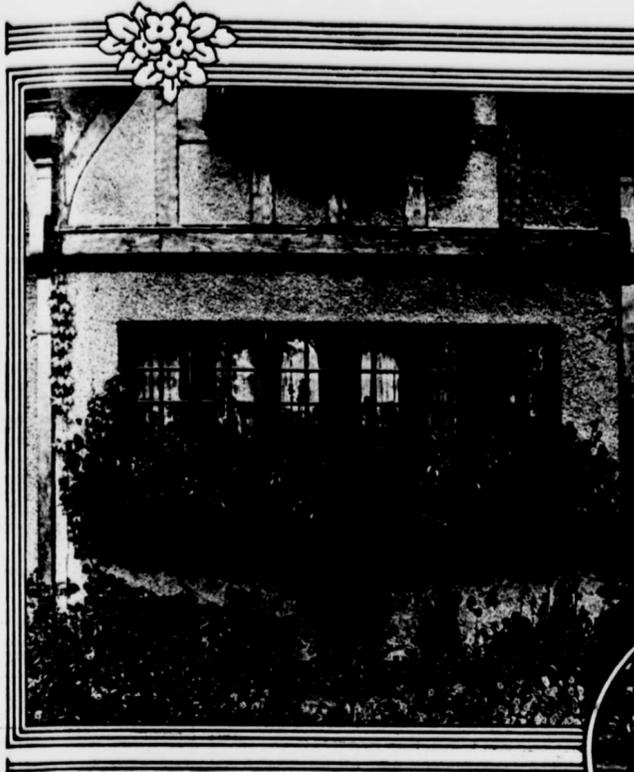


# ARTISTIC PLANTING AS SETTING FOR THE COUNTRY HOME



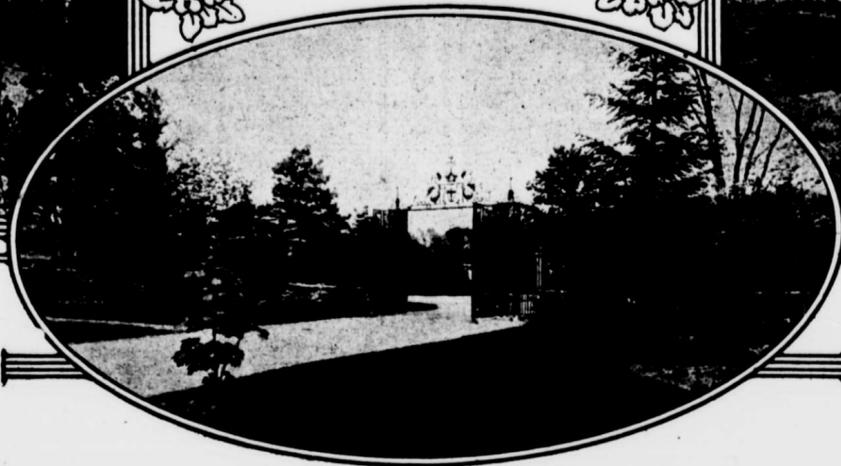
Artistic arrangement of window boxes at home of J. E. Aldred, Locust Valley, Long Island.



Hardy shrubs on Harvey Murdock estate, Peacock Point, Long Island.



A bed of shrubs and flowers makes the setting of the house seem more natural.



Successful planting around the entrance gate of the J. E. Aldred estate.

## Judicious Use of Shrubbery Now a Most Important Adjunct to the Work of the Architect

By HENRY W. ROWE.

It is only recently that we in America have come to realize that the planting around our houses is of vital importance to their general appearance. Heretofore it has been the custom to allow a house of good design to stand unsupported by planting and shrubs, neglected it might even be said, and uninteresting because of the lack of growing things.

Landscape architects have done much toward improving this lamentable state of affairs and it is much to their credit that we have come into an era of planting successfully and at a moderate cost, not even the humblest of country places being without some such adornment. The movement has resulted in giving the small house holder a personal interest in plants, flowers and even trees, and as a result he has come to do much of his own planting.

