

FURNISHING THE HOME



By the Hub Furniture Company

SOME HINTS ABOUT THE MODERN HOME

With the tang of autumn giving a hint of the wintry days that lie in the wake of fall, housewives become impatient of refitting the home for the indoor season. Summer trappings must give way before more substantial furnishings—willowens must be laid away till next spring, matting must be supplanted by rugs, weather stripping takes the place of screens and from the linen closet blankets and comforts make their appearance.

The test that is being applied to the modern home in these days of more sane and simple living is: Is it comfortable? Is it an expression of your taste or merely an aggregation of miscellaneous pieces? Does it look lived in or merely set together like a mimic setting on a stage?

The fall and winter especially offer opportunities for the incorporation of a motif in furnishing the home. Now is the time to make your home express something that stamps it with individuality. During the spring and summer the outdoors has beckoned with the consequence that the porch and lawn have become meeting places for family and friends. During the months to come all this will be changed and the home will once more come into its own as the indoor season, and therefore particular attention must be paid to making indoors attractive and comfortable.

The modern housekeeper has numerous advantages that were not possessed by her mother. Electric lights, gas ranges, kitchen cabinets, steam heat, vacuum cleaners and the host of new inventions of like nature have considerably lessened the labors of the twentieth century woman and minimized the presence of dust. It is easier to keep a comfortable home and easier to keep it clean and comfortable.

The trend in furnishing and decorating the home nowadays is toward simplicity and harmony. The old-fashioned "parlor" with its "what-not" in the corner, the strobbe under the mantle, its horsehair sofa and collection of chairs of fearful and wonderful design has passed away. In its place has come the combined library and den, which is the main room or living room of the present-day home.

In the library fumed oak is taking the place of old English, owing to its richer and more comfortable design. Spanish leather seems to be the keynote of the upholstery, with rich brown and tan predominating, though many people of taste favor the bronze greens. Colonial designs in furniture, both in the library and dining-room are proving the fashion. The tendency of the fashion in furniture, like that in clothing, seems to be toward lounging comfort. Straight lines supplant the old stive scrolls that always seemed to be placed there. New would be most effective in creating discomfort. The formal stiffness of the one-time parlor has been merged with the comfort of the den.

The colonial design prevails in the furnishing of the dining-room. Here again simplicity is the motif. Fumed oak is the favorite wood for the same reasons that it has become the choice for the living room. So strong is the colonial design that some of the New York stores are showing dining-room sets which are replicas of those which adorned the homes of famous women of colonial days. "The Dorothy Vernon Suite" and the "Martha Washington Suite" are two favorites. The design and finish of the original sets has been reproduced in the new sets.

In the bedroom mahogany is still the favorite, owing to the rich contrast it affords the other furniture. But fumed oak is also becoming popular and many of the newer sets are of this wood. Quaint four-poster beds, modern editions of the beds of our grandmothers, are now more fashionable than brass beds. They come, of course, in single beds.

Bird's-eye maple and mahogany are most in favor for bedroom furniture. Leather-covered furniture of severe design is now more in vogue for the library or den than the mission style, though this is still popular. Oatmeal wallpapers are being used extensively in halls and morning rooms, while burlaps lead in favor for the library.

Bare floors of hard wood of simply stained, with light wash rugs are now as popular for winter homes as for summer cottages. Very light floors unstained and light woodwork do wonders toward brightening a dark bedroom. Dark hangings and dark-toned furniture will deepen the effect of a room where the light is glaring and pale amber-tinted hangings and the introduction of yellow cushions or bits of yellow china will give an effect of sunlight in the dimmest room.

HOUSEFURNISHING. One might almost imagine that modern inventors were in league with the suffragettes, so rapidly are they eliminating the truth in the old cry that women are needed in their homes and should find enough to occupy their busy hands within the house. Every year, in fact, brings to the fore more and more useful articles to lighten housework, and changing

ing fashions are doing away with the furniture and carpets that meant back-breaking work to clean.

