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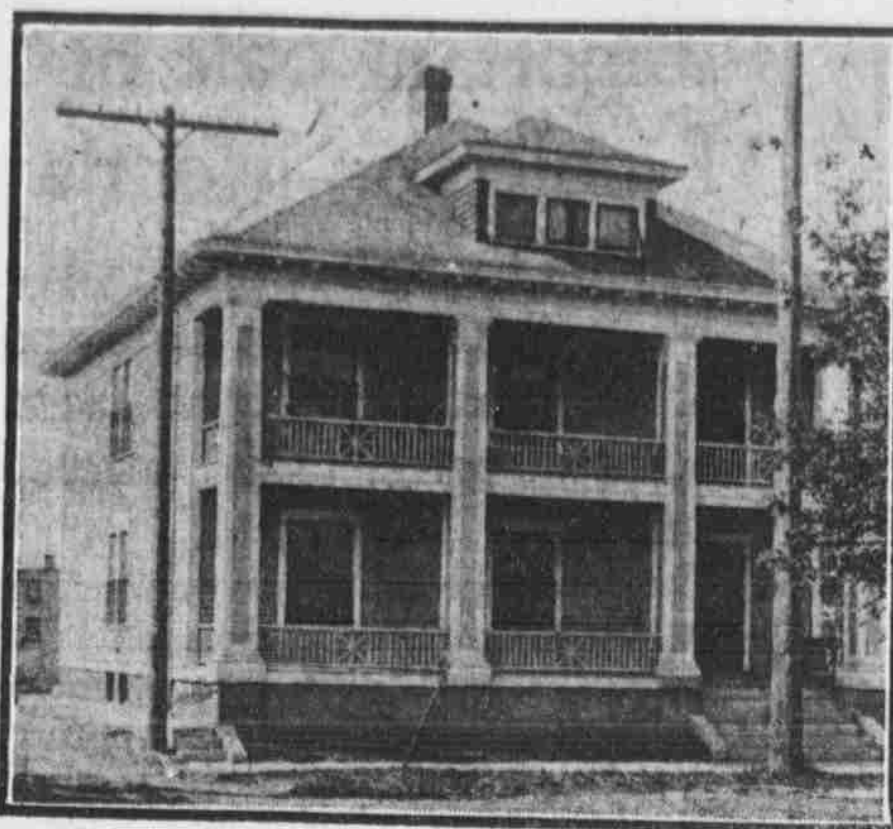
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Omaha Electric Light & Power Co.

The Construction of Fireplaces

Arthur C. Clausen, Architect.

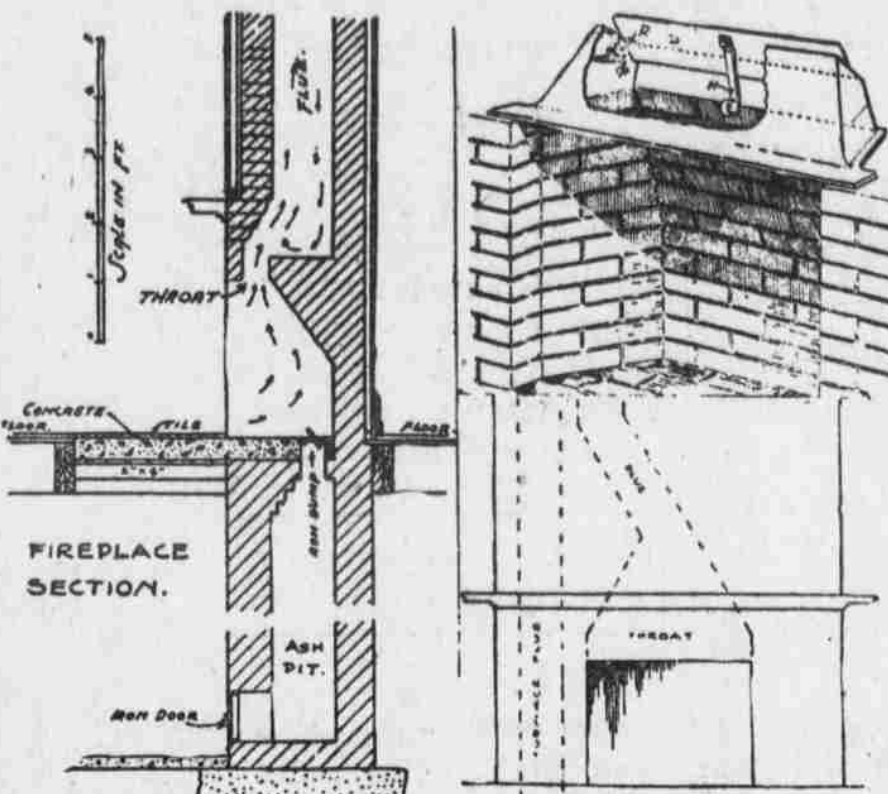
In the building of a fireplace the proper construction of the chimney throat and flue is very important. First, the chimney should be built higher than the nearby roof ridges, and there should be a separate flue for each fireplace, stove and furnace. If the chimney is built on an outside wall it is best to have a double wall with two-inch air space between on the weather exposed side, to prevent the face brick from cracking in cold weather, and assure a good draught. A fireplace well constructed should give a fair amount of heat for the fuel burnt without smoking, which is not a difficult result to obtain if a few simple rules are observed. Splayed sides to a fireplace reflect more heat into a room than sides that are at right angles to the front and back. Fireplace section illustrates further remarks: The throat should be as near the front as possible and extend the full width of the fireplace opening, making it narrow and long. This throat should be contracted gradually until it is the width of the flue. The throat should become gradually wider from front to rear and relatively narrower from side to side as it approaches the flue proper, so that at all places the throat and flue will have the same sectional area. The flue beginning at the opening to the throat should contract to the desired size directly over the middle of the fireplace; from there on it can be gradually deflected to one side, but in no case should the flue arise directly from the side of the fireplace, as this draught being all on that side it would allow the fireplace to smoke on the other side.



