the selection of a particular house.

In looking for a house in East Boston I found myself running through a mental checklist of criteria. The list became longer and more explicit as I saw the advantages and disadvantages of various types of housing.

I hope that anyone using this will add his or her own criteria and additional requirements, modify it to fit specific conditions. It should provide a basis for thinking about the importance of spatial order within a house.

Some of the information has been previously discussed in chapters dealing with specific spaces. Other material will be more clearly apparent in the following analysis of specific house types.

PRIVATE PLACES

1. Is there a sufficient number of bedrooms to give each person a private room? (probably not) If not, how do the existing bedrooms meet the criteria of spatial configuration, light and ventilation, and access? Are they conducive to flexible division by means of furniture, partitions or panels?
2. What is the overall plan of the private area? Are all the bedrooms on one floor or separated by floor?

If it is deemed advisable to provide separate zones for men and women residents, can this be reasonably accomplished? What provides the separation; do both have equal access to the rest of the house?

3. How does the staff member's private place relate to the residents'? Is he or she easily accessible while maintaining a degree of privacy? If the private areas of men and women residents are separated, do both retain equal relationships to the staff member?
4. Can the houseparents be given an apartment without disturbing the private and communal relationships of the house? Will their apartment be of adequate size for private entertaining and family

life? How does the location of their apartment affect their participation in the life of the house?

5. What are the priorities on use of a guest room? Is it convenient for both men and women? Will a visitor feel that he or she is a part of the home when staying in the guest room? Can the room be easily used as an additional private area when there are no guests?

Can friends of the staff member have access to it? Do the houseparents need their own private guest room or will they also want access?

PLACES TO BE WITH OTHERS

1. Is there an area sufficient to comfortably accommodate all and guests at dinner? Does the dining table offer possibilities for both a common meal and small group meals? Does the room provide places for small groups where they can privately engage in conversation or table activities without being disturbed?
2. Is the kitchen arranged for convenience of food preparation and cleaning up? Is there enough space for passage of more than one or two people - i.e. can three people engage in washing, drying and putting away dishes without bumping into each other? (or loading the dishwasher) Is

there a serving area convenient to the dining area? Sufficient counter and storage space? Is there a place to sit while visiting with or helping the cook?

3. How does the living room meet the requirements for small and large group activities? Does it allow for a variety of furniture arrangements or do traffic patterns eat up the space? Can it be entered easily? Is it open to general visibility of residents coming and going so that they might see and join activities they might otherwise miss?

OVERALL RELATIONSHIPS

1. Is it possible to be alone without losing contact with others in the house?
2. Are stairs a barrier or an asset?
3. Is the kitchen isolated from other activity areas, making one feel cut off when involved in cooking? Does it adjoin dining and living areas?

THE HEART OF A HOUSE

Someone once told me that in choosing a house, when all objective criteria are met, one should

sit quietly in the middle of the house, relaxed
and listening. Then, if the house "feels" right,
it can become your home.

APPLICATIONS

In order to test the various criteria already established, I have applied them to four typical house types. Three are houses which Frank Ehrenthal and I considered for use as a halfway house -
1. single family detached, 2. three family detached,
3. row house. It was with these houses that we worked to establish needs and criteria.

The fourth house, a duplex, is a typical dwelling in the Boston area. In East Boston we have not found one within our price range. This is unfortunate because I think this type has the potential to best satisfy our criteria. Since it works so well one might think that I fabricated the plans. I didn't; it is an existing house in Cambridge. In all cases, I have very closely followed the premise of privacy in bedroom areas. It should be apparent that the rooms have previously been used for two persons and can be used in the traditional way. I have tried to show potential alternatives using modular units.

In all dining areas I have indicated space for one large table. This assumes that if all can be accommodated at one table, then there is sufficient area for small groups.

All of the houses have basement areas, commensurate with first floor area, which can be used for work

shops, laundry areas, etc. Since they are virtually equal, I haven't used them as a distinguishing criteria. The same reasoning applies for yard area although the row house does have a considerably smaller yard than the others.

Where walls have been removed, I have not indicated new beams. This seemed to overcomplicate the drawings. However, in all cases, I have taken into consideration the feasibility of changing structure and only removed walls where it would be possible to do so.

For reference, all houses are drawn at the scale of $1/8" = 1'-0"$. You can make furniture out of cut paper and try other arrangements.

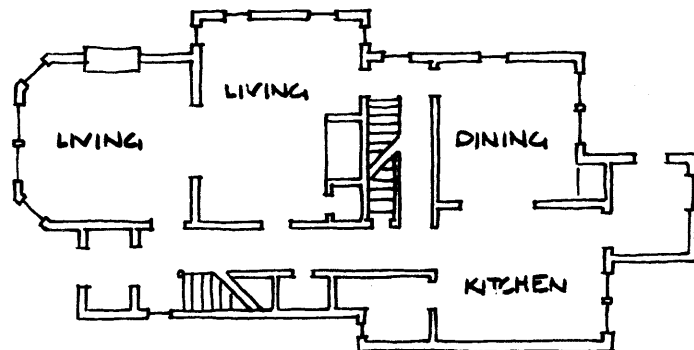
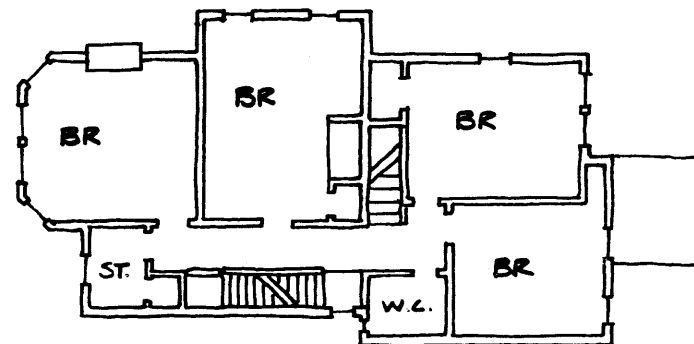
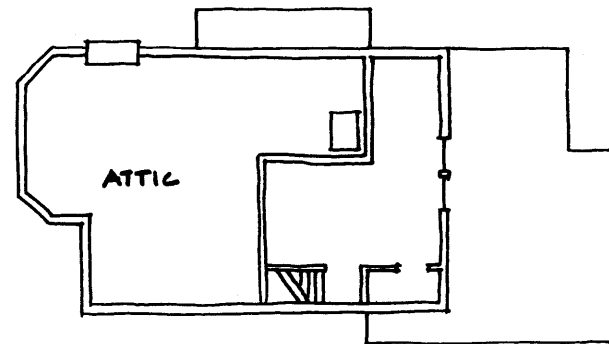
SINGLE FAMILY DETACHED

EXISTING CONDITIONS

2 1/2 FLOORS C. 2500 SQ. FT.

THIS IS THE FIRST HOUSE WE LOOKED AT AS A POSSIBLE CHOICE. SINCE IT WAS AN OCCUPIED, SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE IT ALREADY HAD THE FEELING OF A HOME. FIREPLACES IN BOTH LIVING ROOMS AND TWO BEDROOMS ALSO GAVE A PSYCHOLOGICAL FEELING OF WARMTH.

HOWEVER, IN TERMS OF OUR PROGRAM, THERE ARE SOME MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH THE OVERALL PLAN OF THE HOUSE.



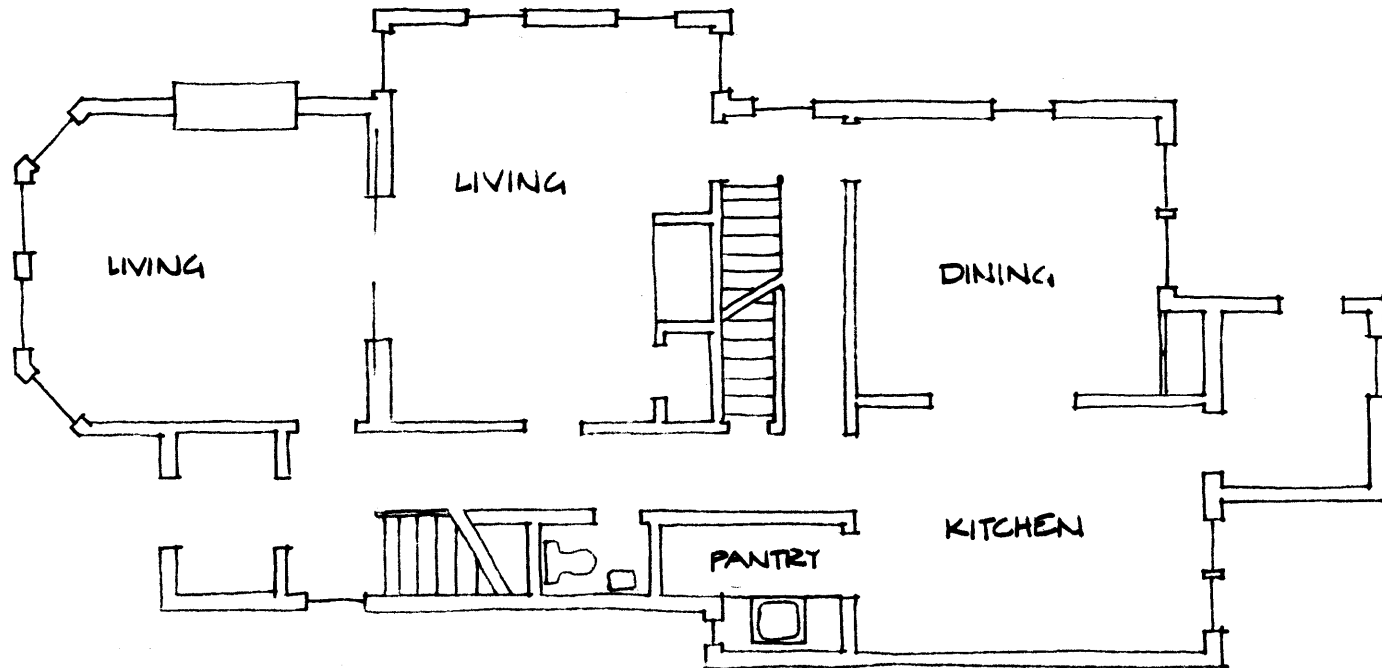
FIRST FLOOR EXISTING

THE DINING ROOM IS TOO SMALL TO ACCOMMODATE A TABLE LARGE ENOUGH FOR FOURTEEN. THIS CAN BE AMENDED QUITE EASILY THROUGH THE REMOVAL OF WALLS.

