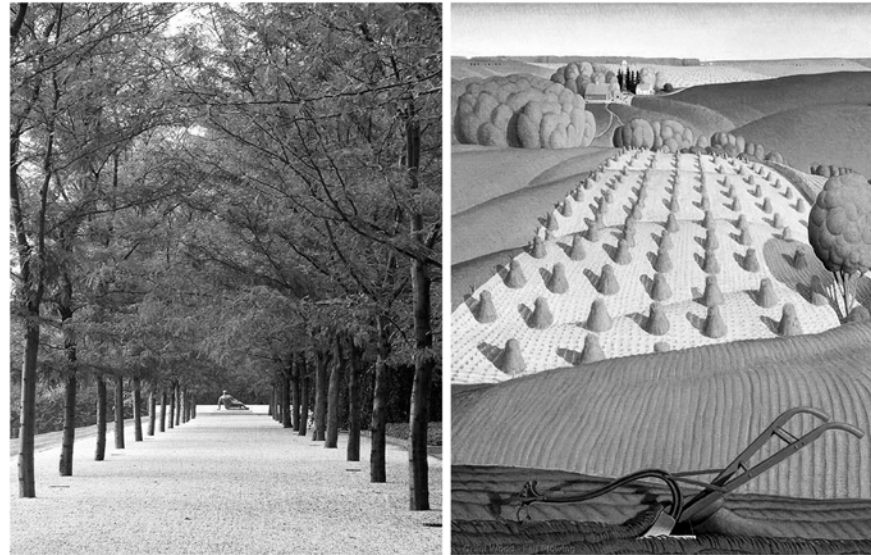


Quintessentially Modern – and Midwestern: Landscape Typologies and Cultural Memes in the Miller House and Garden, Columbus, Indiana



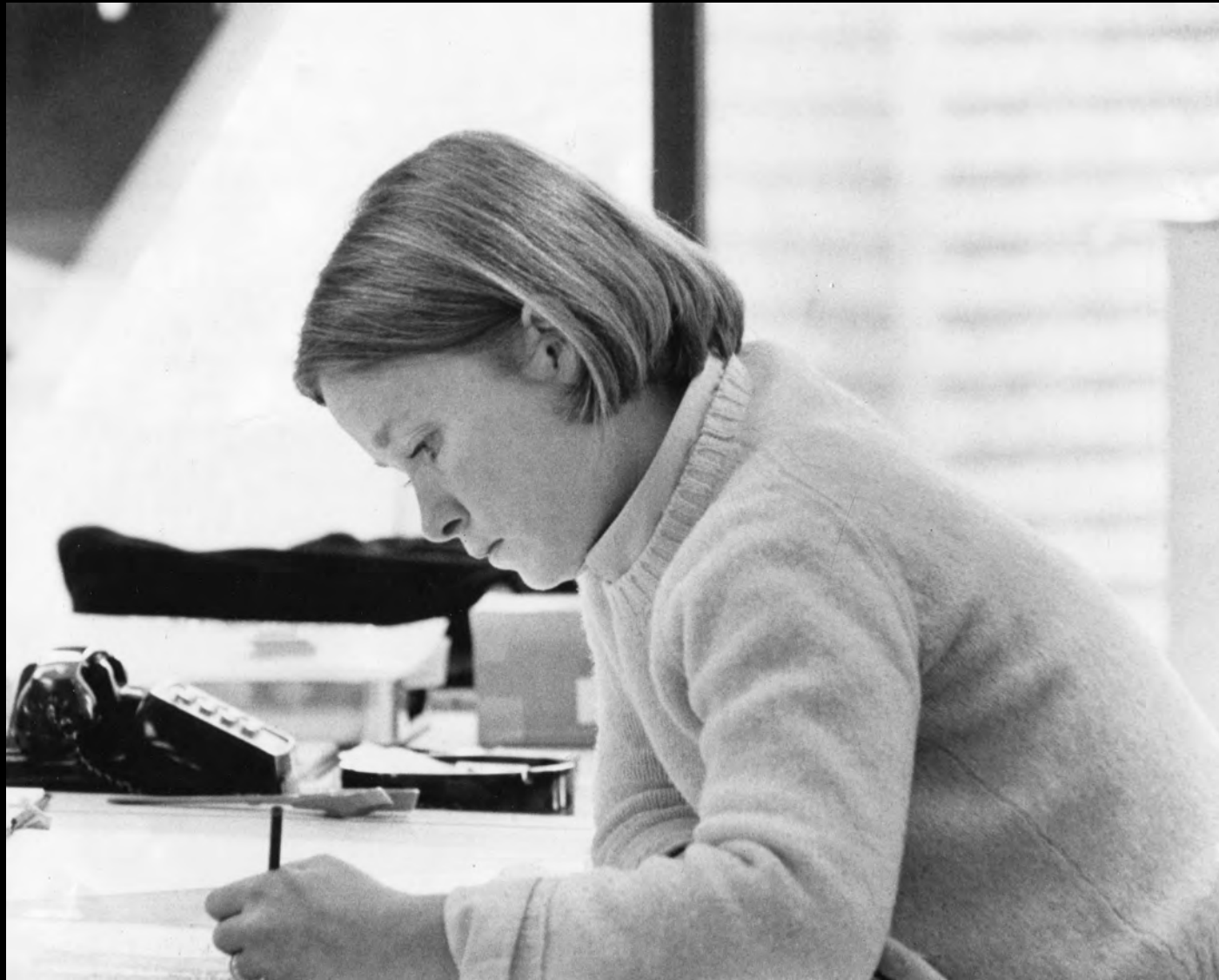
Presented by Peter Osler

Organized by a2modern

www.a2modern.org

modernists@a2modern.org

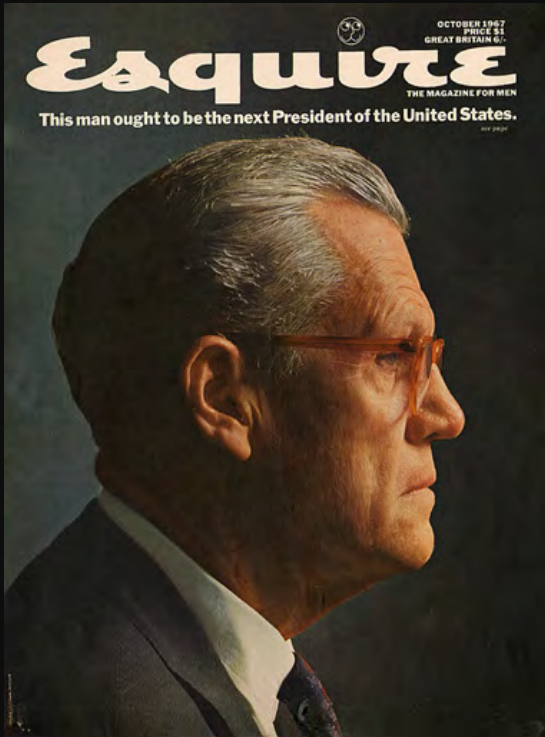




Molly Elizabeth Osler 1952-2019 A Modernist to her core.

“O Beautiful, for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, has there ever been another place on earth where so many people of wealth and power have paid for and put up with so much architecture they detested as within thy blessed borders? I doubt it seriously”.

Thomas Wolfe, From *Bauhaus to Our House*, 1981



J. Irwin Miller
(1909-2004)
Client



Eero Saarinen
(1910-1961)
Architect



Daniel Urban Kiley
(1917-2003)
Landscape Architect



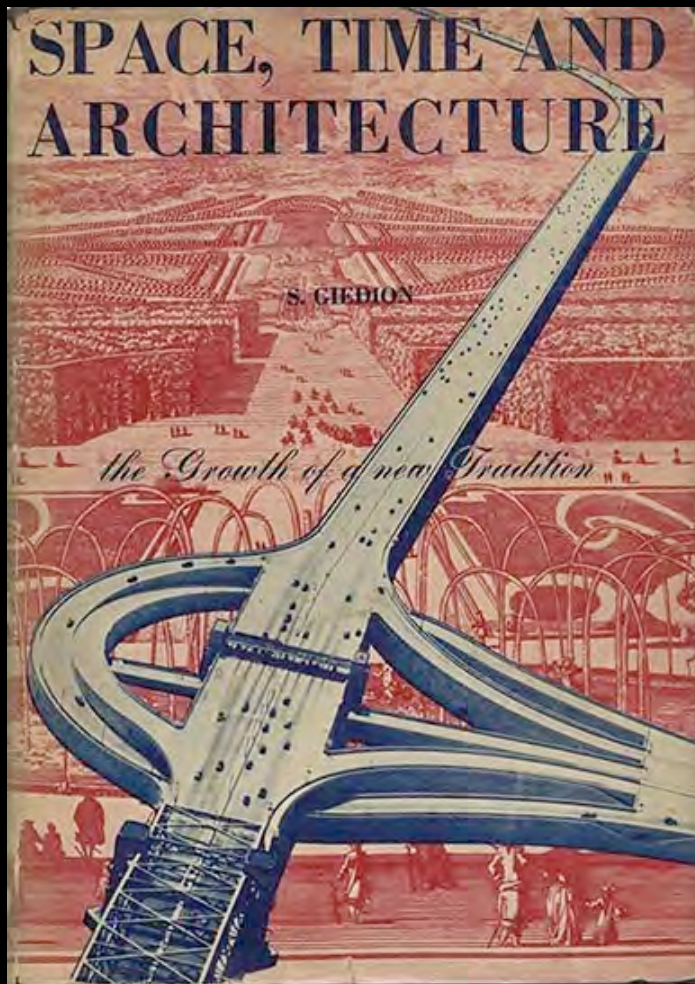
Alexander Girard, 1953



Kevin Roche with Eero Saarinen, 1957



- _ Born in Roxbury/Boston, 1917
- _ Grew up poor
- _ Apprenticed with Warren Manning (Olmsted's plantsman) before and during his studies at Harvard
- _ Special Student at Harvard from 1936-38; left without graduating
- _ Classmates with Garrett Eckbo and James Rose; manifesto for Architectural Record magazine
- _ Married Anne Lothrop Sturges for 61 years; eight children
- _ Eventually settled in Charlotte, Vermont, where he died in 2004



298. PICASSO, "L'Arlequin," 1913-12. Oil. "In the head may be seen the cubist device of representing two aspects of a single object at the same time, in this case the profile and the full face. Every overlapping plane is also characteristic" (Catalogue of the Picasso Exhibition, Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1939, p. 77).

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299. WALTER GROPIUS, "The Bauhaus, Dessau, 1925-26. Corner of the workshop wing. In this case it is the exterior and the interior of a building which are presented simultaneously. The exterior transparent areas, by simulating the interior, permit the hovering relations of planes and the kind of "overlapping" which appears in contemporary painting.

495

1938 Harvard University Charles Eliot Norton Lectures by Sigfried Giedion Published as *Space, Time, and Architecture*, 1941

I placed a jar in Tennessee,
And round it was, upon a hill.
It made the slovenly wilderness
Surround that hill.

The Wilderness rose up to it,
And sprawled around, no longer
wild.

Anecdote of the Jar
Wallace Stevens, 1919

"...the introduction of a work of art into the unmediated wilderness of nature alters both, though it is wilderness that seems more changed. Gardens too, are jars, set down in otherwise untouched landscape, and part of their function and interest is that they alter their surroundings by their presence".

John Dixon Hunt

One must have a mind of winter
To regard the frost and the boughs
Of the pine-trees crusted with snow;

And have been cold a long time
To behold the junipers shagged with ice,
The spruces rough in the distant glitter

Of the January sun; and not to think
Of any misery in the sound of the wind,
In the sound of a few leaves,

Which is the sound of the land
Full of the same wind
That is blowing in the same bare place

For the listener, who listens in the snow,
And, nothing himself, beholds
Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is.

