HOME BUILDING AND HOME MAKING

STORIES OF INTEREST TO THE HOME MAKER

Some Antiques Impossible; Dealers Who Explain Modifications Lose Customers for Their Honesty—Changing Fashions in Upholstery.

"Purchasers of antique furniture could avoid being deceived in many cases if they took the trouble to inform themselves concerning what they intend to buy," said a dealer who tries to be conscientious. "An instance of the common lack of knowledge came to my attention the other day.

"A woman was willing to pay any price I demanded for a genuine old corner cabinet with glass doors. It had to be absolutely genuine, however.

"I had two beautiful old cabinets, just the kind she wanted. They were also antiques in every particular but one. They had formerly had solid wooden doors, just as all cabinets of that early period had.

"Corner cabinets as well as those made for glass and china now, originally served only to keep food in. They were like the ordinary pantry or closet of the day.

"Naturally such cabinets were heavy and clumsy compared with those with glass doors. In all cases the glass doors have been put in later to make cabinets correspond to modern taste.

"Corner cabinets can never be very old, because they were not in use until a comparatively late period in colonial history. The earlier colonial houses were all supplied with cabinets built into the corners of the room. So it is impossible to get a cabinet of this shape that is as old as the first of the American-made furniture.

"I told the lady all this, which was, of course, quite new to her. I don't think she believed it, because she went away without buying my cabinets, altho they were exactly what she was looking for.

"Now, if I had shown them to her without explaining that the doors were originally of wood, she would probably have bought them immediately."

Dealers soon learn that excessive honesty on their part is not necessary. Their patrons do not want to know too much. It embarrasses them to reveal their ignorance. They like to be left in the happy impression that they know it all.

"I have sold so-called colonial bookcases for years," one dealer said, "and in all that time I have rarely come across a regular bookcase of the kind that stands on the floor.

"The bookcases were all built to sit on the tops of desks, in accordance with the fashion of that period. We put small legs on them and sell them.

"If I told that to the women who come to buy, not half of them would take the bookcases. If I told them how these bookcases are made it would not give them any satisfaction and it would lose a customer for me. So I keep still.

"I do not mention either the fact that the desks to which these bookcases were attached must have new tops when the transformation is made. It is more for the sake of the women buyers than for my own profit that I do not mention these facts."

New Ideas in Upholstery.

The fashion in upholstery goods change, and so do the forms in which they are made up. The most conspicuous change in the fashions of upholstery this year was the return of the lambrequin.

The new style lambrequin is not a pretentious affair in comparison with its predecessor of thirty years ago. The valance for a small room should not be more than eight inches deep. It may be perfectly straight or cut into the shape of a shield at the center.

The silk and cloth material called armure looks especially well made up for window curtains in this style. The only ornamentation on the valance is guimpe about the edges. It is made in silk and of the same color. Sometimes there is a stripe of guimpe down the inside edge of each curtain, but that is not so common.

The same fashion is used for cretonnes, in which case the valance is always edged with cotton guimpe made up in the various colors in the design of the cretonne. The guimpe down the front is seen frequently on these cretonne curtains, but it is not so necessary there as on the valance.

In spite of the protestations of the salesmen, even the heaviest of cretonnes needs lining. In fact, there are no curtains that are not better when lined unless they are used as sash curtains.

The art of making up curtains even by an inexpensive workman may be counted on as half the cost of the material.

The new-fashioned lambrequin is made on a board and hangs over the top of the window so as to conceal the curtain poles. This is a pleasant change after the recent preponderance of gilt poles and rings in all decorations for the windows during the past decade.

As a part of the general scheme of harmony, lace curtains have gone, too. Only the panel curtain hanging straight down against the glass is now used in rooms of state with the heavy curtains of brocade, tapestry or velvet, as the case may be, next the room. This is certainly more dignified if not more beautiful.

