

PRIMER FOR HOME BUILDERS

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Primer for Home Builders by Allan Carpenter & Norman Guess

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ALLAN CARPENTER & NORMAN GUESS

PRIMER FOR HOME BUILDERS

**PRIMER
FOR
HOME BUILDERS**

Primers

for
home builders

Edited by

Allan Carpenter and Norman Guess

and the

Editors of Popular Mechanics

Illustrations by Alida Marsh

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FOREWORD:

By its very nature, home building is a field in which most of us have had no previous experience, and yet it is one of life's most important ventures. None of us wants to go blindly into this task, yet heretofore it has been necessary to struggle through thick and involved volumes to get the home-building background needed.

Primer for Home Builders has been developed to fill this need; it is a simple, straightforward book explaining the important points you must consider in building a home. It is written by twelve of the nation's top home-building authorities, each an expert in his field.

We told our authors to presume that their readers knew absolutely nothing about home building. Each author was to start from scratch, begin at the beginning and tell in the easiest possible way the fundamentals of his subject.

For example, we asked Morgan Yost, who writes the chapter on architects, to tell exactly what an architect is, how an architect is paid, and what he does for his pay. We asked Charles Wright, who contributes the chapter on the financing of a home, to state the fundamentals of home financing in such a way that someone who had never had any interest in the subject before could read it and have a pretty good idea on how he could pay for the home he wanted to build.

Primer for Home Builders is not an encyclopedia on home building. It does not solve every problem you may encounter when you build. But it should serve to indoctrinate you in the fundamentals of home building so that you will feel perfectly at ease in dealing with realtors, finance companies, architects, contractors and the host of others you must work with in constructing your home.

Good luck to you on the adventure ahead!

THE EDITORS

ABOUT OUR AUTHORS:

• *Carl Zeigler*

graduated from Northwestern University in 1929. After two years on the cable desk of the *Chicago Tribune* and two more years doing highway traffic research for the city of Chicago, he became associated with the Portland Cement Association in 1934. For ten years he served with the association as field editor for housing and architectural publications, visiting construction projects in all parts of the United States. After fourteen months overseas as an American volunteer ambulance driver with the British Army in Italy and Northern Europe, he returned to Chicago late in 1945 and assumed the associate editorship of *Small Homes Guide*, the national consumer magazine for home builders.

• *Benjamin F. Bills*

is chairman of Bills Realty, Inc., and Bills Mortgage Company, Chicago, president of Land Developers Association, Inc., and Grand Ridge Building Corporation. He was an instructor in oral English at Williams College, a member of the law, political science and public speaking faculties of the University of Chicago, and trust officer and manager of the new business division of Continental and Commercial Trust Company of Chicago. He is a member of the Chicago bar. Constant association with every phase of land development through the concerns he heads has given Mr. Bills a rich background of experience in the building field.

• *E. G. Gavin*

is editor of the magazine *American Builder*. As an advocate of public housing he has lectured frequently with Chester Bowles, Wilson Wyatt and other leaders in the field. He obtained his degree in engineering and construction from Purdue University, and soon became prominently identified with the construction industry. Before going to *American Builder*, he served on the editorial staff of *General Building Contractor* and later as editor of *American Contractor* and *American Lumberman*.