

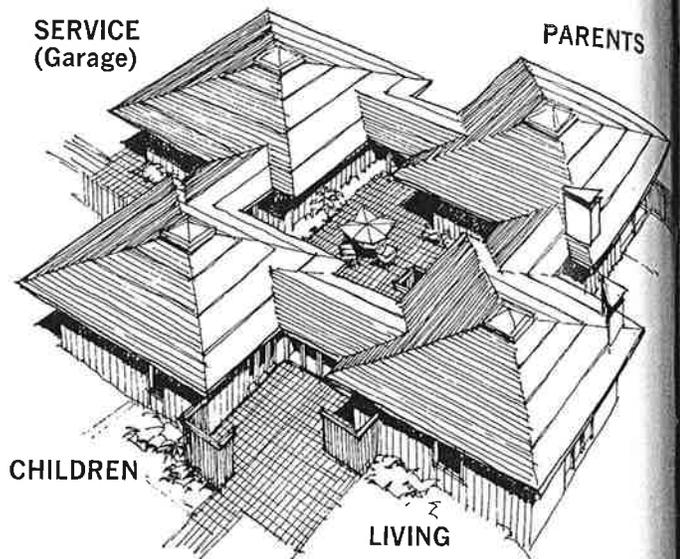
One interesting and fresh idea is the multiple house. Two of the four winners of first Honor Awards for 1965-1966 use a multiple plan

The multiple house idea is not new, it's just beginning to move ahead in a spectacular way.

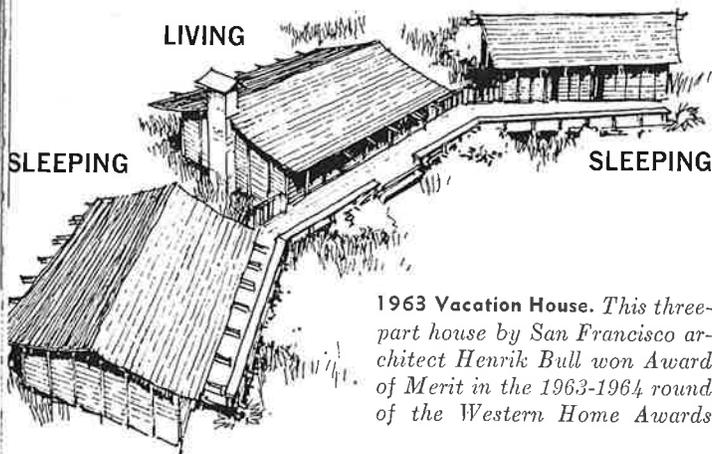
Simplest and oldest form is just two pavilions: usually a living house and a sleeping house, separate but close together, and usually with some sort of roofed linkage between.

One particularly handsome two-pavilion house, designed by Pasadena architects Smith & Williams, won an Honor Award in the 1961-1962 round of the Western Home Awards program. And a two-pavilion house has won an Award of Merit this year (top left, page 82). Australian architect Robin Boyd, juror in this year's Western Home Awards, lives in an unusual two-pavilion house in Melbourne, a house that *Sunset* published in August, 1964.

A three-house multiple first appeared among the Western Home Award winners in the 1963-1964 round. It was a three-part vacation house designed by architect Henrik Bull (see sketch below). The jury that year called it a "vacation village," and granted it an Award of Merit. Architect Bull had taken the multiple idea a step further in the experimental Discovery House he designed for *Sunset* (published in November, 1962), which tens of thousands of *Sunset* readers visited dur-



1962 Discovery House sponsored by *Sunset* had four connected pavilions and a spacious central court. Tens of thousands visited the Discovery House during late 1962 and 1963 at El Dorado Hills, east of Sacramento



1963 Vacation House. This three-part house by San Francisco architect Henrik Bull won Award of Merit in the 1963-1964 round of the Western Home Awards

ing late 1962 and 1963. The Discovery House (see sketch at right, above) had a four-pavilion plan: living, parents' sleeping, children's sleeping, and service (workshop, laundry, garage).