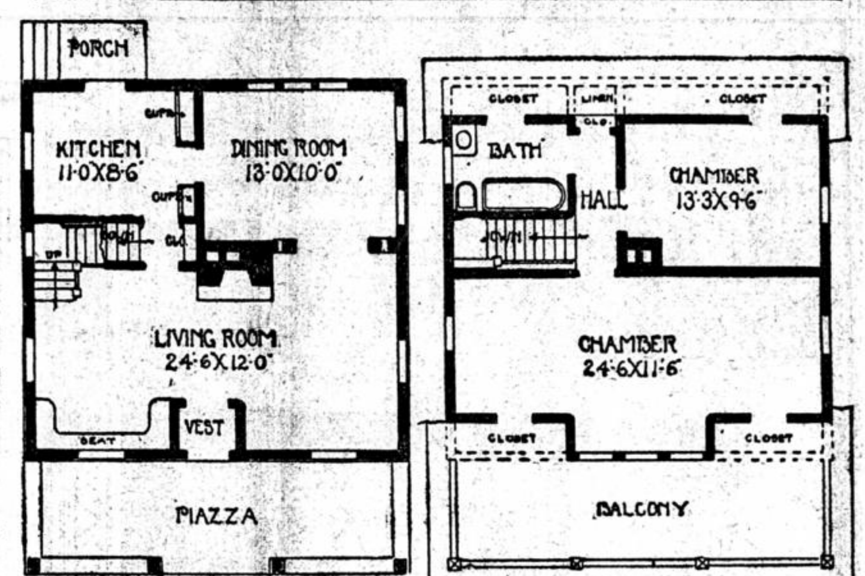
More liberty is taken with sleeping rooms. Even there, however, plain effects are in demand.

An Austrian Dining Room.

A few years ago, when L'Art Nouveau was at its height in Germany it was almost impossible to find pieces of furniture with straight lines. The peculiar "new art" curve was always in evidence. German craftsmen have not abandoned curves, but they have given greater prominence of late to straight lines. Austria has produced splendid work in the way of interior decoration during the last decade. Austrian art nouveau was less extreme than German and far more interesting than English. An Austrian room in a new house recently completed is unique without being bizarre, and is an excellent example of Austrian decorative art. The furniture is not unlike that seen in many German rooms, except that white paint is less common in Germany than stain. The walls are hung in a soft-toned yellow canvas, divided into long rectangular panels by small stenciled squares of blue. At the wide opening hangs a portiere of green canvas ornamented with appliqued squares of leather in blue and yellow. Blue and green appear in the cross-barred rug; and green is repeated in the curtains. The white furniture is very attractive with its quaint effect of lattice work and its upholstery of blue leather. Even the table has its blue top. Nothing mars the scheme of old blue, yellow, green and white.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO BUILD? HERE IS A HOUSE TO STUDY

By special arrangement with Glenn L. Saxton, architect, 244 Security Bank building, a complete set of plans and specifications of this house, including one set of blue prints, will be furnished at Mr. Saxton's office for $15. These will be furnished in every detail. Mr. Saxton will also furnish to The Journal readers for $1 a beautiful, practical and helpful book of plans, entitled "American Dwellings," of houses ranging from $400 up. Portfolio No. 2, of residences costing from $3,000 to $50,000, 50c; portfolio No. 3, of stores, banks and churches, 50c. A church portfolio will also be given free to any reader of The Journal upon application to the architect.



Cost to build exclusive of plumbing and heating, $1,900; built last fall for $1,640, exclusive of plumbing and heating.

Here is a splendid investment. We dare say that this house will sell for at least $250 or $300 more than the contract price as soon as the roof is on. This design is popular and well-liked by every one. The special feature of this attractive little plan is a magnificent living room across the entire front, being 24 feet 6 inches in the clear by 12 feet wide. A brick fireplace in the center of the room. The stairs as shown in the plans are not combination; but one can easily make them so if one desires.

The kitchen is a model, being just as convenient as a pocket in a shirt. There is also a nice diningroom. You will notice the second floor being divided into two rooms, besides the bath. This gives another large room similar to the living room for a double bedroom in case the family is small. This leaves the back room for a spare room. If one desires a partition can be put thru the large room giving three good-sized bedrooms besides excellent closet place and large bath.

Full basement under entire house. First story 9 feet, second story 8 feet. Birch floor thruout; also finish in first story, birch; second story, pine to paint. Plans by Glenn L. Saxton, architect; studio, 242 and 244 Security Bank building, Minneapolis, Minn.

ABOUT POLISHED FLOORS

Daily Care the Price of a Beautiful One.

The daily care of a hardwood floor is no light task, and is probably more so than that of the carpet. But after all, this daily care is so simple and the outlay of time and strength so small that it is slight when compared with the amount of strength and time one must give a carpeted room.

If the room is much used it must be swept first with a soft hair brush, then wiped with a long-handled dustmop, which comes for the purpose and also is known as a yacht mop. When a room is not much used the dustmop alone suffices. If there are spots on the floor they should be rubbed with a piece of flannel or carpet. If this does not remove them they may be cleaned with a little turpentine on a piece of cloth. This takes off the polish, and it will be necessary to rub the spot with a cloth moistened with encaustic or oil, according to the finish, and then polish it.

