

The Interior of The Modern Cottage.

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The Modern Cottage.

In this advanced age of the world our attention is drawn more and more to the home as a means of advancement - mentally, morally, and otherwise and we are forced to realize that the largest part of this advancement is due to the wife's and mother's influence. It is for this reason that I turn my attention to the home - the wife's and mother's domain and most strongly do I wish to impress upon my readers that every convenience given to the mother will be shared equally by the other members of the family by lessening mother's hours of toil thus giving her more time to spend with her family.

I begin my discussion with the kitchen which should be the best equipped room in the house while in most cases it is actually the poorest. It should be nearly square and need have no more than 150 feet of floorspace. In this room convenience must be the ruling theme.

Hard wood as oak, maple, ash, and walnut are desirable for flooring as they will not splinter, shrink or warp

easily but most of these are very expensive. An ideal floor is one made of oiled hard pine. Tiling is sometimes used but either pine or maple is better. They are easily kept clean do not absorb moisture readily and they grow smoother and finer with wear. Narrow boards are preferred as they do not easily warp. Planing both sides of a board prevents it from absorbing moisture.

Polished floors are the most hygienic as the dust can more easily be cleaned off. For this purpose floors are stained waxed painted, oiled or varnished. Such floors may be kept clean without frequent use of water which is a good aid to bacterial growth - by the use of use of crude petroleum. Oil darkens wood and if you wish a floor to maintain the color of natural wood it is best to use wax or varnish instead. The objection to any of these finishes (except oil and paint) is they wear most too smooth for safety's sake.

One or two of the sides of a room should contain windows which are raised at least four feet from the floor. This allows the room for a table or gasoline stove or some such furniture to be placed under the window without shutting off the light or air.

A good improvement over the ordinary is the double window. This is made so that the exterior sash may be removed in the summer and put on again in the winter.

One door opening out of desired and the pantry should be easily accessible as also should be the back stairway. It is also advantageous to have a swinging door between the kitchen and dining room or pantry.

In general, whatever woodwork is used in the house should be oiled or resinous to prevent the entrance of moisture or air both of which are destructive to wood. Resin offers resistance to both by being insoluble in water and is hardened by air.

Have as little woodwork as possible in the kitchen. It is a poor idea to paper a kitchen as it collects dust and moisture and the paste used in papering furnishes food for insects which often find their way into the kitchen. Cement and plaster are usually used in the kitchen.

Walls are also finished in opalite which is white and sparkling. This is objected to not only on account of being expensive but because it is trying to the eyes.

From a hygienic and labor saving standpoint lime finish is best. The walls and ceiling in the kitchen should be painted with 3 coats of paint the last of which should be stippled to prevent its being too bright. A border of some kind is easily stenciled onto the walls. The ceiling should be a shade lighter than the walls.

In the modern cottage is always found a good sink made of white porcelain lined zinc or iron and over this should be a hot water, cold water and cistern faucets. Leading away from this sink are the house drains which remove water that is emptied into the sink.

In the kitchen should be a central light and if this is an electric light the wire by which it is suspended should be of sufficient length to allow it to be moved from place to place or tied high to suit the worker.

It is an excellent idea to have the pantry between the kitchen and the dining-room. The inside cellar was should be built under the back

stairway. The kitchen should be connected directly with the vegetable cellar especially.

The pantry should be well lighted and well-ventilated and shelves should extend only as high as a woman of ordinary height can reach. It also should be plastered and painted and the temperature must be such that it does not freeze in the winter and then in the summer it may afford a good place for the refrigerator.

Passing from the kitchen through the pantry the next room is the dining room which should be as pleasant and inviting as one can make it.

The length of this room depends usually upon the length of the dining room table to be used but the width should never be less than fourteen feet. In modern homes this room is frequently the largest in the dining house.

A polished hard wood floor will not absorb odors and will not collect crumbs and dust. Maple and hard pine both make very nice floors. Oak usually

darkens some with age and is occasionally objected to on this account.

Have enough windows in the dining-room to allow good light as well as ventilation. When we stop to consider that 3000 cuft. per hour of fresh air per individual is required we may see the need of at least two windows in a room.

An outside door to the diningroom is very nice but also expensive in a cold climate. A large plate glass door is not only beautiful but also useful for lighting purposes. There should be large open doorway between dining room and parlor and especially between the living room and dining room. Some times large sliding doors are used and to very good advantage too. A swinging door between the dining room and pantry is convenient. The woodwork should of course be hard wood oiled or varnished. Light shades are desired for the dining-room.

If the walls are to be papered the large patterns of wall paper are to be avoided. A beautiful but expensive finish for the dining-room is a paneled ceiling, the panels being of native woods. The panels

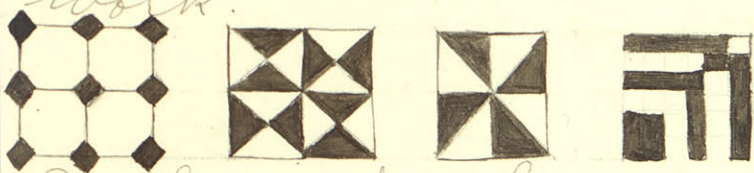
being of may be made light by being treated with a white filler. The friezes and beams are treated with boiled linseed oil and varnish and this in a few wks will darken these parts so there will be an appreciable degree of difference in the color.

