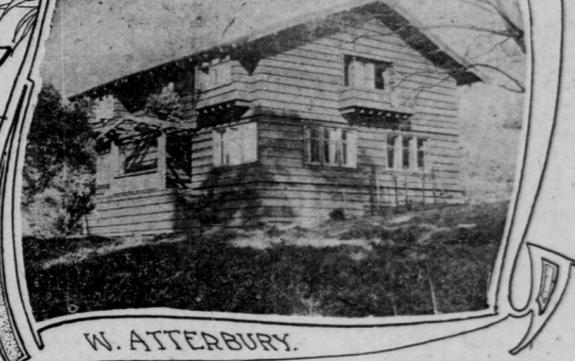


ARTISTIC HOMES IN BERKELEY



CALIFORNIA was born a beauty. She might be a professional beauty, even. If she would learn to pay more attention to her adornment. Her architects must remember that they are her modelers, and upon their shoulders rests a heavy responsibility. Heavier than they seem to realize. It's a pity to see the browns and greens of our hills scarred by houses that are mistakes. It's a pity to see knolls sliced off and hollows filled by order of a brutal builder. Take Berkeley, for instance.

If the trail of the cheap contractor can be kept from the land, the Berkeley of the future, beautiful for situation on its many times seven hills, will rightfully be called "Berkeley the Beautiful." Nowhere else on the Pacific Coast can be found more charming and ideal home sites than the almost sensuous beauty of these rolling foothills with their bewildering curves and hollows and canyons afford.

Here and there, unfortunately, can be seen the depressing spectacle of some lovely hillside that is being desecrated and degraded into a commonplace level by plowing and grading before its owner shall begin to erect his house.

It is to prevent vandalism of this sort among other things, to point a better way, that the "Hillside Club" has entered on its mission. "When we have a good thing we want to share it with those around us," said Mrs. Margaret Robinson, chairman of its advisory board and artist and architect, nascitur non fit, to the tips of her slender fingers. In regard to the primary school to be built under the auspices of the club, she said: "The effort was to put before children something that would be especially a product of their own State—a thing to which they could point with pride as to its materials and architecture, as distinctly Californian. And California has a color of its own, too—the color that dominates in nature. To quote Bruce Price, 'The California hills are brown, therefore the houses should be brown.' Redwood is the natural wood of the country, therefore it is natural to use it. Thanks to the responsiveness of Mr. Stone, the architect, the new schoolhouse will have no cross lights, the seats being so arranged that the light comes only from one direction, east or west, never from north or south, and never from two directions. But besides this advantage, which is purely a physical one, the house will mean much to them as an exponent of beauty of form, color, light and shade. They will learn the beauties of shadows cast by wide, overhanging eaves, honesty and substantiality, in the pointed and heavily-beamed roof, in the rustic supports with the bark intact; and harmony of color, from the brown canvas hangings combined with the brown, unstained and unpainted redwood. I feel that it is safe to say that every child who goes to this school will, when he comes to build, design an original house."

The principles of "The Hillside Club" Mrs. Robinson succinctly stated to be as follows: That hillside streets be made convenient and beautiful by winding at an easy grade and as narrow as country roads or lanes, except in case of important thoroughfares. That trees be planted the length of the streets, suitable to the locality and of uniform variety. That as hillside lots bounded by curved roads are necessarily irregular, houses should be placed upon them in studied groups, to avoid obstruction of a neighbor's view, a most altruistic principle that every prospective builder in Berkeley must needs approve of. That in house-building only natural materials be used, such as shingles, shakes, rough stone or clinker brick. That no oil paint be used inside or out, it having been proven that un-

stained and unpainted wood bears weathering indefinitely and grows more beautiful each season. Therefore, for reasons of economy as well as honesty and beauty, all paint or stain should be discarded. The club holds that no colors are so soft, varied and harmonious as those of wood colored by weather. To prevent checking or shrinking, sills and casings may be treated with several coats of dull brown paint; but trimmings have no place or reason in good house building. They also hold that houses built of wood should follow the natural treatment, which is straight lines, since towers, arches or round windows are essentially indicative of stone or brick masonry, and, therefore, illogical and ugly in wood, and that overhanging eaves add to the beauty of a house with their long shadows, and help to protect it.

