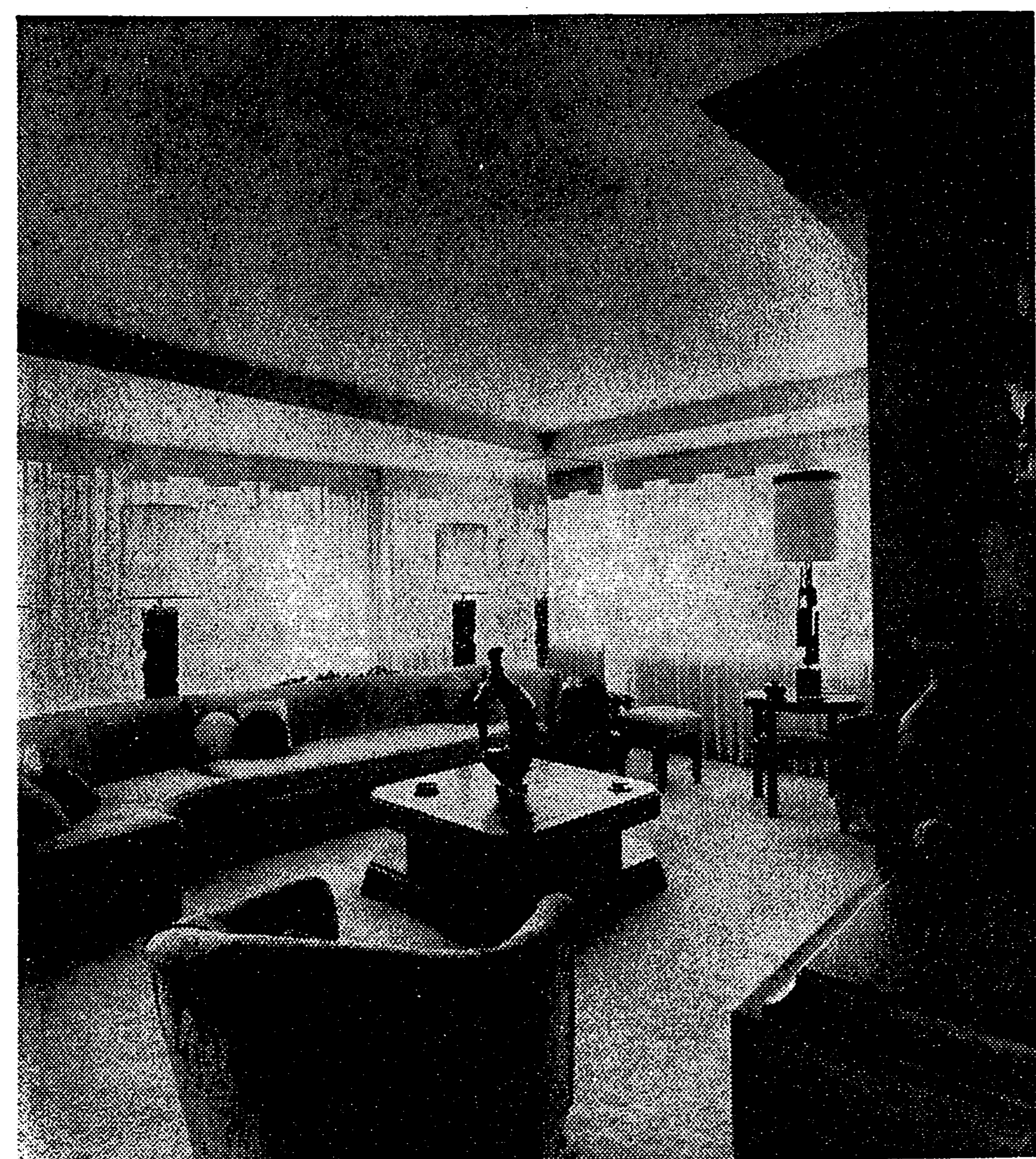


# Foggy Bottom Takes Place Among Addresses of Status



Low-slung modern furniture counteracts low ceilings in Robert F. Marlowe apartment in Watergate East. The decorator was Antonio Prado.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. McCord had banquette built around supporting pole in their green and ivory, velvet and silk living room.

By MYRA MACPHERSON

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 24—Although Georgetown still has a corner on being the right address in the capital, a new contender for that status is Watergate East where, according to ads, "your address will be compared to Nob Hill in San Francisco, Park Avenue in New York and Beacon Hill, Boston." If price is a factor for rightness, Watergate is in.