This "home made" variety of planting is often extremely interesting, for it offers an inexhaustible supply of original conception. Its greatest error, however, is that of using large, showy plants in small and conspicuous places. The plants themselves are of course beautiful, but they are so often used in small places and are completely out of tune with the natural surroundings.

For instance, it is often found that the charms of the rhododendron have so enchanted the owner of a small suburban home that he has forthwith purchased and planted them in his own modest yard, the result being that they have no atmosphere and present

a state of stiffness not desirable in such a yard.

On larger estates their use is more in keeping with the scale of the grounds and yet there is great danger of planting too much "en masse" even here. Natural growths are always the most interesting and should be preserved by all means. Running vines and bushes when found should be left in their natural state, encouraged and made the most of, for after all the most interesting and truest in feeling are these free compositions, as nature made them.

To apply ourselves more closely to the planting, and in particular around the house, it is of first importance to know whether the house is lived in "all the year round." If so, evergreen trees and shrubs are in order but should be used sparingly. Birch, dogwood and willow are also interesting trees through the winter months.

The style of architecture should determine, to a great extent, the nature of the planting directly around the house. For example, a house of Colonial flavor would call for a treatment suggesting the old fashioned flower garden, while a house of English origin would suggest the use of vines and English Ivy on the house, with a border garden of low, flowering shrubs.

Shrubs that might be used around almost any house are the bush honeysuckle, rose of Sharon, snowball, spirea, lilac, golden bell and bushes of boxwood. The last, of course, is not a blooming specimen. The use of the hedge is fortunately becoming

more general where a barrier is desired. Even as a decorative border for a flower garden its use is much in good taste if it is kept low.

Where masonry walls are used as a division or as a garden feature their appearance may be softened by planting climbers adjacent to them. The English and Boston ivy may be successfully used for a rugged appearance. It is well to bear in mind that the English ivy grows slowly and needs a free course, while the Boston ivy or Ampelopsis grows rapidly, needing but little encouragement and predominating most of the areas where it is planted. Myrtle, trailing rose and honeysuckle may be grown without much difficulty over walls where blooming vines are desired. These will also thrive on the ground.

To have an effective flower garden is the desire of every suburban dweller. Where plots are small it is well to avoid the short bloom specimens and adhere as closely as possible to the old fashioned flower garden. By including the proper varieties a rotation of blossoms may be easily had throughout the summer. Aster, phlox, forget-me-not, marigold, poppy, together with iris, primrose, foxglove, columbine, lily of the valley and Canterbury bells, would give a garden of continuous bloom.

Short bloom varieties such as roses do not yield for a long enough period to be desirable for the modest garden. Where there is space for it there is nothing more charming than the rose garden, but as it requires a great amount of care it is usually successful only on the larger estates.

To return to the planting of shrubs "en masse," there are none so effective in the grouping as rhododendrons. These are among the most "showy" flowering plants. Their decided leaf

clusters make them attractive during all seasons. In flower they are magnificent, and in foliage they excel any evergreen. They can be grown as easily as lilacs, and bloom quite as freely. They should be planted in soil mixed with leaves.

Of this same family are the mountain laurel and azalea, which may be used as successfully. Azaleas are found in a wild state frequently on Long Island. They thrive around pools and springs, and where these conditions are found it is quite a delightful innovation to establish an azalea walk or drive. On the larger estates these flowering shrubs are valuable landscape material, as they will grow to extreme heights of six or eight feet and serve as an excellent screen where one is desired. They also make effective laundry yard enclosures. To give life in winter it is desirable to intermingle a few evergreens, which will also serve to make the skyline more interesting.

In planting shrubs it is well to keep them away from maples and pines as the roots of these trees spread over the surface of the ground and absorb all of the moisture.

It is quite within the grasp of any householder to plant successfully a variety of trees upon his plot. The setting out of pines, oaks, maples and those of the larger specimens might better be left to the hands of an expert, but such trees as birches, dogwood, beech and magnolia may be easily handled.