"The suburban hillside home," went on Mrs. Robinson, with an enthusiasm that proved catching, "is a problem, and one that we must set ourselves bravely and heartily to solve. However pretty a town house may be, it becomes an enormity when transplanted and placed as a

part of the contour of the hilly landscape. We must follow the principle to be read in the harmony and symmetry of nature, and if we but come in touch with the spirit she suggests the harmony of outline, the soft tints and shades, we cannot go far astray. We will find that she suggests distinctive laws for home-construction on the knoll, the side hill, the foothill, the canyon, the ravine incline and the sites favored with natural trees or a water course.

"Should the knoll be the first site chosen for consideration, it will be seen that as the hill spreads and broadens at its base, so the ground construction of the house should be distributed squarely and well over the surface of the level, allowing a more generous breadth at the base than at the upper portion, and while avoiding pronounced height, so composing the roof as to continue the contour of the hill.

"On a side hill, where the hill sweeps upward and beyond, trust Nature's broad background and allow the house to rest closely and expansively against it. At the base of a hill let the broad, pleasant face of the home be one's first welcome up the garden path. On a canyon or ravine side the problem waxed deeply interesting, for only a base spirit of van-olism would resort to a leveling process and the Swiss chalet motif is often our most picturesque resource, allowing of course for marked variation as to depth of basement."

The Hillside Club sprang into existence October 5, 1898. No, let me qualify that; it did not "spring"—it was the result of earnest thought on the part of many ladies, who recognized the beauty of our hills and the awfulness of many of the houses. Its object was primarily to protect the hills of Berkeley from unsightly grading and the building of unsuitable and disfiguring houses, to do all in our power to beautify these hills and, above

all, to create and encourage a decided public opinion on these subjects. We decided to meet fortnightly to listen to a paper upon some related subject and the discussion of the same. We also began the collection of sketches and photographs of hillside houses, which were kept mounted and in a portfolio open to all prospective builders.

The list of members includes: Mabel W. Sears, Madge F. Robinson, Mrs. E. S. Gray, Mrs. V. D. Moody, Mrs. F. W. Searby, Mrs. C. R. Breck, Mrs. John Finn, Mrs. E. S. Preble, Mrs. J. W. Pack, Olivia Galbraith Wright, Elizabeth J. Skinner, Minerva V. Skinner, Victorine Hartley, C. Germain Potwin, Florence Hyde Chick, Mrs. H. Middlehoff, Mrs. William Rieger, J. A. Grinnell, Leslie Grinnell, Mrs. Perry T. Tompkins, Mrs. F. B. Dressler, Mrs. J. M. Pierce, Mrs. L. Hansen and Mrs. Lydia Atterbury. At the meeting of November 18 Mrs. Preble emphasized the necessity of stone, brick or cement foundations, advising concrete for clay soils, which swell when wet and shrink when dry; also that if

the soil is of chalk, weak gravel, sand or clay the footing of the wall of the foundation should be expanded beyond the needed width of the wall. On a side hill, where expense must be considered, the foundation can be made of brick pillars in steps.

Mrs. Robertson spoke on the subject "Shall We Fill In?" urging as little of this as might be consistent with good drainage, although a certain amount was of course necessary when the lot lay below the street level, suggesting that stone gutters running around the lot and connecting with the street sewer would obviate the necessity of any large amount of filling in.

An important point made by this speaker was that the raising of the ground high around the sills under the house would secure a dry basement without an expensive drainage system.

On November 26 Mrs. Searby led the talk on "Building Material." She said that the stone found on these hillsides was suitable for building purposes, but much too expensive for the persons of ordinary means, putting down its cost at a rough estimate as six times that of wood. She pointed out the fact that the fault of frame houses lay generally in that wood was made in imitation of stone architecture, to which towers, colonnades, etc.,

belong. Another mistake is in concealing the color and grain of wood with paint. Her conclusion was that the Swiss chalet suggested the best ideas for scenic park architecture.

