

FIXING UP THE OLD HOUSE

Transformation Wrought by Color Directed by Good Taste.

FINE EFFECT OF STENCIL WORK

Location and Purpose of Rooms a Determining Factor in Planning a Color Treatment—Some Valuable Suggestions.

Fixing up an old house and transforming it into a cheery, charming home is one of the most fascinating problems of our present-day endeavors.

There is no room so awkward that it is impossible to transform into an artistic, satisfactory apartment.

Ten years ago little thought and practically no attention was given to the treatment of the walls beyond the bath and plaster stage.

The use of a room has much bearing upon the scheme of decoration. If it is to be used as a study, for a quiet hour, it certainly should be given quiet colors and soft, delicate treatment.

Then, too, the location of the room is essentially a factor in planning a color treatment, for, obviously, rooms with southern exposure require colors that will soften and modify the excess of sunlight which is bound to come into the room.

Now for the actual work of really embellishing a room, so that it will be a thing of beauty as well as a joy forever.

Dark tones advance the wall or ceiling toward us—lessen the apparent distance and decrease the effect of size.

Suppose the ceiling is too high. Use a moderately dark tone for the ceiling and carry it down the side wall at least fifteen inches—twenty-four is better for a twelve-foot ceiling—then you have lessened the height materially.

Patterns, such as conventional flowers, or floral designs which are frequently found in wall papers—were used to relieve an otherwise flat surface, not because it was the best way, but because it was the only way which seemed possible for the ordinary person.

Now there are better ways to overcome the flat appearing spaces on walls than for at present we wear our ceiling plain in one single monotone.

But there is such a thing as a rule of decorative proportions, and its artistic stops at three. We have one, two or three colors in a room, but no more; we may have one, two or three tones of a single color, but no more; we may have one, two or three designs of stencil, in one, two or three widths but no more; we may, if we choose, break out flat wall panels, no matter what the size of the wall.

Now, to wise choice in color and before you finally decide, bear in mind the relation of the rooms, as well as their use, for a green room with a blue for next door neighbor would be an abomination of good taste, for they would never be on speaking terms.

When ceilings are set too high—when rooms have large openings into and from each other, it is a good plan to use a rich ivory white tone for all the ceilings and harmonizing colors for the side walls.

For example, use a warm, rich, brownish side wall for living room; then suppose the reception hall is on the north side, here a café-au-lait, or yellow tan side wall with ivory ceiling will give a decidedly charming effect.

Now comes the use of the stencil, and here is the opportunity for breaking away from the conventional stereotyped frieze and border and the achieving of an individual artistic embellishment.

The use of a conventional four-inch stencil design following about four inches above the standing woodwork, reaching over doors, following over baseboards and going up over the window frame, is unique, individual and very effective, and is being used with great success by the best decorators in New York and Chicago.

The otherwise long line of the perpendicular side wall is also frequently broken by a plate or photo rail two-thirds up the side wall, and below this, the same conventional center in stencil, then the ceiling line is dropped a twelve-foot design in stencil adapted to the use of the room, such as fruit pieces for dining room—conventional flowers for living room, or set geometric figure for hall.

The effect is stunning when done in a darker tone of the side wall color or in darker contrasting color.

A very pleasing stencil effect for use on a dull green side wall is the use of ivory white for the patterns with a black outline.

Having decided on the color scheme and having also chosen its form, the really important thing is to choose the vehicle or medium of color, for unless a material be chosen that has permanent colors and non-

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Anniversary Sale of... Kitchen Furniture. KITCHEN SAFES, price was \$6.50, sale price \$4.25. Kitchen safe, glass doors, price was \$10.00, sale price \$6.75.

Anniversary Sale of... Library Furniture. Library Tables, well made, price was \$13.50, sale price \$8.75. Library Tables, massive, price was \$25.00, sale price \$14.75.

Anniversary Sale of... Draperies and Mattings. Nottingham Lace Curtains, price was \$2.50, sale price \$1.39. Brussels Net Curtains, price was \$10.00, sale price \$5.98.

rubbing qualities our decorations, however beautiful, might be actually useless. So this matter of material is, after all, the vital point in the success of the decorative scheme.

