

Colors and Kids Enliven This Home

By Gary Brown

The original plan was to project serenity . . . with its quiet greens and subdued blues.

"But we soon learned that with six kids there's no such thing as serenity. So we traded the greens and blues for oranges, golds and reds to liven things up a bit," explained Rita Wulfert.

The Robert Wulferts live at 7754 Greenridge Way in Fair Oaks. Their house doesn't fit most contemporary designs since it sits on a sloping lot, is of tri-level construction and was built to focus attention on the rear — rather than the front — of the home.

As you approach the home, the first thing that catches your eye is what looks like an 18-foot high front door. Actually it's a conventional 8 feet. The illusion was created by architect Carter Sparks who kept architectural lines intact throughout his design and used the same type of wood for the wall as the door.

Aggregate Entry

You step into an exposed aggregate entry hall replete with ferns and other indoor plants. The entry hall reaches to the third level balcony, giving a tower effect.

From the entry hall, the ceiling drops appreciably then soars dramatically to the living room with its high rise pecky cedar ceiling. This is a story in itself.

"Pecky cedar is the same kind of wood they use for making pencils," Sparks said. "While very inexpensive, we nevertheless felt it had personality all its own. It serves as both ceiling and roof. It's 2½ inches thick and provides adequate insulation as well as sturdy covering."

The living room has an air of simplicity and tranquility.

Pedestal Table

"Most of this furniture is 'contemporary this or that' but I really hate to put a label on it," said Mrs. Wulfert. "We spend a great deal of time in here. That Swedish pedestal table is used by the children (ranging in age from 7 to 20) for study or games and we frequently use it for dining with other couples."

The huge fireplace is made of gray adobe and once again the Sparks touch is revealed in blocks which rise to meet the ceiling. The furniture is done in a variety of greens, the walls and drapes are of bright gold and the plush carpet is a stunning fuchsia.

Overhanging the rear end of the living room is the balcony-like third level of the house. The open area encompasses two bedrooms. Two more bedrooms are included on the third level. The second tier houses the master bedroom and family room-kitchen combination.

The living room opens to 18-

foot glass windows and sliding doors which mirror an extensively landscaped back yard. "We split the back yard into a fun and play area," Mrs. Wulfert said. The exposed aggregate patio leads to the raised swimming pool, also ringed in exposed aggregate. The ground level yard is a mass of trees and shrubs with only a small portion devoted to the only grass area on the entire property.

"This is my favorite room," said Mrs. Wulfert, moving to the family room. Unlike most family rooms, this one was

built for utility more than sheer comfort. It also serves as the eating area and along with the kitchen opens directly to the pool. A large serving counter makes this a popular place during those hot summer days in the pool.

"I can oversee the whole operation from this spot and watch the children out in the yard," Mrs. Wulfert said. "And see these spy holes? I can even view the living room." The wall separating the kitchen area from the living room is made of Philippine mahogany.

The thin partition is open in several spots creating what Mrs. Wulfert likes to call "my spy holes."

