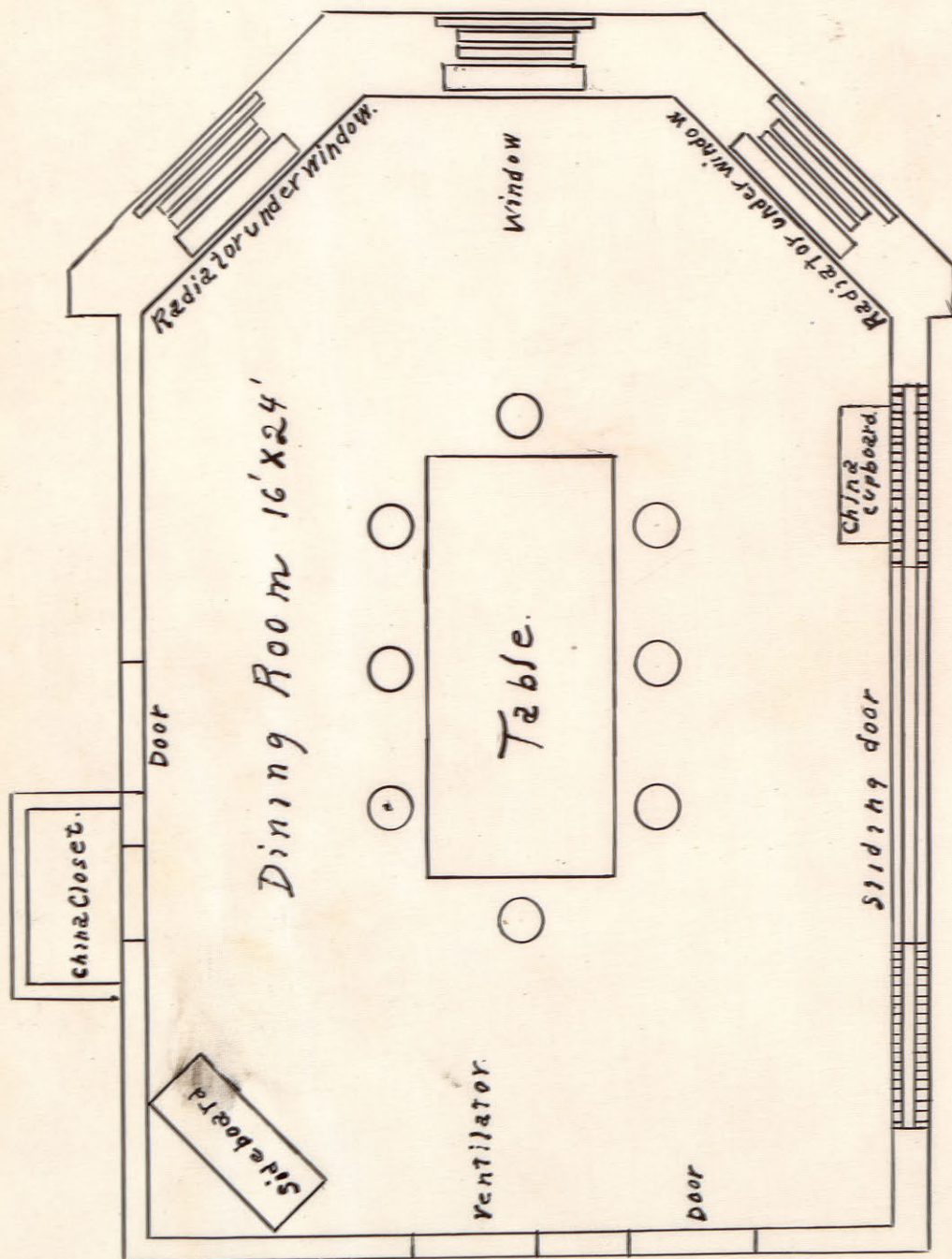


The Ideal Dining-Room.
by
Laura Helen Trumbull.

Ideal Dining-Room.

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IDEAL DINING ROOM



Laura H. Trumbull.

The Ideal Dining-Room.

Before treating such a subject as this, it is very necessary for the reader to get the writer's point of view, as the dining-room which would be ideal for one class of people would not be for another. The dining-room which I am going to discuss is what I would consider ideal for a family of moderate circumstances in the 'Sunny Land of Kansas'.