THE KITCHEN SINK, LOCATED IN THE PANTRY, DOES NOT PERMIT EASY

ACCESS. IT SHOULD BE MOVED OR ANOTHER SINK ADDED.

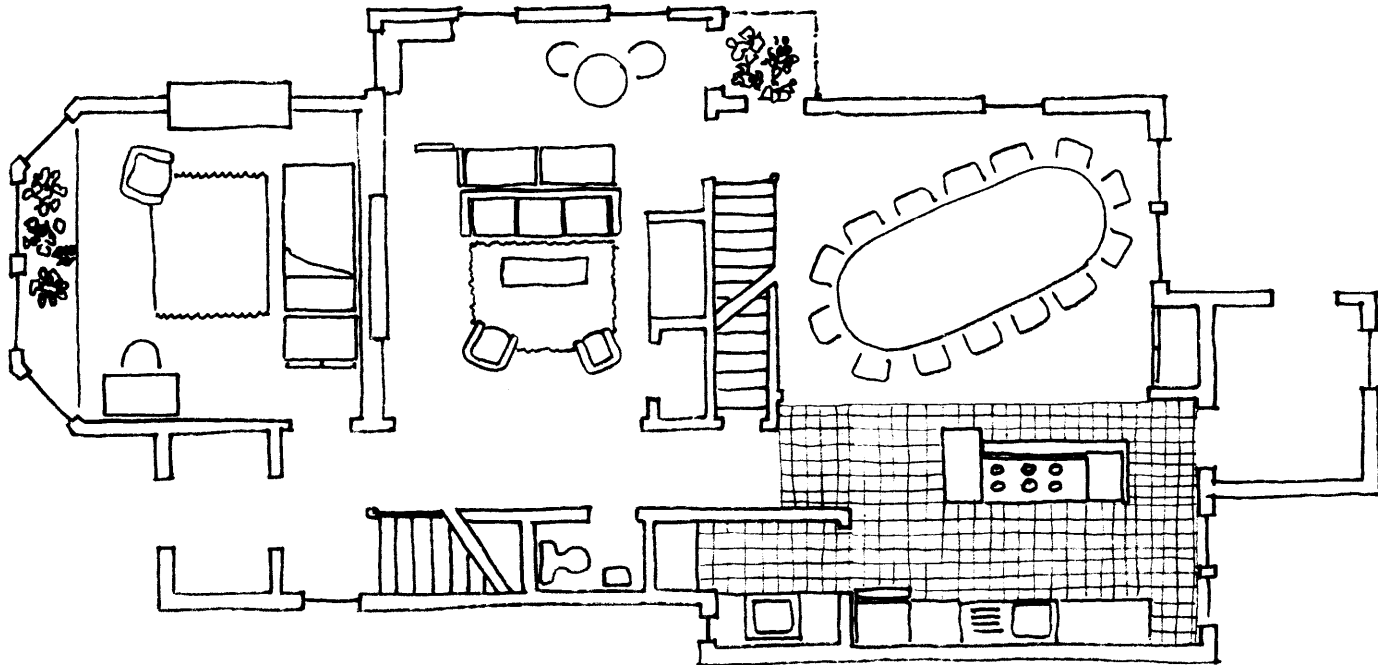
THE PANTRY IS DEFINATELY AN ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF STORAGE AREA.



FIRST FLOOR NEW

ALTHOUGH THE HOUSE HAS TWO LIVING ROOMS UNFORTUNATELY ONE OF THEM WOULD HAVE TO BE USED FOR PRIVATE SPACE - PROBABLY FOR THE STAFF MEMBER.

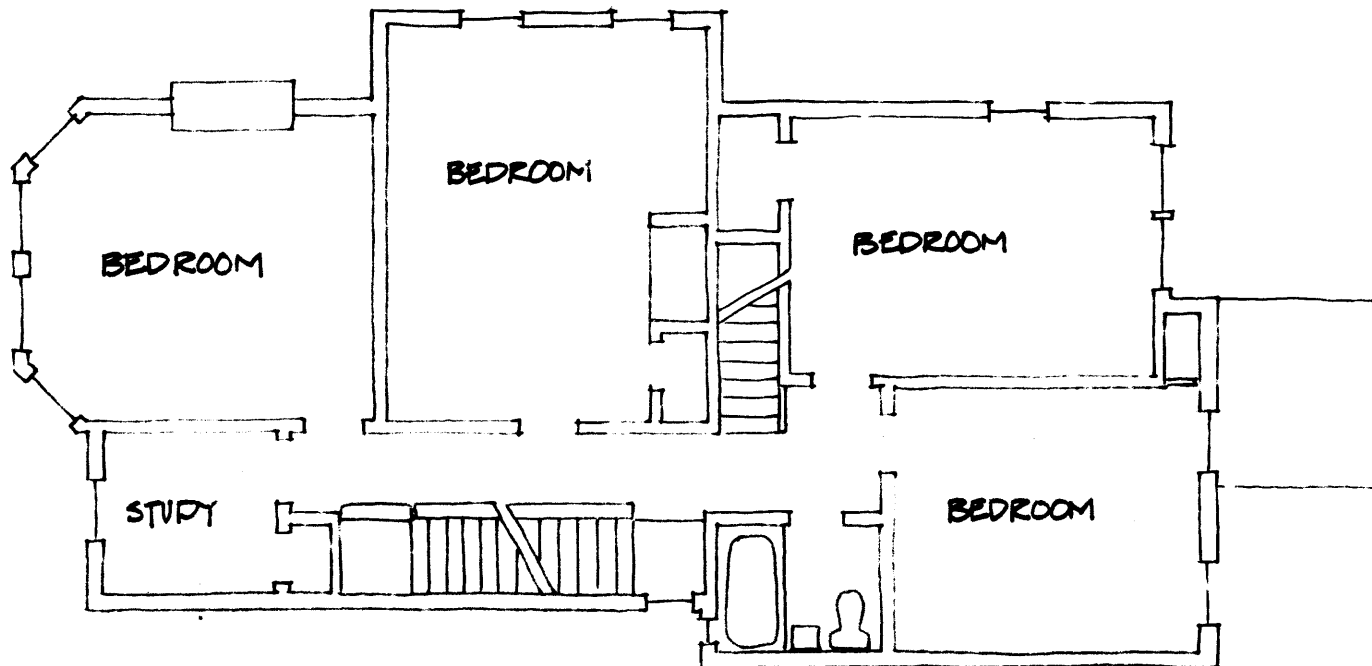
THIS CONFLICTS WITH USING THE FIRST FLOOR FOR PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AND ALSO THE STAFF PERSON FROM OTHER PRIVATE AREAS.



SECOND FLOOR EXISTING

ONE BATHROOM FOR EIGHT PEOPLE IS A RATHER TIGHT ARRANGEMENT. HOWEVER THE STUDY IS IDEALLY LOCATED (ASIDE FROM THE EXPENSE OF A NEW STACK) FOR AN ADDITIONAL BATHROOM.

SECONDARY STAIRS ACT AS A BUFFER BETWEEN THE TWO BEDROOM AREAS.

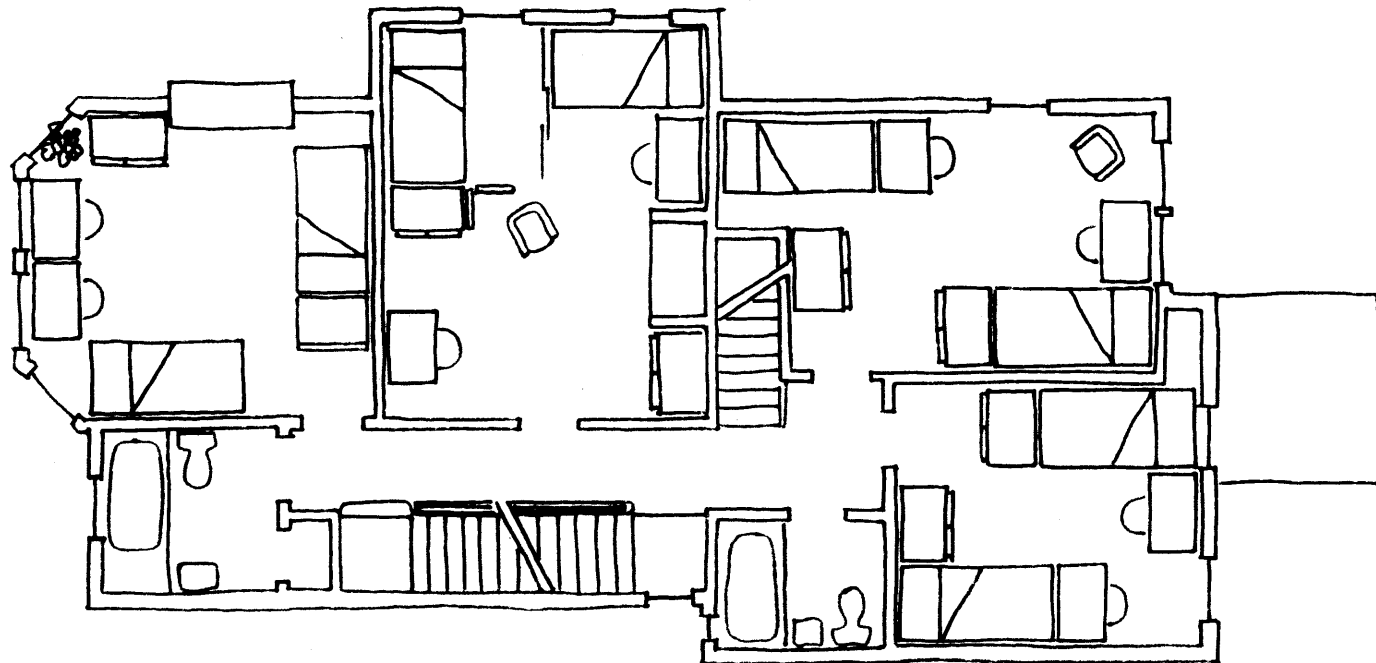


SECOND FLOOR NEW

THE BEDROOMS ARE NOT CONDUC-
NE TO DIVISION EITHER SPATIALLY
OR IN TERMS OF LIGHT AND
VENTILATION.

