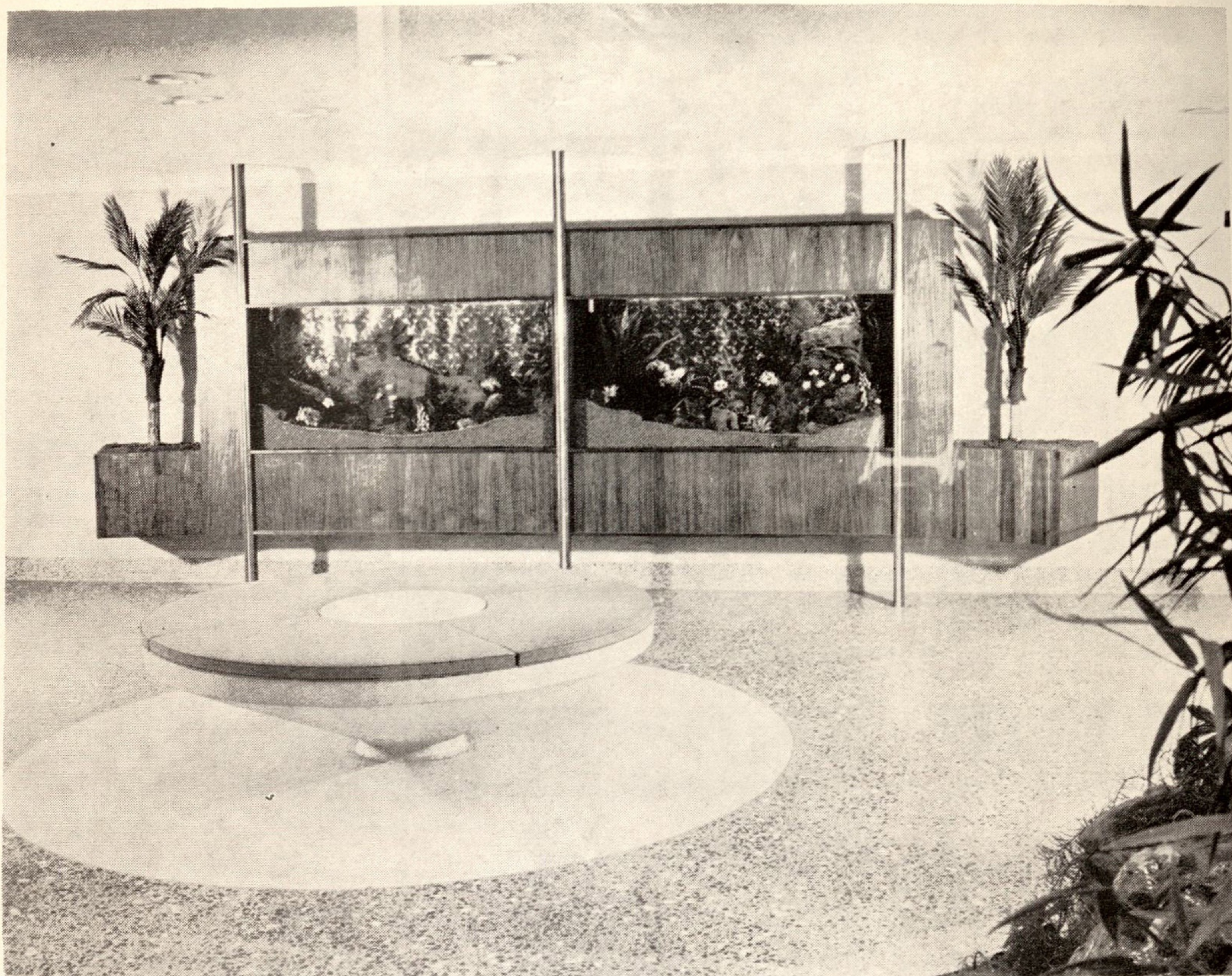


An Aquarium Enlivens an Apartment House Lobby



Aquarium in lobby of the Cortelyou Apartments, at 800 Cortelyou Road in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn is twelve feet long. It was designed by Aquarium Stock Company.

In line with a trend to endowing apartment house lobbies with plant or animal life instead of over-abundant furniture, the builder of the Cortelyou apartment house in Brooklyn has installed a 500-gallon tropical fish aquarium as the center of attraction. Tropical plantings and miniature waterfalls add to the lobby's exotic atmosphere.

The aquarium, actually two adjacent tanks, has been set flush into one lobby wall of walnut-grained Formica panels. It has a filtering system that recirculates the 500 gallons of water every two hours, and provides extra oxygen through an attached aerator. The water temperature is maintained by a thermostatically controlled heater.

The aquarium is equipped with an automatic feeder, which releases measured quantities of food at regular intervals.

The aquarium has been set up by the Aquarium Stock Company, New York, which also makes periodic visits to maintain it. Actually, little maintenance is needed. Because of the filtering system the water need never be changed, though it must be

replenished from time to time because of evaporation.

According to Herbert R. Mandel, builder of the Cortelyou, the aquarium was chosen as the focus of the lobby decor to avoid the static appearance of heavily furnished, lifeless building entries.

The lobby floor is made of terrazzo in a variety of soft colors. In the center is a circular sofa eight feet in diameter. The sofa's pedestal is also covered with terrazzo. There are planted waterfall settings on both sides of the entry. These consist of simulated plants and rock formations, across which miniature waterfalls are driven by a hidden pumping system.

The entire lobby is visible from the street through the large glass entrance to the block-long building, which is at 800 Cortelyou Road in Flatbush. The structure contains apartments of two and one-half to five and one-half rooms, with rentals starting at \$108 a month. **END**

(Editor's note: This article and photo reprinted through the courtesy of the New York Times, which ran this feature in April. We're sure Aquarium Stock Co. will change the water at least once every year.)