

NEWS OF THE BUSY HOME BUILDERS

HOW TO MAKE PRETTY LAWNS

Process Employed in Europe Suggested for Use in Omaha.

GREAT BEAUTIFIER OF HOMES

Tourist Back from Old World Thinks Americans Do Not Pay Enough Attention to These Important Things.

"One thing I notice about some Omaha homes in the 'old of beautiful lawns' said a man who made a European trip this summer. 'A man here does not seem to care how much money he puts into a house. He hires the most expensive experts to plan for the beauty of his home and to equip it with the most modern improvements. And then he is content to have almost any kind of a lawn and he thinks sprinkling it and cutting it once in a while is all that is needed."

"I saw some of the most magnificent stretches of greenland in England that my eyes ever rested on. I use the word 'rested' advisedly, for it truly rests the eye and also delights the soul to see such lawns. They may truly be called 'velvet'. I was told that they cannot be produced in the climate of the United States because of our great extremes of heat and cold, extreme by change more fierce. They do not have the glaring heat of sun and the protracted periods of drought to which we are sometimes subject."

"Nevertheless, it is a fact that with a little more care and system very beautiful lawns can be produced right here, such lawns as ought to be seen around some of our magnificent homes, and as would beautify the simplest home at an expense absurdly small."

"From experts I learned the way to rejuvenate an old or neglected lawn is to dig or plow it up and construct a new one. It does not pay to try to mend it unless it is in very fair condition. The ground should be spaded to depth of twelve inches and allowed to lie fallow all winter for the frosts to work upon. Then it should be harrowed and smoothed carefully. The best seed should be bought and sown thickly. April and May are the best spring months for sowing, and November is the best fall month. A little oats mixed with the seed is good because it grows easily and acts as a nurse for the more backward grass seed."

"When the seed is up about three inches rolling should begin. This is one of the most important processes for producing a good lawn. The first rolling should be done with a light roller, but the weight should increase until the lawn is gone over with a roller weighing from 500 to 1,000 pounds."

"Cutting should be done carefully and the clippings of grass allowed to remain on the ground; they act as a mulch. If the soil was not rich manure should have been applied plentifully by a process of top dressing and rolling and seeding. The surface should be loosened with a rake and seed-sown at the proper season. A heavy roller—1200 pounds weight is not too much—should be run over it and dirt thrown from some rich place should be sown over it."

"The lawn is such an important thing and a thing which requires but little capital that it ought to receive more attention and more expert treatment. Omaha ought to be a city of beautiful lawns as well as of beautiful homes. The care of an average lawn, however, just gives the business man or the man who works in store or shop the proper amount of exercise. It works an advantage thus in both directions."

The handsome dounce apartment flats being built by Kuehn & Co. on Twenty-fifth street between Dawson and Chicago streets are being wired by the American Electric company and will be equipped with the most modern electrical fixtures and appliances.

The new home being erected by A. S. Hillings, Jr., at Thirty-eighth and Cass streets will have a roof unique in Omaha. It will be of asbestos shingles. These add to the advantages of slate and the advantage of being unbreakable. They cost slightly more than slate. The roof is being put on by the National Roofing company.

"I note a decided tendency toward building homes with the maximum of light these days," said a leading Omaha architect. "People who come in to have plans drawn nearly all want to have the rooms well lighted with sunshine and also well ventilated. They demand large windows, extending from floor to roof. The open arrangement of the interior, with three or four rooms on the first floor, connecting with each other by great wide doors, which practically throws the entire floor into one big room, is especially popular."

One of the very latest designs in electric fixtures has been installed by Hastings & Hayden in a house being erected by them at 189 Emmet street. It is done in "miniature" woodwork. Designs along this line are said to be getting very popular lately. The work was done by the American Electric company, which has installed similar fixtures in several other Omaha homes lately.

Prices on roofing slate have recently been increased. Slate is used but little for roofing in Omaha except on some of the larger buildings such as school houses and large residences. The National Roofing company has just taken a contract for placing a slate roof on the new high school building in Albia, Ia.

At Cut-Off lake the history of China is being repeated. The histories and geographies relate that in the Celestial empire

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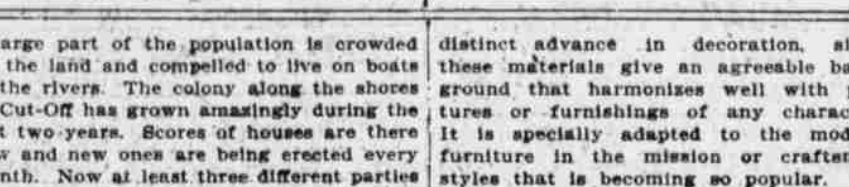
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A Twentieth Century Cottage



The home which we have designed for this week is considerably larger than any before illustrated. The large terrace and imposing entrance gives this simple exterior an appearance of substantial worth. The large living room is placed in the center of the house and has direct access to almost every room on the first floor. It is made very attractive by the beamed ceiling and the fine fireplace at the end. The office, if not required for that purpose, would make a fine den or library. The first floor chamber is well located, to be used as a sewing room or a nursery.