Our modern dining-room developed from the Elizabethan dining-parlor. No distinction between dining-room and living-room was made until the eighteenth century, and it was not until the middle of the century that they became at all common. Before that time the dining-room was considered unnecessary; but now, among all civilized people, a separate room is set apart in which to dine, as it affords comfort, and it is a well known fact that food readily absorbs the impurities of the living-room.

The only purpose of an ideal dining-room being a place in which to eat, in it should be found only such conditions as would tend to stimulate the appetite and all conditions which would tend to diminish it should be avoided. A dingy and forlorn dining-room may be the cause of loss of appetite, depression of spirit and dyspepsia. If our dining-rooms were more beautiful, it would greatly aid in breaking the American people of eating so rapidly. Many persons feed as though they were locomotives that must be kept running.

The dining room should always be a large room. A nice sized room for a family of eight is one sixteen feet wide, twenty-four feet long and twelve feet high. It is very unpleasant to dine in a room where you can not push your chair back from the table to rise without hitting the wall. As this is the room where the family must gather three times a day, it must be a place of comfort and cheer.

Have the dining-room on the east side of the house, for it is particularly attractive to

have the morning sun at breakfast.

In the early history of the dining room, it was thought that all color to be found in it should be dark, dark hangings and furniture dark paper etc. Such a sober room may be rich and beautiful, but does not show good taste for a dining-room, as it should be light and cheerful, and dark hangings absorb an enormous quantity of light. In England, the prevailing color of the dining-room is red, but there is no reason why some other color would not do just as well. The walls and ceiling should be light in color, and of such a shade as will harmonize well with the rest of the furniture. Terra cotta is a very popular shade, and for a dining-room is probably the ideal color. Painted walls and ceiling are much nicer than paper as they may be wiped off with a damp cloth to remove dust, traces of flies and odor of food.

Have a hard wood floor that has been stained a dark red. Oak makes a beautiful floor and is not so expensive as the other hard woods. In an ideal dining-room

all the wood found in it should be of one kind.

All the windows should be on the east side of the room as the light should all come from one direction to get the most uniform distribution of light. Windows on several sides of the room gives diffused light, and destroys the repose of the decorations. The windows should be three feet wide, with a single pane in each sash.

To light the dining-room artificially, have one powerful light suspended over the center of the dining-room table; then the rays will radiate equally in all directions. Have the light so placed that those sitting at the table can look each other in the face without encountering the glare of the light.

Too many doors in any room spoil the appearance. The dining-room, not being a room for general use, in it should be found only the doors that are absolutely necessary, these are three in number, one opening into the kitchen, one into the hall and a double door opening into the reception room. The kitchen door should be swung on hinges

that will allow it to swing both ways, as this is a great convenience in carrying dishes to and from the dining-room and it will help keep out flies odors etc. A door in the dining-room from the hall will be the most convenient for the occupants of the house and it will save the room joining the dining-room from being tracked through. The door between dining room and reception room should be a sliding door, and should be kept closed, except on extra occasions, as in case of a party.

The shades for the dining-room windows should be light in color, and of a shade that will harmonize with the walls. Brightness is especially desirable in a dining-room, but great care should be taken to avoid a glare of light.

In order to have perfect ventilation, there should be other means provided besides windows and doors. It is hard on a windy day to ventilate by means of these without a draught, but this difficulty may be easily overcome by having a ventilator built in the wall. It should be cover

ed by an iron screen, painted the same color as the wall, and fixed so that it may be opened and closed as the occupants desire. The room should be well ventilated after each meal, as odors that become fixed are not only disagreeable but spoil the flavor of our food as the senses of taste and smell are very closely allied.

The ideal way of heating the dining-room is by means of radiators. It has become quite common to have the house heated by means of a furnace, and it is no more expensive than stoves. By means of the radiator, the temperature of the room can easily be regulated. They should be built in the wall, so they will not take up space in the room, protected by iron screens, the same as the ventilator. The radiators should be placed in the coldest part of the room, because if the coldest parts are kept warm the rest of the room will be comfortable. A good place for the radiators is under the two side windows.

Every dining-room ought to have a china closet built in the wall, in which to keep

the common dishes. It should have a door opening into the dining-room, and one into the kitchen.