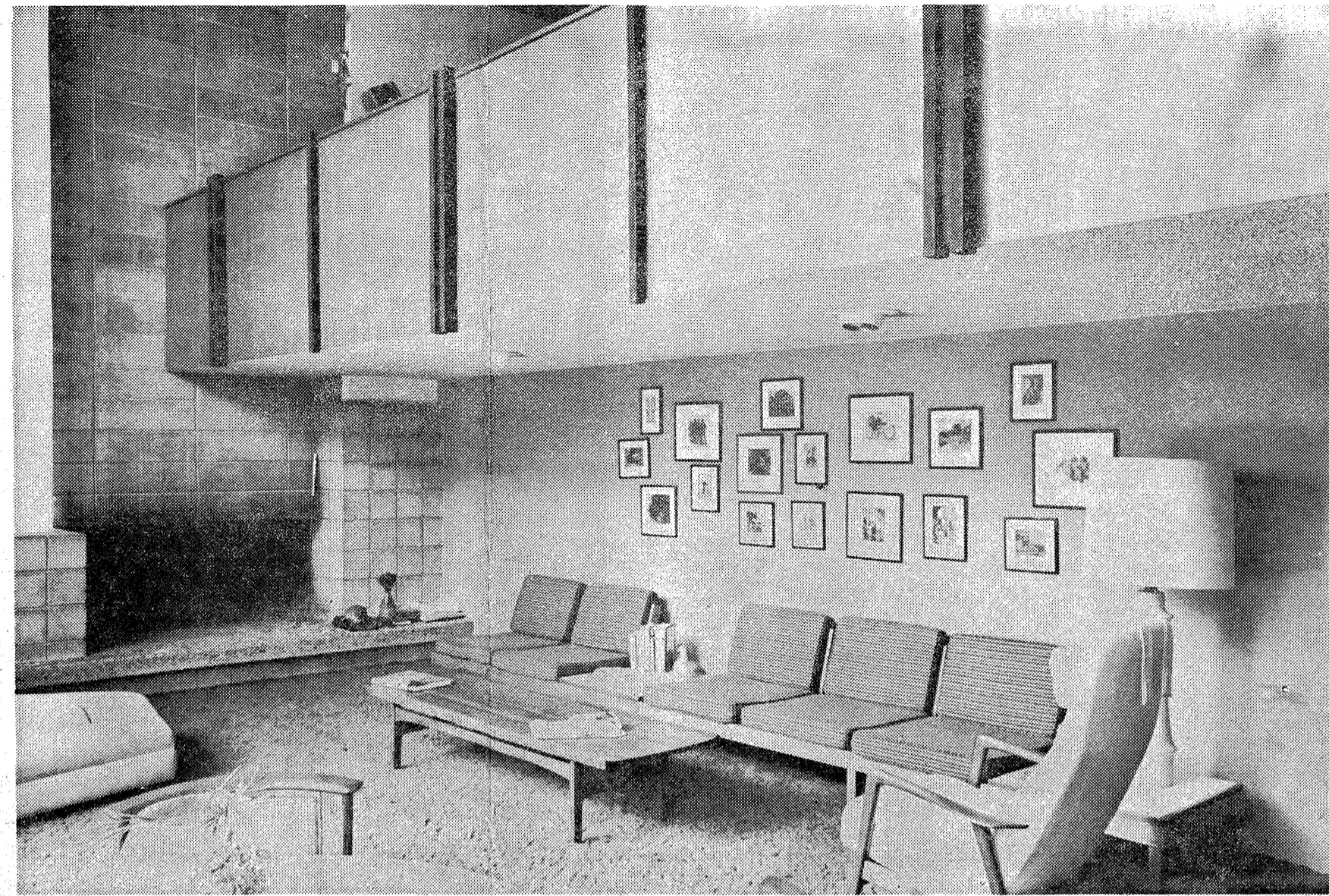
Dazzling Colors
The master bedroom, the most forward section of the second level, contains a dazzling array of bright colors from pink, orange, yellow and red carpet to matching bedspread. The back wall of the room is of adobe, forming the exterior front wall.

All the children's bedrooms are located on the third level, thus giving mom and dad and