ONLY THE LARGE MIDDLE BED-
ROOM MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS.

IT DOES SO WITH THE ADDITIONAL
ADVANTAGE OF A COMMON
SPACE WITH A FIREPLACE.

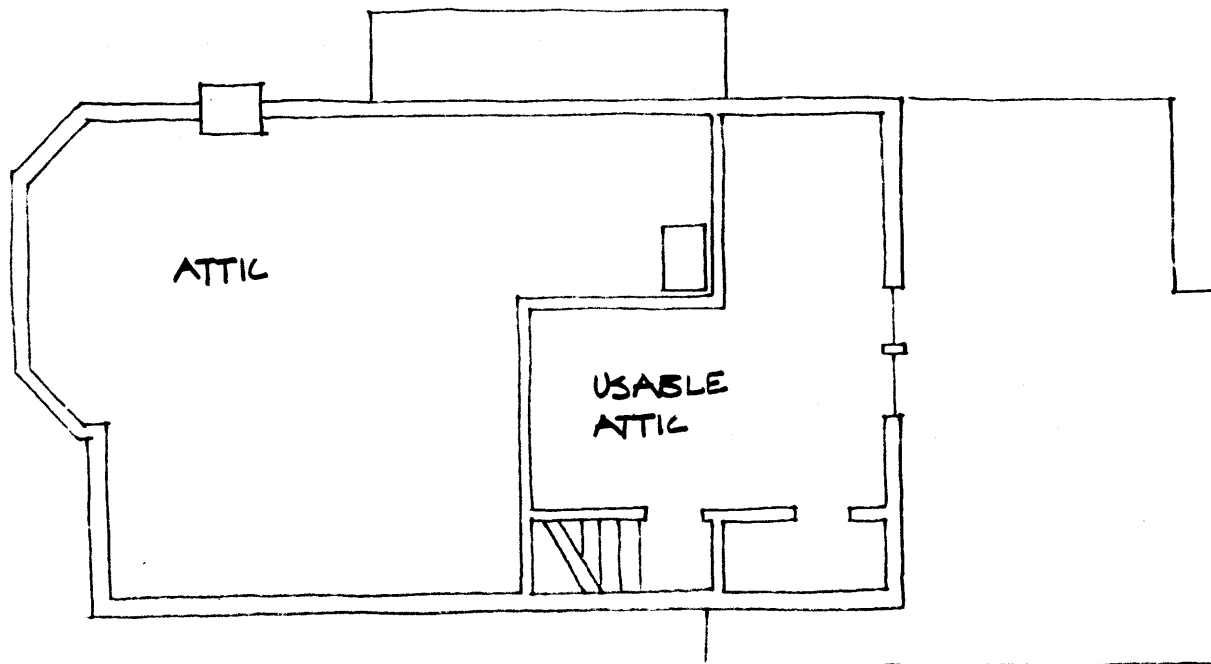


THIRD FLOOR EXISTING

THE THIRD FLOOR IS ACTUALLY AN ATTIC SPACE NOW WITH A SMALL USABLE AREA PARTITIONED OFF NEAR THE ONLY WINDOWS.

THIS IS THE ONLY AREA AVAILABLE FOR THE HOUSEPARENTS

APARTMENT. IT IS RATHER ISOLATED FROM THE REST OF THE HOUSE ALTHOUGH REMOVAL OF THE WALL AROUND THE STAIR MIGHT CHANGE THIS CONDITION.

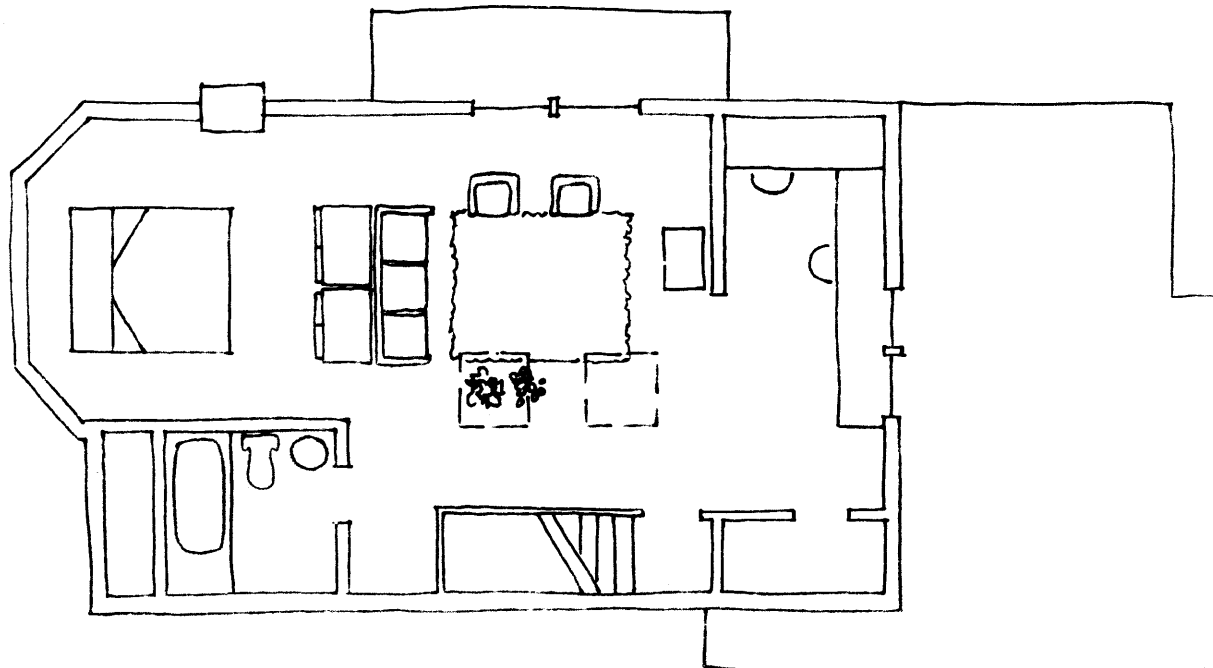


THIRD FLOOR NEW

A NEW DORMER AND SKYLIGHTS
OPEN UP THE 'ATTIC'.

A NEW BATHROOM, USING THE
STACK OF THE NEW SECOND
FLOOR BATHROOM, COMPLETES THE
PRIVACY OF THE APARTMENT.

A SMALL KITCHEN COULD ALSO
BE INSTALLED IN WHAT I HAVE
DESKINATED AS A STUDY AREA.



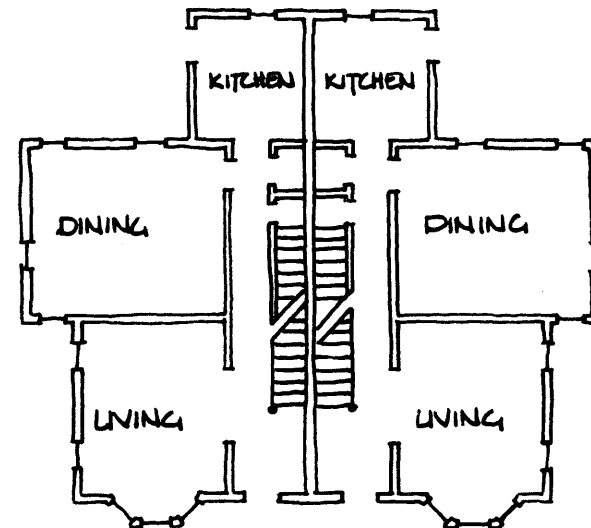
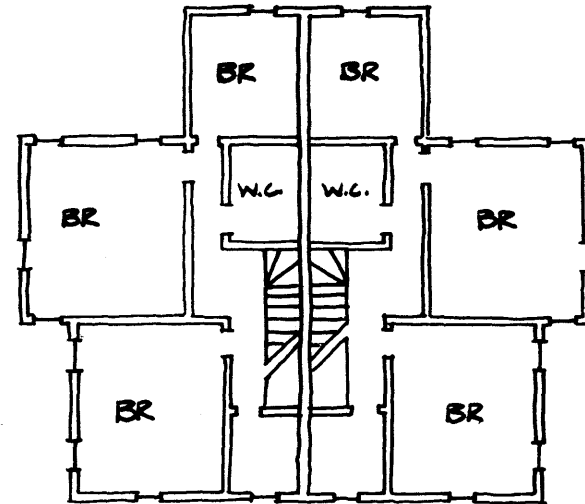
DUPLEX - DOUBLE DETACHED

