

Sincerity Simplicity Suitability

Watchwords in Home Furnishings

Adele Mendel

When contemplating putting your house in order for the coming season you may have to ask yourself the following questions:

What can you afford, what is appropriate, and what do you need? It is erroneous to believe that successful home decoration depends on the amount expended. Rather it is that little touch of individuality, otherwise called originality, which goes far in giving the home atmosphere. Careful study is required in the selection and placing of furnishings so they will not present a helter-skelter appearance. Most essential is order and system, for your rooms are a keynote to your good taste and judgment.

You have the right to have every room which has a definite purpose either artistic or practical, as beautiful as you can make it.

Someone has said, "If women approached home making, as an artist does his work, we would have more suitable lovely homes to leave as a valued legacy."

A genuine antique piece is beyond the reach of the average pocketbook, so we may be truly grateful for the reproductions based upon sturdy elegance and good craftsmanship. The living room is the stage setting of everyday life and center of domestic activities, therefore it should be furnished as a congenial abiding place.

Different articles of furniture may be used in the living room, congenially just as friendly people are often of entirely different dispositions. There is such a manifold selection of furniture to choose from that with a gradually better understanding of artistic beauty, we come to the appreciation of modern home art. A luxuriant sense of serenity and ease is always introduced in the living room by deep cozy upholstered furniture.

The covering of a chair may make or mar beauty of the chair. The pattern may be too large or small, too colorless, or of too striking a color. A deep and luxuriant davenport upholstered with striped blue and gold velvet, heaped with pillows, suggests enjoyable leisure hours.

So called English mahogany furniture decorated with dark tone flowers underneath the top finish is acclaimed unusual both in style and combination for living room purposes. Desk tables in period styles or oak or mahogany have low backs containing fittings for the desk. A clever combination is a three in one desk and book case which is not only a space saver, but a useful article. A neat compact contrivance is a magazine stand consisting of three shelves for books or ornaments. A small painted table always looks well in a room furnished with mahogany, indeed the choice of painted tables is unlimited. Sewing tables, smoking tables, consoles, nests of tables, all aid to the comfortable appearance of a liveable room.

An important factor in the arrangement of a fireplace is the choice of correct accessories, andirons, a poker, a pair of tongs and a hearth broom, and may be hid in period designs and give the glowing hearth a cheerful appearance.

No room in the house deserves more consideration than the dining room. "Let there be light and more light" to give an enlivening aspect to the room. The furniture should be of utilitarian purpose.

Simplicity again is the keynote to dining room furnishing. "A beautiful room should be no more pretentious than a beautiful flower. It can be humble like the violet, sumptuous like the rose, elegant and stately like the lily, gracious like a spreading oak tree, but in every case it must be itself, honest and with no dissembling."

"William and Mary" and "Queen Anne" periods are used extensively for the dining room. The present interest in Chinese decoration is strongly felt and lends itself well in its modern interpretation.

An Adams suite of antique mahogany with hand painted floral decorations had the chair seats upholstered in blue hair cloth. The walls were covered with old blue Japanese grass cloth paper with glints of silver. The paneled wainscot and ceiling were done in old ivory enamel. Above the sideboard was hung an old-fashioned picture of flowers and fruit in a small dark frame.

More extreme in its scheme was a dining room with table and sideboard of old yellow decorated in a colorful floral design. The table and sideboard tops were red under glass. To carry out further the scheme the chairs were of the same red and gold with plain done in old ivory enamel. Above the sideboard was a mirror harmonizing with the furniture and hung with black silk cord and tassels. The hangings were of Chinese design, the principal colors including yellow and red with an enjoyable contrast of turquoise and green.

The most novel dining room tables are not provided with an extension, but have little end tables which are made to fit and match in grain. When not in use, the tables are used as consoles. Cabinets for china stand quite high from the floor and have the shelves hidden behind decorated panels.

When planning the bed room, if you can visualize a perfectly appointed room, planned with an eye to restful comfort, will aid you in selecting the right equipment.

A bed room set of enameled ivory particularly graceful in line has old gold markings and Japanese designs which even an Oriental might be proud of. This set includes twin beds, dressing table, cane seated bench chiffonier with fitted drawers and cane seated chair.

A splendid example of Louis Seize design is minutely correct in every detail. Features of this set are the double canopied beds, the unusual length of the dressing table and dresser and the chiffonier which is completely appointed with sliding trays and compartments. A dressing table bench, and night stand accompany this set.

An accommodating, convenient article is a day bed. It provides a delightful special decorative note wherever a couch is necessary, but to better advantage.

A combination dressing table and dresser is a new acquisition. The drawers down each side. In the center there is a space for a chair.

The wall mirror hung above a chest of drawers, has become a recognized arrangement for the bed room. A mirror always tends to increase the apparent size of a room and is a decorative asset of importance besides its usefulness.

Bed room chairs should not only invite rest, but give it. Horace Varney said of a Colonial chair, "Here is a thing that pleases me, this chair—his made it every way complete, as honest as its maker through and through."