Overlooking the Potomac River, on the site of the old gas works in a former swamp and slum area called Foggy Bottom, the luxury co-operative at 2500 Virginia Avenue N.W. offers the most expensive apartment living in and around town with the most luxurious penthouses hitting \$250,000.

The average apartment is \$60,000 (two bedrooms, two and one-half baths, living room, dining room and kitchen). One-room efficiency apartments start at \$17,000. After a 40 per cent down payment in cash, a carrying charge of up to \$1,600 a month covers maintenance and mortgage. It costs \$3,000 to bed a car in the underground parking lot. One resident bought four spaces.

Many owners, after paying the initial prices, decided Watergate just wouldn't be home without a few simple changes—such as installing private elevators, revamping staircases, moving walls, add-

ing moldings or pushing two or three apartments together.

Reasons for moving to Watergate vary from its proximity to downtown, the White House, agencies and the Hill, to the thought of no rent and owning a place. The ultimate reason, however, is the view, which is a sometime thing. While many apartments truly overlook the Potomac, others have merely overlooked it. Less expensive apartments may face Howard Johnson's motel and a lot of road construction.

Senator Wayne Morse and Senator Russell B. Long have bought units in Watergate, but many residents are successful businessmen who are not necessarily known to the public.

**More Dogs Than Children**  
There are more dogs than children. As a realty agent said, "Most of the people are in their 50's; they no longer have children at home."

The Watergate East, which is shaped like a boomerang, is the first of a five-building \$66-million complex scheduled to go up on the 10-acre site in the next few years.

Some people say its lines remind them of a floating ship, which may explain why one man with a love of the sea has virtually turned his penthouse into a maritime museum. He is Joel Barlow, a partner in one of Washington's biggest law firms, Covington & Burling.

Mr. Barlow's three-room penthouse has a Williamsburg interior with ornate custom woodworking on rebuilt doors and door frames, moldings and ceiling rosettes. There are 10 chandeliers and the only Italian white and green marble-checked foyer in the building. Mr. Barlow designed a solid brass and steel stairway that goes up to his roof garden.

The penthouse will house Mr. Barlow's ships' models, or what's left of them.

#### Gave Away 50

"I gave 50 to the Smithsonian because they wouldn't fit here," he said. About 100 ancient barometers and countless ship paintings will fill various walls. One departure will be a portrait of Mr. Barlow's namesake, his great-grandfather's brother, who was Ambassador to France during the War of 1812.

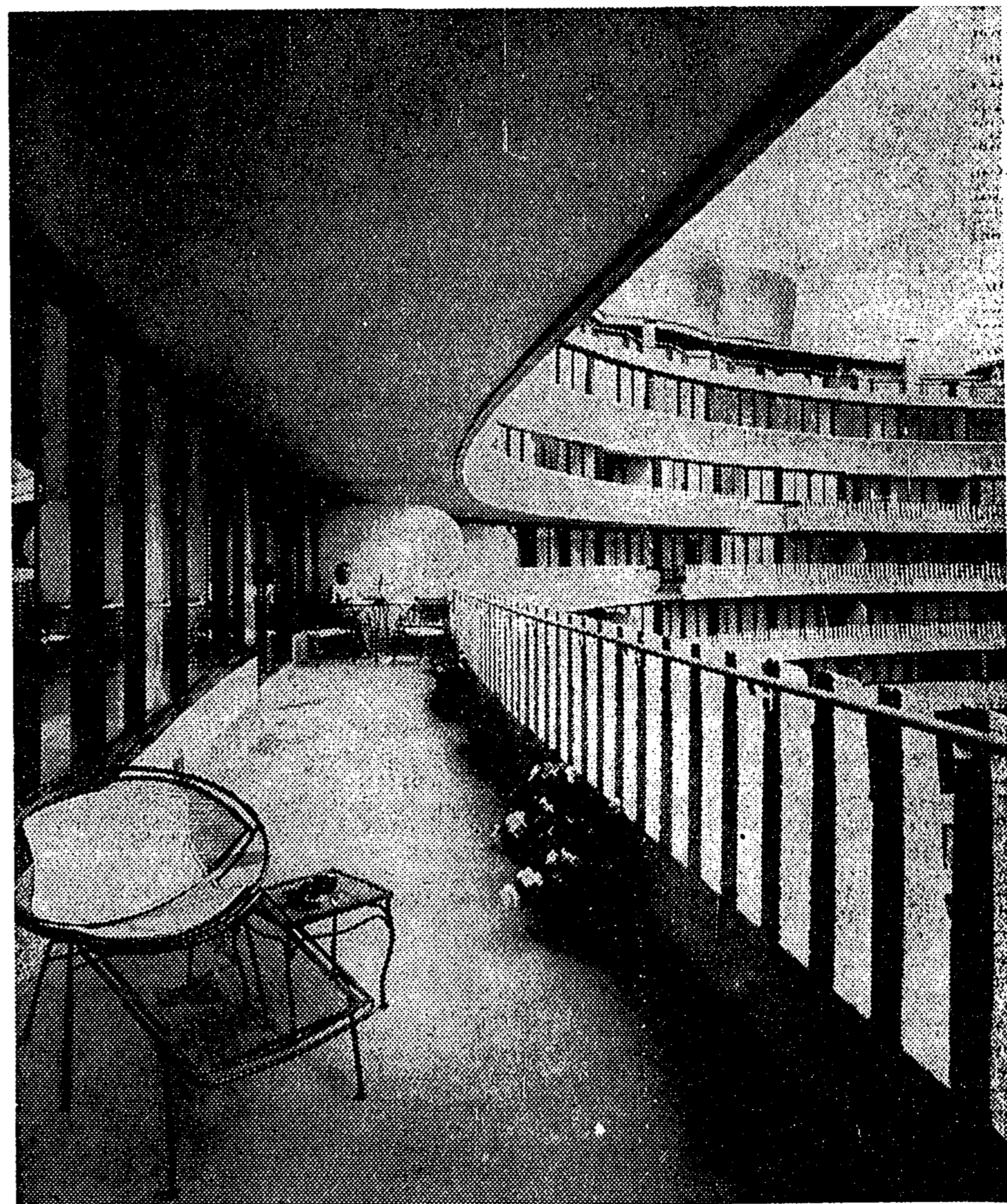
Mrs. Barlow takes all this calmly, Mr. Barlow says. "She decorates the house in Palm Beach and I can do what I want to here."