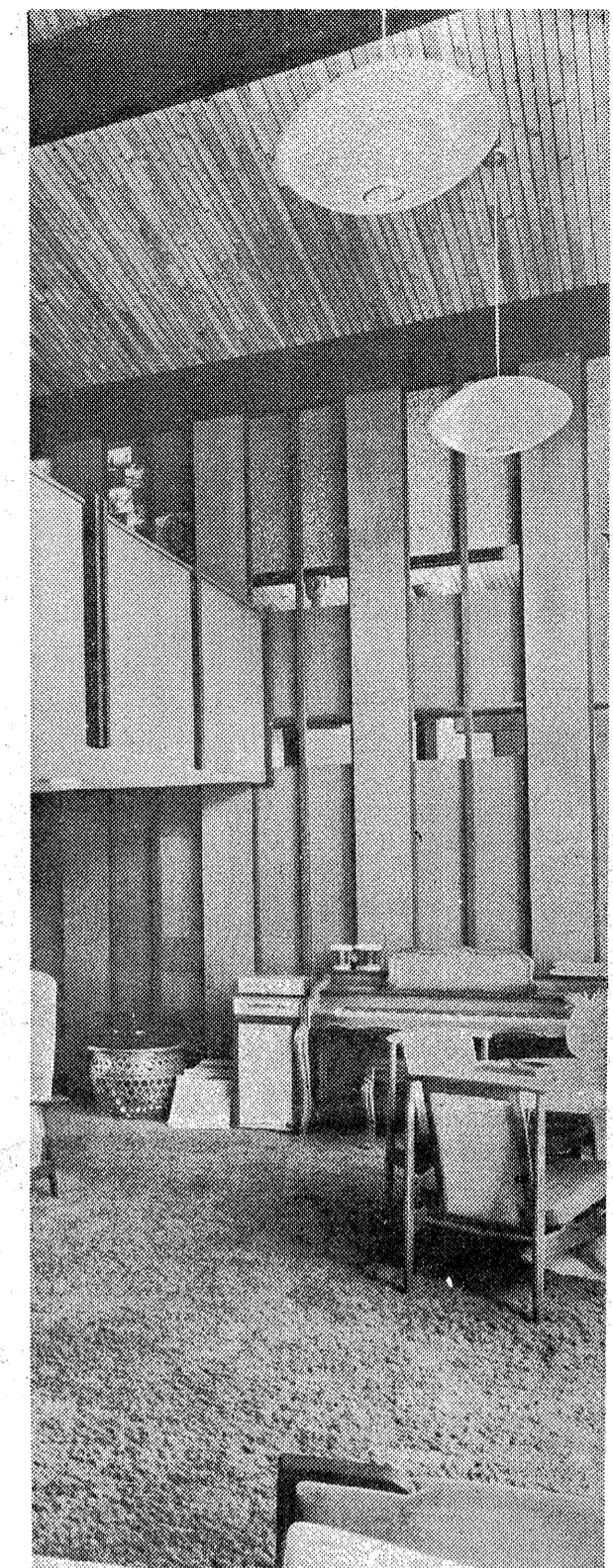
the children their own privacy. Gazing out the front window of one of the upper bedrooms, Mrs. Wulfert gestured toward the east. "On a clear day you can see the mountains."

One of the few paintings that adorn the walls of the house has been conspicuously hung at the bottom of the steps leading upstairs. It's a modernistic mass of oranges, reds, and yellows.

