

Making - the - Home

CONDUCTED BY MARGARET GREENLEAF

Beautiful -



THE HOUSE AS IT WAS



THE HOUSE BEAUTIFIED

How An Unattractive House May Be Converted Into An Inviting and Cheerful Home--Two Pictures Showing Possibilities in the Way of Transformation

TO improve an unattractive house and convert it into an inviting and cheerful home is a task which confronts many people who have acquired a house ready made. It is seldom that a completed house can be purchased which will satisfy the incoming owner as it stands. Some changes will be made sooner or later, even though the amount of money expended may be small.

The two pictures reproduced here show the improvement that can be made in an old house by a few simple changes and a carefully thought out and attractive color scheme for its exterior as well as its environments, for it must be admitted that the way a house is set and its surrounding grounds make a deal of difference in the coloring it is best to choose for it.

An Unpromising Start.

As will be seen in the picture in the upper-right hand corner, the earlier state of this house was not promising; also, the grounds had been left much to themselves, though in the summer months an unpleasing combination of marigold and magenta colored petunias grew in close profusion about the steps. No color or flower is more effective when massed than strong yellow, but in placing it its immediate neighbors must be well considered, or the good effect is quite lost.

The woman of the family who had acquired this house had the faculty of

home making and beautifying. She saw in the house possibilities of an artistically correct example of New England Colonial architecture. She felt that consistency in form and ornamentation was one great requisite toward successful improvement. She regarded good and harmonious coloring for house and grounds as essential to her happiness; therefore, she looked the place over carefully inside and out.

Improving the Upper Rooms.

The upper rooms were dark within, because the windows were small and deep-set. Her necessity demanded that at least one of these upper rooms should be somewhat enlarged. She decided to throw out three dormer windows across the front—the central one to be large enough to give the required extra space for the nursery.

The small, narrow porch, which extended from the jog of the house to the east end, was without a railing, and seemed incomplete. She planned to carry it around the corner and to the rear, widening it all; and she argued that the portion which led to the kitchen, if latticed enclosed, would make a good place for the laundry tubs to be set in the hot weather.

In the beginning she had determined to repaint the house, its monotonous putty-colored front and nondescript roof being particularly unattractive and oppressive. She had the paint mixed under her own eye. The foundation was good white lead rubbed in raw oil, and enough of clear, clean gray was added to produce the silvery shade she had seen in her mind's eye. The trim was ivory white. Moss green creosote stain was used for the roof, the faint green-brown tint which

it had shown previously in nowise interfering with the brush application and effect of the new stain, which was put over it. The color of the body of the house would now extend to its corners.

In its first state the body was enclosed in a blue white trim. This is a style much affected in frame houses, but it takes from the apparent size of the house, besides giving a boxed-in look that is objectionable. On the other hand, the color combination of the new occupant was extremely satisfactory. The wide porch floor was given a more yellowish gray tone than the body of the house, as that color is less likely to show dusty footprints.

Brightening the Outside Show.

The next step was the setting in of window boxes, painted dark green like the blinds of shutters that were used at all of the windows. This paint had a glossy finish. The boxes were filled with flowering scarlet geraniums.

The question of awnings had to be considered. The men of the family favored green and white striped canvas. "It will be dirty brown before the summer is half over," they were told. "Red and white will be the more effective and less likely to change color." Though there may have been some misgivings as to the suitability of such gaily colored stuffs for so sedate a dwelling, the woman was permitted to have her way.

Two barrels were secured and sawed in two, the lower halves forming high tubs. These were given an extra band or two about the top and bottom, which made them entirely secure. Then they were painted a brilliant scarlet, a portion of varnish being added to the last coat, which gave

them a finish resembling lacquer. Small trees of box, closely trimmed in correct cone shape, were set with them. Then they were placed on either side of the steps, and gave to the entrance a striking touch of color.

When the geraniums glowed amid their green leaves in the window boxes, and the scarlet and white poppies swayed in the wind against the lattice about the house, and the diamond shaped bed of geraniums began to blossom on the green lawn, the mistress of the house felt that her ideal was rapidly materializing.

The lawn was intersected by neat cement walks and a well-gravelled and rolled driveway. Everything combined to give the house so attractive an appearance that it caught and held the attention of even the casual passer-by.

She curtailed all windows in the same style, using clear white muslin. Some wicker chairs and a small table were placed on the porch, and a gaily fringed red and white hammock was in place across a corner.

A Perfect Color Scheme.

The tall pine tree, which reared its fringed top above the peak of the roof, presented a length of brown trunk which seemed to invite the planting of a vine. So here was planted a white moon flower, its quick growth proving the wisdom of its selection.

