Editorial

This is our first issue devoted to housing. The delay in getting around to this subject is difficult to understand because the detached, one-storeyed, one-family house is and always has been not only the staple product of our construction industry but the veneered backbone of Australian society.

The Australian house is studied herein from several aspects on the time-span from first settlement to the early 1950s. But across those years the subject remains remarkably unchanged and that is about 150 metres squared building on about 600 metres squared of land.

Up to a few years ago our housing output, drawing a veil over the narrow aspects of design, was a source of national pride and we would believe, a source of envy throughout the world or a part of the world.

Recently our progress has faltered. Our standards have if not dropped then certainly paused. We are no longer the indisputably best-housed nation.

The beginnings and middle of this story are told in this issue.