

AN IDEAL DINING-ROOM AND ITS CARE

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An Ideal Dining-room and its Care.

The purpose of a dining-room is a place in which food is eaten and in an ideal one only such conditions as tend to stimulate the appetite will be found. All conditions which tend to diminish the appetite will be avoided. A dingy and forlorn looking dining-room may be the cause of loss of appetite, depression of spirits, and of dyspepsia. It will make little difference if the food is well prepared and served if the room has a neglected appearance the appetite will not be good.

The dining-room developed from the Elizabethian dining-parlor. There was no separation between these two until the eighteenth century, and this separation did not become common until the middle of the century. Now in almost all homes a separate room is set apart to dine in as it affords more comfort and pleasure.

The following description is of a dining-room which a family in moderate circumstances could afford. This dining-room is large enough for a family of six. The room is rather a large one, the dimensions being 15x20x10 feet. A room where the chairs are almost touching the walls is very unpleasant. Where there is a servant, she cannot move freely about the table in such a room. The room should be on the east side of the house. In the east end of the room are five large windows forming a curve. These windows are composed of two panes with one bar across the center. Smaller panes are hard to keep clean and are hard on the eyes, since they cause bars across the light. It is an advantage to have the morning sunlight at breakfast time. If the room was on the west side of the house you would have the hot sun rays all afternoon making the room warm for the principle meal of the day at six o'clock.

The dining-room, being in most cases the only room in the house where the entire family gathers three times a day, should be one of the lightest and most cheerful rooms in the house. In the early history of the dining-room everything in it was dark and somber, dark hangings, furniture and paper. The tables and other furniture were large and heavy and in most cases elaborately carved. Such a room does not show good taste. In selecting the furnishings of a dining-room, have them light and cheerful looking. Dark hangings absorb an immense amount of light and it is a well known fact that they are great dust collectors.

Artificial light is secured by four large electric lights coming from each corner of the room. Some people advocate having the light come from one large light placed directly over the table. This causes the center of the room to be brilliantly lighted and the corners of the room in the shadow. This is said to be injurious to the eyes.

There is no direct entrance to the kitchen from the dining-room. The dining-room opens into the pantry and the pantry into the kitchen. This door from the pantry is a swing door, so that one can go through the door with both hands full and at the same time the odors from the kitchen are kept out of the dining-room by the closed door. The other doors in the room are those entering the hall and living-room.

The room is heated by hot water. The radiators are placed under the windows in the east end of the room. A fire place in the north west corner of the room affords ventilation and at the same time will warm the room on a chilly autumn or spring morning, when it is not cold enough to start the furnace for heating the room.

The woodwork is of golden oak. The walls are papered with a plain delph blue paper. This paper can be purchased in a washable form. It is appropriate for a dining-room. If one does not like paper on the walls

they can have them finished in delph blue. This particular color is not warm looking or cold looking but combines the two making a cool and inviting looking room. Red is a warm color. Blue is a cold color and green is often injurious as it sometimes contains arsenic poison.

The floors are of hard wood, stained and then waxed. A rug is in the center of the room. It is just large enough for the tables and chairs. This rug protects the floor from being scratched by the chairs and table and can be taken up and thoroughly cleaned without trouble. It should never be of a material having a deep pile.

The window curtains are of plain white scrim and hang in straight folds to the bottom of the windows. If trimming is desired a small Grecian key could be worked in blue across the lower end of the curtain. These curtains protect the family from the gaze of the curious passers by and at the same time give a pleasant out door vision. The window shades are of a color on the outside which harmonizes with the outside of the house. The inside of the shade is of delph blue or plain white.

The furniture is of oak and consists of a dining-table, chairs, buffet, serving table and a built-in china-closet. The table is square and is one which can be extended. It is well made of generous size and gives the impression of strength without losing its graceful lines. The table is a polished one. The chairs are well made and of good size. There is nothing more uncomfortable than than small, unsubstantial dining-room chairs. The china closet has glass doors and beneath the closet are drawers which slide both ways. These drawers contain in one end the table linen and napkins and in the other end are the dish towels and cloths. In the china closet and buffet are choice pieces of china and cut glass. There is nothing one may place in a dining-room, which will add to the charm and brightness than closets, through the glass doors of which

brilliant glass and china may be seen. The serving table is covered with white linen cloth with a hemstitched hem.