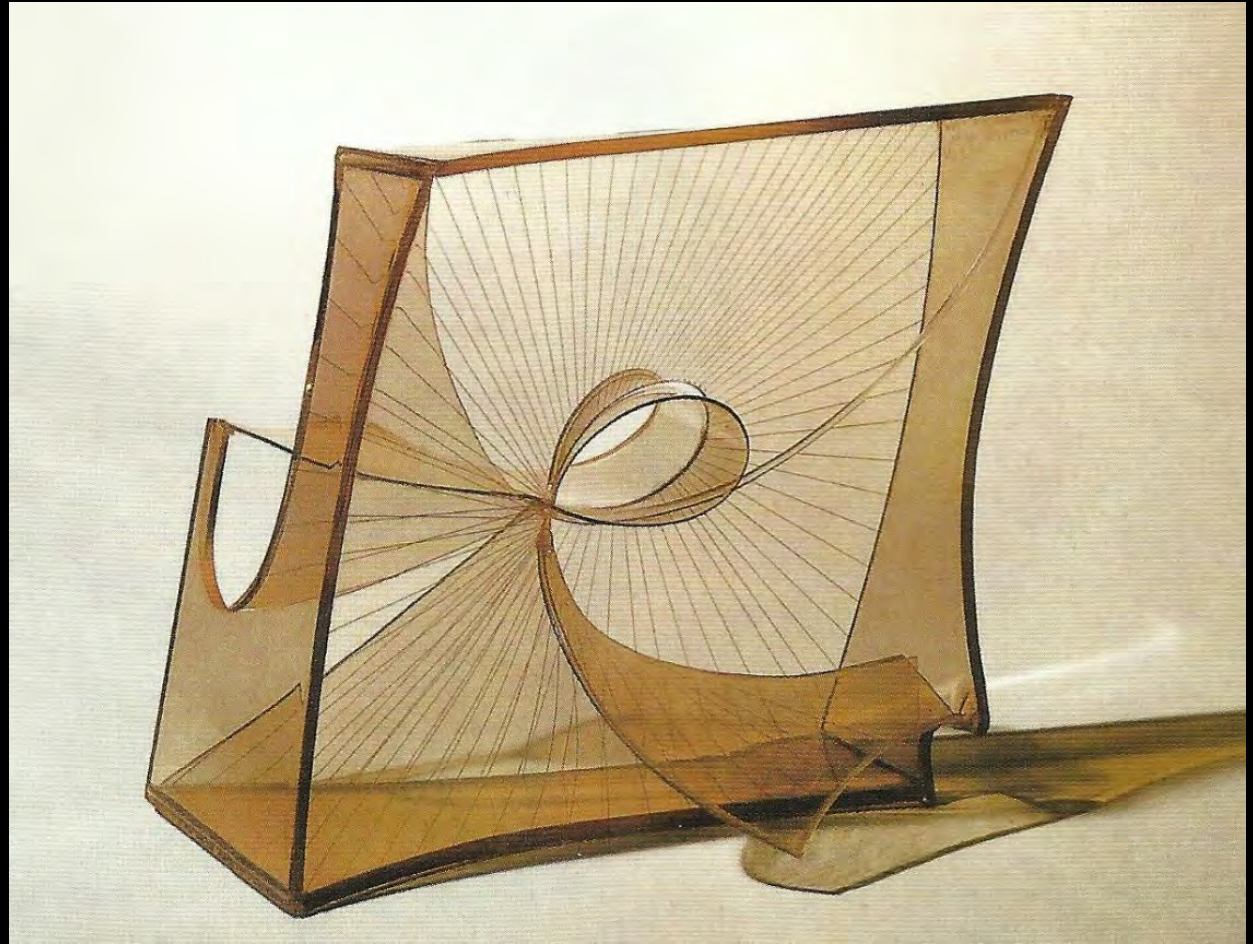
The Snow Man
Wallace Stevens, 1921



Etude De Robe Chambre Pour Balzac
Study For Balzac's Dressing Gown, Auguste Rodin, 1897

"For Rodin the participation of air was always of tremendous importance".