One felt, in looking at this house, that not a mistake had been made in its color scheme or environments. The simple lines of the New England Colonial house had been kept well in mind throughout. Jutting bay windows, with diamond panes, little upper balconies with a tangle of vines over

The Effect of Paint, the Addition of a Window or Two and the Planting of Flowers and Proper Vines

them, a riot of variously colored flowers in beds and borders would have been utterly unsuitable and unbecoming.

The real charm of this remodelled dwelling lay in the strength and simplicity of the color scheme employed. On its west side another season will see a formal garden. Tall stalks of pure white lilies will grow against a wall of sweet pea vines, and roses will blossom and fill the air with their delicious fragrance beside closely cropped hedges of the glossy leaved box. A bed of pansies is planned to be edged about with the airy foliage and little deep blue flowers of the lobelia, and another walk will be set between rows of gaily colored hollyhocks. But everywhere the delicate primness of our great-grandmother's day will be preserved.

combination sideboard and china closet, which we dislike, but cannot afford to remove or rebuild. We have good oak chairs and a finely finished and carved dining table; also an oak china closet.

"The floors are too poor for rugs. We can have new floor covering and curtains and decorate the walls, which has never been done.

"Can you give me some ideas which will make the room a little unlike the stereotyped basement dining-room? We wish to spend as little money as is possible for good wear and attractiveness."

I hope your cypress wainscot and oak mantel are not too light in color. Paper your walls above the wainscot with strong, deep yellow paper. This may be striped paper, two toned, or plain cartridge, as you prefer, but the color must be clean and clear and have no greenish shade to it.

Curtain your windows next the glass with cream white fish net and other curtains of East India cotton—something showing palm leaves in a mingling of yellow, old blue, green and crimson on an ivory ground. The net curtains should hang straight to the sill and be run on slender brass rods set next the glass. The outer curtains should hang flush with and reach the sill.

On the window sill set a row of your red earthen flower pots of exactly the same size and color, and have trim little growing plants of the same kind and size in each. This may seem a detail, but it is an important one.

If your valenced wainscot finishes with a shelf, place upon it any piece of brass or copper you can get together, and cedar tobes and any old English jugs or ale mugs. Hang on the walls a few highly colored prints of hunting or coaching and old English scenes. These should be framed in flat wood frames to match the woodwork. Some pieces of blue and white china plates and platters should also be hung upon the wall.

Cover your floor with dull blue or yellow brown terry or filling. This calls for 80 cents a yard. A central druggist of inconspicuous pattern can be used under the table if desired. This will give you a quaint, artistic and unusual room.

Hints for Redecorating Walls and Ceiling.

"Constant Reader" writes: "Will you kindly give me suggestions through your most valuable column. I wish to redecorate the walls and ceiling of my northeast chamber, and to get new floor covering and any other articles which may add to its appearance. It is 13 feet by 13 feet 6 inches, with an 8-foot ceiling. It has north east windows, and contains a bedroom set of antique oak."

The folding bed has a large mirror, as has also the dresser. The room contains one straight back chair of antique oak, and a rocker painted the color of the walls. The window curtains are white ruffled muslin, but I can substitute something else if you think it advisable. I prefer paint on the walls and a rug on the floor, with a painted border. Antique oak, as you know, is lighter in color than the variety known as the golden oak."

My own understanding of antique oak is that it is not so light as golden oak. By painting your side walls, you probably mean using the oil finish. In any case, a clear, strong yellow should be your choice. Paper the ceiling to the picture mould with floral paper—yellow blossoms on an ivory ground. Choose a cotton chintz or cretonne of similar coloring and design, and make

over-draperies with a valance for your windows. Retain the white muslin curtains next the glass. Make a cushion or two of the flowered material.

An Axminster or Wilton rug, showing golden brown, yellow, ivory and a suggestion of dull blue in its conventional design, will look well in this room. A small table for books and a vase of clear glass would help your furnishing. Book shelves may be set hand high upon your walls—two or three of them in a corner, and extending beyond and supported by brackets. They should have the same finish as the woodwork. Use upon your dresser crystal candlesticks holding yellow wax candles, and dainty shades of pale yellow tissue paper.

The Decoration of a Large Suburban Bedroom.

C. H. A. writes: "I would thank you to inform me what color of wall and ceiling paper would be most appropriate for a large bedroom in a suburban house having two windows, high ceiling, furniture and woodwork of dark oak and a floor of stained oak. I should also be pleased to know what color large rug should be used to conform with the furnishings and decorations."

I am afraid you have become discouraged awaiting the answer to your letter. Had you sent a stamped self-addressed envelope I would have sent you a personal reply, as all letters must await their turn in these columns.

