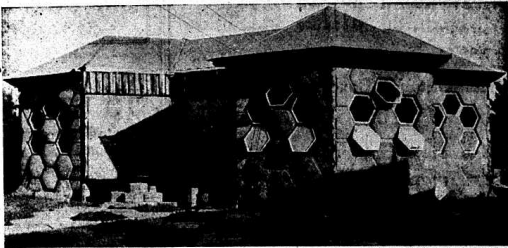
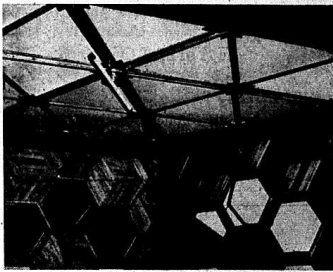


# World's Only House Of Kind



—Crago Studios Ltd.

Above: Partly completed house of seven hexagonal units (or rooms) at 36B Sander's Avenue, Westown, New Plymouth. The designer, builder and occupant, Mr. E. R. Brewster, is an apiarist who borrows his idea from the bees' six-sided honeycomb cell. The front entrance (in centre) is unfinished. Hexagonal concrete slabs and garden beds form a front patchwork courtyard. At right: Ceiling, walls and windows of bedroom. The walls have hexagonal panels of choicely-grained native timbers.



## HOUSE OF HEXAGONS DRAWS MANY VISITORS

Principle of beehive construction, used by New Plymouth man.

**BELIEVED** to be the only man-made structure in the world built throughout on hexagonal principles, a house — occupied but as yet unfinished — has lately been drawing many curious visitors to its site at 36B Sanders Avenue, Westown, New Plymouth. Everything in it is six-sided — rooms, windows and floor, wall and ceiling sections.

Designer, builder, owner and occupant is Mr. E. R. Brewster, whose faith in its practicability as a low-cost house suited to mass prefabrication and rapid assembly persuaded him to enter it in the construction ideas section of the Government housing competition. His name did not appear among those of prizewinners published on Saturday, but he intends, nevertheless, to bring it to the notice of the housing conference opening at Wellington today and, with that object in view, has already sent full details, including costing and construction methods.

This house, with a floor area of 1168 square feet, has seven rooms — or units, as the designer prefers to call them — and each unit is of 164½ square feet. Mr. Brewster, visualising factory production, says a "kit set" ready for assembly could be supplied for £2185 after allowing for working profit and distribution costs. If the purchaser used his own spare-time labour for the erection of the pieces, the only additional cost would be for plumbing, electrical work and drain-laying, estimated at £400.

### Many Variations

Mr. Brewster sees in his basic construction design and methods an answer to the housing problem — low-cost building with as few as 20 prefabricated basic pieces but, however few, capable of limitless variations in floor plan, materials and finish to suit individual preferences. He says that, guided by "kit set" instructions the purchaser and eight men could erect the prefabricated parts in 14 days "ready for occupation," or with the help of only two men and a boy the job could be done in eight weeks.

The house in Sanders Avenue has taken much longer than that. It was begun on January 1. Mr. Brewster and his wife moved in after 10 weeks — and it is still not finished, for it wants another unit added in front, and a good deal of "finishing." But this is a prototype house and the builder, an enthusiast for a cause, has been concentrating on simplification and perfection of methods rather than on completing the work. In consequence,

he says, he has found ways and means of cutting costs by half in a number of departments.

A further cause of delay is that, as an apiarist who has to earn his living, Mr. Brewster has had to interrupt his home-building to gather the honey crop.

### Back To Nature

Indeed, without his interest in bees he would probably never have found his idea for using the principle of a hexagon comprising six equi-lateral triangles. Like Maeterlinck and other observers equally famous, he is convinced from long experience that everything the bee does is done perfectly.

It builds its comb with hexagonal cells based on six-equilateral triangles, a method of construction found by it to be the best; and Mr. Brewster believes, therefore, that there is every reason why the method should be the best, also, for building houses.

He advocates going back to nature for ideas. "She has eliminated all mistakes long ago," he says. "She uses the hexagon in construction but never the right angle. If a honeycomb was easier to build in squares, the bees would have used that method."

There are no squares in Mr. Brewster's house. The hexagon of equi-lateral triangles is, he says, inherently strong and self-bracing and adaptable to all purposes in construction.

