

Book Notes

Lewis, Evelyn L. *Housing Decisions* (South Holland, Ill: Goodheart — Willcox) 1978, 352 pp. hardbound; school price \$8.97; list price \$11.96.

The stated objective of this senior high text designed for coeducational use is "to prepare you to make wise choices concerning your housing." In a very appealing fashion with 600+ illustrations keyed to the text, the contents are divided into four sections with a total of 13 chapters. "Housing for You" covers needs; values and self-actualization; life-cycle and -style, socioeconomic and physical situations. "Making Housing Choices" includes decisionmaking skills; resources; dwelling, site, and location selection; and buying or renting housing. Part three, "The Inside Story," comprises one-third of the book, with chapters on space planning; color, design and backgrounds; lighting, windows and treatments; and furnishings and major appliances. Finally, "Progress in Housing" follows the historical-cultural evolution of exterior design; current housing needs/trends/problems; and chapters on future housing (emphasizing planned communities and environmental concern) and careers in housing (housing and interior design, manufactured housing, contracting, landscaping, housing products).

Lewis' book is typical in the amount of information devoted to "homeplanning and furnishing" and doubtless rightly so since this topic captures the attention of teenagers. The number of photos, diagrams, and cartoons almost equally balances the text, making it "motivational reading." Although this section has a preponderance of "quality furnishings" photos supplied by manufacturers, the book as a whole has a good variety of housing types and price levels, including several mobile and modular home interiors (not

labelled as such, but perhaps recognizable by readers). The text briefly covers the "first home away from home," but there are few examples of the mobile, convertible, multipurpose, do-it-yourself, and used furniture likely to be used in those settings. The historical style drawings are accompanied by examples to show that they do exist today in more or less pure form.

In the sense of preparation for further work on the subject while giving an adequate introduction, several topics are relevant: microenvironment, Maslow's hierarchy of needs, personal space, Erikson's critical periods, human ecology, social class vs. economic level, housing the handicapped and elderly, and decisions and resources.

Discussions on location proceed logically from region to community to neighborhood, site and unit, with charts showing types of decisions required for each and ranges of available choices. Climate, density, employment, zoning, deed restrictions, subdivision layout, and natural restraints are included. The process of acquiring housing is presented with almost equal coverage of rent (with steps, rent vs. buy, and condominium and cooperative).

Each chapter begins with the behavioral objective (s) and ends with terms, review questions and suggested activities. All measurements are given in currently used units, plus metric; and three appendices provide a federal housing legislative history, energy saving tips, and metric information. Glossary and index. The instructor's guide and answer key is organized by instructional concepts with accompanying student learning experiences, plus adds further tests, survey forms, and resources. In short, the book plus guide is an excellent package for use especially by those who do not have adequate background or experience in this broad field.

Betty Jo White
Colorado State Univ.