The nursery, called the "cradle of civilization," should be as sanitary as possible. If the room is furnished as a play room safe from grown-up intrusion, it is well to have everything washable. A new material for the walls is in reality the old fashioned oil cloth, in attractive colors which can be scrubbed with soap and water. A shelf built-in about half way from the ceiling and floor, is a good place to keep toys and other treasures. Box seats under the windows are also useful receptacles.

A nest of tables may serve various purposes. A new idea has each table of good strong enameled wood with the front left out so as to fit the next smaller one. The smallest one is a box with hinged top to hold the toys.

A pretty room carried out all in gray and blue with vivid color touches was in Dutch design. Dutch figures ornamenting the rug, the furniture and the hangings.

A new cretonne for the little tot's room has a frolicsome kitten chasing a ball.

From the Japanese nation, more than any other nation, we may take example, for they have carried art into their domestic life. An appreciation

for the beautiful is taught to the youngest. Much importance is laid on the beauty of the children's environment and they are carefully guided toward beauty in their everyday life. This accounts for their being a great artistic nation because the general love of art instills the whole people.



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Curtains

If eyes are the windows of the soul, curtains are an index to the room. Just as all good words can be found in the dictionary, so can you find all types of curtains, but you will be amazed at the variety of good patterns presented.

There is an infinite variety of hints, cretonnes, taffetas, gauzes, satins, marquisettes, soft silks and linens, velvets, and brocades, all with a "live-with-ableness" quality. Curtains

are really a veil to the window, and both the interior and exterior should be considered.

Casement cloth may be had in various colors, although not transparent, probably ranks first among favorite hangings. Long straight curtains tend to increase the apparent height of a room. Valances extending across the width of the window, make the room look lower.

Cretonne is best unlined, and a glimpse at the cretonne counters is like a voyage to fairyland. Velvet suitable for hangings come in all

grades and widths and are as varied as they are enchanting.

Etamine voile and artificial silks are made glorious by the light that filters through them. An interesting idea in over draperies is accomplished by cutting out the birds and flowers of block printed cretonne so as to have a row of the birds in a straight line across the drapery.

Soft creamy ivory and ecru tints always conform to the surroundings of rooms, and nowadays really all nets and curtains may be had in these tones.

Modern Tendency In Artware and Lamps

By Rosalie J. Mendel

"Art," says William Morris, "is the result of a man's joy put in his work," and we must have just as much joy in the appreciation of it.

In the category of art the new clocks have found a place. Japanese lacquer with quaint and tiny figures in gilt have been effectively employed in several clocks. Conspicuous among the new clocks for the informal hall or sun parlor, are the wood ones decorated with old-timey clusters of flowers.

The seeker after something out of the ordinary will find hanging clocks patterned after the ones used during Colonial days. New and attractive are those of crystal and wood, also included amongst the novelties are clocks of a new metal finish in soft clouded shades of green.

Ornaments these days come in pairs. One is not sufficient unto itself. Beautiful examples of Ruskin, Rockwood or Chinese pottery grace the table or mantelpiece at either end.

An alabaster flower bowl has the

leaves delicately carved on the inside of the bowl and raised chalice in the center with perforations for holding the flowers.

Looking like a great six-sided Chinese lantern, is a bird cage of scarlet and gold with big black tassels. Way up at the top hangs a tinkly bell to inspire the songster.

Wedgewood plaques and pottery are specially adapted for rooms fitted in Adams style. Vivid Chinese red lacquer forms different odd pieces, such as bowls or trays, which give just that dash of color so often needed in a room.

Methods in diffusing the light in a room are becoming more and more simple and inexpensive. Lighting experts are trying to teach the public that it is the light and not the lamp we are after and that the light is better if we screen the lamp from the eyes. A visible naked light dazzles the eyes and makes the seeing more difficult.

Lamps add to a room as jewels to a costume, besides accentuating the color scheme they are magical in adding a brilliant color note. You must try the

shade by natural as well as artificial light, because it may be subdued by day, but its rich linings may give it a brilliant glow in artificial light.

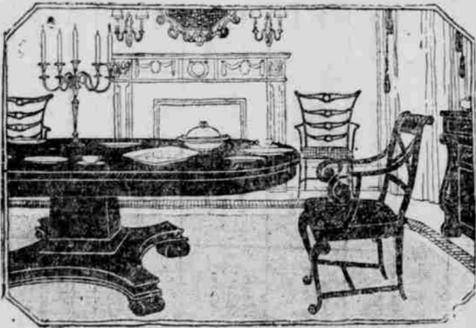
Worth describing is a black and gold lamp topped with a shade of two layers of gold silk gauze, between which were brilliantly colored butterflies.

Another lamp with a gold base was capped with a shade of yellow silk, ornamented with silhouette figures which were glimpsed through a yellow chiffon covering. Long black Chinese tassels embellished the corners of the shade.

A square shaped shade of ecru cretonne with large flower baskets overflowing with brilliant flowers had a black Chinese lacquer vase.

Old fashioned silk panels decorated with pictures were outlined with old gold gullion and shaded the light over a glass lamp base, which brought in view the idea of glass lamps being again in vogue.

Parthenon shades strike a new note in the lamp world. A black shade with dancing girls in quaint costumes accompanied a bronze vase.



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