A four-pavilion house was still pretty unusual in 1963. Not one such plan was entered in the Western Home Awards that year. (Because of its *Sunset* sponsorship, we considered the Discovery House ineligible for the AIA-*Sunset* Western Home Awards program in 1963, and did not enter it. However, other architectural juries that year liked its design. The Discovery House won a Northern California AIA Award as well as a First

Honor Award in a national home design program sponsored by the AIA.)

This year saw some changes. Among entries in the 1965-1966 Western Home Awards were more than a dozen houses with multiple-pavilion plans, and two of the four Honor Awards granted by the jury went to the multiple houses sketched on the opposite page and shown in photographs on pages 90 to 93.

What are the arguments for a multiple house? And what are some of its demerits?

To get answers, we first asked this year's Western Home Awards jurors. Then our reporters talked to architects who have designed multiples. We also interviewed families who have tried the special life such houses make possible. Here is a summary of our findings.

First of all, everybody says that a multiple house "lives big." A modest 1,500-square-foot house with three pavilions may seem as spacious as a house several times its size. Two years ago, visitors to the *Sunset* Discovery House in El Dorado Hills again and again expressed disbelief that its widespread living space actually amounted to only 2,000 square feet.

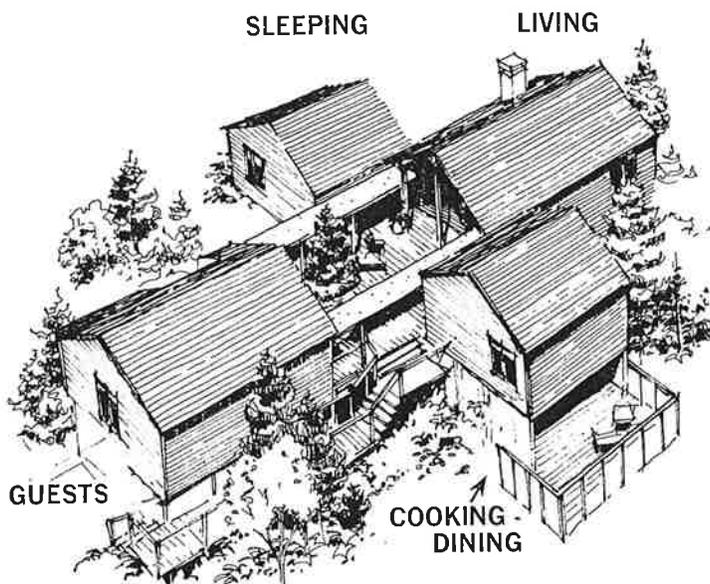
Next, the multiple house offers separation. People aren't so apt to get in one another's way. They don't bump into each other. Activities can be kept apart. Generations can come together or stay separated as desired—parents and children and grandparents. For all of them, privacy is possible.

The multiple house facilitates outdoor living. The pavilions can enclose and shelter outdoor space, can offer both wind protection and privacy. Note the private interior courts within two of the houses sketched here. Sometimes the multiple can help solve special problems, such as making the most of a narrow city lot (see page 56 of the August 1964 *Sunset*). On such a lot you can sometimes build right up to the setback line on all sides, and then have your outdoor living space within or between house elements, in privacy from neighbors.

