ARCHITECTS' OWN HOUSE, TISBURY, WILTSHIRE
ARCHITECTS: ALISON AND PETER SMITHSON

This is to some extent an experimental building, designed to discover whether, in a house presenting glass walls to the north, east and west, enough solar heat can be obtained through most of the year and its build-up can offset heat losses; also to try out certain assemblies of materials—see below.

The site was already walled, having previously belonged to a stone cottage, now demolished. The highest wall, near the north, where the chimney gable of the old cottage has been left standing at right angles to the wall, and the new building has been placed outside these. There are views to the north and west over the Fossehill woods and to the east and south of the Wansbury woods against the skyline of the Downs. The ground floor of the house, which is mostly service area, can be opened up either on to the old paved areas or the garden.

Construction is in modified balloon frame, resting on the north on the existing stone wall and gaining lateral stability by being belted to the chimney gable. The south face is reinforced with concrete beams belted centrally in the chimney wall and supported by concrete posts at either end. Wood finishes are pine and teak outside, the first-floor glazing being belted from the inside against the teak cove-edges. Surfaces are covered with aluminium sheet.