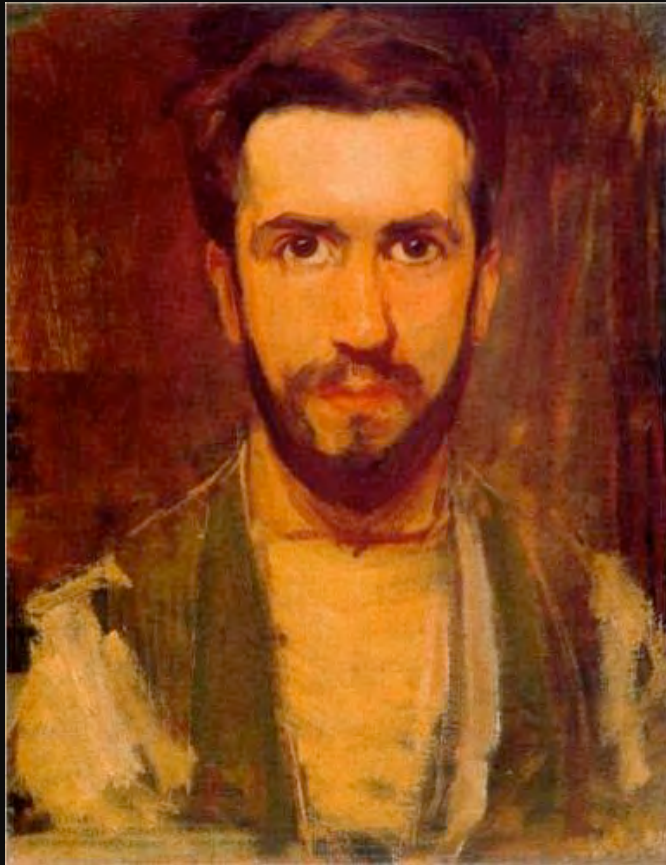
Rainer Maria Rilke, 1903



Construction in Space (Crystal), Naum Gabo, 1937-39



Fall Plowing Grant Wood, 1931



Piet Mondrian, 1900



Row of Trees in Wetland, near Duivendrecht, 1905-06



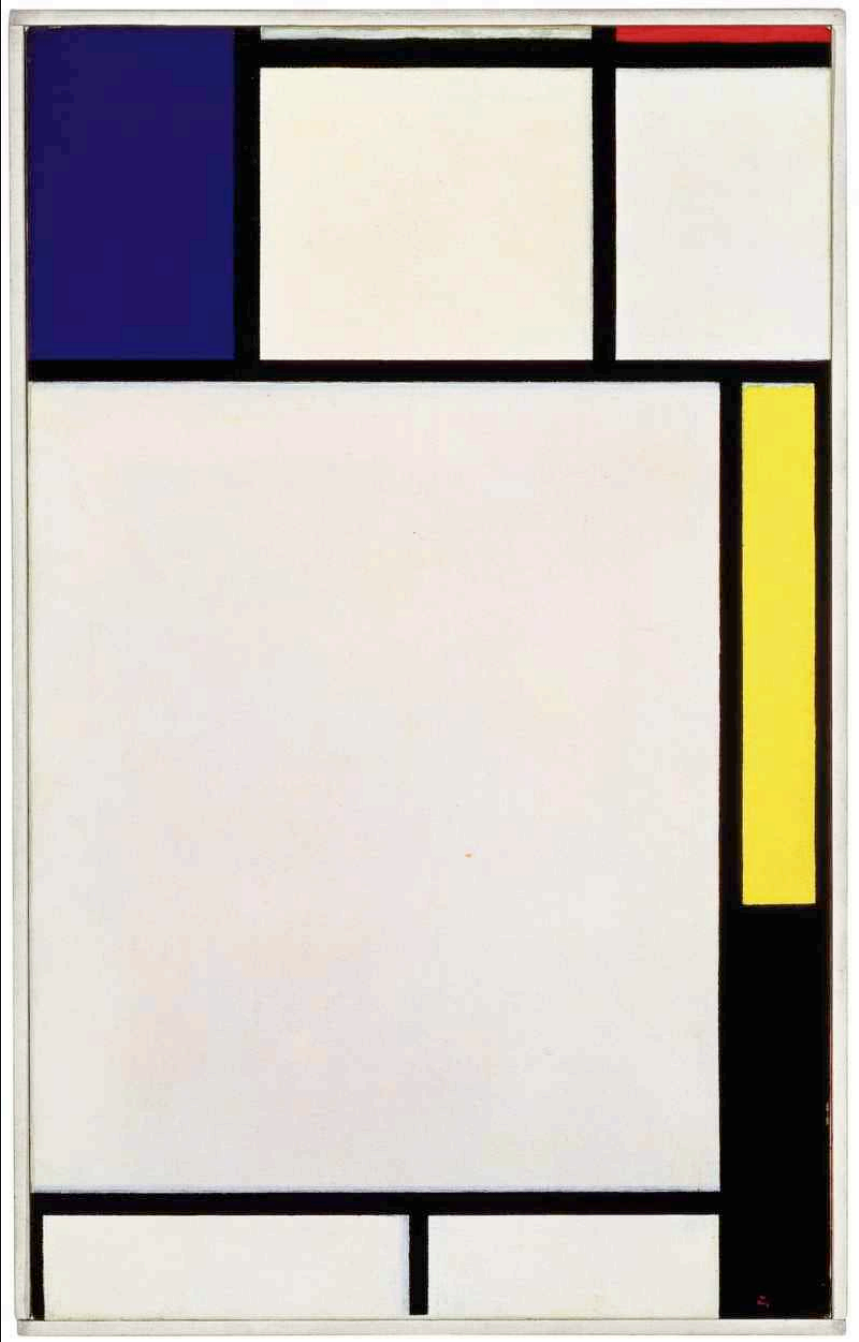
The Gray Tree, c. 1912

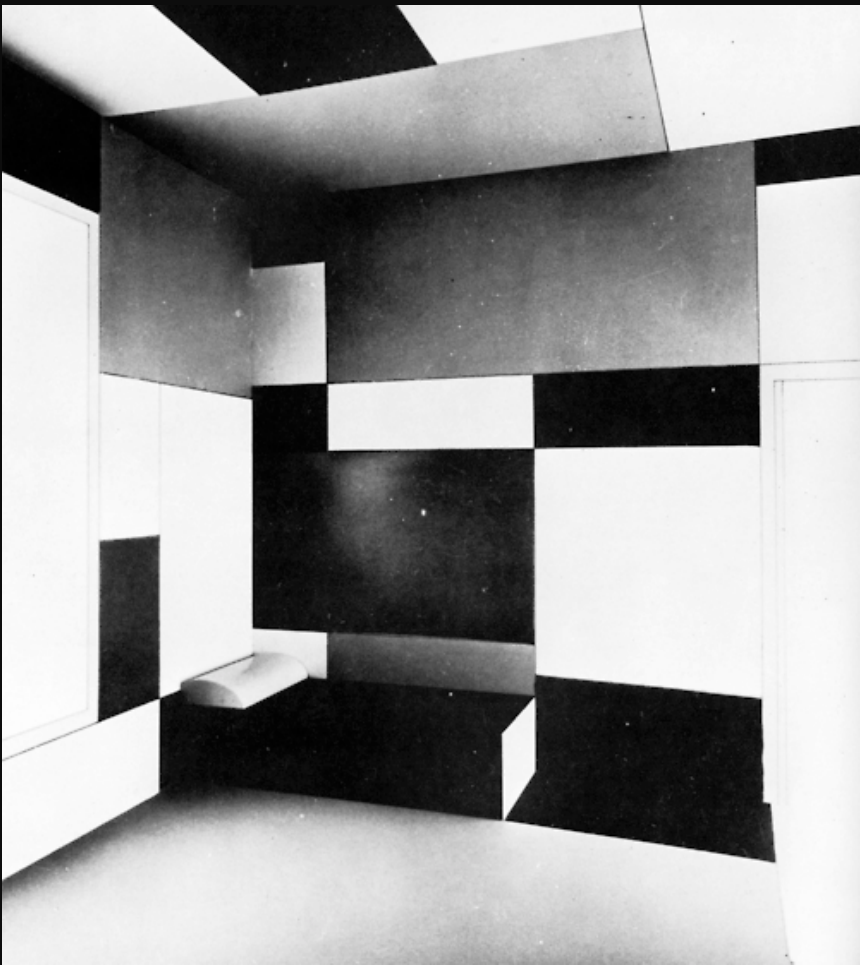


The Tree, 1913

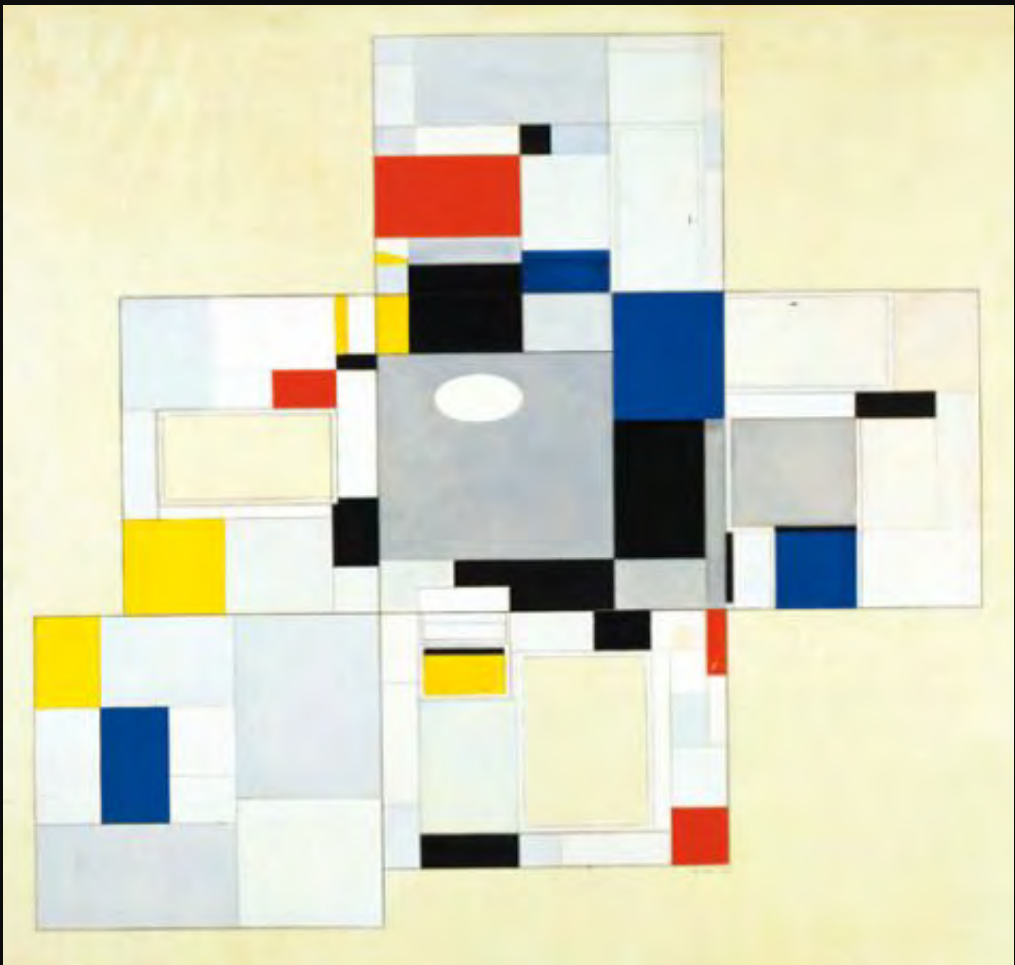


Tableau I: Lozenge with Four Lines and Gray, 1926





Library-Study For Ida Bienert, Dresden, 1926 Piet Mondrian



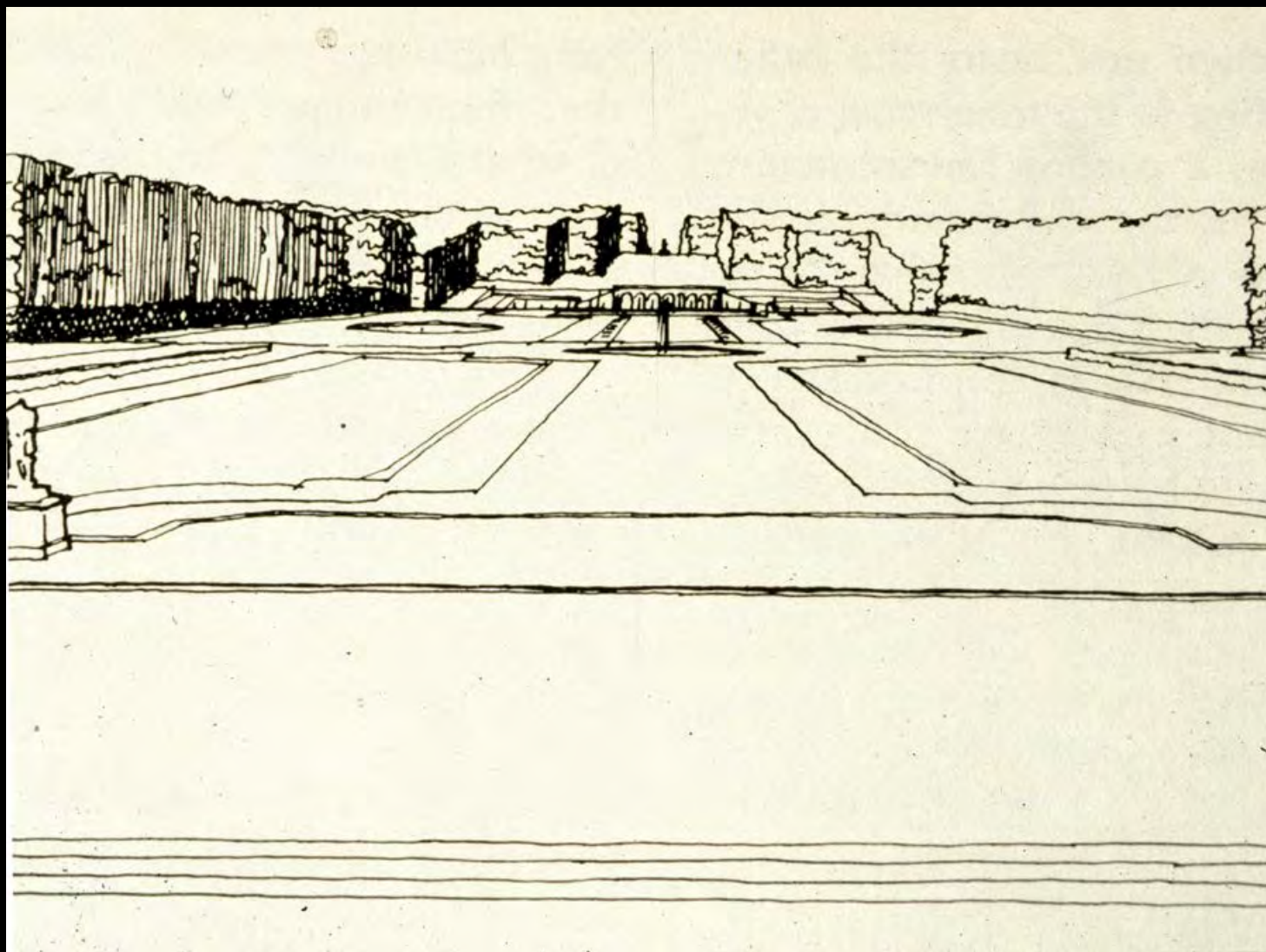
Unfolded Elevation

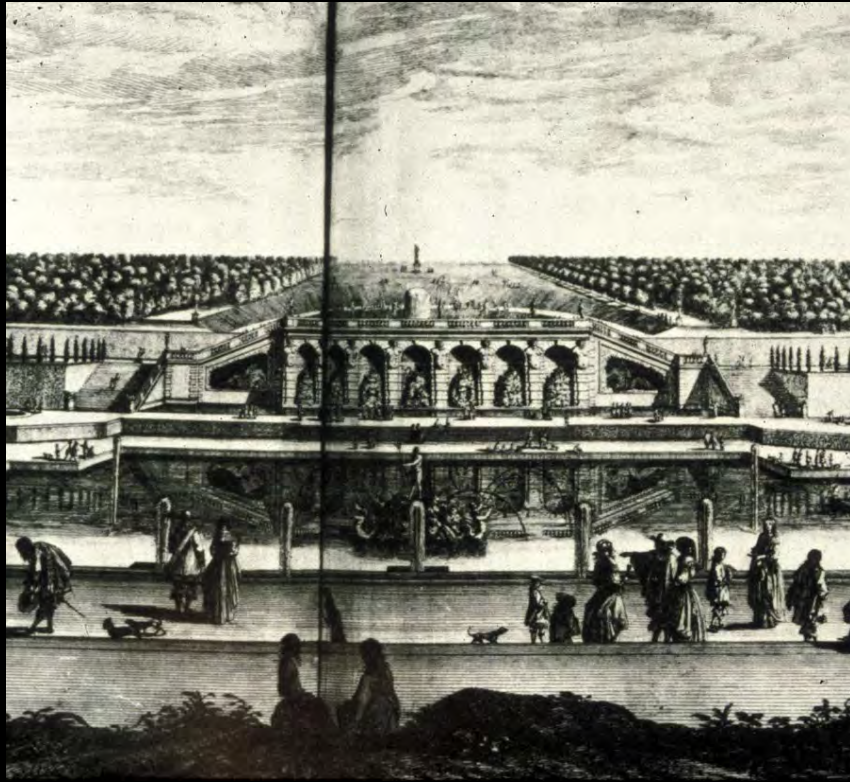


International Military Tribunal/Nuremberg Trials Courtroom, 1945-46

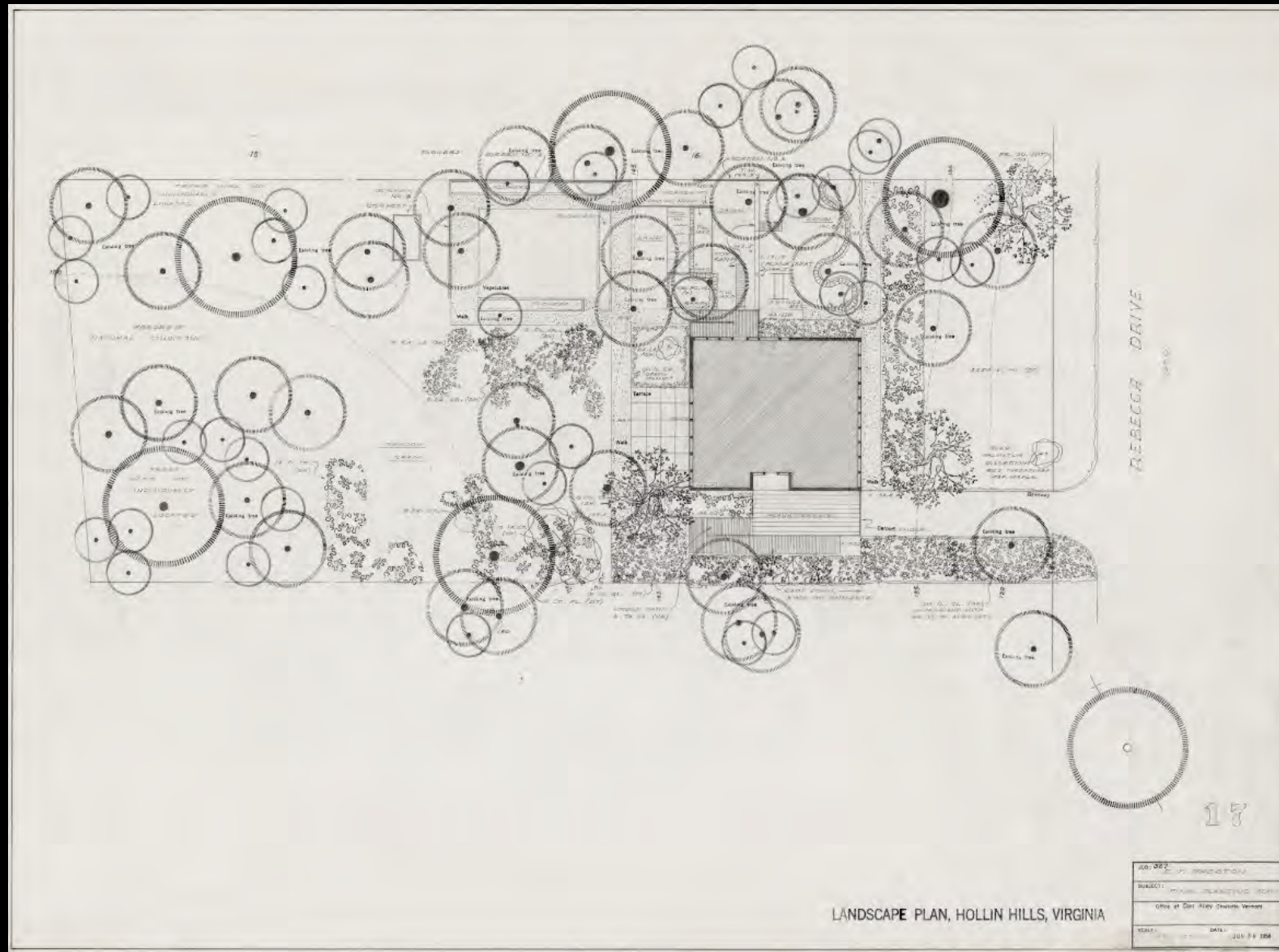


Vaux-le-Vicomte, 1644-1661
Melun, France
Andre le Notre, Garden Design
Louis Le Vau, Architect
Charles Le Brun, Decor