Her contributions are an authentic Early American canopy bed, a Queen Anne highboy and some wall sconces that belonged to Edgar Allan Poe. "Mrs. Barlow was a Poe," Mr. Barlow said.

On the roof garden, Mr. Barlow pointed and said:

"Before buying, we went to the top of Howard Johnson's to see what view we'd get. There's Lincoln Memorial, Lee's Mansion, Arlington Cemetery, the Monument and the Capitol. We'll never have to take visiting friends on sightseeing tours."

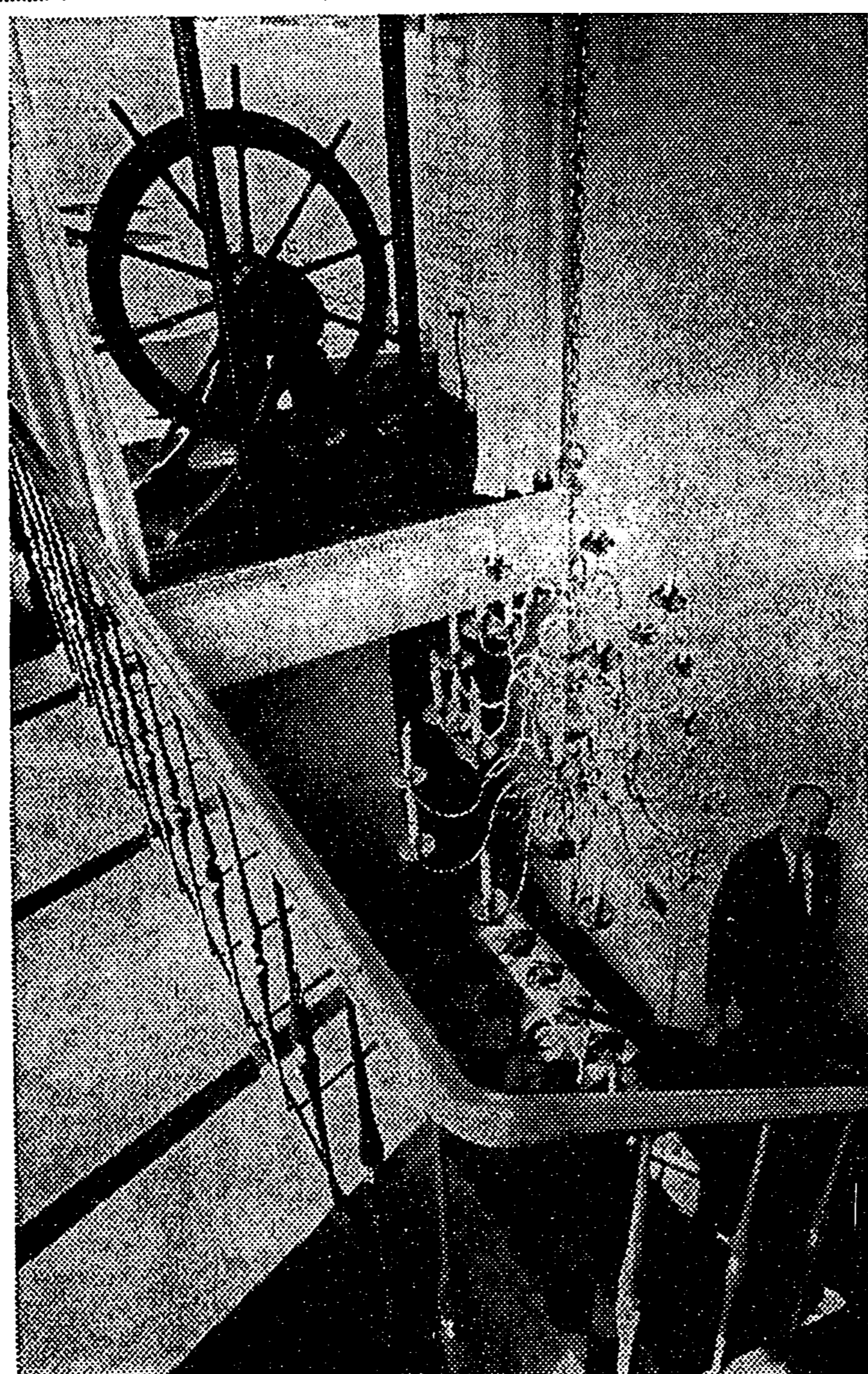
Construction-watching parties may also be in vogue for several years for Watergate dwellers. In addition to the rest of the complex and road construction, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Per-



Mrs. Robert E. McCord relaxes at far end of her 54-foot-long curving balcony.



Mrs. Arthur Hill and her miniature poodle sit in library next to Louis XV fireplace, which was salvaged from a house in Paris.



The New York Times (by George Tames)

Joel Barlow is shown on staircase leading to roof garden of his penthouse. In window is wheel from ship that sank in front of Barlow house in Maine.

forming Arts will rise adjacent to the Watergate.

There is only one apartment that can be reached from both the north and south lobbies, and this was created by combining two—one facing the river and one facing city side. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. McCord, now have a double balcony 54 feet long, a triangular marble foyer with a mirrored wall and a fountain. "I had it set low so it wouldn't make a big splash," Mrs. McCord said.

Leading a guest into the green and ivory, velvet and silk living room, Mrs. McCord said, "See that pole? That's holding the building up."

