PROJECT FOR CASE STUDY HOUSE NO. 27 BY CAMPBELL AND WONG AND ASSOCIATES
FOR THE MAGAZINE ARTS & ARCHITECTURE IN ASSOCIATION
WITH THE RICHARD S. ROBBINS COMPANY, LIMITED.

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This project for Case Study House No. 27 represents an expansion of the CSH Program in two directions—one spatial, the other conceptual. The first is an extension of the program, heretofore self-restricted to California, to the Atlantic Coast. Conceived in 1945, the program is now 18 years old and, hopefully, mature enough to leave its native state and travel east. Barring acts of God, governmental fiat and faint hearts, this house will be built in Smoke Rise, New Jersey—a hamlet near Butler which we were unable to locate in our 1942 atlas but which we have been assured is more substantial than its name would indicate.

The second departure is perhaps the more important one. Down to date, the CSH Program has sponsored only one-of-a-kind houses, having found it more feasible to encourage practical experimentation and research in the realm of contemporary domestic architecture—the stated purpose of the program—in projects of limited scope. The designers of this project, however, were asked to create a house that could be prefabricated for mass production. Following successful completion of the prototype at Smoke Rise, it is the intention of the Richard S. Robbins Company to package the house for assembly in some 30 or more areas of the country.

If these venturesome departures strike the reader who is aware of the difficulties involved in a project of this kind as reckless, we can only point blithingly to the past successes of the CSH Program which prompted The Architectural Review to call it "one of the most influential architectural research programs ever inaugurated." The reader can now accuse us of immodesty as well.

The precast concrete frame house is to be placed on the wooded, hilly site in New Jersey so as to preserve the trees and relate to the existing pond. It is designed for a family with four children. The block-unit scheme has been adopted to give maximum privacy and openness. Each unit relates directly to the outdoors and yet a balance of interest in the interiors is maintained by means of spaces and structural details. The four units are linked by flat-roofed passages.

The kitchen and dining area is planned as a large, informal living space, similar in function to a family room, and most of the family gathering will be here. The children will have in their unit a large area for active play in addition to the bedrooms, while the parents are to have a quiet study area to retreat to in their unit. The master bedroom unit can be expanded to a second story, if desired, or another block unit may be added if a guest wing is needed. The living room is to serve as a large, comfortable pavilion for entertaining and the remaining family activities.

An attempt has been made in utilizing the repetitious character of precast-prestressed concrete construction to provide a single system for both the structure and enclosing of the five identical block units. The roof structural system consists of four-sided, 24-foot-square, pyramidal roof domes, supported at the corner columns. As a result, all interior areas are free of bearing columns and walls. The floors are to be precast concrete channel-shaped panels to span precast perimeter beams. Both roof and floor perimeter beams will act together with corner columns to form rigid frames in each direction.

The segmented, triangular precast concrete roof panels are to join structurally only at the apex and at the common corner columns to pro-
vide a tension tie around the building for the dome. Two of the units will have skylights through separation of the panels. The shop-fabricated precast concrete elements will allow control of dimensions and quality, permitting concrete surfaces to be used for final interior and exterior finishes. Many decisions are yet to be made concerning colors and finishes, which will be the subject of a later study.