



**1—THE 1630 ROOM** A hall in a timber-framed house in the City of London, which would have been used for dining and entertaining. The panelling has been made up to recreate an interior of this date.

**1630 AND ALL THAT HAPPENED**

The second year of Charles I ruling without Parliament.  
Charles II is born, the second son of Charles I and Henrietta Maria.  
Large-scale Puritan emigration to Massachusetts in America.

# FOUR STEPS TO THE PAST

ALAN POWERS visits newly presented rooms at the Geffrye Museum, which provide a vivid opportunity to study the detail of the historic interior of middle-class London homes with a sense of stylistic clarity

**O**UR own unreliable memories suggest that the past cannot be so safe and unchanging—it takes on new shapes

and meanings, depending on our current point of view. Yet, in respect of finding out about the history of domestic life there is always the opportunity to ask questions and use documentary evidence to find new answers, as the recreation of four new rooms at the Geffrye Museum demonstrates.

The Geffrye Museum is housed in the severe but stately courtyard of the almshouses on Kingsland Road, Shoreditch. It was built in 1714 for the Ironmongers' Company with a bequest from Sir Robert Geffrye. The London County Council set up a museum here in 1914 as a suitable use for a building saved at that time for preservation much for the sake of its garden as for its architectural merits.

The original intention was to display good examples of furniture, to be