

# Site Of Home Is Spectacular

By Mary Brown  
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An Oriental influence is highlighted in the new home of the Williams C. Jordans situated high on a rise on a six acre site in Rancho Romero off North Orange Road beyond Oro Valley.

Rancho Romero is the home of Mrs. Jordan's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. McAdams.

Use of this detailing is evident in the Thai hut or pagoda effect on the roof which forms a skylighted extension of the living room ceiling. Outer construction of this part of the roof which is above the main roof is in blue clay tile and it's lighted so that it may be seen for some distance at night.

William H. Cook and Robert J. Swain, architects, point out other Oriental aspects in the house plan. Take the proposed structure for example. All of the beams, really the bones of the house, are treated in this manner. Sliding Shoji door panels are used as room dividers. A plasticized rice paper was imported for use in these panels. Another detail in the Oriental manner is the use of rain leaders. These are nylon cords from the roof anchored on the ground by heavy stones. They supplant the need for gutters and rain spouts since water courses down the ropes in the ground.

Mrs. Jordan presented many ideas to the architects most important of which was that each room should have a view and that an Oriental feeling should pervade. Result is that each room does have a different view of the surrounding country which is majestic to say the least. Cathedral Rock looms up to the east from the living room windows. A 280 degree view of the west end of the Catalinas is possible from the site and is guaranteed a distinct view from each room the architects have staggered the rooms so that views are

seen from the north through the complete eastern exposure to the south.

Approach to the home is a winding road up a hill and the outer entry is separated from the inner entry court by wood-redwood slats. One gets the effect of winding one's way into the house through these outer and inner entry courts. Ground cover on the inner entry court is of exposed aggregate in a series of platforms punctuated by areas of red wood pebble bark and plantings.

John Harlow did the landscaping and Louis Gerlach took care of the desert plantings to the east. Irving D. Rubinstein built the home

which is of burnt adobe construction.

Woodwork in the home is in solid birch and many of the walls are of burnt adobe.

Many porches and verandas surround the house. Two flank the living room, a dining terrace extends from the formal dining room. The master bedroom has its own little private patio as well as a sun deck. A terrace extends off the book room or den.

From the outer entry court one enters into a garden room centered by a ceramic tile planter and sunken planter areas along the windows. Oriental rugs accent the terrazzo flooring. Ceramics done by the Jordans' daughter Kay Austin, whose work at the mo-

ment is being exhibited at Parke's gallery in San Jose, are used here and there on the wall.

Another Oriental touch is apparent in the mesquite trees which were on the property. Mr. Harlow trimmed these in such fashion as to give a sculptured effect and provide another Oriental silhouette to the home.

Nylon slaters in white are used at the sliding glass doors and windows which are gray tinted to cut the glare. Accent lights are used in the living areas and the system can be dimmed or brightened according to the mood of the occupants.

Master bedroom which again has a spectacular view is fur-

nished in antique white and gold with off-white carpeting. Off of this are huge individual dressing rooms for each of them, including a tiny sitting room for her. The dressing rooms lead to a joint bathing room done in blue and white tile with a sunken tub and a long built-in tile seating area at the end.

The Jordans, who have four sons and one daughter, have owned the land since the 17th grandchildline to the fold. They moved into the home just before the holidays in December and since then haven't had much time to spend there what with business trips east and west and visits to various numbers of the family.

Just last month they were in Annapolis and Syracuse, the former for a reunion of his class at the Naval Academy and the second for a Steward's dinner of the Intercollegiate Rowing Association where Mr. Jordan as coxswain of his class crew were nominated to the Rowing Hall of Fame. Members of that crew brought back the first gold medal to this country from the Olympic games in Belgium in 1922.

Two footcubts in Mr. Jordan's study point up his naval background. A gift of Mrs. Jordan, they have leather covers, hand knotted in Peru, one with the crest of the class of 1922, the other with the Naval Academy crest.

Future plans call for a patio wall around the east side of the house.

Guests in this patio or in the living room are treated to a regular flow show as the wild life of the surrounding terrain comes up to call. There are quail, road runners and rabbits running and jumping all day long.