Use a striped wall paper—something showing ropes of field flowers, corn flowers, daisies and poppies—against an ivory ground. The ceiling could be tinted faintly yellow and brought down to the picture rail. A large rug of Wilton velvet in Oriental design on purplish red ground would look well. At the windows use cream net ruffled curtains, tied back, with over-draperies of dull green raw silk. Match some shade of green in the foliage of the wall paper design.

Some Hints on Curtains, Valances and Rugs.

B. McD., Pittsburg, says: "Please inform me if the cheese cloth curtains and valance you suggest using in a bedroom would be proper for a living room? Is a rod used for hanging the valance? My room requires curtains that can be laundered often, and, as the windows are used a great deal, I would like the curtains tied back. Is there a washable fringe or any kind of trimming you would suggest using? The room is papered in a light green, with light oak woodwork. There is a cerise rug on the floor which I would like to have dyed a shade of green. Can you tell me where I could have it done?"

I cannot give you addresses through these columns. If you will send me a self-addressed envelope I will send you some reliable ones. The ivory white cheese cloth curtains would look very well in your living room, and, if laundered without starch, will look as well after washing. Many quaint cotton fringes may now be bought at the large department stores. These have a little gimp heading. The straight fringe is preferable to the ball variety.

If your cerise rug is of a good shade and combination, I would suggest that you do not have it dyed, but carry its color out in your valance and in straight lengths to hang at either side of your window frame where the cheese cloth curtains are drawn back. A flowered cotton, showing roses or daisies in the same shade of red as the rug, with some green leaves, would look extremely well. A separate rod should be used for the valance and straight lengths at the sides.

Latest Welsh Rabbit Receipt

The Welsh rabbit still holds the first place among chafing dish dainties, and it is a joy to watch the up-to-date hostess serve it.

Some of the new rabbit dishes are unusual. A set seen recently came in a case which looked like a pineapple cheese. There were twelve plates, on each one of which were hand-painted rabbits in positions suggestive of the chase.

The newest receipt for this favorite is called Lady's Welsh Rabbit. It is made as follows:

One tablespoonful butter in blazer, and when melted add one cup milk, three-fourths of a teaspoonful of salt, one-eighth teaspoon pepper and a few grains of cayenne. Break six eggs into a bowl and beat slightly with a silver fork. Add to milk with seasonings, and cook until of a creamy consistency, stirring and scraping from the bottom of pan. Then add one mashed Neufchatel cheese. Serve on toast or cheese wafers.

Japan's Military Strength--A Japanese View

JAPANESE residents in this country complain that they are misrepresented by the press of America and Europe, which continually speaks of "little" Japan, as if it were a small country, and its army and navy inconsiderable as compared with those of the great Powers. So far from this being the fact, they think they are well able to take care of themselves in a fight with any other nation on earth.

No Japanese suffers from a lack of confidence in himself or his nation. If he is told that his nation could not stand up against Russia, he gleefully recalls the historical fact that the very Asiatic hordes who conquered Russia and Hungary in medieval times were easily beaten by the Japanese, when the Mongols attempted to conquer Japan.

Japan is not a small country, nor are the Japanese a diminutive or weak people," wrote a Japanese editor the other day in a Japanese newspaper

Why British Tars Never Strike Seven Bells

Everybody who knows anything about nautical matters understands the method of keeping time at sea—eight bells every four hours, an additional bell being struck for each half hour.

From six to eight in the evening is the second dog watch, but on British ships seven bells (half past seven) of the second dog watch are never struck. All other ships, even the American, strike these bells.

During the Napoleonic wars there was a great mutiny in the British navy. The crews of the fleets lying at Spithead and the Nore agreed to rise simultaneously against their officers. The signal agreed upon was seven bells of the second dog watch. The mutiny actually began at the arranged time, but failed, the ringleaders being executed. Ever since then seven bells of the second dog watch has never been struck on British ships, naval or mercantile.

Interesting Origin of a Soldier's Nickname

THIS is the way that Brigadier-General Hughes tells how he was given the undignified nickname of "Colonel Breeches."

"At the time I was lieutenant-colonel, and had been camped on the banks of the Yellowstone, waiting for orders to move after Custer's charge. We had spent the whole summer in the field, and had taken nothing except packs for our supplies.

"My wife had given me that questionable article called a comfort bag just before I entered the campaign. It was filled with buttons, thread, scissors, thimble, etcetera, and this was my first use of it.

"I was in most awful need of clothes and began skrimishing for material out of which to make some trousers. The only thing I could find was a shelter tent, and I used the remnants of a pair of trousers I was still wearing

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