

# BOOK NOTES

## *Proceedings of the IAHS International Symposium on Housing Problems 1976*

Over 100 papers presented at the International Association of Housing Science Symposium on Housing Problems in Atlanta, May 24-28, 1976, are arranged in the two volume conference *Proceedings*. The papers cover virtually all aspects of housing from the design of solar homes to "The Socio-psychological Effects of Residence in Different Structure Types Upon the Poor." The two volume set may be ordered for \$30 by IAHS members, and \$40 by non-IAHS members, from:

Continuing Engineering Education  
116 Riggs Hall  
Clemson University  
Clemson, South Carolina 29631

*Quality Housing Environment for Rural Low Income Families*, Bulletin Y-102, Tennessee Valley Authority, Muscle Shoals, Alabama, 35660. 1976, 124 pp. (Single Copies Free)

This booklet presents the proceedings of a workshop of the same title, conducted in September 1975 by the Tennessee Valley Authority, the S-95 Regional Research Technical Committee, and the Southern Rural Development Center. The purpose of the workshop was to increase communication among housing researchers and consumers of research—policy makers and extension personnel. Among the AAHE members who participated in the workshop by giving papers or conducting workshops were Tariq Durrani, Homer Hurst, Kandi McKown, Jessie Mize, Alice Stubbs, Alice Underwood, Kay Stewart, Savannah Day, Mary

Wallace Crocker, Doris Needham, Frances Fortenberry, Betty Campbell, and Walter Moran.

The proceedings reflect the wide array of disciplines represented and are divided into two basis parts—papers presented and the reports of the six workshop groups. The papers give excellent background information, including bibliographies, and cover the topic areas of "Regional Growth Patterns Affecting the Rural South", "The Role of Technology in Housing", "The Constraints to Improved Housing", and "The Future of Rural Housing in the South". The workshop recommendations and discussion topics would form the basis for interesting class discussions.

Although focussed on the south, the problems presented are the basic housing problems of the U.S., particularly of rural areas. This booklet would be of value to all housing educators, as the real problem focus is not the regional problem, but the problem of effecting change by influencing policy decisions.

—Suzanne Lindamood

*Housing and Social Policy*, by Chester W. Hartman. (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1975.)

This book would be a useful addition to any course on housing policy. The author is an advocate of relatively radical positions, such as the outrageous proposition that everyone has the right to decent housing. Even those who disagree with Hartman's assumptions, however, will find his analysis to be enlightening.

—Sherman Hanna

*Housing Educators Journal* 29

*Consumer Survival Kits*, Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting, Owings Mills, Maryland 21117 (\$1.00)

"Buying or Renting a Home" *Money*. Time and Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, 10020 (\$1.25)

*Consumer Survival Kits* are based on the Public Broadcasting weekly television series of the same name. The *Kits* consist of an 8½ x 11", 15 plus page booklet filled with current articles from *Money*, *Changing Times*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Consumer Reports*, government (H.U.D., U.S.D.A.) and professional organizations (N.A.H.B.) as well as recently written materials and checklists of where to find help including an excellent and current bibliography.

The series accents solutions, not problems, and was conceived on the premise that Americans are more interested in dollar-saving information than in redundant bemoaning of the system. The show and the *Kits* help viewers learn to solve their own problems and where to go for agency assistance. After completing two successful years on television, the series returns in the Fall of 76.

Seven housing related *Kits* are now available at \$1.00 each: "Dreamhouse Nightmare", "Condominium: Pleasures and Pitfalls", "My House Has a Flat: Mobile Homes", "The Big Fix: Home Repairs", "Land Whoa!", "Tenant's Rights" and "The Last Resort" (Nursing Homes). In addition, *Kits* are available on moving, floor coverings, appliances, furniture selection and home security systems.

Literature has been well researched for current and complete articles. For example, *Dreamhouse Nightmare*, the second best selling *Kit* (after *Auto Repair*) out of fifty-three now available, consists of articles on Choosing a Broker, Tax Savings, Closing Costs, Inspecting a House, Insurance, and Warranties plus checklists on House Buying and Buying Power. Unfortunately, articles from current extension publication are missing from all of the *Kits* I have previewed.

The *Kits* would be useful individually to supplement a text or together to form the basis for a text in a course concerned with consumer aspects of housing alternatives.

In addition to the *Kits*, 29 minute videocassettes of the show are also available. For further information and bulk purchasing and discount information contact Fran Johansson at the above address.

I have used the *Kits* and the tapes with adult education classes on House Buying and with undergraduate students in Family Housing courses. The *Kits* are also useful in graduate workshops focusing on housing alternatives and methods of teaching housing since they are compact and can be read fairly quickly.

The editors of *Money* magazine also have a newly revised housing guide "Buying or Renting a Home". It is available from: Time and Life Building, Rockefeller Center, NY 10020 (\$1.25). All of the articles are from the magazine and include such topics as "Neighborhood Considerations", "Inspecting a House", "Prefabs", "Closing Costs", "Inflation and the One-Family House" and "Rent Deposit Insecurity." although more expensive than the *Kits*, information on both buying and renting housing is included. The lack of a bibliography is a disappointment and since all of the articles are from *Money*, although they are all excellent, the guide does lack diversity.

Housing educators should have copies of the *Survival Kits* and the *Money* guide on their shelves for a handy and quick, up-to-date reference of articles on consumer aspects and housing alternatives.

—Joseph L. Wysocki