Landscape Plan, Lot 17, Section 4, Rebecca Drive, Hollin Hills, NJ, 1954



Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (The Arch) Award Ceremony
L to R: J. Henderson Barr (Associate Designer), Alexander Girard (Painter), Dan Kiley (Landscape Architect), Lily Swann Saarinen (Sculptor), Eero Saarinen (Designer), William Wurster (Jury Chairman)



Environment

- _Topography

Infrastructure

- _Jeffersonian Grid/Public Land Survey System
(Land Ordinance of 1785)

Land Use (Agriculture)

- _Ordered
- _Mechanized & Controlled
- _Monocultures

Culture

- _Things in Their Proper Place
- _Hard Work
- _Honest
- _Conservative
- _Vastness and The Infinite Horizon

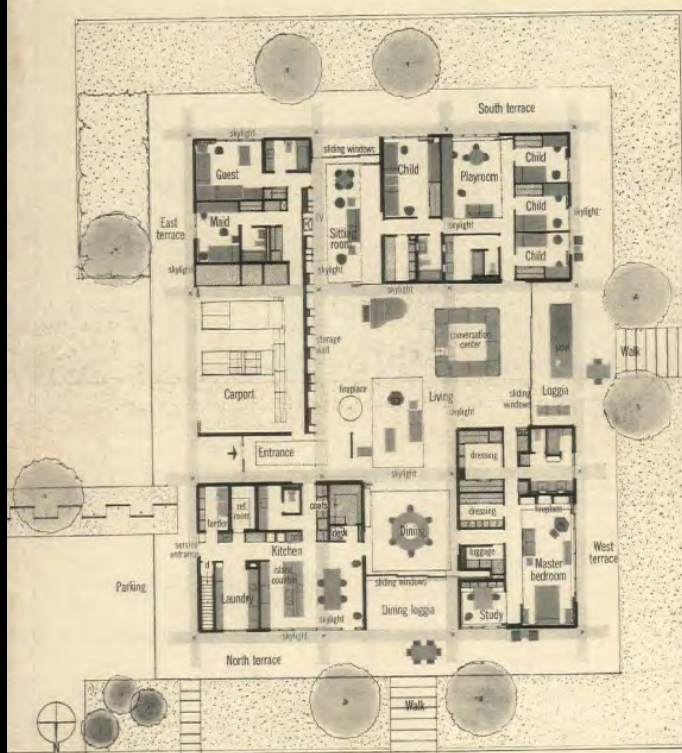


J. Irwin and Xenia Miller (1909-2004, 1917-2008)



American Gothic, Grant Wood, 1930

A WONDERFUL PLAN for family unity and tranquillity



Five part plan is all one level, under one enormous roof. Groups of rooms at each corner are almost like individual houses. Each 'house' opens to the great central room where family activities and meals are shared. Carport and guest room are in southeast corner; bedrooms, baths, playroom for five children have the southwest corner and parents have their own, self-contained suite at northwest corner. Kitchen and laundry are in northeast. All these rooms have access to the outdoor loggias on three sides of the house and the 10' wide terrazzo paved terrace surrounding it.

ARCHITECTS:
Eero Saarinen and Associates
and Alexander Girard
Associate: Kevin Roche
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:
Dan Kiley

Loggia joins living room through wide, sliding windows. Water rains into reflecting pool from jets overhead. Skylights run length of roof.

Additional photographs, page 100
Building data, page 112 Continued

House and Garden Magazine (UK), February 1959



Bricks and boards, shutters and high-pitched roof—all make this handsome house a just-right house.
The graceful L-shape is compact yet spacious-looking. It adapts to a 75-foot city lot—or a country acre or more.

See what "Traditional" means today

By John Normie, A.I.A.

Really good Traditional design today is hard to find. True, many houses go by that name. But they're no more practical in 1959 than the first cabin at Plymouth Rock.

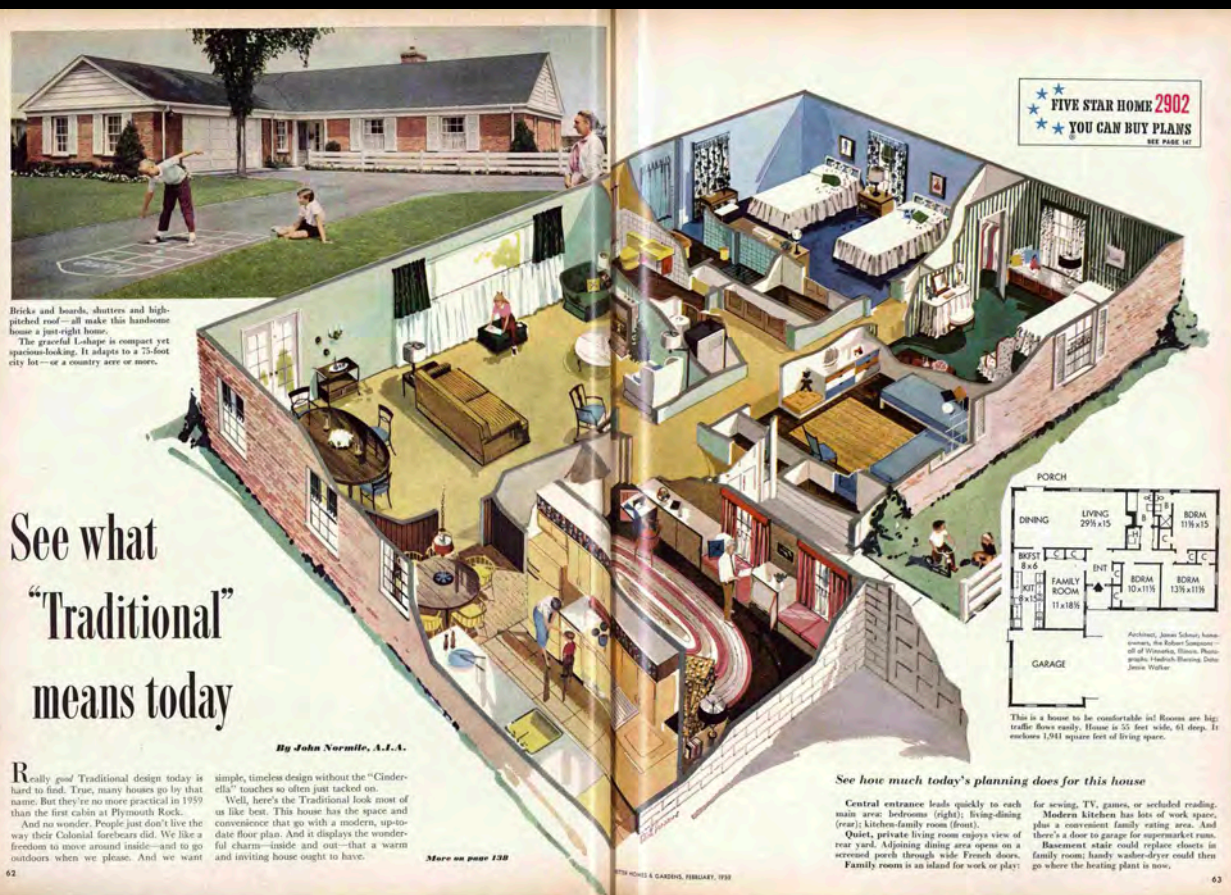
And no wonder. People just don't live the way their Colonial forebears did. We like a freedom to move around inside—and to go outdoors when we please. And we want

simple, timeless design without the "Cinderella" touches so often just tacked on.
Well, here's the Traditional look most of us like best. This house has the space and convenience that go with a modern, up-to-date floor plan. And it displays the wonderful charm—inside and out—that a warm and inviting house ought to have.

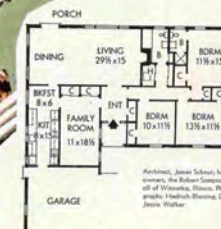
More on page 138

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Better Homes and Garden Magazine (USA), February 1959



★ ★ ★
FIVE STAR HOME 2902
★ ★ ★
YOU CAN BUY PLANS
SEE PAGE 141



This is a house to be comfortable in! Rooms are big, traffic flows easily. House is 35 feet wide, 61 deep. It encloses 1,941 square feet of living space.

See how much today's planning does for this house

Central entrance leads quickly to each main area: bedrooms (right); living-dining (rear); kitchen-family room (front).
Quiet, private living room enjoys view of rear yard. Adjoining dining area opens on a screened porch through wide French doors.
Family room is an island for work or play!

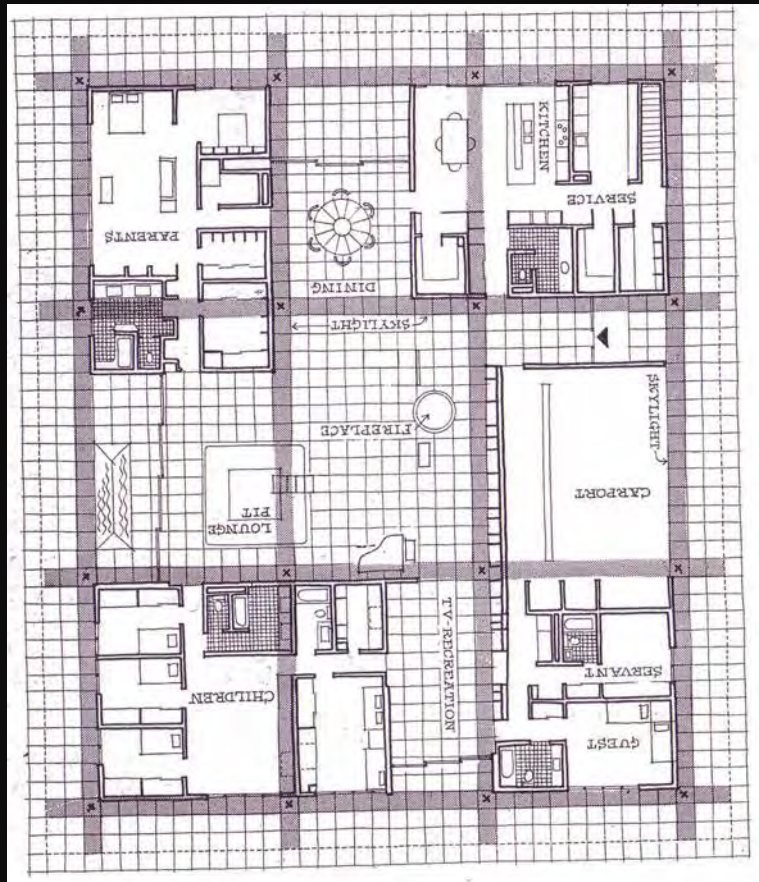
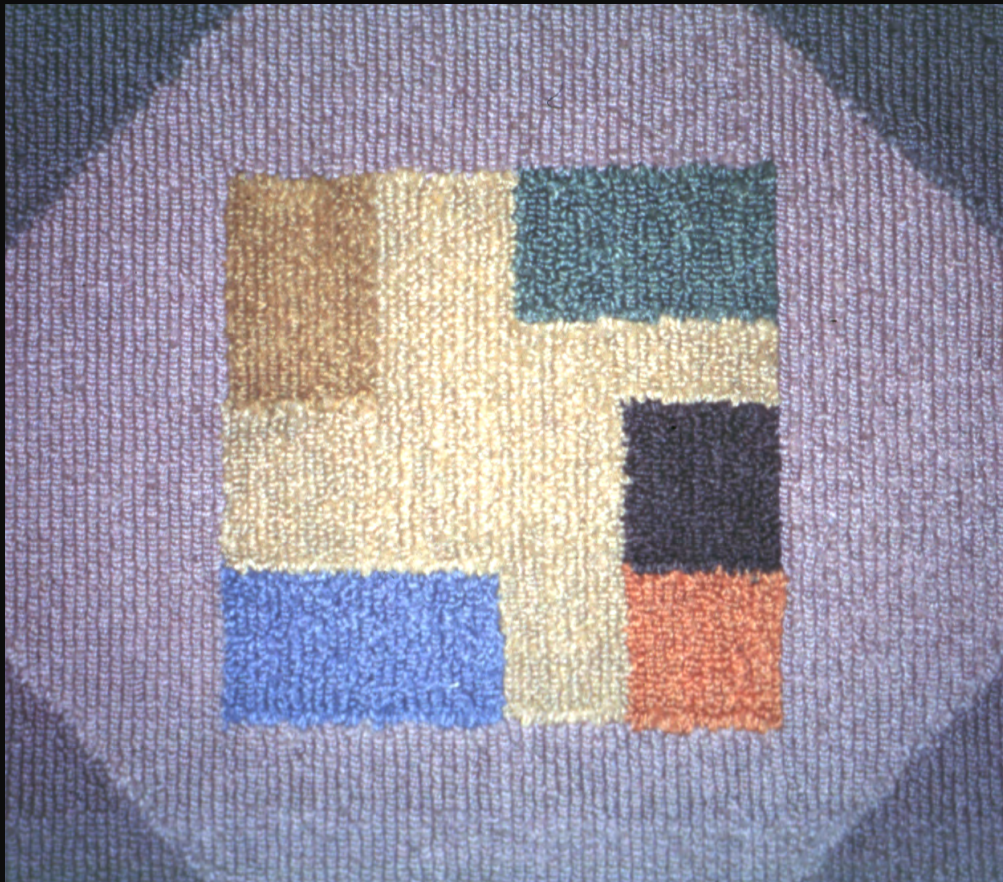
Modern kitchen has lots of work space, plus a convenient family eating area. And there's a door to garage for supermarket runs.
Basement state could replace closets in family room; handy washer-dryer could then go where the heating plant is now.

