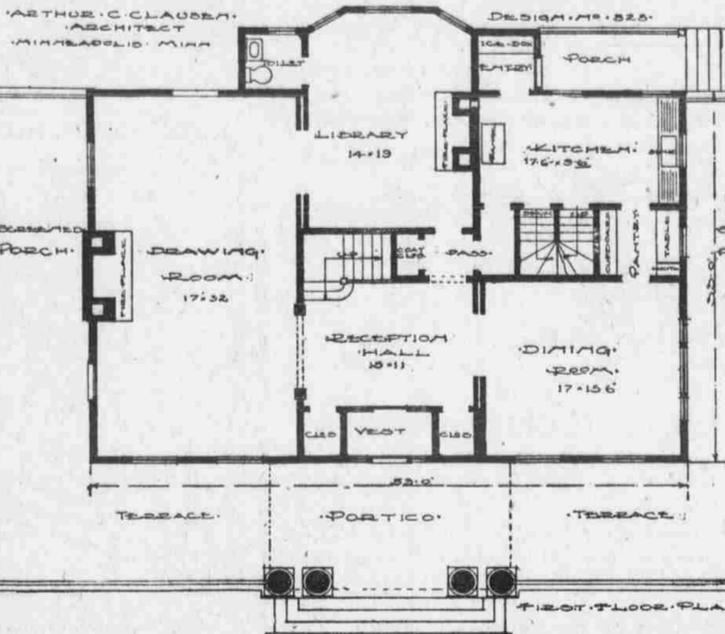
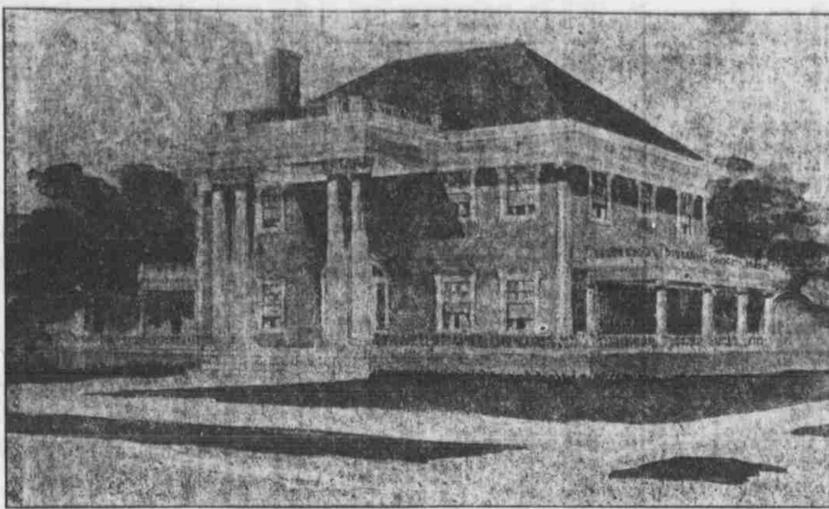


NEWS OF THE BUSY HOME BUILDERS



Solving the Home Building Problem

Arthur C. Clausen, Architect.

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say, inglenooks, window seats, fireplaces, chimneys, beam ceilings, etc., requiring a considerable extra amount of work. One mistake is enough for the average sized home. It is a little cheaper to let separate contractors for the heating and plumbing. It does not pay in the long run to try and economize too much on the cost of the heating and plumbing, when one is selecting the fixtures; they should be good and sound. A tin bath tub is a poor investment and a one piece enameled lavatory will save much annoyance and plumbers' bills.

III. Question—Why do many heating plants fail to heat properly?

Answer—There are probably ten poor heating plants to one good one, and the fault is more often due to a lack of seating capacity in the boiler or furnace, as the case may be, than to any other single cause. No matter how much radiation, or in other words, how many registers or radiators, there may be in the house, if the heater has not sufficient capacity to keep them hot the house will not be comfortable. It is a good plan to order the boiler or furnace a little larger than the required capacity, for it is sometimes found after the home is built that a certain room requires more radiation to make it comfortable, or when this is not necessary if future additions are made to the home extra radiators will be required. In the meantime a large coal bed in the heater, with plenty of good

heating surface in the boiler is cheaper and less annoying than a heater off small capacity.

IV. Question—Is a fireplace an unnecessary luxury? What are the best materials to build them of?

Answer—There is nothing more cheerful on a winter's evening than a bright wood fire in an open fireplace. Yet this is a luxury which everyone cannot afford. A fireplace is not only a means of getting a quick fire, but when properly designed it is also an ornamental addition to any room and a good ventilator at all times. More mistakes are probably made in the building of fireplaces than in any other one feature of the house, both as to structural build and artistic appearance.

