

QUEEN SEES "IDEAL HOMES"

At Olympia, Her Majesty the Queen attends the Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition. This year the Grand Hall is decorated in a Regency style, but apart from that, everything else is slap up to date. In the Village on the Hill, a modern home is inspected by the Queen. This is but one of the group of houses, flats and bungalows and shops specially built in the National Hall.

Kitchens, of course, catch the modern housewife's eye - refrigerators, cookers and cupboards are all in the latest fashion, clean and efficient. Gadgets for the kitchen are critically inspected by the Queen and Prince Philip. On display are machines to cut, peel, scrape, mix, beat - in fact do everything a housewife would rather not.

A topical idea is a kettle in which the water is boiled and the tea is made. "Very economical" says the Duke. Knitting machines are much in vogue these days, and the Ideal Home Exhibition has plenty on view.

Most homes have gardens, and so does the Ideal Home. In fact there are fifteen gardens on show. In the rock and water gardens, a Crofter's Shelter, thatched with heather, is set amid tumbling waterfalls.

The five year old daughter of a Dutch Embassy official presents two dolls to the Queen during her visit - a little Dutch boy for Prince Charles, and a little Dutch girl for Princess Anne.