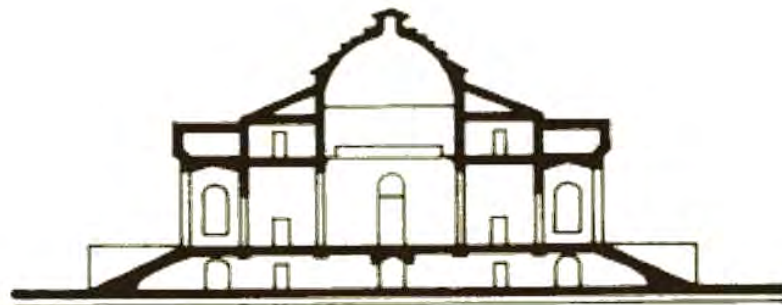
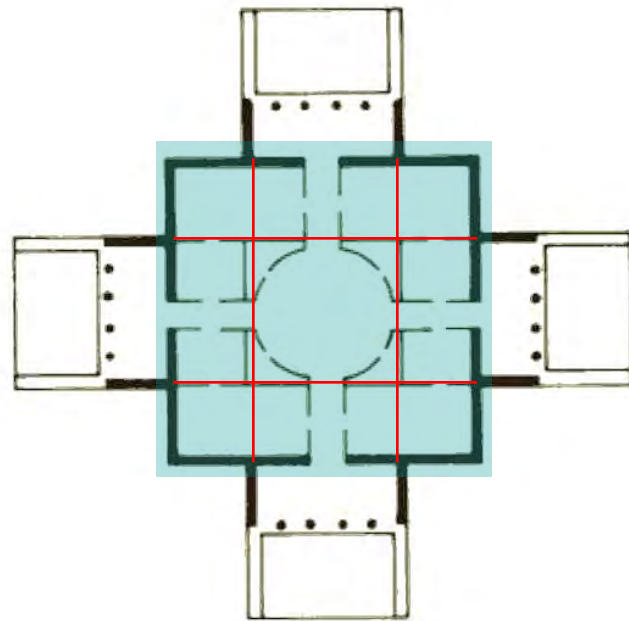
63



“Inspired by old Midwest farmhouses, where all rooms opened up on a common room, the same magnetic effect expresses the common unit of family.”

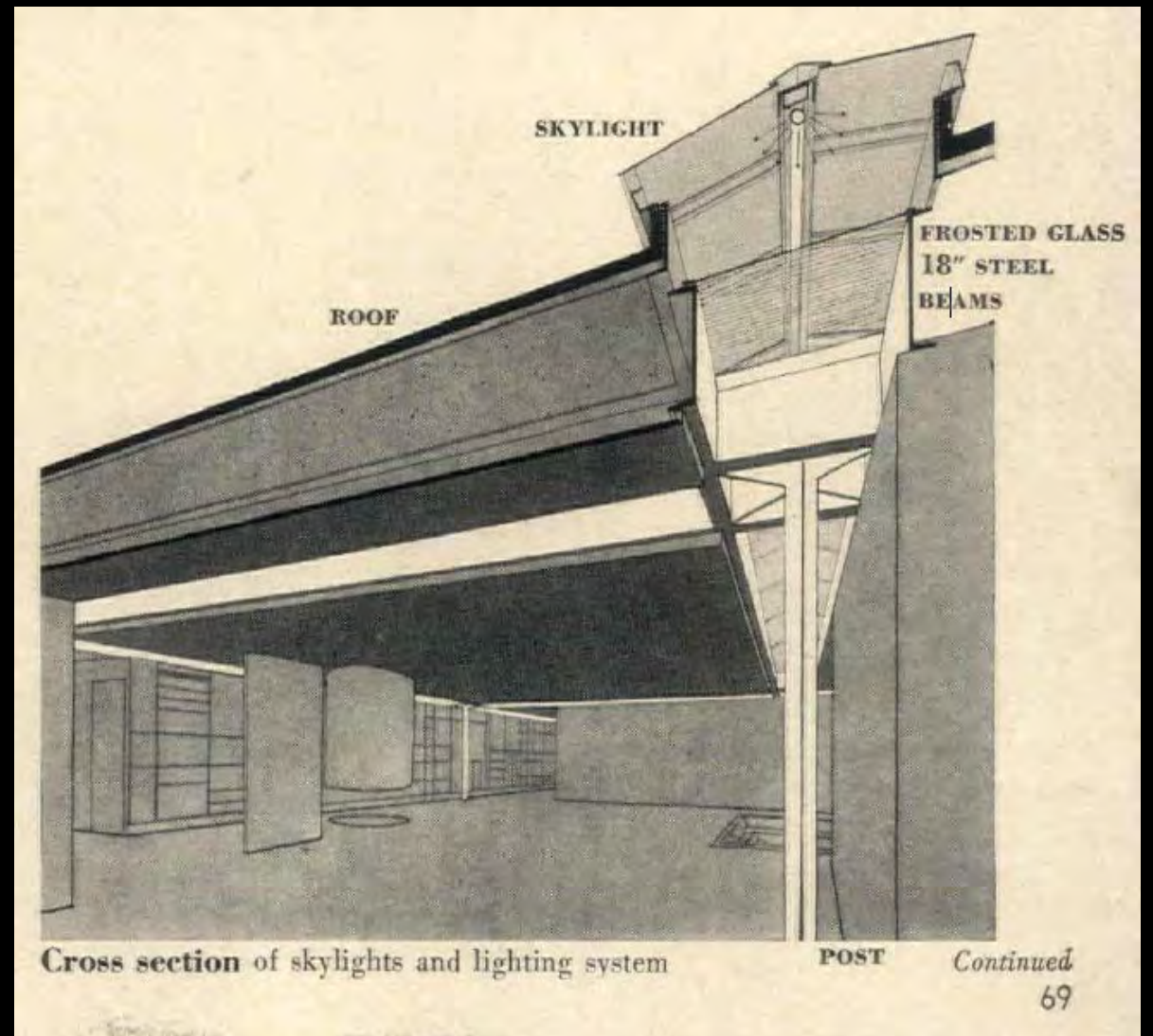
House and Garden Magazine, February 1959







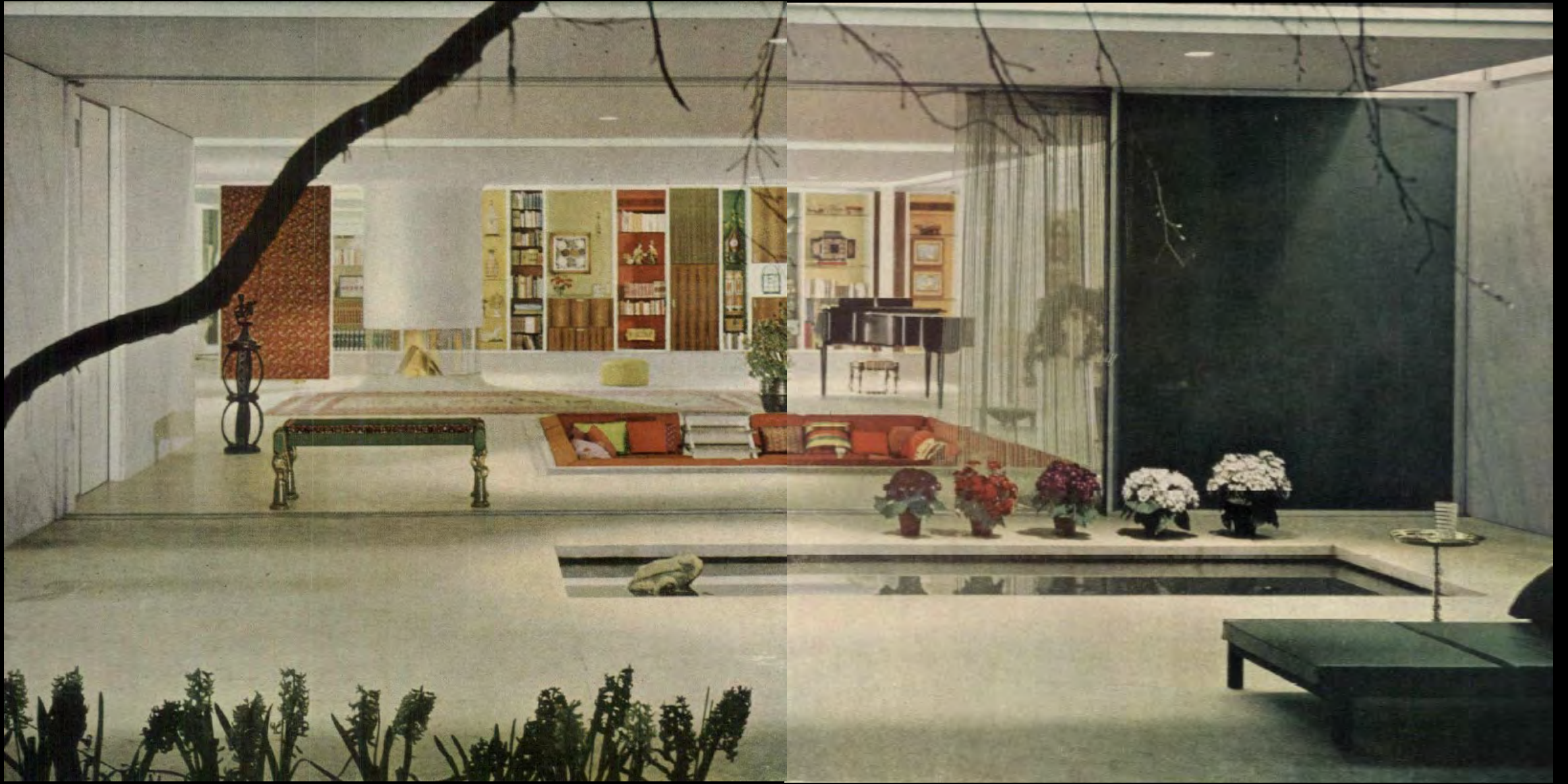
Villa Rotunda, Andrea Palladio (mid 16th c)



Order, Structure, Light (Interior)
Balthazar Korab and *House and Garden* Magazine, February 1959



Structure and Light (Exterior)
Note: Water drops from ceiling into reflecting pool



View From West Terrace Looking East into Living Room, *House and Garden* Magazine, February 1959