On November 30 Mrs. Dressler read a carefully prepared and instructive paper on "Shingles and Stains versus Boards and Paints." She said that the use of shingles for covering the sides of houses was first developed in England in what is known as the half-timbered or Tudor style. From this it was transferred to the so-called "Colonial." Shingles, however, do not blend with the classic purity of the true Colonial and can only be used to advantage in the modified Colonial, when pillars give place to arches and when the roof takes on more the character of the chalet. All attempts at fancy shapes or different coloring mar the artistic value of shingles. Mrs. Dressler recommended weather tinting only for shingles, since they are relatively free from decay, easily replaced and actually last longer than when painted.

Owing to its universal adulteration paint is no longer a preservative, but if it must be used, dark brown or red is the best with trimmings of cream white. Creosote stains are highly inflammable.

At another meeting the subject of "Porches" was treated of by Mrs. Breck, who believes we would be a healthier and happier people if every builder would feel convinced that a large, roomy, well-protected porch was as necessary a part of the construction as a roof or wall, and a hundred times more necessary than a parlor. There are few days in our Berkeley climate, the reader contended, when such a porch could not be utilized by the members, and still fewer when it would not be a source of health and delight to the children. The chief point is that it should be large enough to be a real living room, with rugs, easy chairs, hammocks, a table for magazines, a few plants for decoration and a corner for the children's toys. She believed if we nervous energetic Californians would build such porches the temptation to utilize them would be so great that we would give over some of the useless and meaningless fret and worry of our too often dull and prosaic lives.

The portfolio of the Hillside Club before alluded to is a collection of sketches that would give inspiration to any prospective builder, and one builder who has just finished his house and still believed to be just the "dearest little house in Berkeley" began to lose faith in hitherto existing institutions and to quote to herself a certain old adage about fools building houses and wise men living in them and to wish that she might start over again under the auspices of the Hillside Club.

"Among other things that must go with paint and stains," said Mrs. Robinson, "is plaster walls. When you put a non-shrinking material, the plaster, on a shrinking one, the laths, the construction is illogical and the result is bound to show in the roughness of the wall." "What do you think of rough-finished gray walls?" I asked, trying to find one little grain of comfort.

"They are better than hard finished white walls, but wood is better than either," she replied, and I am forced therewith to be content.

The meetings of the Hillside Club have given place to more practical action, of which they were the underlying theory, and an advisory board has been formed for consultation with and who need help or suggestions. This board consists of Mrs. Margaret Robinson, chairman; Mrs. Frederick Searby, Mrs. John Finn, Mrs. Atterbury, Miss L. B. Bridgeman, Miss Elsie Grinnell and Mrs. L. Bricker. Some Berkeley houses that embody the tenets of the Hillside Club are: Mrs. Atterbury's, Mrs. Dressler's, Miss Bridgeman's, Mrs. Walker's and Mrs. Rickoff's. The pretty Unitarian Church of Berkeley and the Hillside School will also be noted as successful specimens.

The house of Professor Charles Keeler, corner of Ridge road and Highland place, is the pioneer specimen of the architecture advocated by the Hillside Club—a charming, rambling, many-gabled structure, seeming to breathe both as to its exterior and artistic interiors the very atmosphere of the Berkeley hills.

How Many Ex-Presidents of the United States Have Spent Their Later Years

ON January 1, 1862, there were living five ex-Presidents of the United States—Van Buren, Tyler, Fillmore, Pierce and Buchanan. Now the death of Benjamin Harrison leaves only one ex-President—Grover Cleveland. General Harrison spent just eight years as an ex-President.

When John Quincy Adams retired from the Presidency after serving as Senator, Minister to England and Secretary of State, it was suggested that he become a member of the House of Representatives. He replied that to be chosen a selectman by the vote of the people would be an honor, and for sixteen years, until the time of his death, he represented his district in Congress. He died with the harness on his back, for his fatal illness attacked him as he arose in the House to address the Speaker.

Andrew Johnson was elected a Senator from Tennessee some time after the end of his Presidential term, but he lived to serve only a few days of the special session of the Senate.

Most of the Presidents have retired to lives of comparative idleness. George Washington led the life of a country gentleman on his estate at Mount Vernon. He gave a certain amount of time to the reorganization of the army when war with France threatened, but he contented

himself with the management of his plantation and the simple amusements of a country life.

