The helicopter photograph of this house (shown above) readily explains the pavilion arrangement of its floor plan. Four separate buildings are linked by roofed-over, glass-enclosed galleries, or outdoor passageways. Each of these “living zones” has a separate function. The Discovery House was originally planned and sponsored by Sunset Magazine and the architect as an idea laboratory for people who are in the house-dreaming, house-planning, or house-shopping stage.

The house plan provides each family member with his own private domain, yet also supplies places for the family to be together. Parents have a sitting room retreat for themselves or for intimate entertaining, opening off their bedroom. Each child has a room of his own and they share a common recreation area.

One of the pavilions is for all the family. It has the entry, the living and dining areas, and the kitchen. Isolated in the service pavilion are such noisy activities as laundry, repair work, and shop or craft projects that are best kept away from other living areas.

The enclosed central court is the largest room of the house, with floor and walls, but open to the sky. The patio’s walls are the solid redwood walls of the house.

Only the parents’ pavilion has windows on the patio and these are curtained.

The striking aspect of the family pavilion is that it puts living, dining, kitchen, and entry into 676 square feet without seeming cramped. Within the main living area, an L-shaped partition creates two sides of the sitting area. An opposite L-shaped section of bare floor directs foot traffic around the seating arrangement and also sets off the dining area. The kitchen is open to the living area by means of a see-through, pass-through wall of shelves. When guests are being entertained, tall shutters can conceal the kitchen from view.

Of all the pavilions in this house, the master bedroom-sitting room has the most luxurious sense of space. It has a fireplace, terrace, and accordion, stow-away partition. The folding partition is nine feet high. Drawn part way, it screens off the bed from the sitting area without destroying the effect of the 24-foot room length and glass wall.

The arrangement of walls and openings in the children’s pavilion helps to make the rooms seem much more spacious. Windows are only at one end, a door and closet at the other.