Once a week all the spots should be wiped clean, and a cloth moistened with encaustic, oil or turpentine should be rubbed on any parts of the floor where the polish has worn off; then the floor should be rubbed with a weighted brush. This weekly treatment is only for rooms much used.

A floor that thoroly is cleaned and polished twice a year can be kept in beautiful condition by this weekly care.

Wall Paper for Flats.

Persons of moderate means who live in flats are chiefly interested in getting all they can for the meager sum the landlord allows for decoration. Yet few of them are willing to take the advice of specialists in wall-paper decoration and furnish their apartments with one paper or with two shades of the same color.

The sense of space this plan gives to the average apartment cannot be understood by those who have not seen the effect. In the common case of a drawing-room, dining-room and alcove together, as these rooms are arranged in many flats, there is a remarkable difference when all are done in the same paper; but the old fondness for a green parlor and a red dining-room is difficult to overcome.

In selecting a single color for an entire apartment it is best to fix on a neutral tint; a gray, cream or yellow, light olive or light brown. There are shades to which almost any draperies may be suited. The color may be supplied by the hangings. The draperies may be in contrast or in more vivid shades of the cardinal color.

As cartridge paper scarcely wears well enough for use in halls or bedrooms, it may be reserved for the parlor and sitting-room. A paper of the same shade with a small design may be used for the rest of the apartments.

Finest Collection of Rugs.

Among the most treasured possessions of the late Charles T. Yerkes was a collection of oriental rugs that is said to be the finest and most costly in the world, even exceeding in value and beauty the collection of the shah of Persia or that in the British museum. These rugs are twenty-three in number, and are hung upon the walls of a gallery that Mr. Yerkes had built especially for them. Several years ago he had the designs copied in their original colors, and reduced to book form. The paintings are comprised in a set of ten volumes, one of which was to remain in the Yerkes collection, and the nine others to be presented to the most famous museums of the world. Each rug was copied separately, and each painting is about two feet long. Among the rugs is the "Holy Carpet," for which Mr. Yerkes paid $60,000. Some of the others are represented as almost priceless treasures.

Talk on Towels.

Huckaback of good firm quality contiues to be the favorite material in towels. It comes both plain and as beautifully figured as the satiny damask that used to be so popular. Nowadays, damask is criticized as too slippery, and the rougher and more absorbent huck is preferred to it.

Good damask or good huck cost about the same. Nearly every housekeeper has experienced a momentary pang when some transient visitor, perhaps only under her roof for a couple of hours, dries a pair of clean hands on one of these great soft snowy treasures of hers. That two minutes' service means another visit to the laundry. To such an one the new little "individual" towels come as a special boon. They are as fine as the others and as expensive, but small, thin, light, easy to launder. They should be called "onetime" towels, for every towel is an "individual" towel, except the one on the roller in the kitchen. Their principal function is to serve the unexpected guest's hasty ablutions. As a matter of fact, any person would rather have a small, fresh towel every time he requires one, than a big towel that he must use more than once "to save the washing."

Towels for use in the nursery or for the servants' use are generally selected with red or blue borders, so that they can be easily separated from the others. It is a good plan to get the red-bordered kind for the servants' room, and the blue-bordered kind of a little better grade for the children. For infants comes the sofest of fine birdseye toweling with dainty floral borders.

The newest thing in towels has a scalloped edge. It is both machine and hand worked, on huck of various qualities. The scalloped edge is more practical, as well as prettier, and more up to date than fringe. Fringe is troublesome to wash, and wears badly.

Wood Paneling.

American architects and homebuilders are giving special attention to wood and plaster, and many of the new houses contain one or more rooms where the high-paneled wainscot is a special feature. In England this paneling has always been a favorite mode of finishing the walls, and a noted English architect ably sets forth its merits.

"For all practical purposes," he writes, "nothing can surpass wood paneling, or, as it was named from the particular kind of oak of which it originally was made, wainscoting. Take the case of a house, no matter where it be, of which some rooms are paneled and some are not, and compare the effect of the two modes of treatment. It will at once be evident that wainscoting of itself gives a sense of substantial comfort and a finished appearance to any room, apart from the presence of any movable furniture it may contain. The original outlay of wood paneling is necessarily greater than that of papering, distempering and other varieties of treatment that might be named; but the majority of these require to be removed at more or less frequently recurring intervals, whereas wood paneling, especially that which is constructed of good sound oak, lasts for centuries; and, instead of deteriorating or growing shabbier, improves in tone with age, and is, therefore, in the long run, the cheapest, as it is also, generally speaking, the handsomest form of interior wall decoration in existence."