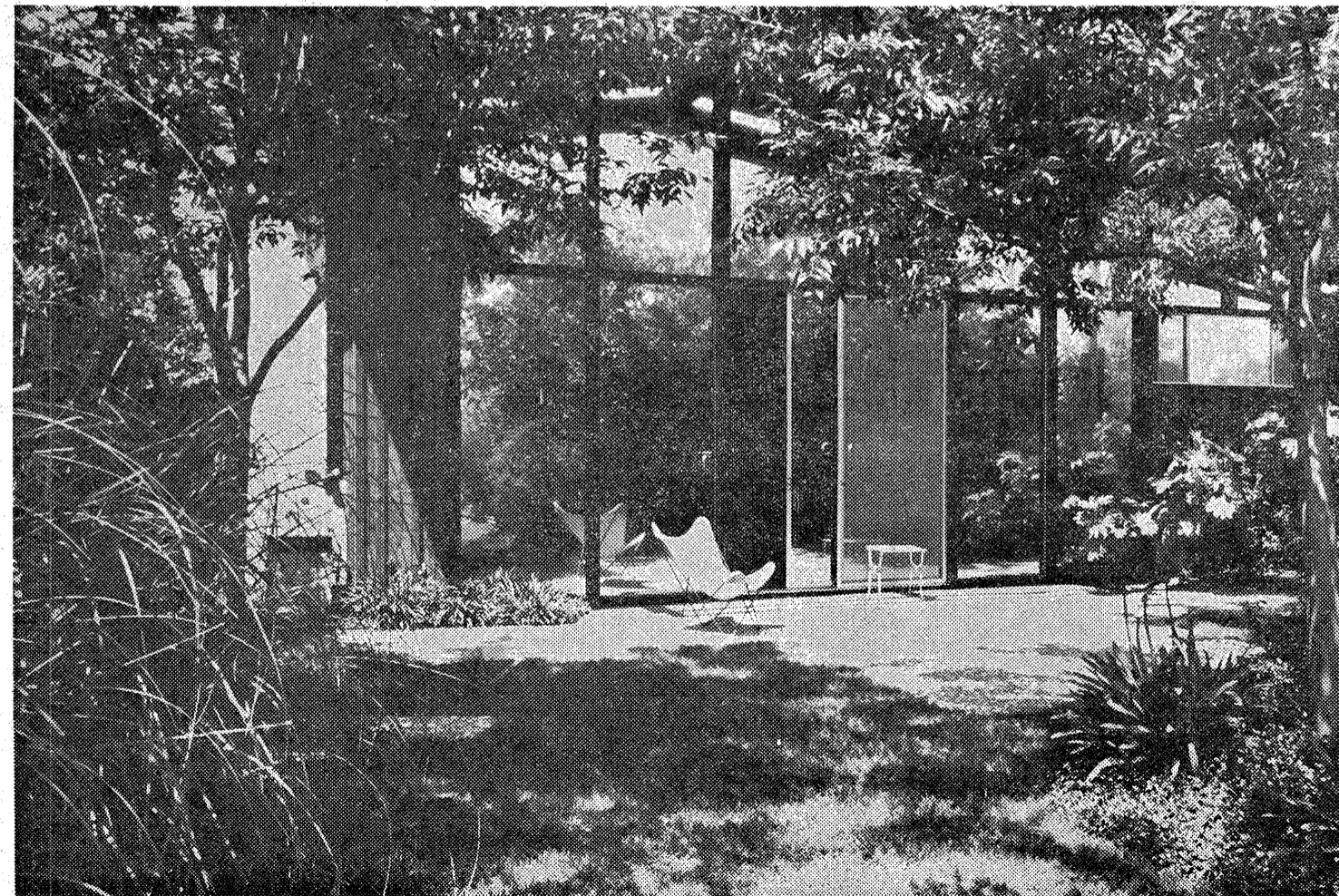
"I must admit that much of my inspiration for decorating came from this painting," Mrs. Wulfert closed.



Balcony overhanging in rear of living area contains two bedrooms.

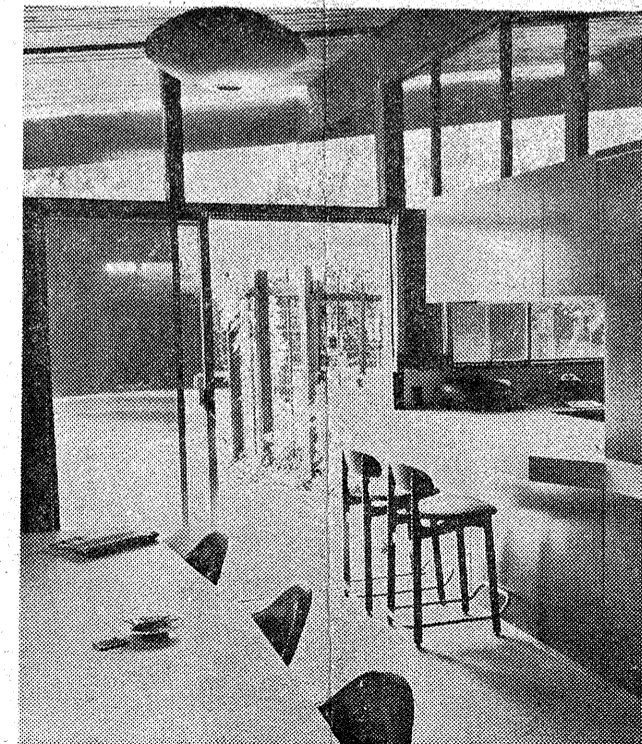


The Philippine mahogany wall separating first level living room and second level kitchen contains numerous "peep" holes.