Martin Van Buren retired to his country seat in Columbia County, New York, and became almost a hermit. There have been several instances like his. The most recent was Chester A. Arthur, who, like Van Buren, was disappointed at his failure to achieve a re-election and secluded himself from all but his intimate friends. Buchanan was a recluse for seven years after his return to private life. He had been much abused toward the close of his term, and he sought the quiet of absolute retirement as soon as he returned to his home in Lancaster, Pa.

Pierce lived eighteen years an ex-President. His home was in New Hampshire, but he was a Southern sympathizer during the war and so much out of sympathy with his neighbors that he spent many of his later years in travel abroad. John Adams was the first hermit ex-President. He was twenty-five years an ex-President, but he was so disappointed at his defeat for re-election that he secluded himself for a quarter of a century, compiling historic records, and he came out of his hole only once, when in 1820 he acted as delegate to a State convention. The fact that he retired did not mean that he did not take an active interest in public affairs.

Van Buren yearned for another term, but could not present himself to the people of his party, because he was opposed to the annexation of Texas. From his seclusion he wrote letters which resulted in his nomination for President in 1848 on a Free Soil ticket, but he received no electoral votes.

Rutherford B. Hayes took no active part in public affairs after his retirement, but he had been so severely criticized that it would have taken more than a lifetime to vindicate his record and make him again a Presidential possibility. John Tyler was one of the active ex-Presidents. Like Washington, he pursued the life of a country gentleman; but he afterward became very much interested in the doctrine of secession, and took an active part in all the events which led up to the Civil War.

Fillmore lived twenty-one years after his retirement. He was nominated to succeed himself by the American party, but was not elected. He traveled a great deal abroad, and took a great interest in public affairs. Thomas Jefferson devoted himself to educational interests, and founded the University of Virginia after his retirement from the Presidency. He personally superintended the erection of the university buildings. Monroe had his own ideas on the subject of the occupation of ex-Presidents. He

held that "an ex-President should not be a party leader." He was a local magistrate for a time, and was a delegate to a constitutional convention. He lived only seven years after his term ended.

General Grant was the greatest traveler in the list of ex-Presidents. His trip around the globe has been described in two large volumes, and it is a matter of familiar history. General Grant did not take any part in business or public affairs, but he was the silent partner in the firm of Grant & Ward, and his later days were embittered by his experiences in Wall street. Every one knows that his famous book was written while he was on his deathbed to provide a living for his family after his death.

Grover Cleveland, since the close of his second term, has delivered some lectures and furnished some autobiographical contributions to periodicals, but this has been a matter of courtesy and not of business. General Harrison was the first ex-President to die of pneumonia, although George Washington was killed by a cold and so was Harrison's grandfather, William Henry Harrison. Washington's cold developed into laryngitis and the other Harrison's into pleurisy. John Adams died of senile debility. He expired at Quincy, Mass. Thomas Jefferson's death occurred a few hours before that of Adams, and, singularly enough, both died on the 4th of July.

James Madison, at 85, died of old age. Adams had lived to be 91. Monroe died of general debility, though he was only 73. The second Adams was stricken with paralysis in the hall of the House (now Statuary Hall), and died in the rotunda of the Capitol. His body was taken to Quincy.

Andrew Jackson died of consumption and dropsy at the age of 78, and was buried at Richmond. Jackson was stricken with cholera morbus after drinking a quantity of iced water and ice cream and eating some cherries. Polk's death was caused by cholera. Polk was buried at Nashville and Taylor at Louisville.

Fillmore died of paralysis, and was buried at his home in Buffalo. Pierce died of inflammation of the stomach, and was buried at Concord. Buchanan's death was due to rheumatism and gout. He lived to be 77, and was buried near Lancaster. Andrew Johnson died of paralysis, and was buried at Greenville. Grant died of cancer of the throat at Mount McGregor, and his body lies in the magnificent tomb on Riverside Drive, New York. Hayes died on his farm in Ohio of paralysis of the heart, and was buried at Fremont, Garfield, assassinated by Guitteau, was buried at Cleveland. Arthur died of apoplexy, and was buried at Albany—New York Sun.

ALICE CHITTENDEN.