When the wall between the two apartments was removed, the supporting pole was disclosed. Mrs. McCord had it made into a banquette.

"We bought the apartment for the view," Mrs. McCord said. "Every morning, my husband leans out the window to see if the Monument's still there."

Mr. McCord, a director of

People's Life Insurance and a member of the Professional Staff, the Committee on Education and Labor, United States House of Representatives, relaxes on his balcony, tending a Norway spruce. "He's the only man who already has his Christmas tree," Mrs. McCord said.

Another high-rise gardener is John E. Cannaday Jr., who works at "investing in the stock market." Mr. Cannaday lugged a Japanese red maple to his penthouse rooftop and it and tomatoes now grow in planters.

But the most unusual feature of the Cannaday apartment is the fireplace, designed by Mr. Cannaday, who is an admirer of Frank Lloyd Wright. The fireplace juts out as a room divider between the living and dining rooms and is of various colored stone slabs laid on their sides.

The Cannadays' décor is a blend of old and new. A Duncan Phyfe dining room table that once belonged to Lord Balfour sits under a modern Swedish chandelier.

Another old and new combination is the Arthur Hill penthouse, with a Van Gogh on the wall and a Spanish rug "bought on sale at Bloomingdale's" in one bedroom.

While apartments on the building's top two floors all have wood-burning fireplaces, the Hills' is the only one to have two. The second, in the library, is Louis XV, salvaged by a Watergate executive from a home wrecked in Paris. Mrs. Hill, whose husband is a director of International Telephone and Telegraph, moved because "we had three homes and I just couldn't take it any longer."