EXISTING CONDITIONS

2 FLOORS 2 "SIDES" C. 2500 SQ. FT.

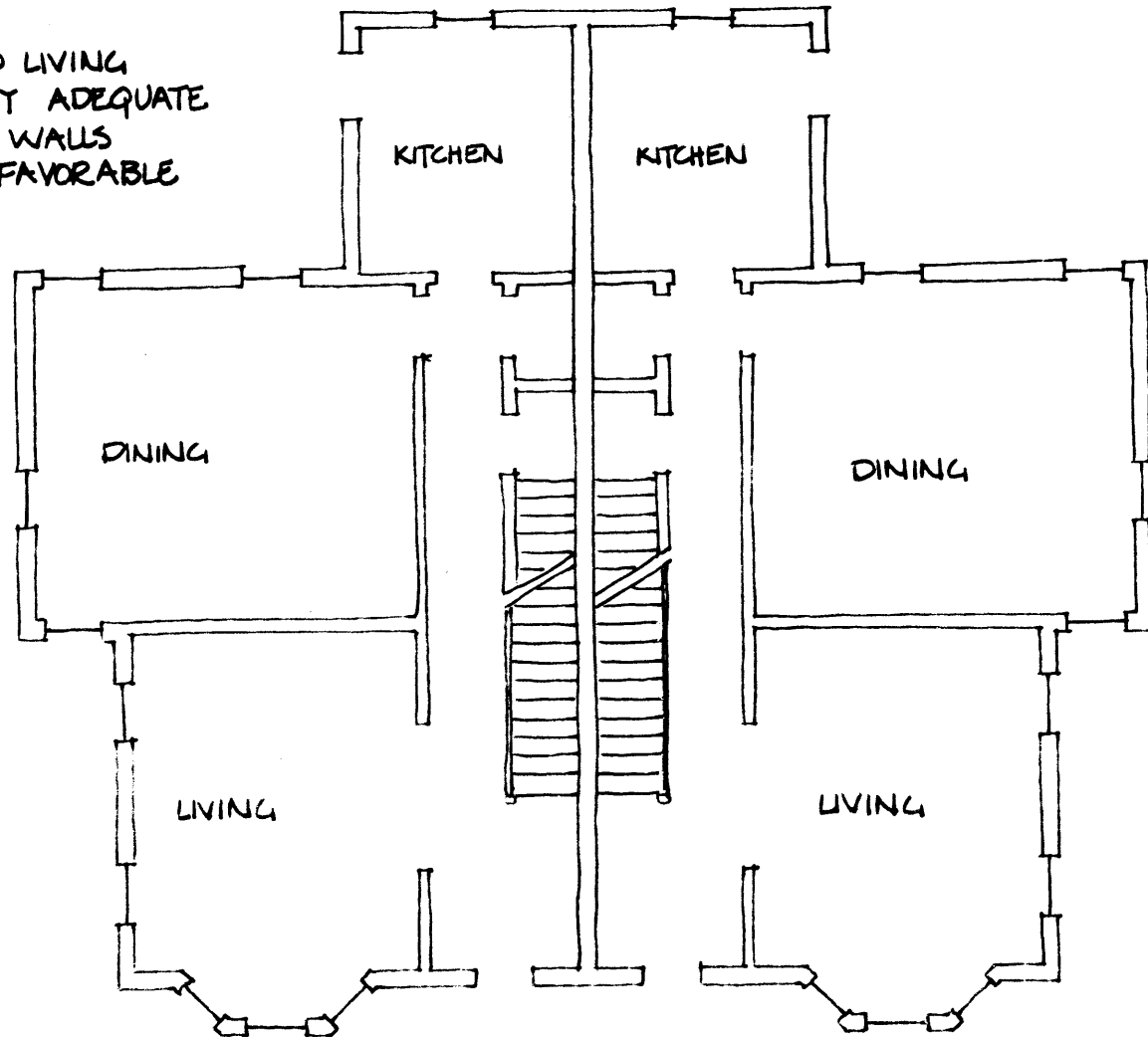
THIS HOUSE SEEMS TO BEST MEET ALL CRITERIA. BECAUSE IT IS A TWO-FAMILY HOUSE IT HAS INCREASED FLEXIBILITY IN TWO SETS OF PUBLIC AREAS. ONE CAN BE ADAPTED FOR USE AS AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE APARTMENT. WHILE THE OTHER CAN BE OPENED UP TO FORM THE COMMON CORE OF THE HOUSE.

SINCE THE STAIRS, AS DISCUSSED EARLIER, WOULD HAVE TO BE CHANGED FOR OCCUPANCY BY ONE FAMILY, THEY BECOME AN ASSET.



FIRST FLOOR EXISTING

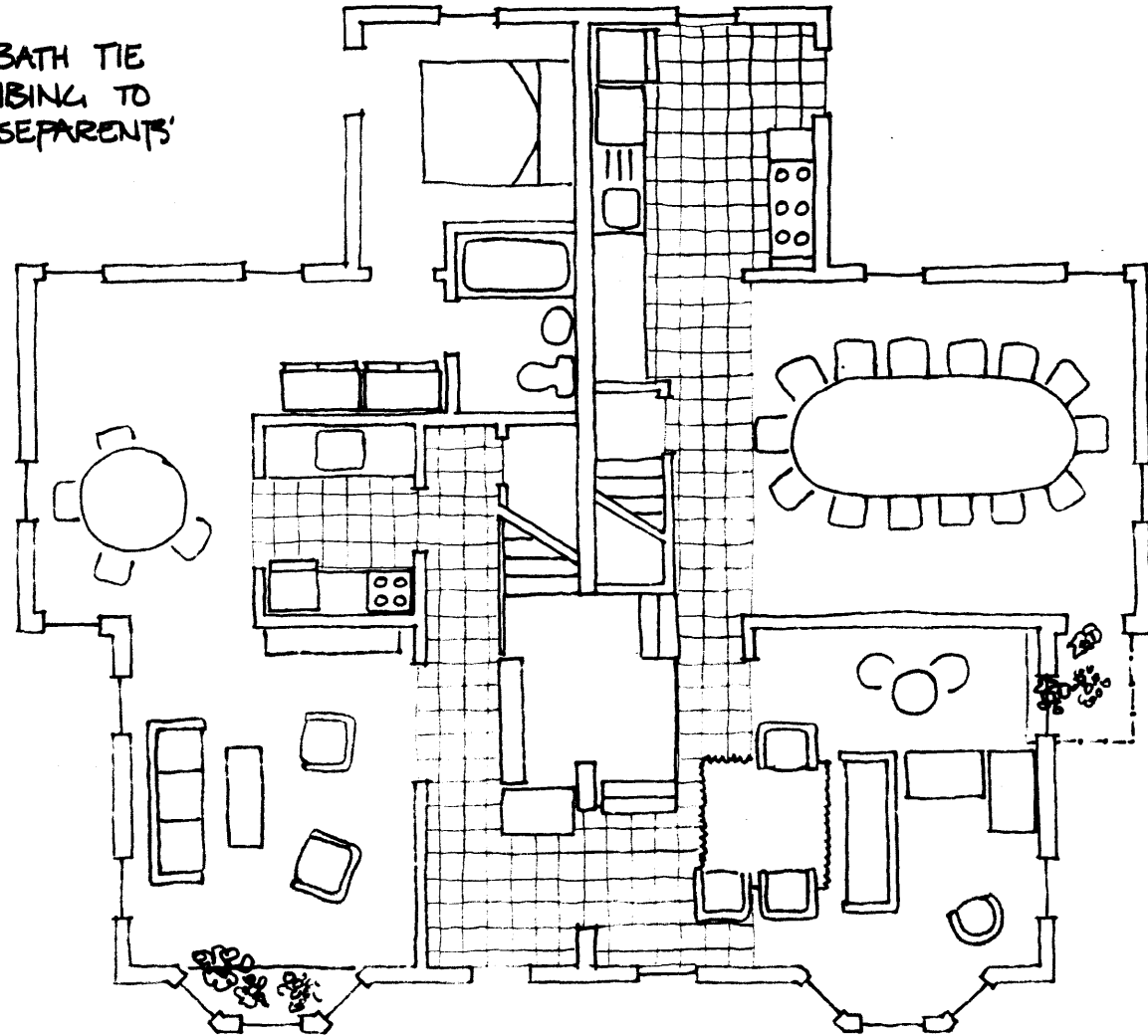
KITCHEN, DINING, AND LIVING ROOMS ARE ALREADY ADEQUATE IN SIZE. REMOVING WALLS ADDS TO ALREADY FAVORABLE CONDITIONS.



FIRST FLOOR NEW

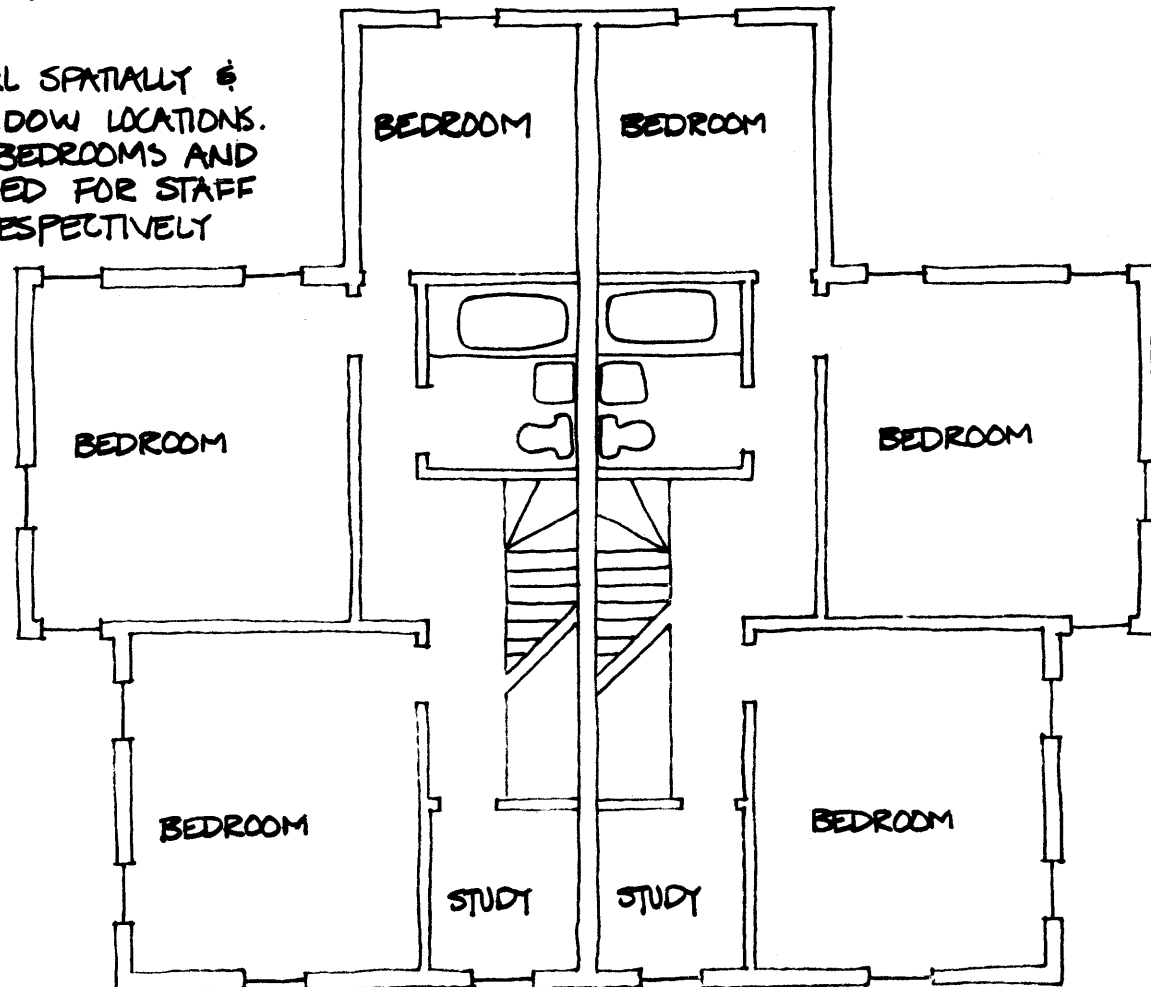
A NEW KITCHEN & BATH TIE INTO EXISTING PLUMBING TO COMPLETE THE HOUSEPARENTS' APARTMENT.