Bedrooms in a Summer Cottage.

Stuffy bedrooms are abominable in a town house. They are inexcusable in a country house. A good rule to follow in summer furnishings is to have nothing that you do not absolutely need and not too much of that. If this theory is put into practice, the summer in the country fulfills its mission. Life in the summer cottage should be a relaxation. A few simple jars to hold flowers, several candlesticks, a bowl for matches, are all that the bedroom needs in the way of small things.

A restful color scheme, attained with inexpensive paper and cheese-cloth curtains, is more to be desired than the "finest effects" of the decorator if they lack repose. Choose cool greens, grays, soft yellows, lavenders, wood browns, pinks, if used with discretion, and some of the blues. Red should be avoided. It is too energetic for summer. It is good for phlegmatic people in winter, for it spurs on to activity, but it has no place in the summer house. The bedroom may be full of brightness, it may have gay effects, and yet be restful; but it should not contain too many colors, and the colors should be carefully combined.

Picture Frames.

A volume might be written on the framing of pictures, a few chapters being devoted to what one should avoid. There are no set rules, but there are a few general principles that it is well to keep in mind. The woodwork and general tone of a room are important considerations, both in the choice of the picture and the frame. A white frame in a room finished in black oak is a blunder; a dark frame in a white room is another. People who carry a matter to a very fine point, frame their pictures to accord with the woodwork both in color and design. The moldings of the room are repeated in the frames. This regard for detail may be carried to an extreme, and a room made to look too cut and dried, "too deadly premeditated," as some one has said. This, however, is not a common fault. Most rooms are not premeditated enough. The furnishings are haphazard, and when it comes to pictures there are many transgressions. One great fault lies in the fact that walls are often covered with pictures because the home-maker feels that they must hang somewhere. This delusion suggests the passing-on plan, or the bonfire.

Ceiling Treatment.

The French method of treating the cornice as part of the wall is more sensible than the English method of treating it as a part of the ceiling. The French method suggests a feeling of support to the ceiling, while the English method may be accounted for by the extensive uses made of the plaster ceilings in the earlier English houses, and which necessitated the top part of the cornice being of the same material as the ceiling, in order to miter with it.

There can be no greater drawback to the appearance of a room than the common matchboard ceiling, stained a dirty color and varnished, often consisting of sappy, knotted and discolored boards. When painted they are permissible, but they can not be compared with the plain white plaster ceiling, which materially enhances a room.

Of the many materials available in ornamental relief some suitable for covering ceilings are to be found. If the ceiling is heavily ornamented, it is best to have the walls plain, thus balancing the effect of the ceiling. When paper ceilings are used they should be light in color and design, as a heavy pattern paper appears to bring the ceiling down too far.

Porch Suggestions.

Various little home-made devices and inventions make the porch of the country home more attractive, especially if it is used, as so many are, as a general living room and gathering place for the family.

Comfortable furniture, a well-stocked reading table and plenty of flowers should be in evidence. A very convenient table can be made by suspending a broad shelf from the roof beams of the veranda. If the wood is given a dark finish and black iron chains are used to carry it, a pleasant effect can be obtained.

The table may be used for books, or to hold the sewing of the women of the family, and, if hung properly, can be fastened back out of the way when not in use.

A serviceable and satisfactory wicker table is made for holding flowers, and is particularly well adapted for use on the porch. It has a low, broad, round top, in which can be set potted plants

Pretty Nursery Pictures.

The most interesting part of the furnishing of a nursery is the selection of the pictures. The babies and smaller children want suggestive subjects simply and broadly executed in rather strong colors, says Harper's Bazar.

These colors must not be crude, however, and the drawings must be good. The baby's small finger invariably indicates as his favorite subjects the "moo-moo," the "bow-wow," "baby," etc., so that for his pleasure we must select pictures of animals, children and flowers. The friezes partly meet this need, but we may get besides naturally colored pictures of birds, animals and flowers. They come in long folded sheets especially intended for kindergartens or nurseries. There are besides, poster pictures of Mother Goose rhymes, dogs, cats, birds and little Dutch children.

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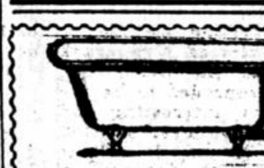

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Defective Page