The writer was once called in to decide what was wrong with two fireplaces which smoked. The remedies were simple. A hasty investigation showed that in one the damper when open still closed half the throat. In the other the brick work between the throat and outside face of the

of bricks from the floor to reflect heat into the room, thus also providing a shelf in the throat, which is considered quite advisable. There is sometimes a downward current of air in the upper flue, which if allowed to go down unobstructed would continue on into the room. It is this construction which causes a fireplace to puff smoke into the room when a fire is first started and it continues to do this until

twelve inches square, and the throat at its opening would be three inches by forty-eight inches, both throat and flue having a sectional area of 144 square inches, or one-tenth of the fireplace opening. Many fireplaces smoke, but the remedy in most cases is very simple. The common cause is the clogging up of the chimney, during the construction, with rubbish. Often a small piece of board will be dropped into it and, lodging at an angle in the chimney, prove a hindrance to the draft until a brick or stone is dropped down from above to loosen and dislodge it. Another common cause of smoking is the damper used in the throat. The sliding damper, which when open, still closes half of the throat with its metal parts, should never be used. The damper when open should leave the entire throat free and unobstructed. There are several dampers in the market that accomplish this easily, some of them being controlled from the outside. There should always be a damper in the fireplace throat, since there are times when it is desirable to close up the passageway. In some parts of the country it has been observed that mosquitoes make their way down through the opening in the fireplace. When some kind of damper is provided this is prevented. The best kind of damper is one that is constructed to regulate the draft according to the amount of fire needed. The writer cannot too earnestly impress upon the readers the importance of watching the construction of chimneys. Fireplaces, hearths, etc.; it involves small expense to have them right.



MR. CLAUSEN'S BOOK.