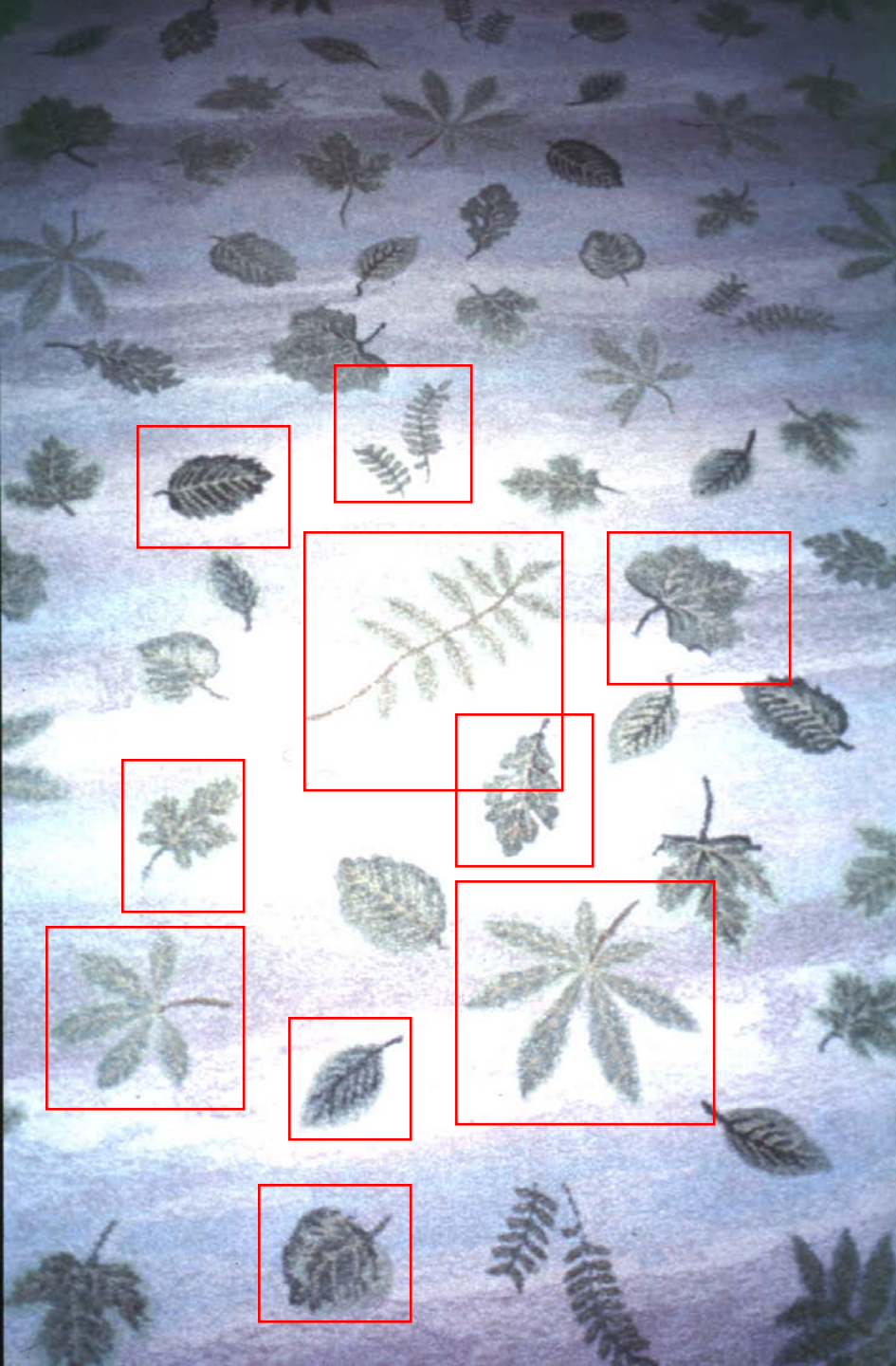
Living Room Conversation Pit, Alexander Girard Typical View (Balthazar Korab), and Seated View (from IMA website)



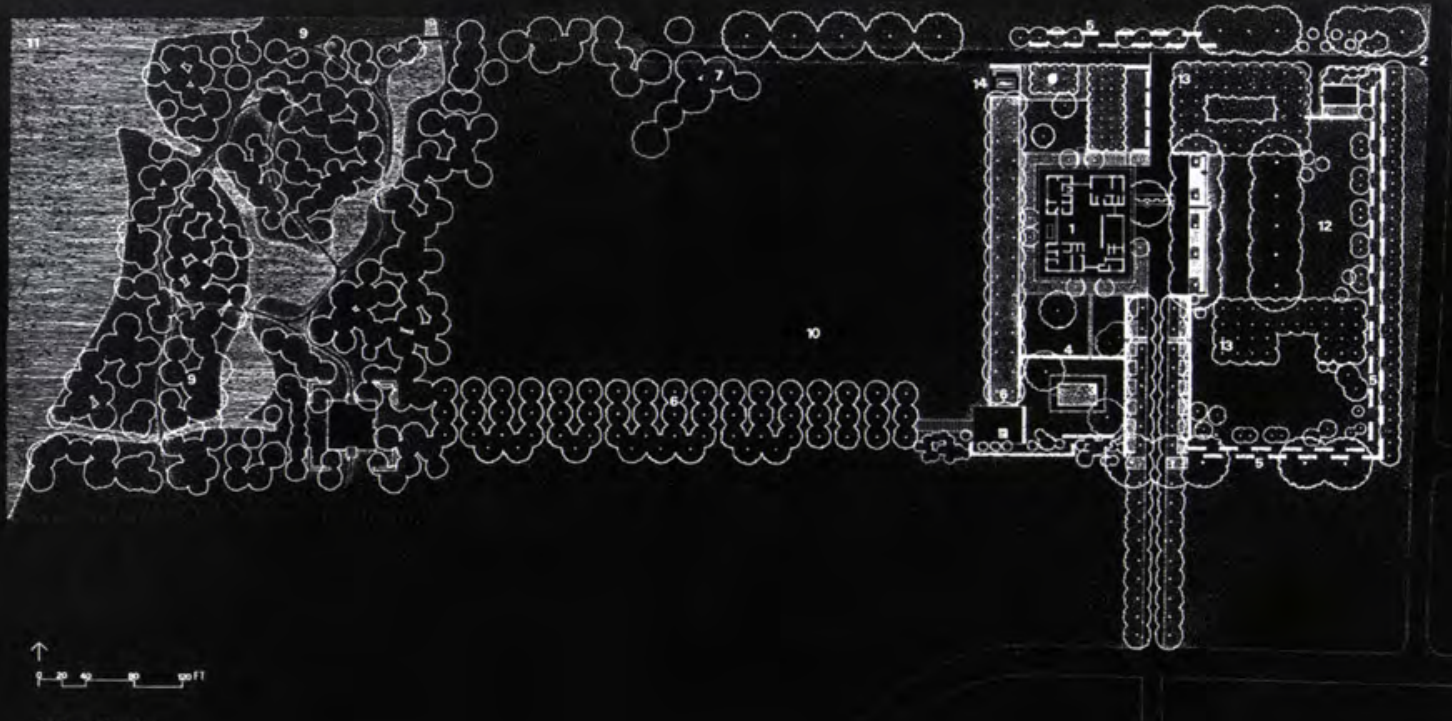
View From Living Room Looking West Toward Flatrock River



Rug with Tree Leaves Planted on Site, Alexander Girard



Honeylocust
Sycamore
Willow
Oak
Horsechestnut (2?)
Redbud
Linden
Maple
Magnolia
Yellowwood