All the furniture should be strong and graceful, but ought not to look as though it was intended for elephants rather than for human beings. In selecting furniture for the dining room choose well built furniture of handsome wood, with little or no carving. Furniture of odd shapes and furniture that has much carving on it may soon appear very old fashioned. A plain substantial and respectable piece of furniture can easily be changed, will adapt itself to new schemes of decoration, and will never grow ugly. Mahogany and many of the other hard woods, which are expensive because they are scarce and fashionable, are no better for home comfort, durability and beauty than oak. Thus we see that the three chief requisites in choosing furniture for the dining-room are durability, comfort and adaptability while fashion is only a secondary matter.

The table being the central and most

noticable piece of furniture in the dining-room it should be the most beautiful. There is no piece of furniture more beautiful than a well built table. The extension table is the most nearly perfect of all tables for dining-purposes, as its seating capacity can easily be varied. The best kind of a table is a quarter-sawed oak, richly hand polished, four feet square without extra boards, and twelve feet long with them. The table should have five large, six inch, heavy turned, twisted legs, as this kind of legs give the table the appearance of being as strong as though they were braced. The table for a family of eight should be nine feet long, as every person should be allowed three feet of table room. There is nothing more disagreeable than sitting down to a crowded table where you can not use your arms without nudging your next neighbor. When the table is not in use, place on it a pretty table mat, and place in the center of it a vase of flowers or a graceful fern.

Dining-room chairs should be neither higher or lower than the ordinary height.

Some people think they ought to be about two inches higher, but this would be enough higher than common to give us a peculiar sensation and diminish the appetite. The fine quarter-sawn oak chairs with leather seats and backs will last a life time, and make beautiful dining-room chairs. The chairs should not be found scattered here and there over the dining-room, but always at their places around the table.

The side board should be a plain stately piece of furniture, found in every dining-room. It not only adds much to the appearance of the room, but it is also very useful. A sideboard of handsome quarter-sawn oak with no carving, and scarcely any moulding looks perfectly complete if it has a French bevel mirror cast brass handles and balls bearing casters. It should contain one large and two small drawers. One of the small drawers should be lined with velvet for silverware. Keep the table linen in the large drawer. Cover the top of the side-board with a pretty linen scarf, and have a fruit dish, a half a

dozen glasses and a water bottle and a finger bowl on the side-board. Every family should strive to have a few pieces of cut glass, and it would be well to have the pieces on the sideboard of cut glass.

Besides the necessary furniture, we should strive to have a china cupboard in which to keep pretty dishes, of pretty china, glass and silver. One of the handsomest china cupboards is made of quarter-sawn oak with swell bent glass in the sides and a fine glass door. It should have at least three shelves. This kind of a china cupboard is very ornamental, being of rich and artistic designs.

The table linen should be of pure white, containing small figures, such as flowers and geometric designs. The napkins should match. A pretty center piece and doilies add much to the appearance of the table.

The dishes of the prettiest dining tables are not of all one kind and color. Variety gives the table picturesqueness of which the eye does not tire as it would of the reffect

It is a well known fact that dishes will not last forever, and a dish that belongs to a set is hard to replace, while odd dishes are easily replaced. Never buy the large sets, but the small, classified according to use to

To give the dining-room a complete and finished look, there should be a few decorations. Care should be taken in selecting pictures for the dining-room to choose those that are suggestive of pleasant conversation. Old portraits of great men and the family portrait, should be found in the dining room, as they are there in a place where they will be noticed frequently. Pictures of flowers and fruit enjoyment and pleasure and of the seasons are pictures especially adapted to the dining room. Between the two radiators, in front of the middle window, have a large graceful palm.

Now, in conclusion, I shall give an approximate estimate of the cost of furniture and other fixtures belonging to a dining-room to show that it can be very prettily furnished for three-hundred dollars.

Table

\$20.00

Chairs	\$40.00
Table mat	5.00
Side-board	25.00
China cupboard	15.00
Window curtains (three etc)	4.00
Table linen (six table cloths)	17.00
Waplanis (six dozen)	18.00
Pictures (four with frames)	16.00
Sideboard scarf.	<u>1.00</u>
	\$131.00

The remaining part of the three hundred dollars will buy a nice line of dishes and a palm and fern, table decorations etc.