DOUBLE ENTRIES BECOME A SINGLE LARGE ENTRY FOR RESIDENTS' NEEDS.



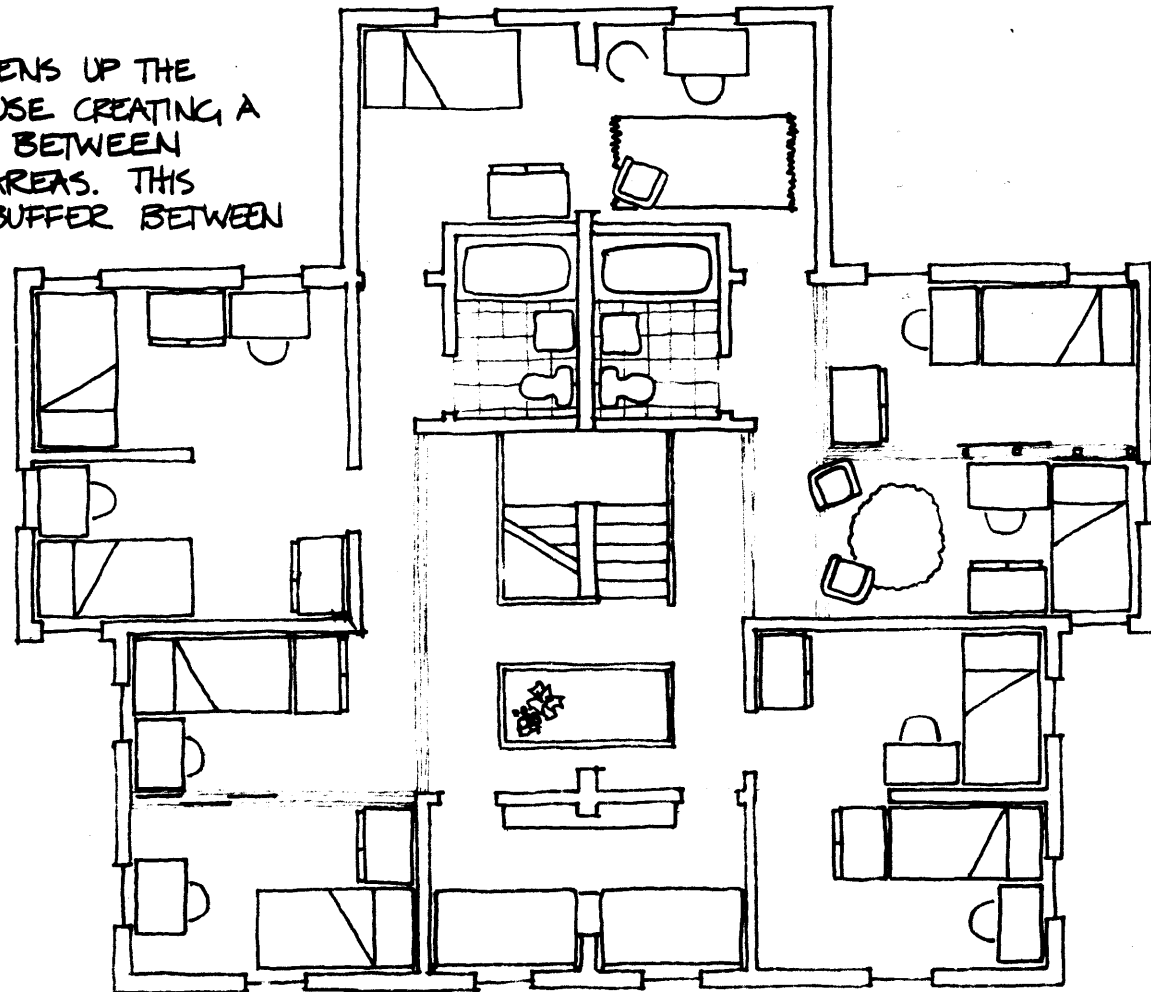
SECOND FLOOR EXISTING

BEDROOMS ARE IDEAL SPATIALLY & IN REGARD TO WINDOW LOCATIONS. EXISTING SMALLER BEDROOMS AND STUDIES CAN BE USED FOR STAFF AND GUEST ROOM RESPECTIVELY MAKING BOTH ACCESSIBLE TO RESIDENTS.



SECOND FLOOR NEW

THE NEW STAIR OPENS UP THE CENTER OF THE HOUSE CREATING A TRANSITIONAL ZONE BETWEEN PRIVATE & PUBLIC AREAS. THIS ALSO ACTS AS A BUFFER BETWEEN BEDROOM AREAS.



THREE FAMILY DETACHED

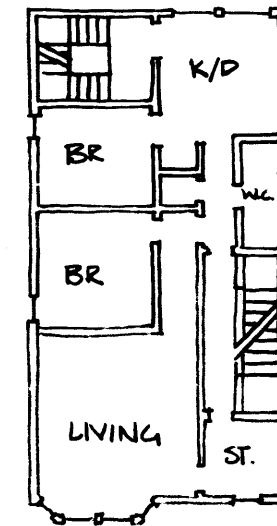
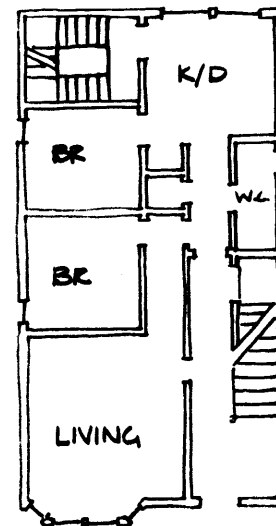
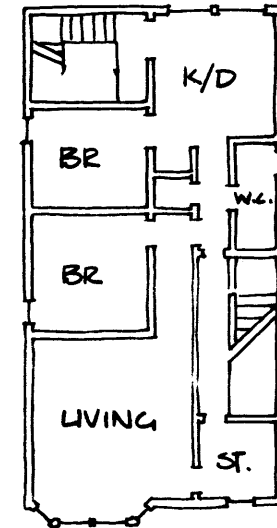
EXISTING CONDITIONS

3 FAMILY 3 FLOORS c. 2200 SQ. FT.

WE FIRST SAW THIS HOUSE AFTER LOOKING AT THE SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING. INITIALLY IT LOOKED RATHER LARGE AND SUITABLE TO OUR NEEDS.

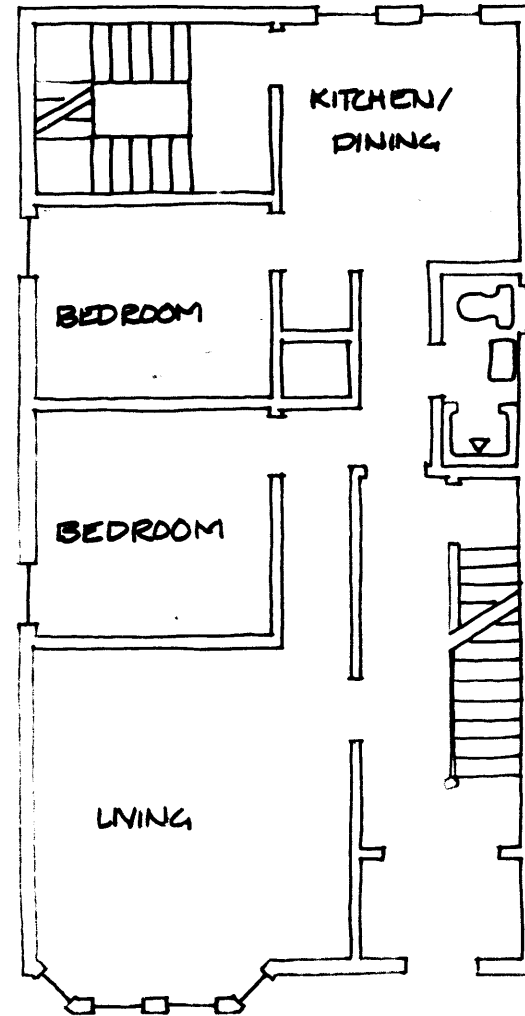
THERE ARE A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF BATHROOMS (A PROBLEM WITH THE FIRST HOUSE) AND IT SEEMED THAT WITH THREE APARTMENTS WE COULD EASILY MEET OUR CRITERIA.

HOWEVER, IN WORKING OUT A REASONABLE PLAN, I FOUND THE HOUSE LEAST FEASIBLE OF THE FOUR.



FIRST FLOOR EXISTING

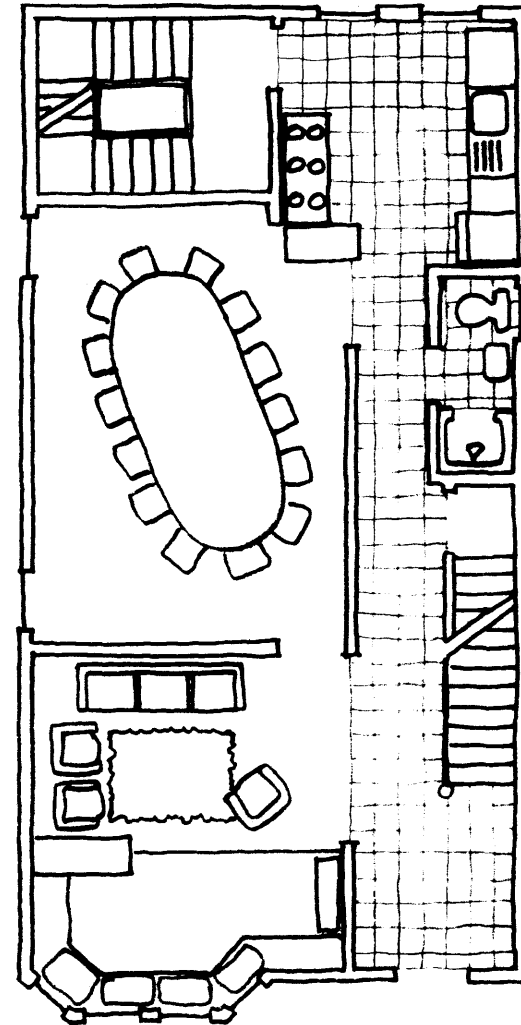
OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT THE LIVING ROOM IS QUITE SMALL THIS FLOOR CAN BE CONVERTED FOR COMMUNAL AREAS.