Alabastine Colors. While the softly tinted wall is thoroughly up-to-date and artistic, the whole effect is likely to be a sad disappointment unless a preparation like Alabastine is used as the vehicle of color.

Fortunately, they never check, peel nor blister, so that the best and most discriminating architects now insist that all walls be alabastined. There is a wide difference between the alabastined wall and the kalsomined wall, as wide a difference as there is between a hard brilliant diamond and a common glass crystal.

A preparation like alabastine is permanent in its effects; kalsomine is exceedingly transitory, rubs off easily, fades readily, alas! too readily, and peels, checks and blisters, leaving unsightly white spots on the wall surface, mute reminders of unwise selection in materials.

The successful dressing of windows need not involve much expense, but procures an added touch of faintness and attractiveness.

An exceedingly desirable treatment is to carry the wall color to the over curtain and decorate the curtain with a modified design of the wall stencil.

Unbleached cotton, dyed to the desired color tone and stenciled with the same pattern as the side wall in reduced size, is exceedingly good in style and artistic in effect.

If the windows are narrow and an appearance of added width is desired, carry the curtain pole one beyond the window line so that the inside of the curtain touches the outside of the window casing, then you have added width.

For under curtains when ivory ceilings are used, use cream or ivory white lace or muslin curtains.

With these few things in mind, any room, any home can be infinitely improved.

We wet our bright, brilliant colors that are needed for an occasional but not too frequent dash of color from open fires in winter, bright cut flowers in summer and brilliant gaudy book covers at all seasons of the year.

Contrasts come from rugs, sometimes from door draperies and frequently from carpets and upholsterings of furniture.

Finally, avoid a confusion of ornament and an accumulation of bric-a-brac, for this makes clutter and spoils the unity of the room. Ornaments lugged into a room for the mere sake of ornament defeats its purpose and overdoes the effect beside adding to household labor.—Uncle Remus' Home Magazine.

MODERN HOME EQUIPMENT

Housework Made Easier by Mechanical Appliances. CARE PASSING OVER TO MEN. Conveniences Lessen Labor in the Home, but Make Duties of Housekeeper More Complex—What it Portends.

Whether the housework of the next ten years will be done by men of women probably will depend as much upon the development of conveniences and machinery as upon the eagerness with which women of all classes change their present apathy and make a rush to housework.

At present the job of housemaid has evolved to such a point that it requires a personality which might be described as something between a lady and an engineer.

Inside finish and machinery for washing, ironing, telephone switchboards, speaking tubes, and pneumatic cleaners save hands, feet and backs. In the most scientifically kept house there is only one duty which the most prejudiced could class as ignominious, and that is the dusting of hardwood floors by hand and the getting down in a position formerly scorned by the housewife.

She may now alternate this with rolling and other exercises to reduce flesh if she likes, as the expert claims that the automatic cleaner does not yet affect a smooth dusted surface on wood, but only sucks up the dust from the depths of the rugs and furniture. A cloth over the broom leaves streaks, it is declared, so that wiping the floor by hand is up to this date the only way in accord with domestic science, while the properly cared for floor, it is said, is only touched with water once or twice a year.

Altogether, delicate touch, intelligence and precision are everywhere required in the application of the new methods and machinery.

Housework Made Easier. Past experience shows that where machinery has made it possible to put housework on an easier and quicker basis men have stepped in and taken it from the woman's province, as the bakery, the laundry, and rug cleaning establishments. At present attachments are being evolved in these lines for those who prefer having the work done under their own roofs and the question comes as to whether the other sex will not step in to pre-empt the position of housemaid.

The appliances often require more headwork and intelligence than goes with the work and intelligence than goes with the average girl who now acts as housemaid. Proof of this is found in the fact that the improvements are looked at with suspicion by the maid in houses where they have been installed and are neglected in favor of the old methods.

The interest taken by the wives and daughters who occupy these mansions is only theoretical, say the architects. "They are something to be enthused over when the plans are drawn up and run away from after they are put in," said one architect, who has built some of the finest residences in Chicago. In these the kitchen equipment and that for fighting dirt is so efficient as to bring it into the realm of the fairy land of science.

Is there a rich woman with a corps of daughters who is domestic enough to step into this fairyland with them and do the work from top to bottom of the house that has been provided for her?