This home would make a fine country house or would look well on a large lot in the city. "Twentieth Century Cottages", a book which illustrates a number of views and complete floor plans of moderate priced homes, will be sent post-paid to any of our readers upon receipt of 25 cents. Address all letters to Home Building Dept., care The Omaha Bee, Omaha, Neb.

A large part of the population is crowded off the land and compelled to live on boats in the rivers. The colony along the shores of Cut-Off has grown amazingly during the last two years. Scores of houses are there now and new ones are being erected every month. Now at least three different parties of people are going to build house boats on Cut-Off. The advantage of the house boat is many. One can fish from the veranda; one can be rocked to sleep at night by the gentle waves; one can move the boat about and thus enjoy a change of scenery and surroundings. If the house boat doesn't like his neighbors he merely weighs anchor and sails away to more congenial environs.

Of course, the Cut-Off lake house boats are not going to be anything like those famous floating palaces on which thousands of families spend the summer on the Thames, beds of colossal size with flower gardens and broad walks all around with a crew of sailors to navigate them. But the Cut-Off lake boats are to be miniature versions of these. They are to be of comfortable size. On the lower deck is to be the enclosure or house with bedrooms, kitchen, etc. Around this on the same deck will be an open space. And above it will be a place covered with awnings and equipped with "steamer chairs" where the house boat may sail with half closed eyes and fancy himself on the ocean. It is likely these will be built next spring.

A. H. Reed of the National Roofing company is on a business trip through eastern Nebraska and western Iowa.

The structural steel for the substitution of the Omaha Electric Light & Power company at Benson was furnished by the Sanderson Iron company.

A handsome piece of furniture, exhibited by an Omaha dealer, is a mantle designed for a man's den. It is made of mission wood with the joints held by wooden pegs. The upper part of the mantle is a little cupboard which is equipped like a miniature buffet with bottles, siphon and glasses.

Importance of Wall Decoration. In selecting wall paper or fabric hangings for a room, the fact must not be lost sight of that the real object of wall decorations is not so much the adornment of the walls themselves, as the development of an effective and artistic background against which the furnishings, the pictures, and even the people in the apartment are to be viewed. Too many people, in selecting wall papers, think of them only for themselves and choose them for their mere prettiness, as they appear in the sample books or in the display rack in the dealer's store, with a result that is sure to be disappointing after the paper is hung upon the wall and the room is furnished. How many times have we seen papers that are as dainty in their design and printing as a wiggy color painting, yet which are simply impossible backgrounds for the rest of the furnishings of the apartment. On the other hand, some of the English wall papers whose designs are made up of intertwining leafy scrolls in dull colors are really more effective on the wall than the picture papers with gaudy forms or attractive in a flat and decorative and not naturalistic in its treatment. Some very charming friezes of this character are made by some of the English wall paper manufacturers, intended to be used in connection with wall treatments of plain carpeted papers, with grass cloth or burlaps. Such effects are very pleasing in halls, dining rooms, libraries or dens. The use of fabrics for wall hangings, such as burials, bookrags and two-toned tapestry in jute or linen, marks a

MAKING ARTISTIC HOMES

Tile Mosaics the Most Desirable for Vestibule and Porch Floors.

SUBSTANTIAL AND SANITARY

More Durable Even Than Natural Stone and Can Be Made Up in Designs to Suit the Surroundings.

In exterior decoration of the dwelling or other building the vestibule and porch are most important features. They are the first part of the house which meets the eye of the passerby and the careful scrutiny of the visitor. In most cases the visitor has to wait for several moments, either in the vestibule or on the porch, before gaining admittance to the house. Frequently one never enters beyond the vestibule and consequently the entire judgment that one forms of the interior decoration of the house and of the character of the inmates is founded upon the short scrutiny of the vestibule which one examines almost involuntarily in order to while away the time until the door bell is answered.

If the visitor notices a dirty, unswep vestibule he naturally concludes that the housekeeper is slothful and that the utility vestibule or porch is merely a sample of what is to be met with inside. If he sees a vestibule decorated in gaudy colors and generally out of keeping with the dictates of good taste, his inference is natural that the rest of the house and the inmates are of the same character. If the vestibule is decorated in paper mache or painted plaster of tile, it is probable that the bathroom is covered with some cheap imitation of tile work. If the vestibule is dirty the kitchen is probably in the same condition. If, however, it is neat and clean and built of substantial material, there is every probability that the housekeeper takes pride in the interior of her home and that her interior decorations are substantial and in good taste. A frequent covering for the floor and wainscoting of the vestibule is that made of baked clay tile or ceramic mosaic work. The tile is the most durable of all flooring material; marble, slate and other natural stones not excepted. A tiled or ceramic mosaic is easy to keep clean and lasts virtually forever. The joints of the tile will not scratch or wear the floor, and street dirt which is carried in on the shoes cannot be absorbed by it. By a simple process of mopping it out or flushing it with water, it can always be kept neat and clean in appearance.