This autumn more than ever before has simplicity been made the keynote in the home, and the charm of the simple furniture, and rugs now in vogue, cannot be denied. With the exception of the drawing-room or the hallway, the modern home is now carpeted usually with the new washable rugs. These quaint, rather old-fashioned floor coverings, are much in vogue, and can be purchased in colors to match any room leading an inexpensive and delightful note in the home. Dining-room and hall are, of course, carpeted with darker rugs, but actual carpets are rarely seen save where the floors do not admit of stain and the morning polish with the dustless floor mop of these modern times. Even the carpets, however, are swiftly cleaned with the vacuum cleaner and dustless dusters soon wipe off the tables and chairs.

Tufted and upholstered chairs and sofas are no longer in vogue, for plain mahogany or oak, or mission style tables and chairs are seen combined with the comfortable, durable and most artistic wicker or willow furniture with its pillows of gay chintz and unglazed.

Such furniture has no little quirks to hide the dust, and in case there are any odd corners there now come attic little brushes to reach right in and clean even the most difficult spot.

Of course, the prevalence of the old-fashioned rugs has brought about the use of attractive chintzes or cretonnes for hangings in the average home, while simple easily washed sash curtains close to the windows are far more in vogue than the lace curtains of a past decade. All these things, of course, tend to lighten the work of keeping the house clean, and so many and so numerous are the inventions to help in the necessary cleaning that the house is neat "in a jiffy."

The walls of the modern home also show the tendency towards simplicity, plain papers with a border of flowers being most in vogue for bedrooms while in kitchen and bathroom are used papers that wash easily as the linoleum on the floor, and thus make it possible to keep both rooms spotless and unglazed.

Heavy papers of plain colors are much used for the dining-room, while the living rooms of today are so artistic in their wall design, and with so simple in their panel effects that one scarcely needs pictures to complete the room.

In the Kitchen. It is not only in the living portion of the house that modern inventions are aiding the housewife, but in the kitchen as well, for the modern kitchen is a wonderland. Its cabinet can be turned into every conceivable kind of table or closet, and the gas range is augmented by a fireless cooker into which the boiling and delectable dishes may be put and cook on while the housewife goes off to a meeting or plays bridge undisturbed.

There are also nowadays useless refrigerators which are made in small sizes for the average home. These have a little motor that freezes the air in the interior, and are a tremendous blessing for those too far in the country for regular ice delivery, or too tight up in the apartment house to enjoy drawing up the dumb water with its ice. They also eliminate emptying pans, that bug-a-boo of the housewife, who sometimes forgets to empty hers about half an hour after she has arrived at some friend's home to play cards or dance.

Still another aid to quick housework are the dishwashers that are now on the market, and which actually wash everything well and put them out to drain in the space of a few moments.

HOUSEHOLD IDEAS FOR THE BRIDE. Curtain poles run from side to side of a closet and hung with dress-hangers make even the smallest closet capable of holding many frocks.

Some of the modern houses now being built have small washstands built into a tiny alcove of the closet, eliminating the necessity for a washstand out in the room.

The newest medicine chests have a small locked place for poisons that prevent anyone getting them by mistake. Handsome old brocades or cretonnes in peacock designs are most in favor for sofa pillows this year.

Round flat tops of asbestos may be bought for the table top to use under the cloth in place of the old-fashioned felt.

Plate glass tops finish many of the new dressing tables, keeping them clean and unmarred. The glass may be put either over or under the lace cover for the table.

The newest lampshades are of white lace over white silk with a trimming of gilt straw braid.

as well as in gowns, but so slightly that the lines of our grandmothers would be equally useful, and in style today. In fact, in many instances the fine heavy linens are kept from one generation to the next.

The prevalence of round tables nowadays is bringing to the fore some very handsome tablecloths with a round design in the center and a deep border, and these entire tablecloths are far more in vogue than the kind that are bought by the yard, and not much more expensive. Napkins may be bought to match, the fine slither ones being if possible larger than ever, and the housewife who takes a pride in her linen cannot do better than choose those which measure a yard square. For luncheon there come, of course, smaller sizes, and all are marked in one corner with the initials in white since colors are never used for marking household linens, and nowadays are seldom used even for the hand-embroidered centerpieces.