FIRST FLOOR NEW

REMOVING A NON-STRUCTURAL WALL CREATES A REASONABLE DINING AREA.

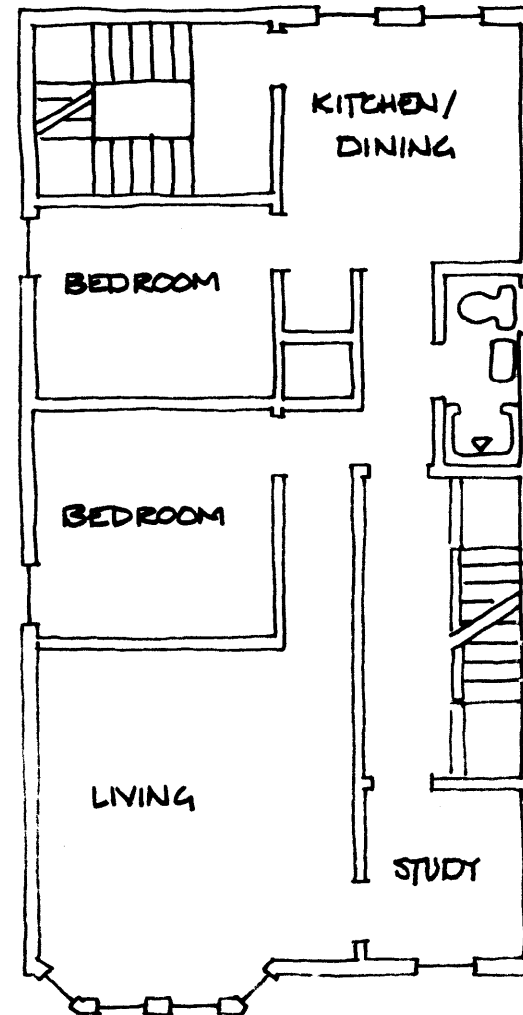
THE LIVING ROOM IS OPENED UP TO THE ENTRY AREA AND PERMITS GROUPING WITH A RAISED LEVEL.



SECOND FLOOR EXISTING

THE SECONDARY STAIRS REDUCE THE USABLE FLOOR AREA BY SUCH A DEGREE THAT IT IS NOT FEASIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE MORE THAN SIX RESIDENTS.

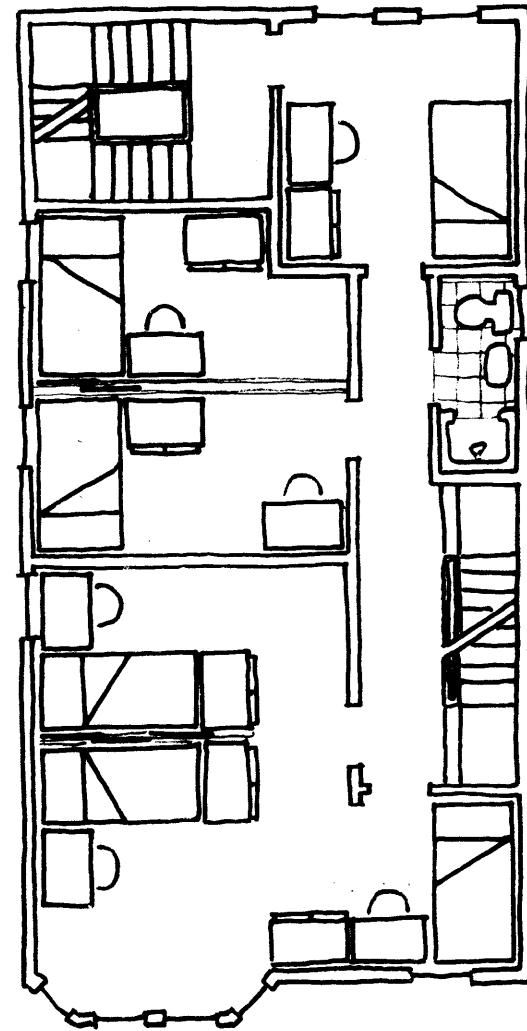
SINCE THEY ARE BENEFICIAL AS A FIRE EXIT THEY SHOULD NOT BE REMOVED.



SECOND FLOOR NEW

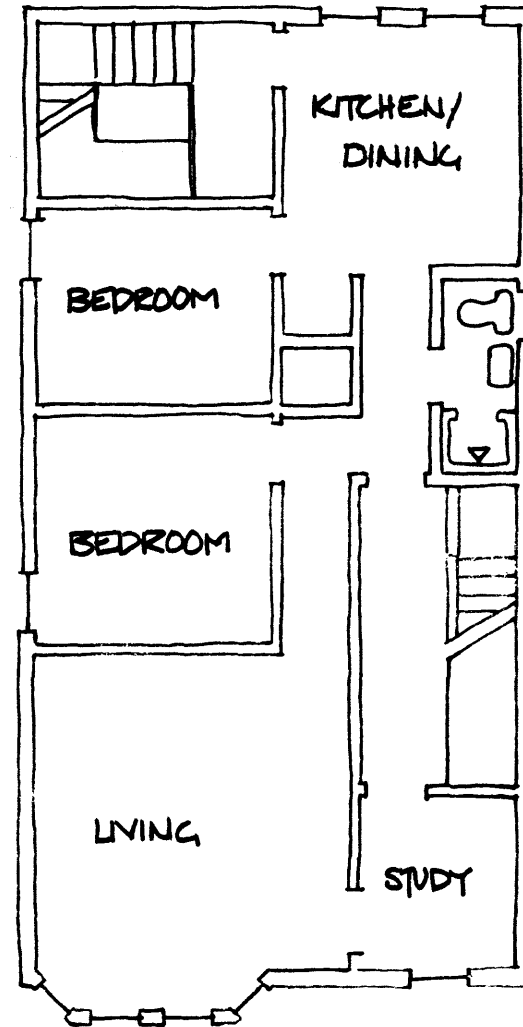
EVEN BY MOVING WALLS AND
ADDING A WINDOW THE PLAN
CANNOT MEET THE CRITERIA
FOR EIGHT RESIDENTS.

FLEXIBILITY WITHIN ROOMS
REMAINS MINIMAL AND
UNEQUAL.



THIRD FLOOR EXISTING

THE THIRD FLOOR MUST HOUSE
HOUSEPARENTS, STAFF AND
GUESTS. THERE IS NO AREA
AVAILABLE FOR A TOTALLY
PRIVATE APARTMENT.

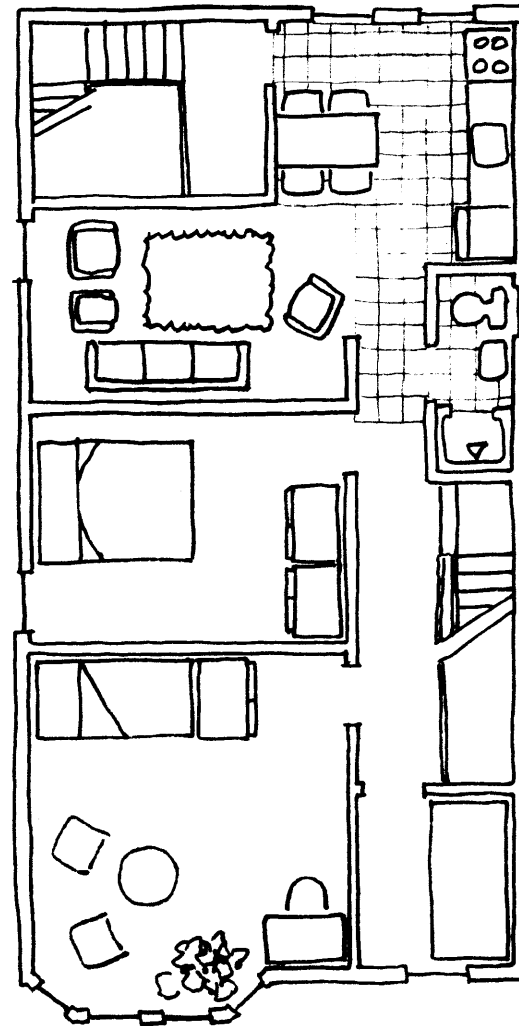


THIRD FLOOR NEW

IT IS UNFORTUNATE TO PLACE ALL STAFF ON THE SAME FLOOR REMOVED FROM ASSOCIATION WITH RESIDENTS.

IF THE SECOND FLOOR PLAN WERE NOT CHANGED, THE STAFF MEMBER & GUEST ROOM COULD BE SWITCHED.

RESIDENTS USING THE THIRD FLOOR FRONT ROOMS WOULD THEN HAVE EXTREMELY CRAMPED SPACE. IT WOULD BE MUCH TIGHTER THAN THAT OF SECOND FLOOR RESIDENTS.