### Courtyard, Too

In appearance the house in Sanders Avenue is unlike any other house ever built. It has been variously described as unusual, distinctive, attractive and quaint. The hexagon is obvious everywhere. The windows are hexagonal, and the hexagonal shape of each of the wall sections is emphasised by a plaster finish in cove breeze.

The approach to the house is across a patchwork courtyard of concrete hexagons each (ft. 6in. between opposite sides). Every third position in the pattern is left without a slab and this becomes a bed for flowers, or shrubs, or small trees.

Inside, the house provides some startling effects. There is no wallpaper; instead the walls are hexagonally panelled with timbers selected for their beautiful grain — honeysuckle in one room, yellow pine in another, rimu in a third, pinus insignis in a fourth, and so on. There is an inclination to optical illusion with these geometrical patterns, and the observer has to resist a temptation to believe the mosaic walls are not flat. The panelled ceilings are unusual, too; and they support fluorescent light tubes.

This house has 42 hexagonal windows and 32 eave lights of translucent glass. These translucent eaves are highly individualistic — in the daytime they can let in the light from outside and direct it on to the panelled ceilings; at night their glass catches light from the room illuminations and, from under the eaves, reflects it on to the exterior walls, bathing them in a soft glow stabbed brightly at intervals by the more direct light from the windows.

### Dome Roof

The hexagonal units in this type of house can be either subdivided for household services or erected as a room of multiple units, (by leaving out some of the internal wall sections and joining what is left). Thus a three-unit spacious lounge can be made, with unit rooms opening off it without the need for passage-ways.

Mr. Brewster's own house has a ridge roof; but he advocates a dome roof over each section, and says that with this type of roof units can be added at will without spoiling the general symmetry of the house — a procedure not possible with a ridge roof or with a right-angled house.

In Mr. Brewster's estimate of the cost of a mass-produced house he has not allowed for use of some of the choicest timbers he himself has employed; but all the timber would be processed and borer-proofed, as is all the material in his own place. He points out that selected pinus insignis can show a grain as beautiful as those of native timbers, and that properly proofed, it is as lasting.

Mr. Brewster's aim is to achieve simplicity in construction and, meconofashion, to reduce standardised but interchangeable prefabricated components to as few as possible. He calls this "oneness." For instance: He has devised one standard section each for the ceiling, windows, walls and roof. Flooring, so far posing a more difficult problem, has not been a reducible beyond two standardised sections.

## Club Public ves.

king on a small  
: presi-  
h Aero  
1, when  
e secre-  
A. G.  
lymouth  
e public  
arts by  
naki on

to make  
erodrome  
that Mr.  
umber of  
ome was

the club  
Airport  
luence to  
red. The  
ero club  
e subse-  
Plymouth  
r contact  
rtment.

nd.  
he matter  
d, refer-  
many as  
d been  
without  
g, and he  
2000  
nfortably,  
the mat-  
will be a  
erodrome  
did not  
ellington"

The aero  
erodrome  
partment  
the club  
ights.  
that the  
the aero-  
why they  
purposes,"  
osing the  
ught, was  
for those  
affie.

W. Martin  
e parking  
pageant.  
we will  
and. The  
agitation

ew  
iation  
the New  
expressions  
National  
Plymouth

470 grant,  
at such  
ft should  
rth com-  
ell, point-  
in making  
that they  
ivation.  
med local  
are other  
for," said

cal bodies  
overall,  
should  
were far

ted acting  
on Park  
yesterday,  
e, is over-  
enul, were  
avelled to  
present at  
k's ashes,  
rtrand, as  
ski Daily

plantings  
laid down  
by the authorities.  
They behave  
in this way  
because, as  
Rakosi admitted  
the other day,  
they are "haunted  
by uncertainty"  
and because  
"they have been  
so worried by  
the prospect of  
being forced  
sooner or  
later to join  
a co-operative."

The peasants'  
attitude (and  
to some extent  
the bad weather)  
has meant that  
food supplies  
for the towns  
have been  
dangerously  
scarce.

And it is not  
only the food  
shops that have  
empty shelves.  
Clothes, shoes,  
household goods  
and all the other  
amenities of  
life are hard to  
come by.

## Local Government Commission Denies Breach Of Faith

Council told of steps towards inquiry.