Tours Over Home Interesting. "Will you walk into my parlor?" one can imagine the person saying as glibly on sweeping day as on reception day, and "Will you walk into my kitchen, my laundry, or my bath room?" may yet turn out

to be an invitation with more interest than the first. The latest laundry installations are the electric washing machines and the centrifugal wringers, which are really extractors in the sense that all the water is thrown off as vapor by the swiftly revolving process. The mangle with revolving cylinder is the attachment which does the ironing, and the whole electric plant, including the tubs and motor, costs about \$300. A good pneumatic cleaning outfit with attachments where the cleaning hose can be carried into various rooms can be put in at from \$50 to \$80.

That these extract dust only an inch down from any surface leaves the problem of cleaning mattresses one of physical culture or gymnastics. There are ways of keeping the dust out, however, which are invisible, as would be expected in a modern fairland. There is a dust interceptor put on the windows, which is something on the fashion of an old weather strip, only that the part that is on the window sash slips through the part that is on the casement as a shuttle slips back and forth in its groove.

But that the windows may not have to be opened on a dusty day there is a ventilating system installed in most of these houses which stirs all air before it comes in and distributes it through the rooms. And if after all is said a dust pan of dust can be gathered up anywhere a chute placed next to the laundry one will carry it from any floor where the sweeper happens to be into the basement.

Wearisome Trips Now Needless. The wearisome trips up and downstairs are unnecessary in these new homes, as a telephone attachment will be found on every floor, with pad and pencil ready and a dumb waiter which goes from basement to the top story. The trip to let in the ice man is eliminated, as the ice man slips in the cake—a short weight if he wants to—through a door on the back porch into the reservoir of the refrigerator. The door will soon be equipped with an automatic scales which shall register the weight of the cake as it shuts it in only the next step in the evolution of the icebox, if this has not been patented already.

As another defense against dirt the corners in the floors are brought forward until they are no longer corners, but slightly concave surfaces. This is done so far chiefly in bath rooms by means of metal fixtures, which, however, suggest that wooden baseboards, also, may be shaped that way, too. Bath tubs of heavy porcelain also help to give the bath rooms the look of Pompeian rooms and the same possibilities of being easily cleaned. There are endless conveniences for the dining room, one of the most noticeable being the way in which the radiator is being fitted to take the place of the waitress. Some of these are fitted with grooves for holding plates, others with shelves, while the most attractive has an oven with doors set into the steam coils, where food can be kept hot instead of being carried back to the kitchen.

As it is at present housekeeping is a wonderful piece of machinery unappreciated by the ordinary housewife, and waiting for the man specialist to come forward and press the button. Or the woman? There are those who predict that it is the last who will eventually get there, but at present the interest is to see who arrives first.—Grace R. Clarke in Chicago Tribune.

man whose health had been so precarious that his physicians advised him months ago to give up work. He would not do it. He was engaged in the extraordinary task of constructing a railway down the Florida Keys toward Cuba—building a "sea-going railroad," somebody put it—and he intended to see the job through. His work progressed. The problems involved were some of the most formidable imaginable. Old engineers rubbed their eyes to think of this railroad traversing marshes, islands and the Gulf of Mexico itself and stretching to a point within ninety miles of Cuba. It demanded the highest quality of genius. It required resourcefulness without limit. Mr. Meredith stuck to his task. He had not only to combat the difficulties of his engineering project, but contest with the

tropical climate, with labor questions, with matters of organization. Now that he is dead, the East Coast extension serves as a monument to his ability, courage and tenacity.

But Mr. Meredith was one of the thousands who from time to time have won victories of peace not less renowned than those of war. The industrial world, in truth, has in it many notable figures who are heroes of peace. The engineering field furnishes a great part of them. As you see a railroad climbing over mountains and darting into apparently impenetrable regions you observe an accomplishment of an indomitable will, a far-seeing mind, a skillful hand. There is hardly a field which demands a higher order of genius than that of engineering, yet there are few engineers

whose fame extends into the average home. In after years when travelers go whirling down the East Coast line, crossing the gulf by railroad, as it were, they may be struck by the remarkable task the building of the line represents. The man who achieved it will deserve their thought. It is not likely that many of them will recall that to the genius and daring of J. C. Meredith must be ascribed the successful construction of the strange roadway.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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