The pictures in this room if there are any, are ones that would be suitable in the living room. Pictures of dead game, fruit or vegetables should not be placed in this room. Because it is a room where one eats is not a reason why one should be confronted every meal with pictures representing some article of food. Some people hang the pictures of members of the family in this room. If you possess these pictures either place them in a room designed for pictures, as a picture gallery, or in your private bedroom, but do not hang them in the dining-room.

The china is of white Haviland with one narrow gold band around each piece. The silver is of a good substantial kind. Either a plain silver or one with a simple design is best. Silver with an elaborate design is hard to keep in a clean, bright condition. The table linen is of a good quality of white linen. A small design as a dot or a perfectly plain linen is considered the best. A cloth with a large figure or with vines all over it is not suitable for a table cloth. The napkins should match the table cloth. The best size is about 24 inches square.

The next thing in importance after the furnishing of the room is the care of it. The windows should be opened after each meal so that the stale odor of food so often found in a dining-room may be removed. The windows should also be opened before breakfast for a few minutes so that fresh air can be obtained. The room should be thoroughly swept every day. A soft broom will be found to give better satisfaction than a stiff broom as a stiff one is hard on a polished floor. A good plan is to make a bag of flannel and tie on the broom. This bag will remove the dust from the floor and can be washed very easily. The rug should be taken up and beat thoroughly once a week. Dust each article of furniture after sweeping with a soft cloth.

The silver will require cleaning once a week. This can be done with some reliable silver polish. The silver can be kept bright longer if it is washed in hot soapy water, rinsed in clear hot water and wiped on a clean dry towel after each meal.

The china should be washed in clean, hot, soapy water, rinsed in clear hot water and polished on a clean soft towel. The same is true of the glass ware used. The appearance of china and glassware helps a great deal in making an attractive looking table.

The table linen should be carefully washed and ironed. The creases should all continue in one direction. The best way to iron a table cloth is to make only one crease down the center and then roll the cloth on a round stick. The napkins should be folded in a perfect square. All corners should be exactly together. Napkins folded in triangles or in any fancy shape are not permissible. If the table cloth is removed after each meal it will remain clean and fresh looking longer. The table may be left bare or a doiley can be placed in the center with a vase of flowers. Leave the dining-room clean and orderly looking after each meal. Some one has said that there is no room in the house which will give a truer picture of the manners of a family than the dining-room. The following is a list of articles needed and their approximate costs:

5 shades @ .90	\$ 4.50
5 curtains @ 1.50	7.50
12 chairs @ 2.50	30.00
Table	20.00
Buffet	25.00
6 table cloths, $2\frac{1}{2}$ yds. @ 1.25	18.75
3 doz. napkins @ 2.50	7.50
2 table cloths, $3\frac{1}{2}$ yds	16.00

1 doz. napkins	\$ 3.00
6 doilies	1.50
Silence cloth	1.50
Rug	30.00
1 doz. Haviland dinner plates	6.00
1 " cups and saucers	4.50
1 " bread and butter plates	2.50
1 " pie plates	3.00
2 different sized platters	3.00
4 " " veg. dishes	4.00
1 gravy dish	1.50
1 doz. soup plates	4.50
1 " sauce dishes	3.00
1 " salt dishes	3.00
Haviland creamer and sugar	1.75
1 doz. glasses	1.50
1 " sherbet cups	.75
Water pitcher	1.00
Pickle dish	.90
3 doz. teaspoons	10.00
1 doz. soup spoons	10.00
$\frac{1}{2}$ doz. table spoons	5.00
1 doz. desert spoons	7.00
1 doz. salad forks	10.00
1 doz. salt spoons	3.00
1 cold meat fork	2.00
2 doz. knives and forks	20.00

Carving Set	\$ 5.00
Tray	.50
Coffee pot	2.50
Tea pot	1.50
1 gravy ladle	1.50
Total	<u>\$287.93</u>

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