



THE CHANGING WESTERN HOME

A clear well-lighted space

Living and dining areas share one slender room without cramping its style

■ Natural light, height, color, and simple overscale form make this compact living and dining room feel spacious. Though the room measures just 13 by 25 feet, it is 17 feet tall. And because light streams in from four sides—through windows in the fireplace wall, French doors on the dining room side, a skylight, and clerestory windows—the room feels larger than it really is. A pair of tall, angle-sided bookcases divides the room into living and dining areas without enclosing either space.

The fireplace wall, whose windows work around the angled, offset chimney, is the room's dominant feature. For privacy, the end windows are placed above chair level. From the street, they give the house a graphic character.

"We created a Norwegian farm—with a small house shape and a big barn next door," says Wencke Solfeld about the home she and partner Russ Dotter designed for Diane and Mikael Hakansson on a slender lot in Palo Alto. The "house" is the living-dining room; the "barn"

contains the family room, kitchen, and bedrooms.

•**Design:** Dotter & Solfeld Architecture & Design, Oakland, CA (510/601-5207)

•**Dining table and bar cabinet:** Splinter Furniture Design, San Francisco (415/252-1540)

•**Living room chairs:** Design Centro Italia, Emeryville, CA (510/420-0383)

•**Windows:** Kolbe & Kolbe, from Window Express, San Jose (408/298-5546)