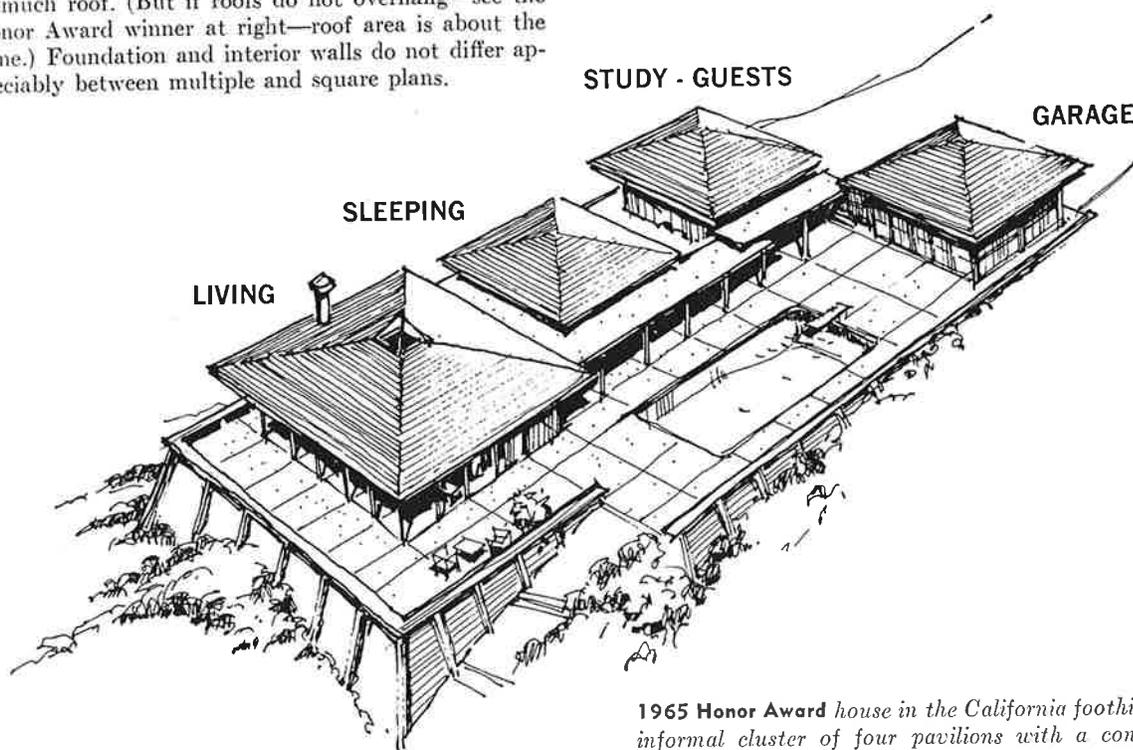
You can build a multiple house in stages, one unit at a time, letting the house grow as your family grows, your income rises, your needs change.

Another advantage of a three or four-part multiple plan is its flexibility in use. A children's sleeping pavilion can become in later years an apartment for son or daughter visiting with grandchildren. At other times this former children's pavilion will be a guest house. When it's not in use, you can close it off and forget about cleaning or heating it.

What are some of the drawbacks of the multiple house? Cost is the big one. A four-part multiple has about twice as much exterior sidewall as a squarish house of equivalent size. If roof overhangs are generous (as on the Discovery House), the multiple may have half again as much roof. (But if roofs do not overhang—see the Honor Award winner at right—roof area is about the same.) Foundation and interior walls do not differ appreciably between multiple and square plans.



1965 Honor Award house on the Oregon coast has four pavilions, which enclose a spacious interior court. The house is pictured in color on pages 74 and 75. You'll find more photographs and a floor plan on pages 90 and 91



1965 Honor Award house in the California foothills is an informal cluster of four pavilions with a connecting roofed passage and a great platform terrace. You will find plan and photographs on pages 92 and 93

With a multiple, you achieve great size without building it and without quite paying for it, but you do pay some premium.

The usual multiple plan is for a family with children of grade-school age or older. Some architects feel the multiple idea is not suitable for a family with very young children; they may be sleeping too far away from their parents.

The development of the multiple house has been a continuing story in *Sunset* over the last several years. There is no question about the rising interest in this planning idea. Turn the page for the latest chapters in the story of multiples—two 1965-1966 Honor Award winners using multiple plans.

On the next four pages,
the Honor Award multiples
in plan and photographs