

excavated and a foundation of poured concrete or concrete blocks completed. Using prefabricated components two men can assemble a three- or four-bedroom house in five working days. On large projects, with crews of specialists, this building time can be reduced.

Continuing research and a changing and expanding consumer demand results in new building materials being introduced to the market in a steady stream.

Plywood has now replaced lumber in many interior and exterior uses. Pre-painted plywood exterior siding is a recent innovation. Pre-painted aluminum and steel siding, because they require little maintenance, are being used more and more despite a somewhat higher cost at present.

Cold-water piping, coloured exterior siding and moulded bathtubs are but a few of the new uses for plastic in house-building.

A Typical Canadian House

Data based on new dwellings financed under the HRA in 1970 indicate that the typical Canadian house is a three-bedroom bungalow of wood-frame construction with 1,069 square feet of liveable floor-area. The average cost of the bungalow is \$20,017, including \$3,722 for the freehold land the purchaser buys with the house. The average resident of such a house would be about 33 years old, married with two children and earning \$11,833. There is, of course, a very wide variation in these figures from city to city throughout the country.

Buying a home is becoming an increasingly expensive undertaking. Accordingly, the Federal Government is placing greater emphasis on schemes designed to facilitate home ownership for families in the lower third of the income range. One such plan, the Assisted Home Ownership Program, makes use of cost-reducing techniques such as variable interest-rates, extended-loan terms and, in several regions, provincial home-owner grants, rebates and interest-rate subsidies to bring home-ownership within the financial scope of families earning a maximum of \$6,000.

Such a house has a thermostatically-controlled central-heating system with electrically-powered fans blowing heated air through wall ducts that are vented to each room. The fuel used is usually oil or natural gas. Electric heat is gaining in popularity in many areas.

Hot and cold water are piped to the kitchen, laundry-room and bathroom; the source of water would be a community water-supply -- usually a municipally-operated purification and pumping plant. The bathroom is equipped with a flush-toilet, a bath and a shower. A growing number of homes have two bathrooms.

Because the house is protected by a blanket of insulating material inside the walls, the occupants are shielded from the extremes of winter and summer temperatures and the heating cost is relatively low.

A modern 100-amp electrical service meets the needs of the multitude of electrical appliances in the house. An automatic washing-machine, a clothes-dryer, an electric stove, a refrigerator, a freezer, a television set, a vacuum-cleaner, a floor-polisher, an electric dishwasher -- most, if not all, of these appliances would be found in a typical Canadian home.