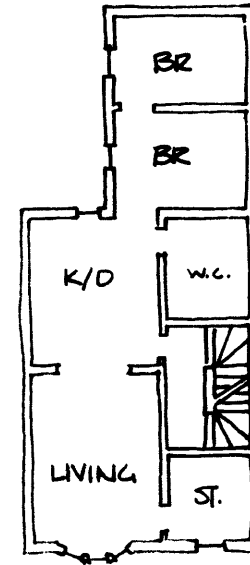
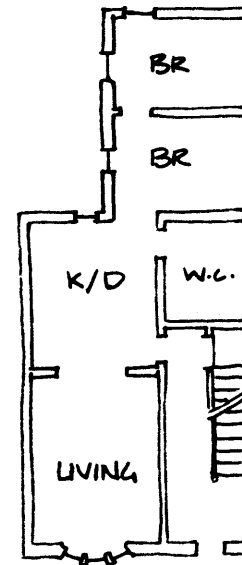
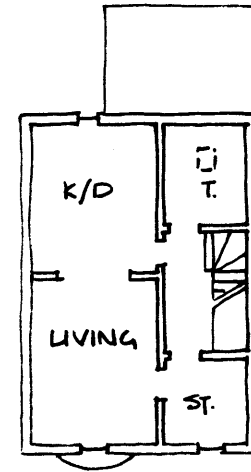
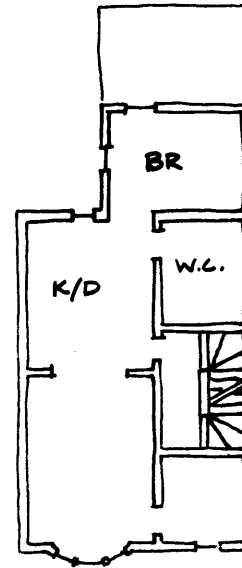


ROW HOUSE

4 APARTMENTS 4 FLOORS C.2200 SQ.FT.

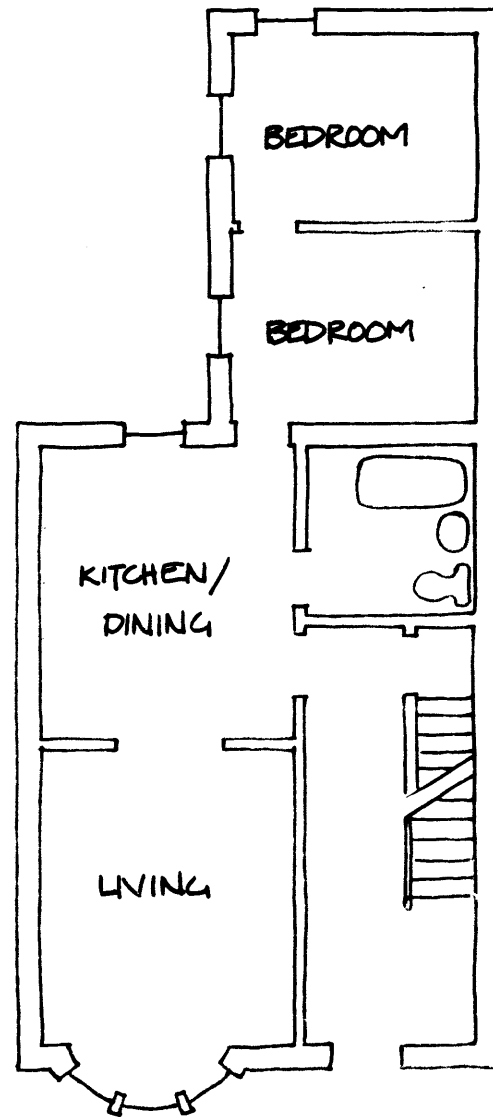
THIS IS THE MOST COMPLICATED PLAN BECAUSE OF THE ALMOST TOTALLY VERTICAL SEPARATION OF AREAS. THE HOUSE HAS AN INTERESTING QUALITY DUE TO THE VARIETY FROM FLOOR TO FLOOR. IT ALSO HAS MANY DRAWBACKS.

A MAJOR PROBLEM WITH THIS & OTHER ROW HOUSES IS THE LACK OF SIDE WINDOWS. SINCE THE ADJACENT HOUSE, IN THIS CASE, HAS A TWIN LIGHT WELL THERE IS LIGHT ENTERING THE EXISTING BEDROOM & KITCHEN WINDOWS. BUT IT IS MINIMAL.



FIRST FLOOR EXISTING

THIS FLOOR PLAN EXISTS TWICE IN THE HOUSE WITH THE ADDITION OF A STUDY ON THE SECOND FLOOR.

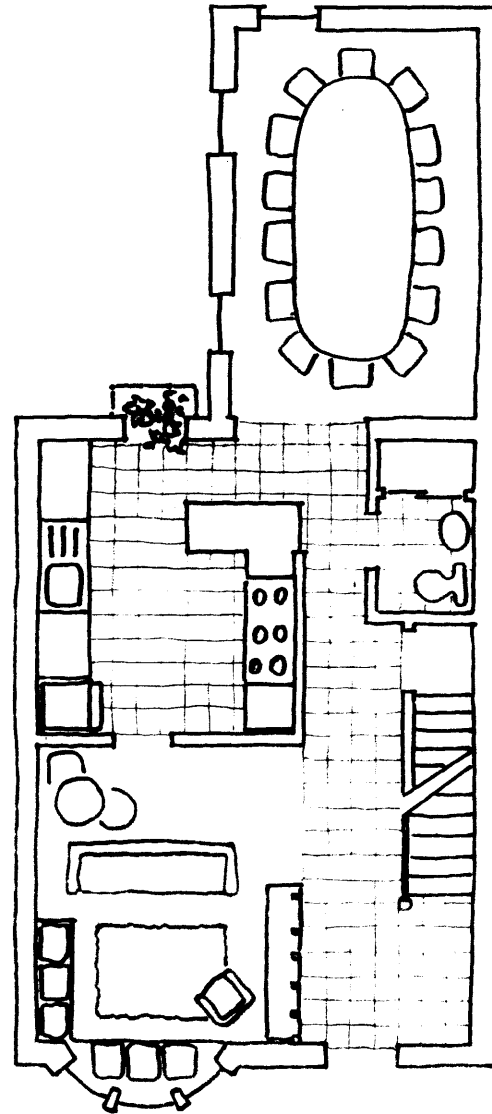


FIRST FLOOR NEW

REMOVING THE WALL BETWEEN THE TWO EXISTING BEDROOMS AND REDUCING THE SIZE OF THE BATHROOM CREATES AN ACCESSIBLE DINING AREA OF REASONABLE SIZE.

SINCE IT WAS ORIGINALLY MEANT FOR USE IN A TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT THE LIVING ROOM IS RATHER SMALL. REMOVING THE ENTRY WALL IMPROVES THE SENSE OF SPACE. THERE IS STILL A PROBLEM - TRAFFIC PATTERNS EATING UP THE SPACE.

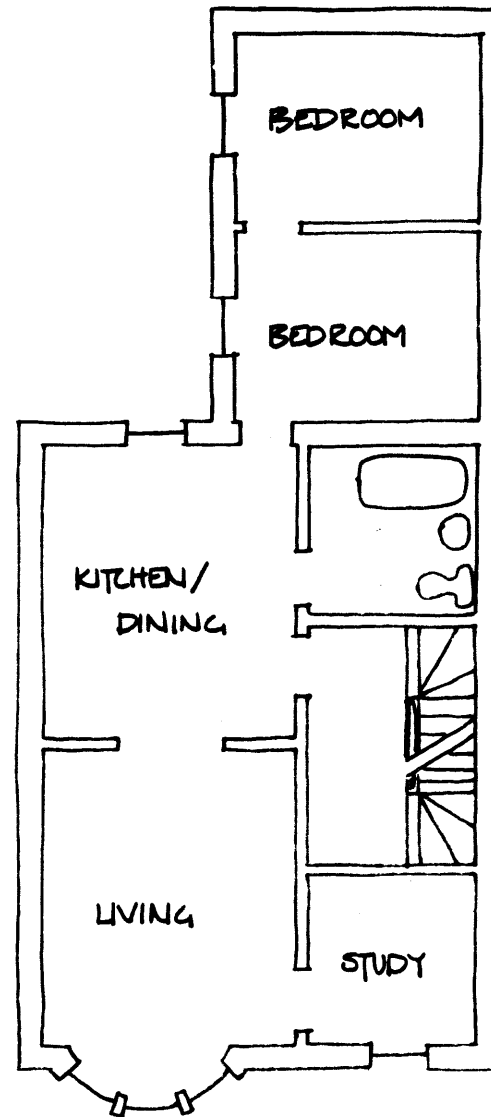
THE KITCHEN COULD BE CLOSED OFF FROM THE LIVING ROOM TO PARTIALLY SOLVE THE CIRCULATION PROBLEM. BUT THE KITCHEN WOULD THEN BECOME QUITE ISOLATED.



SECOND FLOOR EXISTING

THE TWO BEDROOMS POSE A DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR PRIVACY. THE FRONT BEDROOM IS A PASSAGEWAY TO THE SECOND.

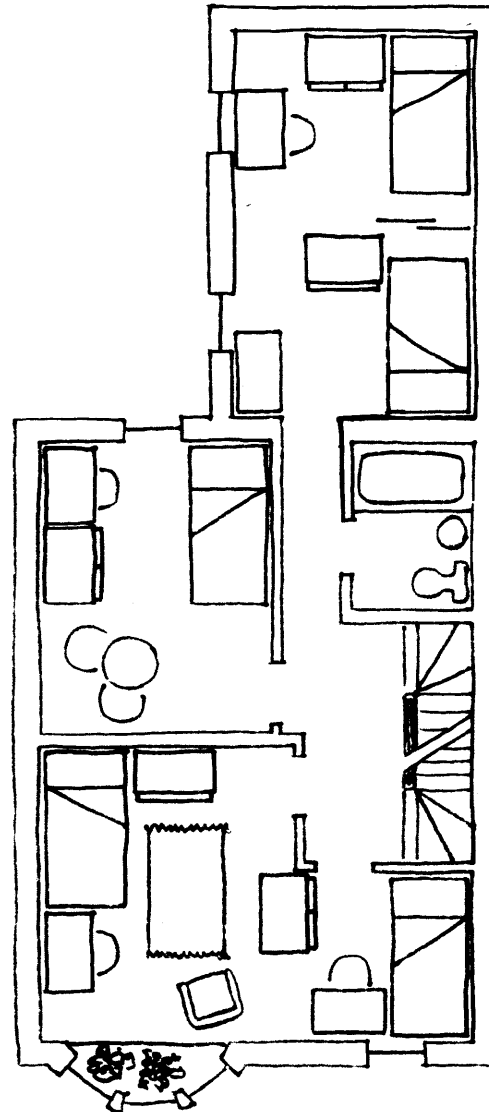
IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BETTER TO USE THE ENTIRE SPACE AS ONE BEDROOM, THEREBY EQUALIZING CONDITIONS OF USE. I HAVE TRIED TO MAKE A DIVISION TO CARRY THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF CRITERIA & TO SHOW THAT THIS PLAN DOES NOT WORK.



SECOND FLOOR NEW

THIS IS THE ONLY FLOOR WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE FIVE PEOPLE WHILE MAINTAINING ANY FLEXIBILITY. THUS THE STAFF MEMBER, ALMOST BY DEFAULT, RESIDES HERE.

IF IT IS DETERMINED THAT MEN & WOMEN WOULD LIKE SEPARATE FLOORS A PROBLEM ARISES. IF THE STAFF MEMBER DOES NOT MATCH THE ALLOCATION OF THE FLOOR THERE MIGHT BE SOME DISCOMFORT. YET THE RESIDENTS CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO CHANGE FLOORS.