White birch is a most desirable tree, as its papery bark offers a striking contrast to the dark values of the other masses. Dogwood, probably the most showy of all of our native trees, is popular for its bloom, which again contrasts strongly with the green foliage. Beech, beautiful in its disposition toward horizontality

in its leaving, has a character of spirited solidity uncommon among most trees. In regard to magnolia there is no tree more pleasing when in bloom. The best effects are obtained when several of these trees are grouped together.

To the amateur gardener the decorative possibilities of the window box open up a vista of fascinating combinations. These boxes, more or less ornamental according to the individual taste of the householder, filled with brightly blossoming plants, and supported on ornamental brackets, form a decorative feature, the possibilities of which are not underrated by the discerning.

A properly designed window box, suitably planted with trailing vines and a harmonious selection of colors, can often be made to atone for a vast amount of architectural incongruity in the house itself. Even in the most skillfully designed work the need for some softening effects about the windows can be felt. Aside from the charming exterior effect of such an arrangement, the bright colors and the scent of the flowers add greatly to the interior atmosphere of the house, while the view from a window is greatly enhanced by being framed in by the foliage of growing plants.

The window box may be made of white pine, painted to withstand the weather, or oak or chestnut stained, strongly put together and braced, and should be lined with copper or zinc with suitable apertures for drainage. The soil is put directly into the metal lined box so formed, and thus an ample opportunity is provided for almost any plant or small shrub to thrive.

Window boxes may be made either plain or with paneled ends and fronts. Some are made of heavy rough hewn chestnut planks with hand cut dove-

tail corners pegged together in primitive fashion. They may be supported on almost any kind of brackets, the type of which perhaps is the simple wrought iron bracket indicated in the photograph.

Of the planting it is enough to say that there should be a vine of some sort to hang over the edge, thus softening the rigid lines of the box, and that the flowers selected should be such as harmonize in color. Plants which form constant masses of bloom are best. It is well to provide several flowers which blossom in rotation, thus insuring a continuous effect. Pansies, heliotrope, giant mignonette, myrtle and similar plants are suitable for small boxes, while foxglove, salvia and digitalis may be grown in the larger ones. Geraniums are hardy and because of their bright coloring and fragrance make an excellent combination for the smaller window gardens.

It is often desirable further to soften the architectural lines of the suburban residence and this may be done by the discreet use of creeping vines. Among the vast number of these none is more effective than the Japanese vine called *Enonymus radicans*. It forms a thick green cover and, growing along the ground onto the foundation, serves to tie the house into its horticultural surroundings. English ivy naturally follows the lines of railings, mouldings and water tables, and although of slow growth is much more beautiful than the native American ivy. Wistaria and trumpet vines give delightful spots of color, while rambling roses grow on trellises and porch columns and are most attractive.

Bay trees in tubs may be used effectively as accents and to flank steps and openings. It is always desirable to avoid a disagreeable line at the junction of the building with the ground. To this end a bed of shrubs and flowers should be placed near the house to soften this line and

make the setting of the house seem more natural. This bank of foliage should not be continuous, and should vary in height that it may not be monotonous. Larger masses of box yew or spruce may be used to screen porches and wings, thus securing a more interesting effect of the facade. Seen in this way through breaks in the masses of foliage the house is more interesting and suggestive, because when unrelieved by foliage the rigid outlines of the house are apt to produce a rather bare appearance.

The effect of the entrance gate with its piers of stone or brick and its wrought iron grillage is greatly enhanced if flanked by masses of shrubs and small trees, which form a screen through which the visitor may catch his first glimpse of the inviting vista formed by the winding road leading to the delights beyond. These flanking trees should not be too thick, but should merely seem to accentuate the entrance and call attention to the point of ingress. Pines, spruces, large box and yew trees are suitable for this purpose, with perhaps a few white birches to break up the dark masses of foliage with their silvery trunks.

Rhododendrons and similar shrubs can be used to fill in the spaces between the larger trees. The drive leading to the house should be arched at intervals with elms, maples and locusts, thus the path to the house becomes a delightful passage through shady bowers and open sunlit glades. Shrubs and flowers may be massed along the way at intervals.