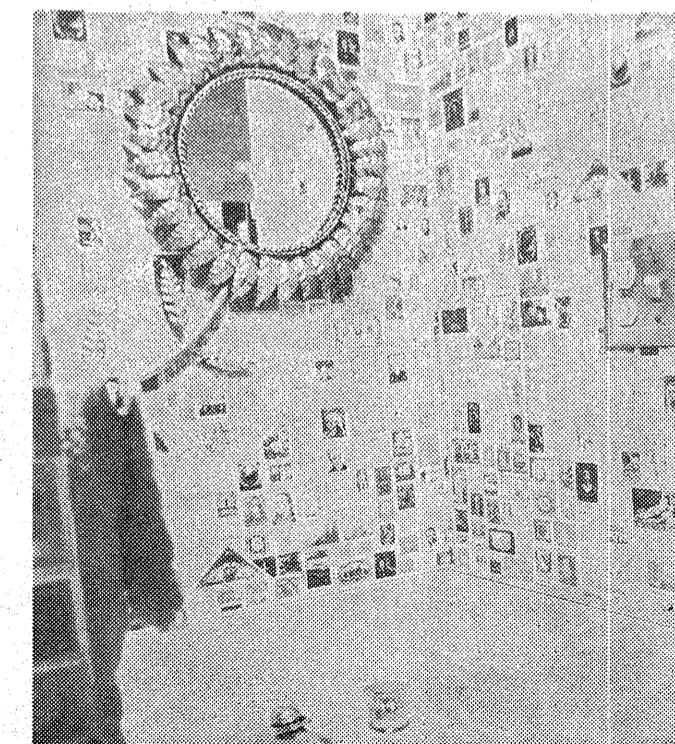


The glass-paneled rear of the living room is framed by trees and shrubs. The landscaping was

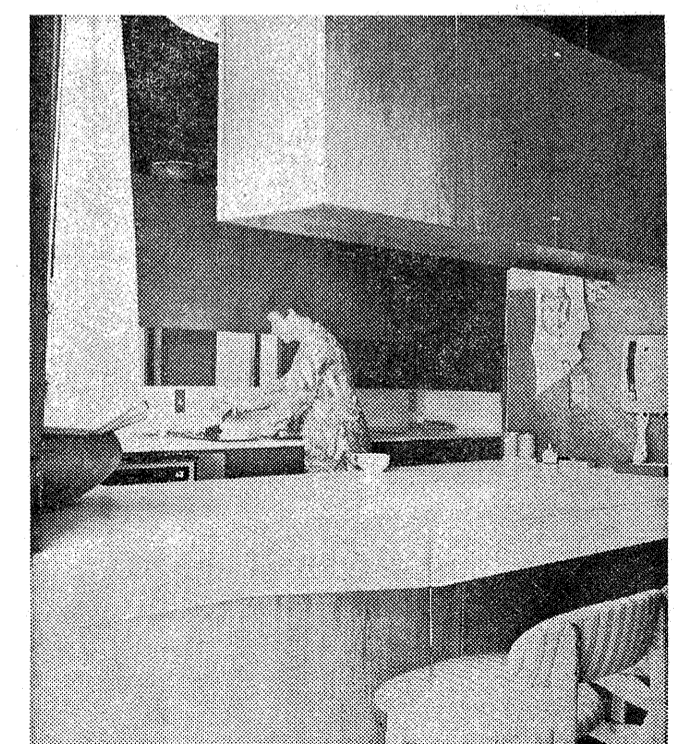
done by the Wulferts, with the help of their six children, ranging in age from 7 to 20.



Family room-kitchen combination catches rays of backyard sun and shadows of swimming pool.



The powder room off the entry hall is papered with postage stamps collected by Mr. Wulfert.



From kitchen, Rita Wulfert can oversee the backyard area and second level of house.