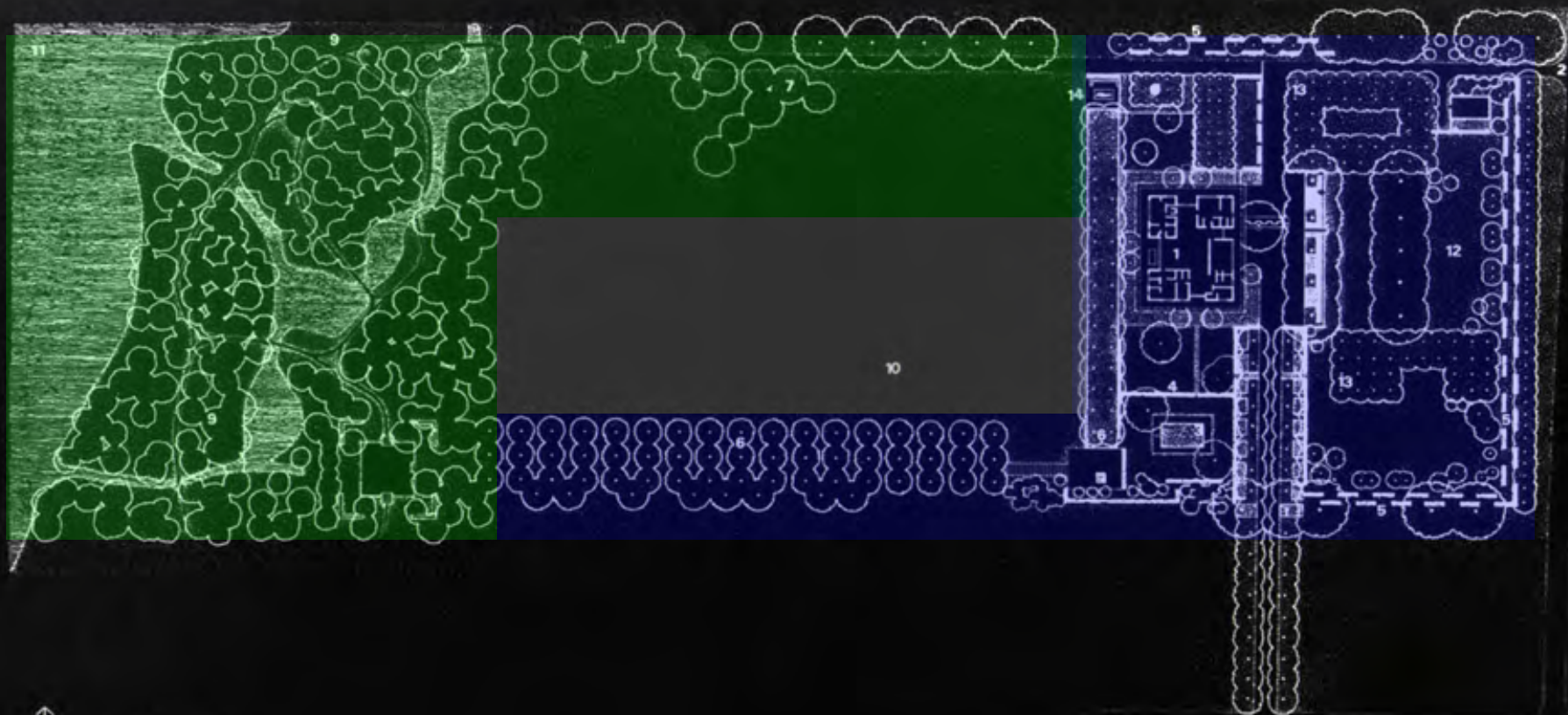
Miller Garden

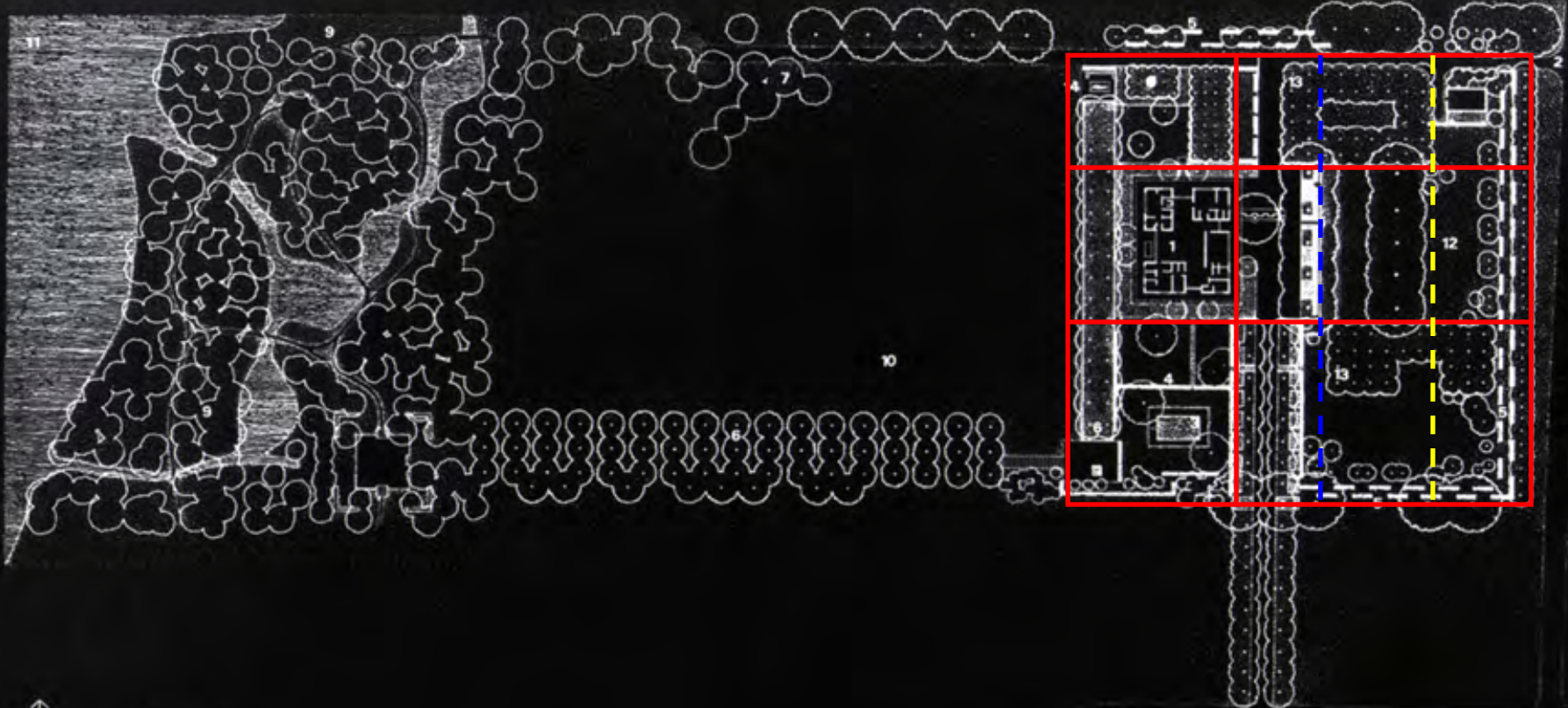
Columbus, Indiana

Dan Kiley, Landscape Architect

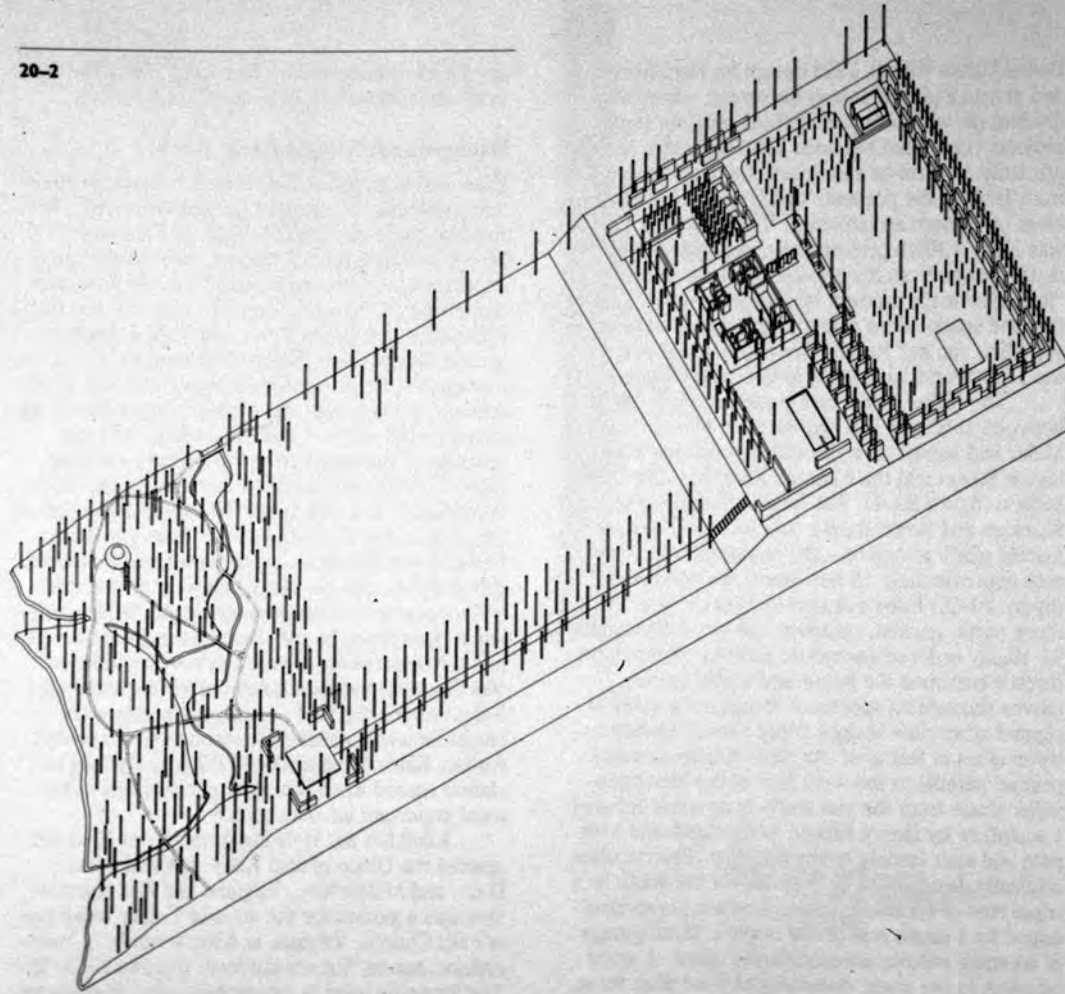
1. House Designed by Eero Saarinen
2. Main Entry Driveway
3. Swimming Pool
4. Arborvitae Hedge
5. Staggered Arborvitae Hedge
6. Moraine Locust Allée
7. Informally Grouped Weeping Willows
8. Bridge
9. Flood Plain
10. Meadow
11. River
12. Lawn
13. Orchard
14. Sculpture

- 10 acres
- Flat plateau above, sloping down to flood plane of Flatrock River
- Few existing trees
- Project begun in early 1950' s; many proposals, many denials





20-2





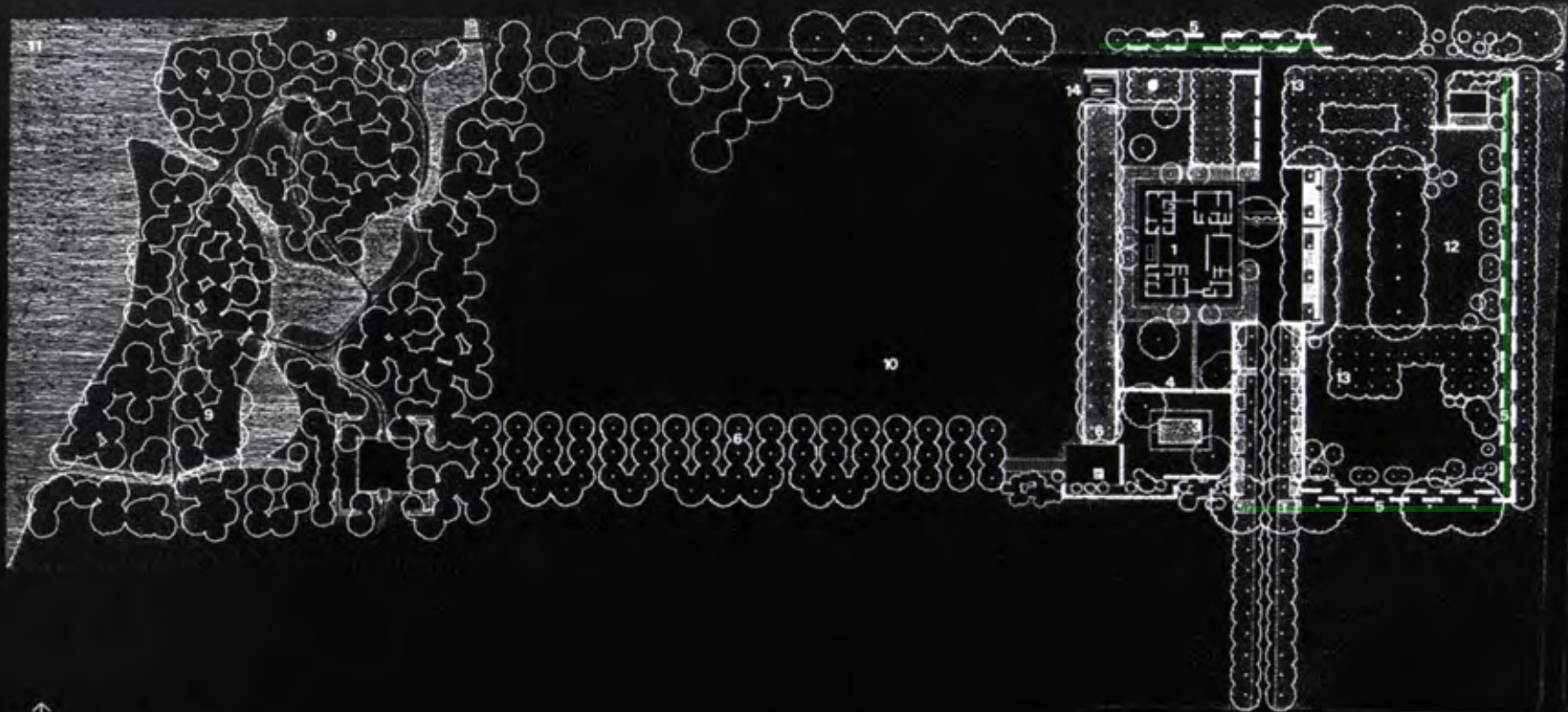
Miller Garden

Columbus, Indiana

Dan Kiley, Landscape Architect

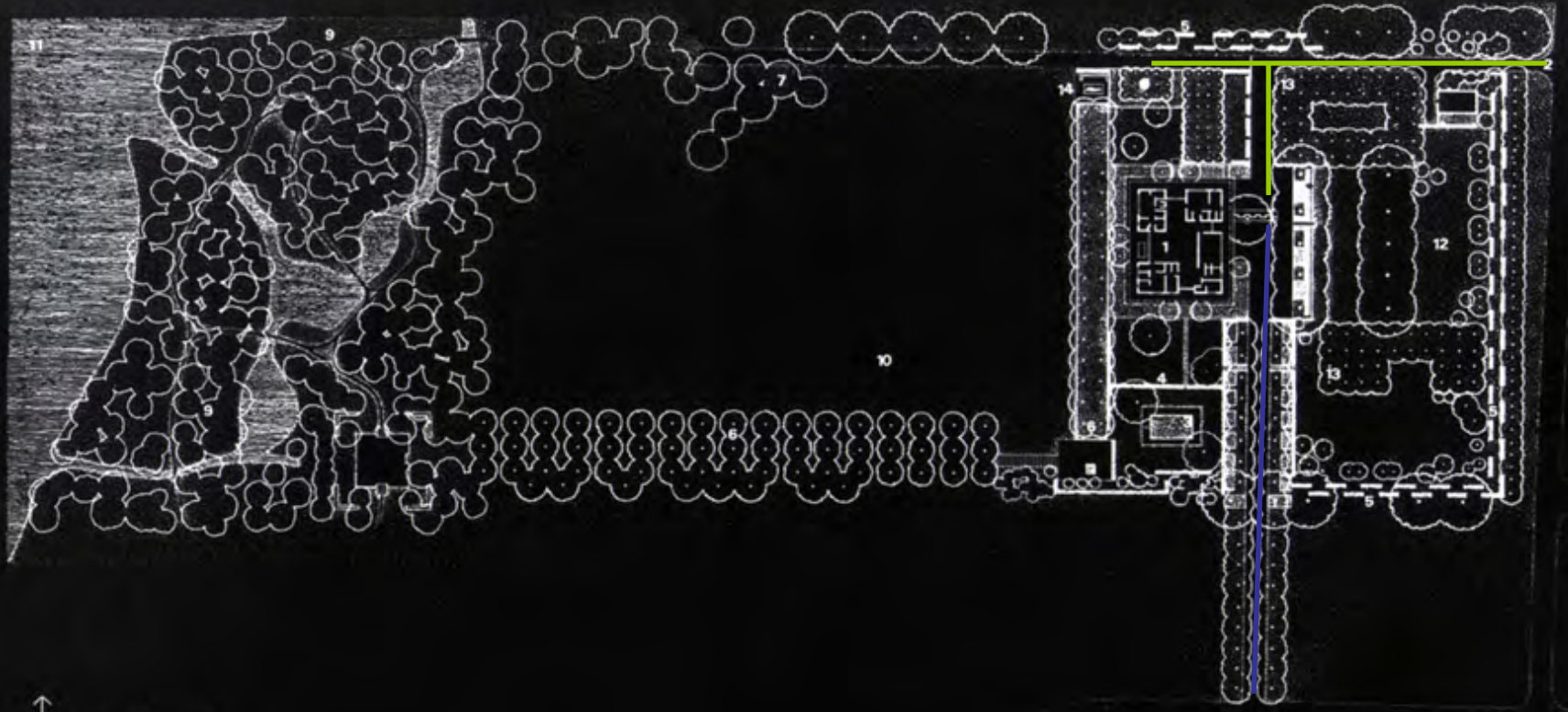
1. House Designed by Eero Saarinen
2. Main Entry Driveway
3. Swimming Pool
4. Arborvitae Hedge
5. Staggered Arborvitae Hedge
6. Mourning Locust Allée
7. Informally Grouped Weeping Willows
8. Bouquet
9. Floral Plain
10. Meadow
11. River
12. Lawn
13. Orchard
14. Sculpture