Where fences of broad palings painted white form the boundary of the estate it is an excellent arrangement to plant shrubs which allow the white palings to show through. In this connection it is well to note that more open arrangement of planting is to be preferred where the buildings are delicate in their detail than would be the case where the character of the buildings is expressed by stone.

## FOUR GOOD LUCK COINS THAT ARE HIGHLY VALUED BY SOLDIERS OF EUROPE

WITHOUT confessing to being fatalists many persons are ready to own to influence of supernatural powers in terrestrial affairs. Such interference with the course of nature may seem even more wonderful than the strangest events that ever occurred. One and all cherish the belief in luck. It was pure luck that, as recently related, a soldier had some sovereign coins in his vest pocket. A bullet, hitting him, was deflected and they actually saved his life.

Old as the human race is the faith in charms, in fetishes, talismans, amulets either to bring good fortune or to avoid danger. The present conflicts abroad have brought to light many instances that soldiers carry with them "pocket pieces" supposed to confer immunity from wounds or death in battle. Bavaria reveres Mary as patron saint. Her statues are found all over the country, in towns, villages, at road crossings. Most celebrated is the Madonna column at Munich. In the year 1855 King Maximilian II. restored the classic column amid pomp and processions; a silver double florin

was struck in commemoration. Now the soldier who can obtain such a coin has it with him in the belief to remain safe and sound throughout the war.

The aspiration to unite all Italians under one government brings in these stirring times to the Italian patriot memories of the earlier struggles. More especially to throw off the Austrian yoke. The glorious days of 1848 are recalled, when the leaders of young Italy, Mazzini and Garibaldi, with a handful of enthusiasts succeeded in driving the hated Austrians from Lombardy. The mint at Milan coined a five lire piece, with the image

of Italia, and the inscription, "Italia libera Dio lo vuole."

Within a year the heroes' dream was shattered. The Austrian bayonets regained Lombardy and recommenced their tyrannous rule. The above coin was condemned; its possession accounted high treason, the owners frequently sentenced to death even. Today the coin is very rare and has value for the historian no less than as a beautiful specimen for the numismatist. Above all the Italian who is called to the colors finally to attain the nation's ambition, by force of arms if necessary, wishes to have that token with him, as assurance of success and of personal invulnerability.

The Austrian soldier has unlimited faith in the efficacy of the Ritter (horseman's) dollar. It dates from the year 1616, coined by Archduke Max, with all heraldic devices, and bears the image of a fully armed horseman, visor down. The reverse side, shown in the illustration, bears the figure of the knight dismounted. The coin is highly prized, hundreds of crowns being offered for it by the young men who go to the front.

Not to be outdone, the Magyars' thoughts centre on the one glorious period in Hungary's history, that of King Matthias, reigning from 1458-90. Sprung from an ancient Magyar family, his father was the national hero Hunyad. The son, elevated to rule as King, inherited not only ability for conducting campaigns, mainly against the Moslem power in the south, but even against the German Emperor, taking Vienna by storm. Hungary prospered as never before; her dominion extended from the Adriatic to the Black Sea, from the Carpathians to the Balkans. Not in wars alone King Matthias proved his leadership; he was a liberal protector of art and science, founded universities, established the great library at his new capital of Buda, besides maintaining the magnificent residences at Pressburg and Temesvar, which outshone all other courts. Men of prominence, of learning, were invited to stay in Hungary and munificently rewarded. The entertainment the King gave in honor of foreign ambassadors surpassed all expectations. Gold ducats dating from this royal splendor are still treasured by the ancient Magyar families. When the fiery son dons the hussar uniform to join his comrades with the flag he will carry with him as talisman one of those rare coins. It is supposed to assure safety, to lead to victory.



Ancient Magyar gold ducat.



The Madonna florin of Munich.



The Milan 5-lire piece.



The Ritter dollar, Austria's lucky coin.

From photographs, enlarged in reproduction, of the talismans carried by the fortunate possessors in the armies of Hungary, Bavaria, Italy and Austria.