The home builder is advised to have his architect design the fireplace and have it built especially for him. There are but very few read-made mantels on the market that are worthy of going into any modern home. The extreme of oddity, inharmonious and freakishness seems to have been reached by cabinet makers in the designing of some modern fireplaces, a neat shelf projecting ten or twelve inches and a plastered wall above, on which to hang an oil painting, looks far better, shows better taste and is less expensive than most ready-made mantels. Red is a good color for a brick mantel, although there are several good shades of buff, green and other colors which make neat appearing mantels. If desired, the mantel can be of tile or stone. When the latter is used, however, it is not advisable to burn coal in the fireplace, as the intense heat is apt to chip the stone work off on the edges toward the fire.

V. Question—Do you advise a vestibule? If so, what is the proper size to make it?

Answer—Many people in building their homes apparently do not take into consideration the real object of a vestibule at the front door and they make this feature so small and cramped that its usefulness is lost and it becomes a nuisance. The vestibule, to be practical should be large enough to allow the hostess to close the inside door behind her, close the outside door and then enter the hall. In this way the cold north wind does not force its way into the house and but little heat is lost. Taking the average small box-like vestibule, here is the program:

The lady of the house enters the vestibule, but in order to open the outside door, she must leave the inside door open so that she may back in and allow for the swing of the outside door. Her guest, who is so glad to see her, must, of course, shake hands, and the lady of the house gradually pulls her into the hall during that ceremony, then leaves her abruptly to go and close the outside door. In the meantime the entire house has been flooded with the chill north wind and the baby

snatches cold. The ideal vestibule is one that is at least six inches greater in width than the width of the front door and from two to two and one-half times the width of the front door in length, with both inside and outside doors in the center of the vestibule. If there is still room at either or both ends of the vestibule for a cloak closet, so much the better. These need not have doors, a hanging curtain will serve just as well.

VI. Question—What woods make the best floors? How often should they be finished?

Answer—Maple, birch or oak are all good floors, with preference for the maple. It is a very close-grained wood and is, therefore, very easily cleaned and can also be obtained of even color. In regard to the proper finish for a floor, there are a great many of them on the market that are good, and whether it be waxed or varnished, makes but little difference in the permanency of the finish, for the finish on all floors must be kept up. They should be gone over at least twice a year, especially in worn spots. There is no finish that is absolutely permanent.

BRICK FOR BUILDING HOMES

Marked Increase in Use of This Material in Omaha is Noted.

This season marks a distinct increase in the use of brick instead of frame for residence construction. The brick "habit" is being bred of home builders all over the country and not without good reason. While the first cost may be slightly higher than that of frame it is obvious that the cost of annual painting and the natural deterioration of wood will in a few years turn the figures in favor of brick. Another fact that has developed from a study of brick residence construction in other cities is the fact that such houses will, after a period of ten years, sell for from 10 to 20 per cent higher price than the same frame houses of equal original cost. Therefore, as an investment brick houses are safer than frame.

Comparing the rental value the argument also favors brick as a material for building houses. A brick exterior is indestructible and handsome. A home builder can well afford to think several times before housing himself within frame walls if a brick house can be built within his means. Omaha architects are among the best home designers in the west and yet they have been seriously handicapped by owners who persist in building of wood.

It is a topic of common conversation that the new residences are more beautiful than those formerly erected. Brick is the most faithful medium through which to express architectural beauty, and at this time there is so great a variety of facing brick of high quality and remarkable colors that there may be seen on every street some new building that is an ornament and credit to the city.

In one establishment alone may be seen

not less than 150 panels of facing brick that comprise all the colors of the rainbow.

Officers of C. W. Hull Co. The C. W. Hull company, with offices at 1502 Farnam St., have recently added a face brick department to their already well established business. This department is, perhaps, the most complete one of its kind in the west. The red press brick naturally is the one that is most required, of which they carry twenty-five different shades; the following are a few of the other varieties of face, front and press brick they are showing: Light buff, yellow buff, dark buff, light gray, medium gray, dark gray, buff iron spots, gray iron spots, old gold iron spots, buff mottled, red mottled, chocolate mottled, gray mottled, lemon impervious, red tapestry or oriental, chocolate tapestry, vitrified face pavers, colonial brick, antique brick, mantle brick, glazed brick, enamel brick, ornamental brick. In addition to their regular lines, which are coal, cement, plaster, lime, sand, concrete stone, sewer pipe and drain tile, they now sell the most complete line of special construction material, such as metal lath, woven wood lath, metal ceilings and slights, expanded reinforcing metal and reinforcing steel bars, corner beads, wall ties, wall plugs, floor plates, post caps, joist hangers, anchors, coal chutes, sidewalk lights, metal windows and doors and strips, the best grades of roofing, waterproofing, mortar colors, floor tile, roofing tile, etc. A visit to their new yards on South Twenty-fourth street, one block north of Vinton, will convince the most skeptical of their excellent facilities. The warehouse at this yard is built of steel and concrete exclusively. It is one block long and has a capacity of approximately 15,000 tons of coal and 200 carloads of cement and other package material.

Clever Jane.

The mistress wrote the word "Dirt" across the dusty table. Then she called the attention of the maid. "Jane," she chillingly said, "do you see that?" And she pointed dramatically at the written word. The maid looked down and studied the inscription. "What is it, ma'am," she mildly asked. "You're family name?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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