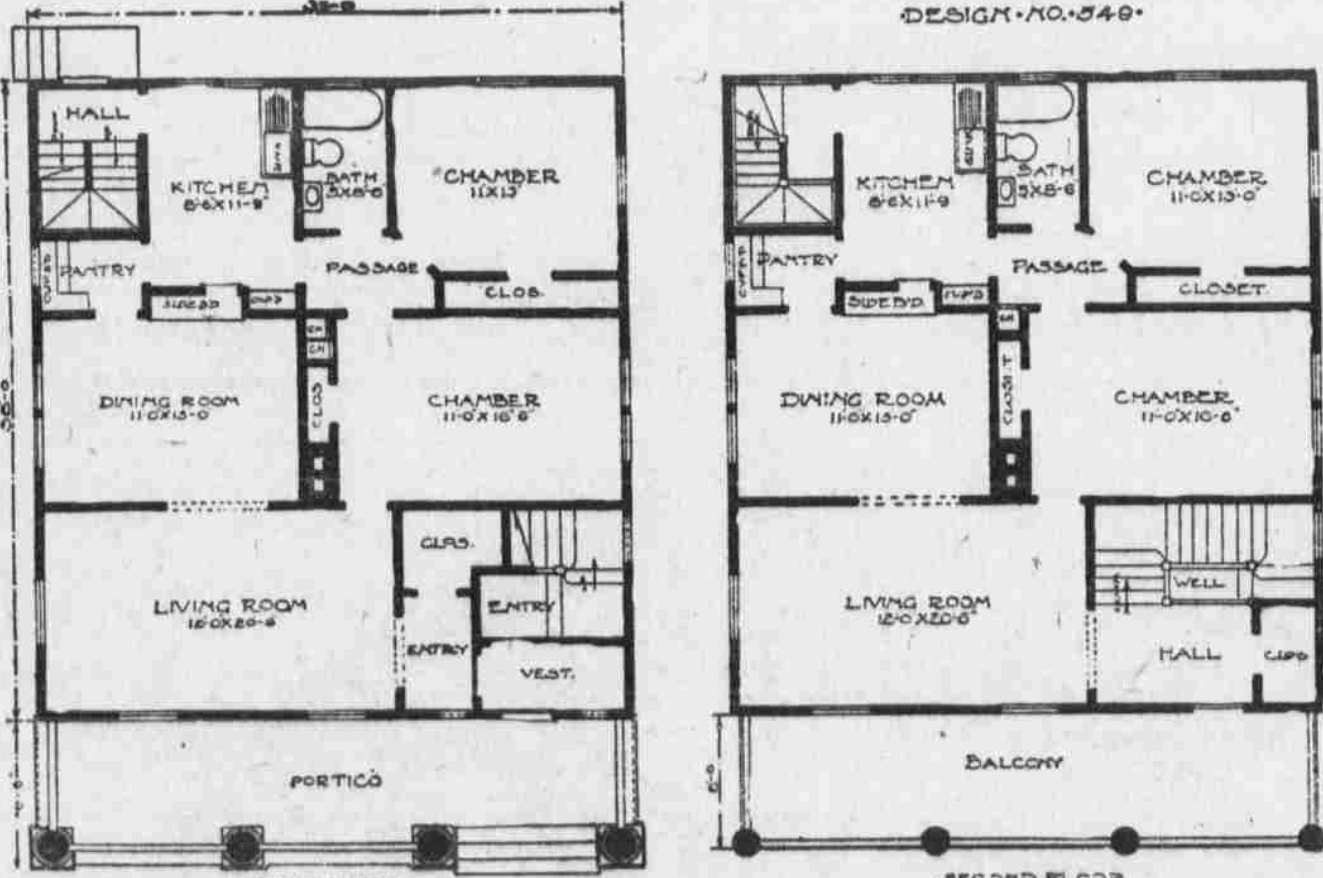
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Address, Arthur C. Clausen, Architect, 1136-37-38 Lumber Exchange, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

fireplace was eight inches thick instead of four, making a broad surface against which the smoke struck and glanced outward into the room. These defects remedied, there was no more trouble. In some locations if the throat is not closed in the summer time mosquitoes and other insects come down the flue into the room. A damper in the fireplace throat is desirable to regulate the draught, but it should be made to open the full length of the throat. The back of the fireplace should slant forward commencing with the sixth course

the upper currents in the flue are warmed and reversed. But if a shelf is provided which the smoke struck and glanced outward as indicated. This is the safest way, although it is a fact that fireplaces are sometimes built otherwise and give satisfaction. The sectional area of the throat and of the flue also should be one-tenth the area of the fireplace opening. For example, if the fireplace opening is four feet wide and two and one-half feet high, the sectional area of the opening would be ten square feet; this, divided by ten, gives a flue



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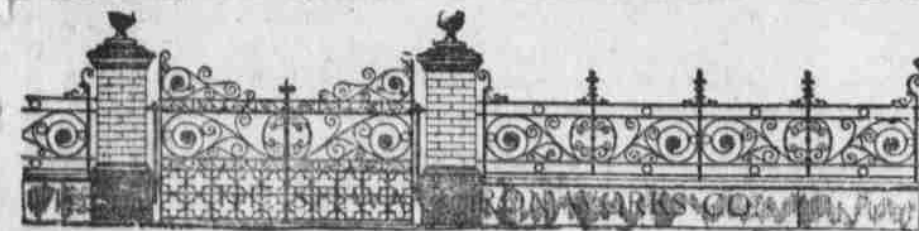
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