While the Local Government Commission agreed to postpone its inquiry into the New Plymouth harbour district until October, any suggestion of a breach of faith in originally suggesting that it be held on August 5, is denied by the commission; nor does it agree that it was responsible for a delay in giving public notification.

In a letter received by the Taranaki County Council at yesterday's meeting the acting secretary of the commission, Mr. W. A. Bryan, outlined the steps taken to institute the inquiry. In June, at the instance of the Minister of Marine, Mr. W. S. Gosman, the commission was asked whether it could undertake such an inquiry at an early date. The commission had agreed, and suggested dates in early August. Subsequently it was advised that the dates August 5 to 7 would be satisfactory.

On the same day that the formal notification was received from the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. W. A. Bodkin, notifications to all local bodies concerned had been issued. It had been suggested that the commission acted in contravention of statute in giving less than one month's notice, but, said Mr. Bryan, in such cases the commission was not so bound.

### Vitally Concerned.

The council could engage the services of Mr. L. M. Moss as its counsel should it desire to give evidence, said the chairman, Mr. L. D. Hickford. He thought that the council was vitally concerned and should do so. An inter-provincial conference of Federated Farmers had decided to leave the matter to local bodies, and a meeting of the North Taranaki executive would decide whether it wished to give evidence.

Mr. Hickford considered that the commission's order of reference was not wide enough. "Each local body wants to discuss what benefits it derives from the harbour and what the board's future plans are, and those latter questions are not in the commission's order of reference," he pointed out.

Representation on the harbour board would be one of the subjects discussed at the inquiry, said Mr. A. Hall, who represents the county on the harbour board. All local bodies in any way concerned should be represented and give evidence at the inquiry so that the commission would be fully informed of all points of view, he said.

### Queen Mother's Birthday

Flags will be flown on Government buildings today to mark the Queen Mother's birthday.

## NREST IN UROPE

Curtain  
ly, the  
isewife  
ir daily

d the next  
and it took  
the norms  
f one day  
ception  
ell find it  
for them-

Hungarian  
the tools of  
38 per cent.  
: "Do you  
s raised?"  
the worker  
ct himself,  
convivance  
rade union

faked re-  
sness and  
nunist doc-  
had simi-  
the com-  
through the  
he worker.  
eved, allow  
less labour  
munists to  
ontrol over

ure bitterly  
do not wish  
ir land.  
Europe have  
he ruthless  
usants prac-  
thirties, but  
direct pres-  
armers into  
dependence  
by demands  
impossibly  
sire produce,  
empire re-  
the Govern-  
ulsory dell-  
r their own  
ommunist  
ave recently  
sowings and

## Talented Young N.Z. Musician To Further Studies

A talented young New Zealand musician, Mr. Victor G. Clement Jones, M.A. (hons), Mus. Bac., L.R.S.M., L.T.C.L., will leave New Plymouth with the Paparua for England tomorrow to further his studies at Cambridge University.

A son of Mr. and Mrs. V. Macpherson Jones, Invercargill, Mr. Jones won the Fanny Evans post-graduate travelling scholarship in music from the University of Otago last year, and it will enable him to spend two years at King's College, Cambridge.

Mr. Jones, who is aged 23, has always shown great musical promise. He gained his L.R.S.M. and L.T.C.L. at an early age, and his university career was marked by successes in scholarships. He intends to study for his "Musical Tripos" at Cambridge.

While he was at the University of Otago Mr. Jones studied under Professor V. E. Galway, and in 1948 gained the Charles Begg scholarship for the best student taking Stage 1 music for the bachelor of arts degree. In the same year he won the Robert Parker memorial prize.

These successes were followed in 1948 with the Jennie Macandrew prize for the best student taking stage II music for B.A. He graduated the following year, and in 1951 gained his M.A. with honours in English.

Last year Mr. Jones gained his bachelor of music degree and won the Fanny Evans scholarship.

## EVANGELIST NOT AWARE HE HAD BROKEN ANKLE

Press Assn. Auckland, Last Night. Canon Bryan Green, English evangelist, who is at Auckland on a lecture tour, broke his ankle when he slipped while hurrying to the town hall on Saturday night for a lecture.

Although in pain, he was unaware he had more than strained his ankle, and he carried on with his lecture, which was heard by 6000 people in the town hall and four other city halls.

Today he went to a doctor and found the ankle was broken. His tour of New Zealand will not be interrupted.