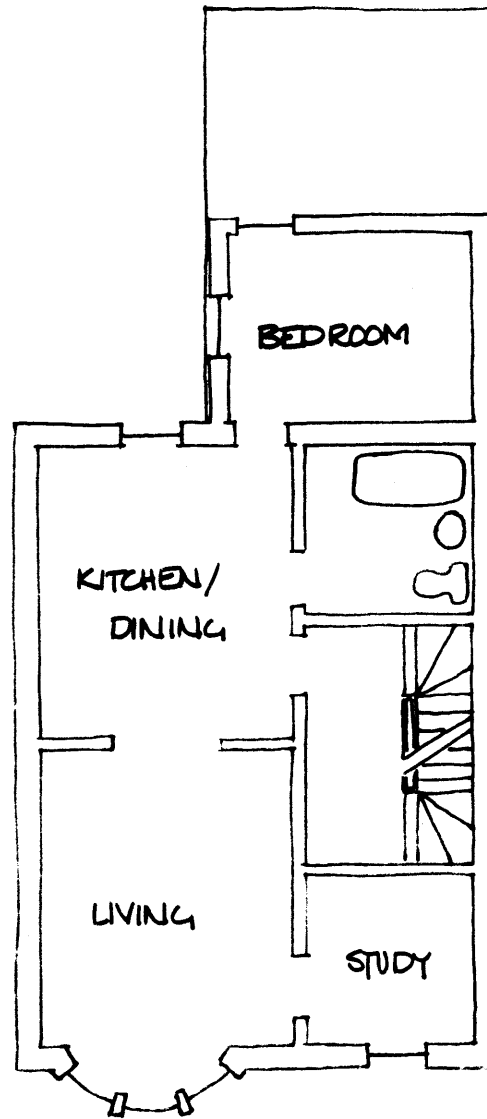


THIRD FLOOR EXISTING

THE THIRD FLOOR, SINCE IT NOW WORKS AS AN APARTMENT, SHOULD SERVE THE HOUSEPARENTS WELL.

GIVING THIS APARTMENT TO THE HOUSEPARENTS SEPARATES THE TWO OTHER PRIVATE FLOOR AREAS, A RECOMMENDATION OF MY CLIENT.

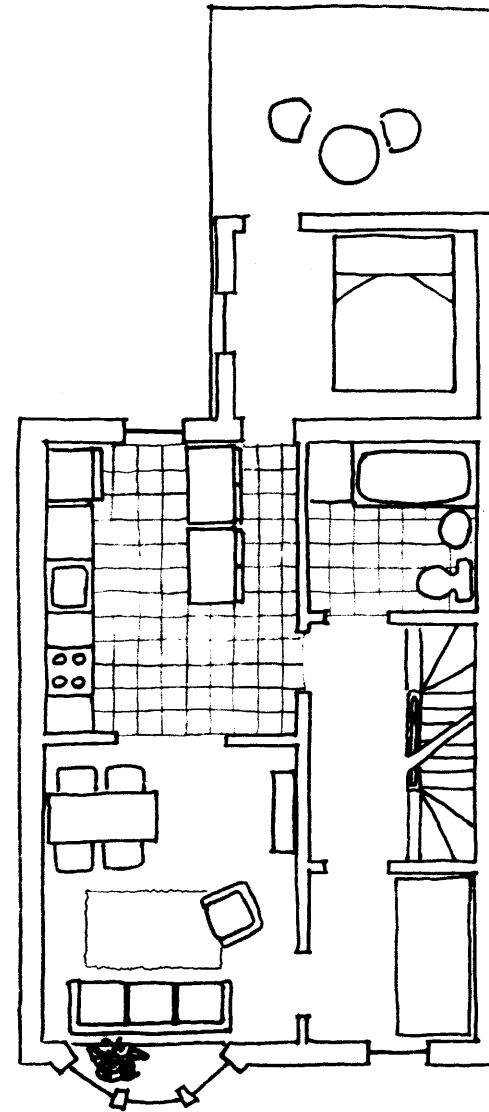
IF THIS FLOOR WERE TO BE USED BY OTHER RESIDENTS, GIVING THE FOURTH FLOOR TO THE HOUSEPARENTS, A PROBLEM WOULD ARISE CONCERNING A GUEST ROOM.



THIRD FLOOR NEW

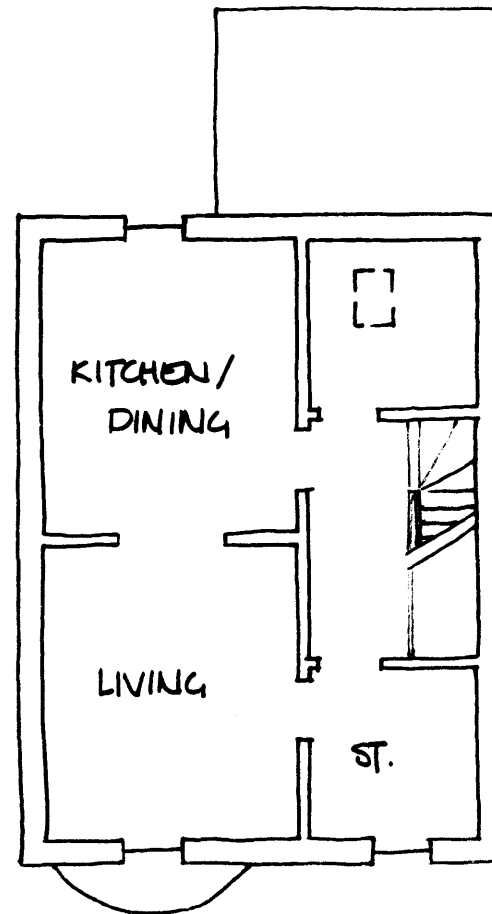
SINCE THE FOURTH FLOOR DOES NOT HAVE A BATHROOM, THE ACCESS HERE IS CHANGED TO ACCOMMODATE USE BY MEMBERS OF THAT FLOOR WITHOUT ENTERING THE HOUSEPARENTS' APARTMENT. THIS MEANS, HOWEVER, THAT THE HOUSEPARENTS LOSE SOME PRIVACY.

THE GUEST ROOM APPEARS ON THIS FLOOR, AGAIN ALMOST BY DEFAULT. IT IS NOT ACCESSIBLE TO EITHER OF THE RESIDENTS' FLOORS MEANING A GUEST WOULD BE IN CLOSEST CONTACT WITH THE HOUSEPARENTS & NOT RESIDENTS.



FOURTH FLOOR EXISTING

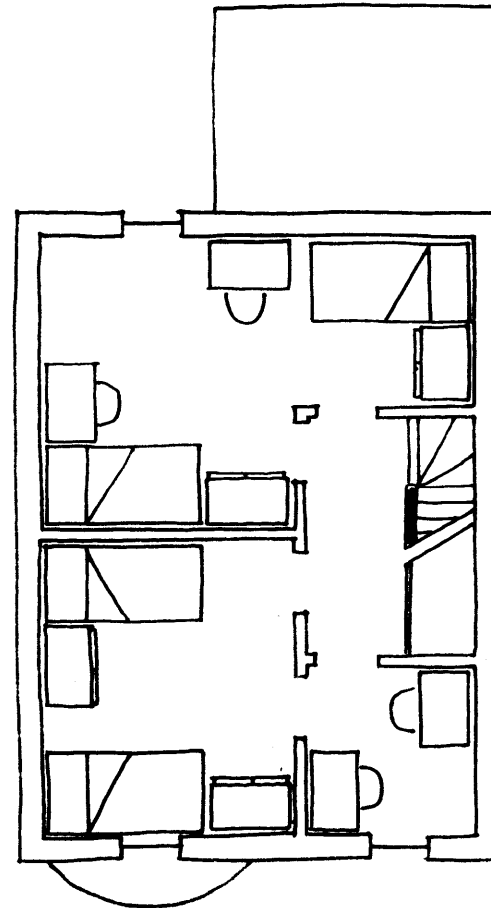
THE FOURTH FLOOR IS PRESENTLY UNOCCUPIED PROBABLY BECAUSE IT DOES NOT HAVE A BATHROOM. THERE IS AN EXISTING CONNECTION FOR A TOILET. I AM NOT CONSIDERING INSTALLATION BECAUSE THE SPACE IS NEEDED FOR BEDROOM USE.



FOURTH FLOOR NEW

THE FOURTH FLOOR WORKS QUITE WELL ALTHOUGH THERE IS INCONVENIENCE IN NOT HAVING A BATHROOM ON THE SAME FLOOR.

RESIDENTS MIGHT FEEL ISOLATED LIVING THREE FLOORS AWAY FROM THE COMMUNAL AREAS.



CONCLUSION

Depending on the criteria established there are houses which do or can be made to satisfy basic needs. Others will never approach user satisfaction. I hope that I have succeeded in demonstrating the formation and use of criteria and that users of this handbook will be better able to determine their expectations and priorities regarding their environment.

There is a great deal of work to be done in improving communications among architects, other environmentally concerned professionals and users. If I have succeeded in making the programming and design process any clearer, I will be most happy.

FOOTNOTES

INTRODUCTION

1. Good, Lawrence R., Siegel, Saul M., and Bay, Alfred Paul. Therapy by Design. p. vii.

THE PROBLEM

1. Raush, H.L. and Raush, C.L. The Halfway House Movement: A Search for Sanity. p. 42.

PLACE FOR SELF

1. Sivadon, P. "Space as Experienced: Therapeutic Implications", p. 414.
2. The Architects Collaborative. Preliminary Study for the New York State Veterans Home. p. 19.
3. Sivadon, P. op. cit. p. 413.
4. Bachelard, Gaston. The Poetics of Space. p. 78.
5. Sommer, Robert. Personal Space. p. 90.

PLACES TO BE WITH OTHERS

1. Modell, Arnold H., M.D. Object Love and Reality. p. 52.

2. Sivadon, P. op. cit. p. 409.
3. Hall, Edward T. The Hidden Dimension. p. 103.
4. Hall, Edward T. op. cit. p. 109.

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United Community Services of Metropolitan Boston (now United Community Planning Corporation) - Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Mental Hospital Planning Project. Community Mental Health and the Mental Hospital. Boston: 1973.