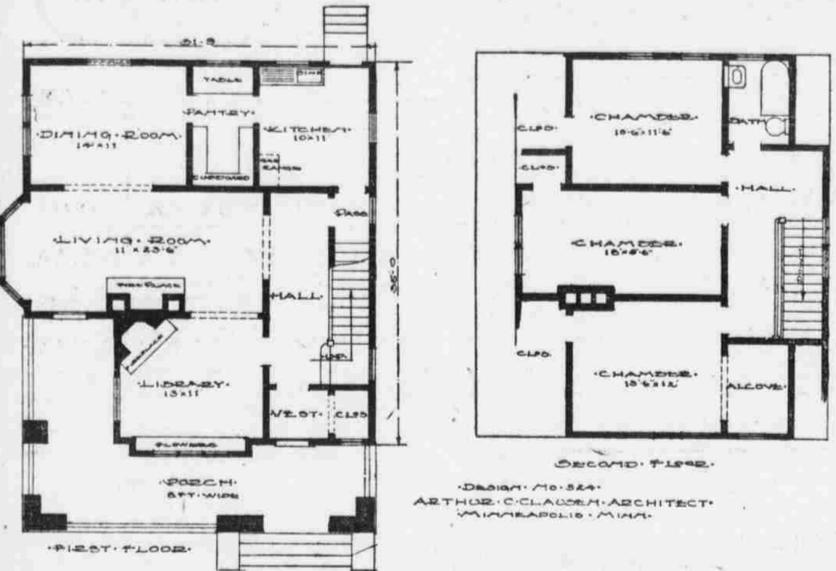
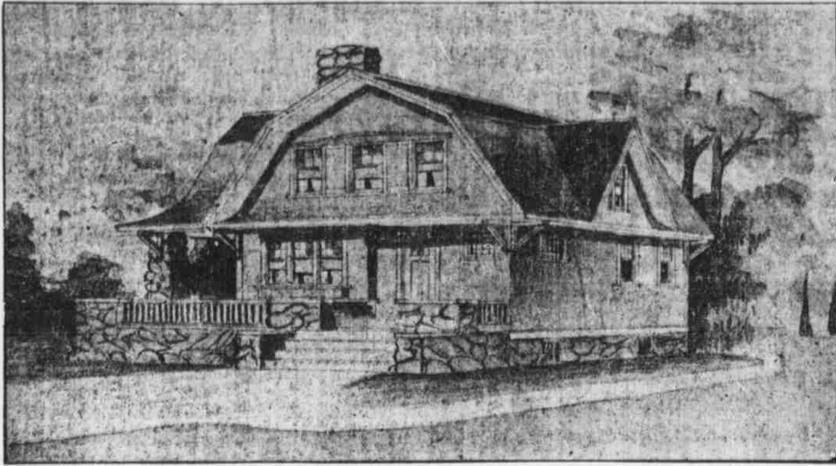


NEWS OF THE BUSY HOME BUILDERS



Solving the Home Building Problem

Arthur C. Clausen, Architect.

For several Sundays answers will be given in this department to questions of general interest to home builders.

Question—If a detailed description of how to plan a stairway is of general interest to your readers, can you give some advice on the proper designing of this difficult feature?

Answer—One of the important things to consider in the planning of a home is the proper location and plan of the main stairway. There are a great many ways in which this prominent feature that is the first to greet you as you enter the home, can be designed, and it is to be regretted that there are more failures in the building of stairways, from the standpoint of convenience and beauty, than there is in any other part of the house. One of the principal defects encountered in the building of a stairway is in trying to get it into too small a space. It matters little whether a house costs \$100 or \$10,000, the stairway takes up about the same amount of room. It requires as many steps to ascend the second floor, and there is very little difference in the width between the stairways of inexpensive and expensive homes. The stairway is one of the two principal features within the home that lends it character—the other being the fireplace, and as this is the first to be seen (and first impression should always be good), it is very important that the main stairway in the reception hall should be well designed.

The more we keep to a simple design in the construction of the stairway, the easier the problem. The defect often comes in trying to make it appear too elaborate. Square, simple, newel posts and plain balusters about an inch and a quarter square, with the corners rounded, are much to be preferred to the huge creations of the mill often turned out as ornamental (?) Newel posts and the crooked, twisted balusters, one so often sees. To say nothing of the appearance, they are very hard to keep clean and require a daily dusting of each baluster, the same as one would dust any piece of furniture.

It is always best to have at least one landing in a stairway, for a continuous run from floor to floor without a landing between on which to pause and rest, makes the ascent too tiresome, especially for the older members of the household. It is also quite important that the rise of each step should not be too great. One-quarter of an inch in the difference of the height of steps makes a wonderful difference in the ease of ascending a stairs. The rise of each step should be as near seven and one-quarter inches as possible. A good width for each tread is eleven inches, while twelve inches makes a splendid tread where the space can be taken.