The walls of a dining-room may be decorated with oil-fresco, simple figures being stenciled over three coats of oil painting. The china shelves with which the dining-room is so often decorated are objectionable because they collect dust and bacteria. A new and good idea is shown in the china shelf which is built into the wall and closed by a glass door. It is a wise plan also to allow room for a side-board in the dining room.

On account of its cheerfulness and sanitary ventilating facilities a grate is to be recommended. This is beautiful when finished in tiling and a marble mantle over it. The living-room must be well-ventilated and especially well lighted. This room can conveniently be very large 15' x 15' is a very nice size. This room is frequently finished like the

dining-room. Occasionally it is finished like the parlor. This room should be separated (if at all) by double sliding doors a double opened doorway being used between the dining-room and sitting room. It should be accessible from the hall, parlor, dining-room and kitchen without necessitating crossing some other room.

The parlor should be only an addition to the sitting-room and of course should be used. We have passed the day when the parlor was kept locked all the time except when there was a funeral or a wedding in the family. This room also may conveniently be of goodly proportions. The floor should be stained and treated with floor varnish. Large rooms can better be stained dark than smaller ones can. Modern parlor floors are made of Parquetry. There are many different patterns of this work.



Dark part - cherry or mahogany
Light part - maple, hard pine or oak.

This is then planed off and treated with filler and covered with a thin layer of floor wax. A pattern border is desirable, of course.

A well ventilated well lighted room is always the most hygienic. A large window in the parlor adds greatly to the beauty of the room. A nice wall treatment can be obtained by sand plastering the wall and calceining and a border may easily be stenciled upon this.

There is no necessity in a well planned house for a spacious hall and if one must ~~be used~~ economize in space this is an excellent place to do so.

The floor in the hall may well be treated as the floor of the parlor. In very nice halls the floor is sometimes finished in tiling or mosaic. If there is a stop in the front stairway it is well to have a window at this place. Occasionally a cosy window seat may be built in front of such a window. If possible put a hall seat in the hall.

The door may be made of stained glass but clear plate glass is preferable.

The walls and ceiling of the parlor may be planned on the ceiling for a heavy chandelier.

Sometimes the hall walls are wainscoted in panels and the ceiling is

is paneled like the dining room with a very pleasing effect. The hall should be the connection between as many parts of the house as it is practical to make it.

All parts of the stairway must be finished in heavy wood. It is always best to have a railing on the stairs to aid beauty and furnish safety.

In considering the upstairs the suggestions for one bedroom may be applicable to all the others. As regards size the main fact is that the room should be spacious. A cramped room is very uncondusive of rest and as this is the object of the room we have thwarted our purpose in the beginning if we make the rooms too small. The smallest bedroom should not be less than fifteen by thirteen feet. Every room should have its own clothespress. Between two or more of these rooms may be a large sliding or double folding doors.

The number of windows may be decided according to the principals laid down in the general subject of lighting and ventilation. The more light and fresh air we have in a room the fewer

become the bacteria and the less poisonous the air by mingling of poisonous gases.

Make a bedroom as light and airy as it is possible to make it. Have the woodwork, walls ceiling light in color so they will be restful to the eye.

The walls may be nicely finished by plastering then calicimining and stenciling a border. Paper with small design is sometimes used. Bright colors are to be neglected as they in time become tiresome while the more delicate shades are quite lasting.

The halls upstairs are finished with beautiful effect just as is the downstairs hall, but quite often it is finished in calicimine or paper.

The bath room is a necessity which is just now coming to be appreciated. It should be about 7' x 7'6" in dimensions and should be finished in the hardest of plaster and then painted with about 4 coats of paint or some water-shedding finish.

The floor should be of ^{oiled} hard pine and had better be covered with a close-fitting linoleum which may be put down before the quarter round.

A stationary wash-basin, closet, and bath tub should be built. It is a wise idea to have a small

clothespress in the bathroom so that the clothes may be hung in there to preserve them from moisture. One window about five feet from the floor and a transom over the door will provide light and ventilation.

The bathtub and washbasin will of course be of porcelain-lined zinc, and will thus be capable of being kept clean and the dirt more easily captured.

The cellar may extend under the entire house or under part of it.

It is best to extend it under all so that there will be sufficient room without any noticeable amount of expense. In a wellplanned cellar the front room should not be near the furnace, neither should the room be where milk and butter or other absorbant articles are kept.

The latter articles must not be kept near the room in which are kept cabbage, potatoes, onions, etc.

The laundry should be near the furnace room and have an outside entrance. The coalbins will be near the furnace and will have a window

through which the coal may be put. The inside cellar way will open near the room where the articles are kept for daily use as this will save many steps for the worker.

The walls and floor will be finished with cement concrete or asphalt as this does not gather dampness and is not difficult to keep cleaned.

There will be plenty of light and fresh air admitted to all parts of the cellar as they are both destroyers of bacteria and should never be overlooked.

The materials for foundations are wood, brick, and stone. Wood is objectionable because it gathers dampness and decays readily, furnishing an excellent place for disease germs.

Bricks are very porous, one brick being capable of holding 16oz. of water. Great care should be taken to protect the excavations for house foundations against access to water.

or they will serve as stores for moisture and will occasion dampness in the basement.

By following these rules of healthy conditions as regards the building of a house and not only these but those rules which relate to ventilation, lighting and economy of strength and time in the house-hold life could be prolonged and made more enjoyable.

In what better way then can we show our appreciation to mothers and sisters than by making their lives as pleasant as is in our power to do?