The artistic properties of the clay tile with its variety of color, form and design, the floor and wainscoting can be made as elaborate as the other exterior and interior decorations of the house demand. One of the most appropriate of all vestibule floors is that made of ceramic mosaic, laid in artistic colored designs. Owing to its special appropriateness as a covering for floors, artists that are to be at once decorative, substantial and sanitary, the tiled vestibule suggests good taste and dignity. The house with a tiled vestibule probably contains also an elaborate tiled bathroom, kitchen, butler's pantry and laundry. As the vestibule is such a favorable indication of the house, the careful housekeeper should give it every possible attention.

Porch Most Important.

The same is true of the porch or veranda. In suburban dwellings, especially, great attention should be given to this most important part of the house. The wooden porch floor, for instance, is readily passing out of use. This is but one indication of the general substitution in American architecture of inorganic building materials for wood, not only in the largest cities, but even in suburban and rural districts. In America, the land of immense forests, it was but natural that wood, which was everywhere at hand, should become the most common of all building materials. But timber is now scarce, lumber is high and the danger of inflammable building material is being more and more appreciated by the public. Within the last few years, even the floors of porches, which were formerly nearly always covered with wood, are now being made of ceramic mosaic or other inorganic material. There is much to be said in favor of the adoption of the inorganic porch floor. Especially in hot climates, where the extremes of temperature, the wooden porch floor, exposed to all kinds of weather, soon shows unmistakable signs of wear and decay. In fact, the porch, if covered with a wooden floor, is almost invariably the first part of the house which begins to look shabby.

It is, of course, the duty of every home owner to make his house as attractive looking as possible, and he should do all he can to avoid indications of wear and tear and shabbiness at its very entrance. A properly laid ceramic mosaic porch, even though exposed to all kinds of inclement weather, will usually outlast the building in which it is placed. The small pieces of ceramic mosaic are called, are so hard that even a steel blade cannot scratch them; they are firmly set in pure, hard cement, and consequently never, under ordinary conditions, appear worn or shabby. As there are many varieties of variety of form and color, they can be easily laid out in any desired artistic pattern or design. They are not only attractive in themselves, but the great latitude allowed in their application enables the architect to overcome by their use many of the faulty appearances of the porch. A porch, for instance, has to be built rather narrow, in order to avoid excluding too much light from the rooms of the ground floor. This narrowness in appearance, which is emphasized or aggravated by the cracks between the boards of a wooden floor, can be entirely obviated by a suitable design worked out in ceramic mosaic.

Easy to Keep Clean.

The ceramic mosaic porch is likewise very easy to keep clean. As a non-absorbent material, it can be flushed off each day with a hose, and it dries in a short time. As it has the greatest stantial and attractive appearance, and its design is such that even the most muddy foot prints, so plainly visible on the wooden porch, can hardly be noticed.

Marble mosaic, also, is used as a covering for porches, but, although the most beautiful of all building materials, is too soft for use on a floor that is subjected to much traffic. Furthermore, in order that the tesserae may be polished down to a smooth surface after they become set in the cement in which they are placed, the marble must be polished with fine fls order to be soft enough to be polished to a surface even with the marble tesserae. The addition of lime to cement causes the latter to shrink so it invariably cracks unless it is applied to very small surfaces. Consequently, although the most beautiful of all building materials, beautiful porch for a short period, before long its beauty will be marred by ugly cracks extending in every direction.

An inorganic floor covering for the porch is the only one which is really in keeping with the present day building operations in which permanence and durability are such important considerations, and of the several materials of which this porch floor

covering can be made, preference must in all fairness be given to ceramic mosaic, or clay tile.

Cat Two Years in a Mine. After spending two years in the depths of a coal mine a cat owned by James Warke of Ashley, Pa., has returned to him. The cat was such an inveterate thief that Mrs. Warke insisted two years ago that it should be killed or lost. Several attempts to lose it failed, and Warke, who is a miner, then put him in a bag and took him to one of the lowest levels of the No. 20 colliery. There he flourished and grew fat. There was fine hunting, a big mine rat being numerous and daring. Recently the mine was shut down, and as there was no more grain in the stables the rats left. Now there is no more hunting, and the cat made its appearance at Warke's home. How it got out of the mine is a mystery.

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THOUGHTS ON FALL

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