Orthogonal planting masses & their orientation



Boundary





Entry

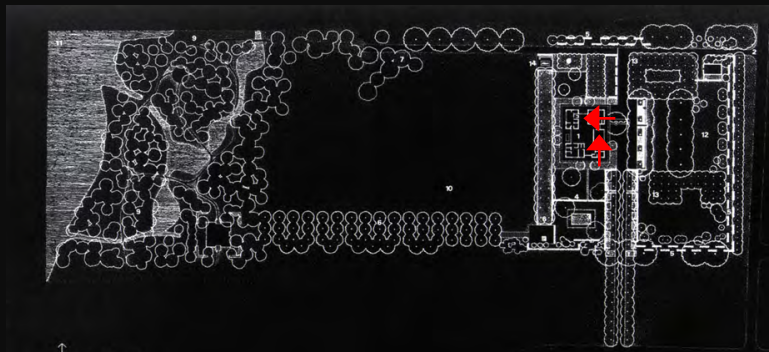
- Ceremonial
- Service

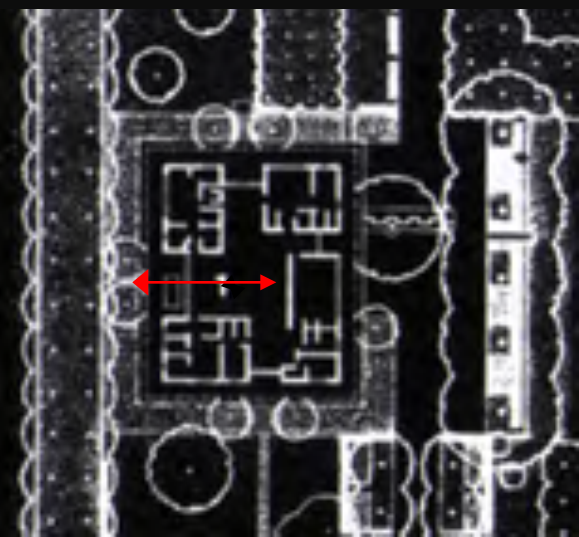


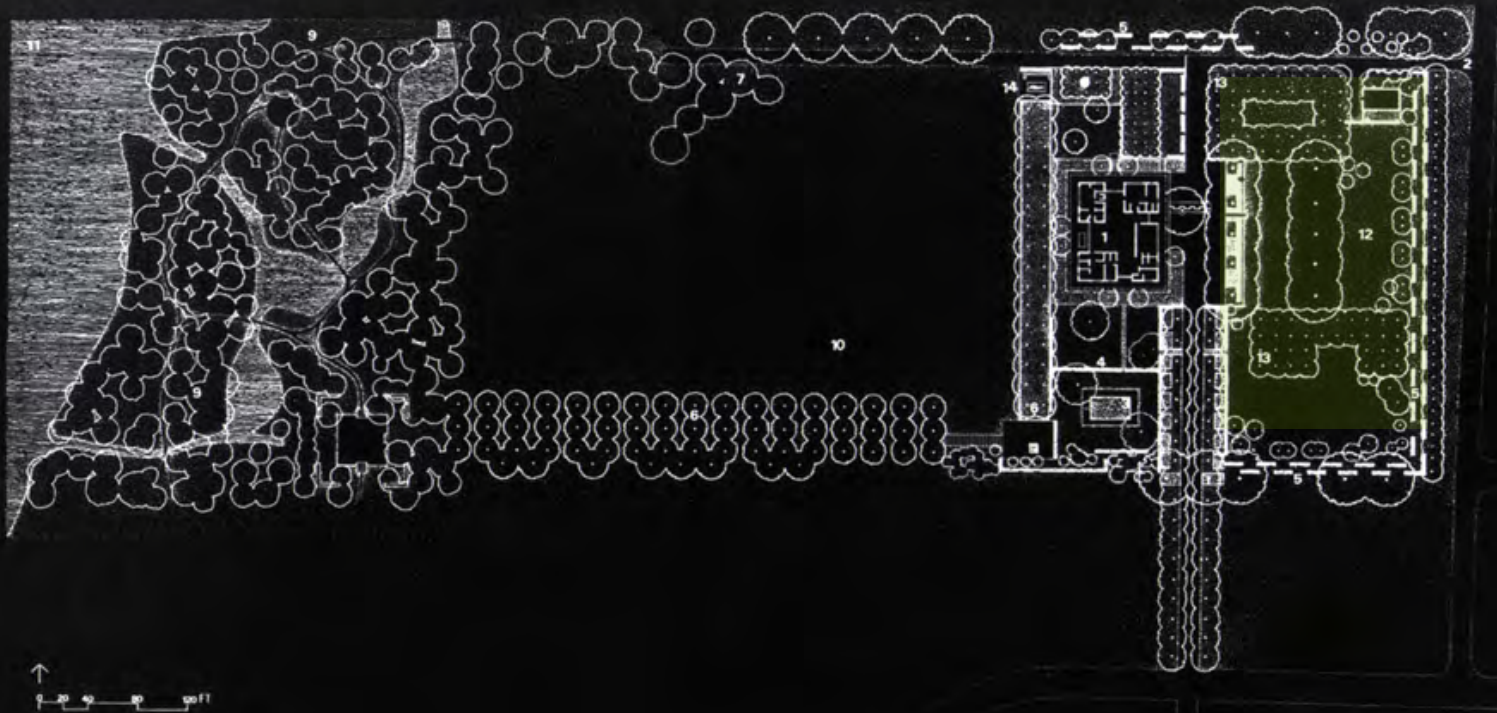












Miller Garden

Columbus, Indiana

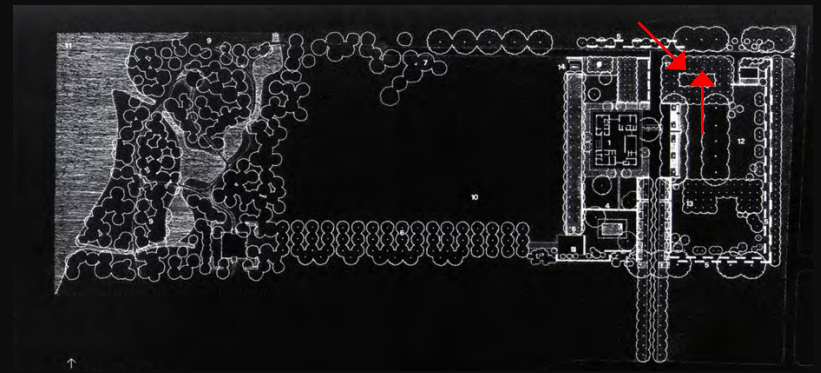
Dan Kiley, Landscape Architect

1. House Designed by Eero Saarinen
2. Main Entry Driveway
3. Swimming Pool
4. Arborvitae Hedge
5. Staggered Arborvitae Hedge
6. Moraine Locust Allée
7. Informally Grouped Weeping Willows
8. Bosque
9. Flood Plain
10. Meadow
11. River
12. Lawn
13. Orchard
14. Sculpture

East Garden

- Guest House
- Tennis court and shelter (never built)
- Play area
- Crabapple and oak bosques







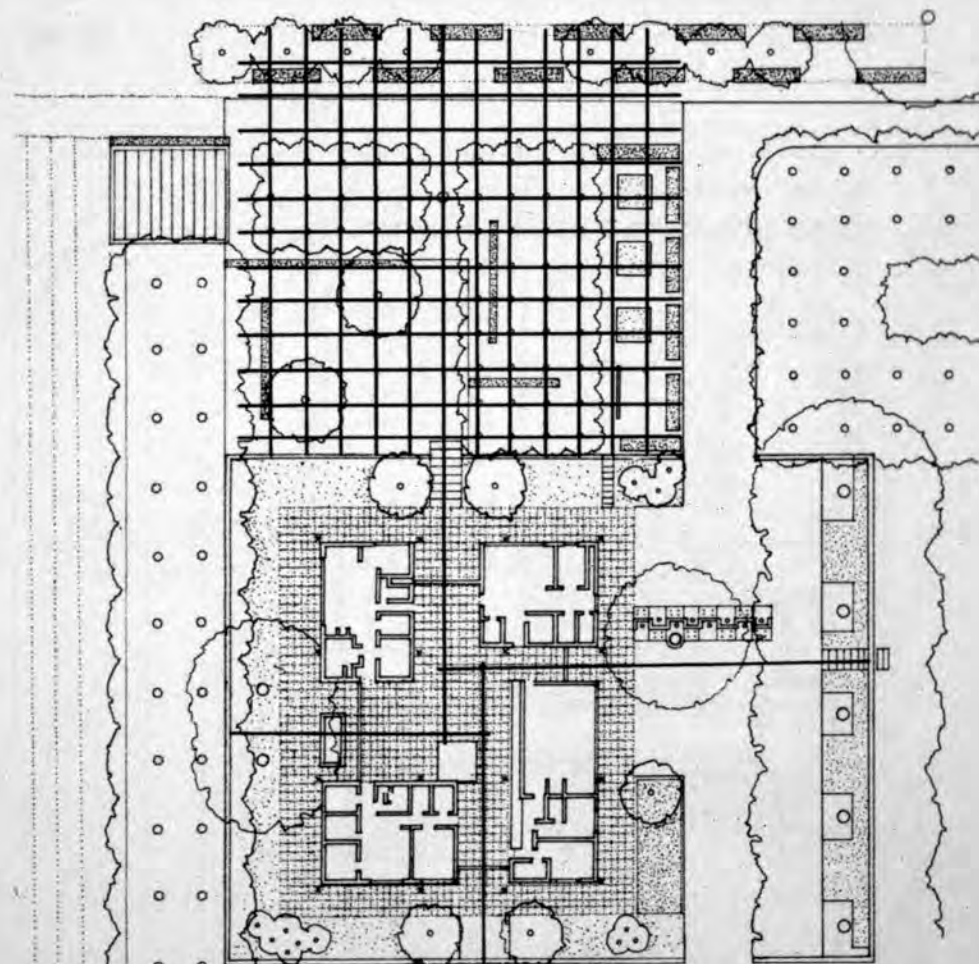
Miller Garden

Columbus, Indiana

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9. Flood Plain
10. Meadow
11. River
12. Lawn
13. Orchard
14. Sculpture

Adult and kitchen garden gardens, service









Miller Garden

Columbus, Indiana

Dan Kiley, Landscape Architect

1. House Designed by Eero Saarinen
2. Main Entry Driveway
3. Swimming Pool
4. Arborvitae Hedge
5. Staggered Arborvitae Hedge
6. Honeylocust Allee
7. Informally Grouped Weeping Willows
8. Bosque
9. Flood Plain
10. Meadow
11. River
12. Lawn
13. Orchard
14. Sculpture

Honeylocust Allee



The West Allee (oriented north-south)



Fall Plowing Grant Wood, 1931









Dining Room Rug, Alexander Girard





Diaphanous





Recent Re-planting
Indianapolis Monthly
Magazine, 2022



*Into the Hedge, SO-IL, J. Irwin and Xenia Miller Prize Recipient (Part of *Event Columbus*)*