The damask table linen in striped design or with a flower wreath in it is especially popular just now, while luncheon cloths and doilies in damask with a simple hemstitched border are nice for the housewife who has a fine table, and are much smarter than using a table cloth for the non-day meal.

Of course, every housewife knows that table linen must always be hemmed by hand if it is not hemstitched, and should be ironed while wet, that it may have a smooth gloss, and yet be unstarched, the starched table linen is by no means in good taste.

For the center of the table the round doily edged with deep linen lace or cluny lace is much in vogue just now, having superseded both the embroidered centerpieces and the drawn-work, but such bits of the household linen are never regulated very much by changing seasons, but represent simply the taste of the housewife.

The use of cross-stitch to mark the guest towels which are so popular now, continues in favor, and is also seen on some of the larger towels, but a single letter heavily worked in white is to be noted in the linens of the fashionable brides of the autumn.

Single initials also mark much of the bed linen this year, hemstitched sheets and pillow cases, and the new ones with pillow shams to match being most in vogue, though elaborate flowered sets are still seen in many of the shops that make a specialty of this sort of linen.

The modern counterpane is cut so that it will pull down at the foot of the bed and some of the new ones and comforters are made the same way, so that they cannot be pulled up in a bunch about the shoulders, leaving a chill spot down near one's feet.

Bureau scarfs and all such odd bits of linen for the household show a tendency towards plain white with perhaps ends of flit or cluny lace, while the covers for the bed pillows which every woman now possesses often have the whole front of flit with the back of softest batiste with mildy's monogram on it. These are usually hand-made, and are exquisitely fine and dainty.

FASHIONS FOR CHILDREN. Fashions for the tiny tot are picturesque in the extreme this season and the wee kiddies are to look like quaint portraits of long ago days. For the small boy there are novel little suits that have sprung into popularity during the last summer months, with trousers of dull blue or tan, buttoned onto white blouses, some with collars and cuffs to match the little trousers and some with ruffled collars and cuffs that are most attractive on a cherubic face. For his more modern and truly boyish brother the collars and cuffs of plain linen are better, and these suits in either linen or serge and heavy silk are most in vogue for boys up to six or seven years of age.

For the older boy the Norfolk suit continues in vogue together with the heavy overcoat that is "just like father's," but for the little lad there are military coats and capes with gay scarlet linings and brass buttons sure to delight the wee lad, while straight velvet coats with huge collars and cuffs of fur and little hats of fur are shown for the laddie who is fortunate enough to go motoring with mother.

Little buckled shoes are shown for house wear for boys and girls alike, more or less taking the place of the slipper with the ankle strap that has so long been popular, while for out of doors there are extra high boots of tan, either laced or buttoned, for both the girls and the boys.

Dainty frocks that are feminine editions of the suits for little boys in pale pinks and blues are shown for tiny maids, while the straight linen dresses with wide turn-over collars and smocked yoke is much seen on the fashionable little girls of both Paris and London. In some instances the dresses are smocked in a contrasting shade, thus a white linen frock is seen smocked in blue, a frock of soft green crepe is smocked in white, and a plain little brown challis gains distinction from its smocking of brocade green and its wide collars and cuffs of pale tan corded silk with a bit of embroidery of brocade green.

The waist line for the children's dress in France continues to be almost to the knees, but there is a tendency in this country to either do away with the waist line altogether, or make it a normal one, with short straight plaited skirts and ruffled blouses for the school girl, and plain frocks for the younger sister.

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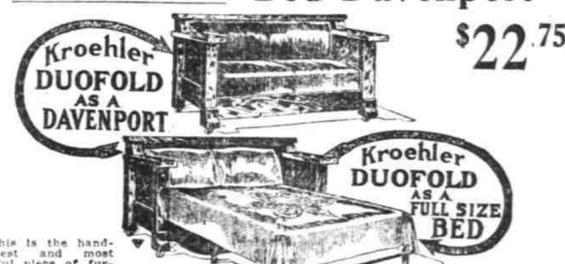
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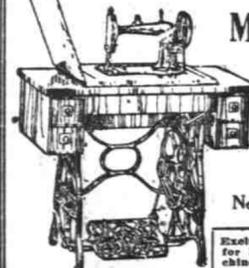
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