The matter of hand rail should also receive serious consideration. No stairs should be built without a hand rail extending its full length. Many a slip and fall by children or convalescent invalids has been saved from serious consequences through having a hand rail handy for im-

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Mr. Clausen is the author of a well illustrated book containing a great many designs of modern homes, complete plans for which will be furnished to Bee readers at reduced prices. The book is entitled:

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mediate support. Winders should never be placed in the main stairs. The winder is a step which goes diagonally across a landing from corner to corner. The cellar

stairs and the attic stairs should, when possible, follow the same general rules that apply to the main stairway. Cellar stairs are often made uncomfortably steep when there is no reason for it. Because one's guests do not climb up and down the cellar stairs is no reason for not giving careful attention to a correct proportion of tread and riser. Many steps are taken up and down the cellar stairs each day and the ascent should be made comfortable.

Question—Are there any set rules in regard to the location of doors?
Answer—In locating a door in any partition, one should always consider the fact that the door must swing open and not place the door in a position that when swung open it would spoil a good wall surface which could be used for the piano, davenport, bed, bureau or other wall furniture. Wall lights should never be placed where a door will strike them in opening if swung clear back. The front door, or in fact all outside doors, should have a wall space against which to stand when open. A very common mistake in the planning of the entrance hall is to so locate the front door than when it stands open, it stands across the opening to the parlor, or as is sometimes the case, it laps over a window. Little mistakes like these, which are very annoying, could have been easily remedied had the plans been studied more carefully. Bedroom doors should never be made less than two feet eight inches wide, for many bureaus are too wide to pass through a smaller opening. Never place fancy grill work in a large opening to the parlor. It is considered poor taste, never

(Continued on Tenth Page.)

Exit the Frame House

No story of the settlement of Nebraska would be complete without a testimonial to the useful part played by the frame house as a cheap and for the period, an efficient shelter for man and beast, but the time has come for its disappearance, at least from sight. The pioneers were compelled to live in log cabins, sod houses and dug-outs because there was no means of obtaining a supply of lumber, but later the several railroads constructed from Mississippi river points westward were employed in its distribution. The state was populated so rapidly and the demand for building material so urgent that shipments were made annually of product sawed from pine logs floated from the northern timber regions.

This unseasoned wood was freely used in building houses, which for several years were fairly comfortable, but the hot winds of the summers, combined with a dry atmosphere caused shrinkage and numerous cracks, enabling the wintry blasts to penetrate freely to every nook and corner. The result is that frame houses so constructed are uncomfortable in winter even with a lavish and wasteful combustion of fuel, and being mere shells are susceptible to the heat of summer. The climate, too, is very destructive to paint, necessitating

frequent and expensive renewals. There are in the state many thousands of those houses in a condition really unfit for habitation and too good to pull down. Were an alternative to band the remedy would involve their demolition and new construction from other material at an enormous aggregate expense.

Happily, through a course of evolution, which brought a supply of cheap cement and a suitable form of metal lath, it is now possible to cover the exteriors of frame houses with cement mortar in such a way as to greatly improve their appearance, increase their comfort, both in winter and summer, and so long as a tight roof is maintained, extend their life indefinitely. The cost will not be great and the annual saving in fuel, paint and repairs it is said will be equal to from 10 to 20 per cent on the money invested.

The cement sidewalk affords a demonstration of the durability of the material under hard usage and climatic exposures and the contractors for that work could easily execute the new undertaking. In aid of the movement is the fact that the "stucco house," as it is frequently called, is decidedly the fashion and when the covering of the old house is completed there would be no external evidence of its antiquity or previous condition of decay.

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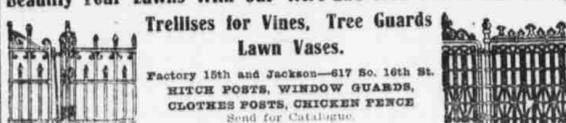
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The Nebraska Concrete and Reinforcing company is putting in concrete posts at the Detention home. The work will be completed the latter part of July.

The new pavilion of the Happy Hollow club will be one of the nicest around Omaha. Work has been begun and will be completed about the first of the month. The Independent Lumber company has the contract and is pushing the work.

The 2,000 eight-foot cement posts which the Nebraska Concrete and Reinforcing company is putting up at Fort Crook to support an iron fence around the fort have been delivered.

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Witness my hand and the seal of the Auditor of Public Accounts, the day and year first above written.
SILAS R. BARTON,
(Seal) Auditor of Public Accounts,
C. E. PIERCE, Deputy.

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IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED, That the Prussian National Insurance Company of Stettin, Germany, has complied with the Insurance Law of this State, applicable to such Companies and is therefore authorized to continue the business of Fire, Lightning and Tornado Insurance in this State for the current year ending January 31st, 1909.
Witness my hand and the seal of the Auditor of Public Accounts, the day and year first above written.
SILAS R. BARTON,
(Seal) Auditor of Public Accounts,
C. E. PIERCE, Deputy.

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STATE OF NEBRASKA, OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS,
LINCOLN, February 1st, 1909.
IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED, That the Security Insurance Co. of New Haven, in the State of Connecticut, has complied with the Insurance Law of this State, applicable to such Companies and is therefore authorized to continue the business of Fire, Lightning and Tornado Insurance in this State for the current year ending January 31st, 1909.
Witness my hand and the seal of the Auditor of Public Accounts, the day and year first above written.
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