



# Simplicity and A Liveable House

by Marjorie Howe Dixon

There is a subtle something that creates charm in a home. So many elements must be combined to make up this quality. And so much restraint must be exercised. In many, many homes, one is impressed at once with a vast profusion of objects. Such a house needs careful elimination more than any other one thing—could people but understand the restful quality of simplicity. Many a woman, if she would but sweep all the clutter from her dresser into the top drawer, and not let there be but three objects out at one time, would be amazed at how much easier this would make it for her, and how much more restful she would find it.

**Rooms Express Personality.**  
As in dressing, one is careful to select an appropriate costume, so in creating a liveable home, one selects appropriate furniture. Small rooms will not stand large overstuffed suites. Large rooms must not be cluttered with light elaborate furniture.

Let us see what this season offers. Presuming the house to have high ceilings, generous rooms, fireplaces, as many of the older homes, and some of the newer ones, do what will be suitable? A luxurious overstuffed davenport, with loose cushions, upholstered in wool tapestry, hand embroidered, must be considered first. Here is a point. The heavy rocker and armchair need no longer match the davenport. And this well, too. Because the owner is allowed so much more play of his individual taste.

Another beautiful chair—only one should be used in a room—is beautiful in polychrome Italian Renaissance. A high-backed handsome old fellow it is, too, and elaborately carved. Then, one must have a good library table, one or two small tables, some musical instrument, and a shaded lamp, not to mention bookcases. A spinet desk will make an attractive addition.

A dining-room in this large high-ceilinged home will be stately in French Renaissance. The oblong walnut table has the center of attention, while one wall will boast an unusual console board. This is an extremely wide table, the top marble, of dull green, and the drawers concealed in the wood.

Opposite are two chests, the high one with closed doors, standing in dignity with carved legs, is for the silver service, while the low chest is for flat silver, and like the console board, marble topped.

**Bedroom Furnishings.**  
For a bedroom one would choose a painted suite, hand decorated, or one of the natural wood finishes. Walnut and mahogany are good, in Hepplewhite, Sheraton, Louis XVI., according to one's taste.

For the smaller homes, where the large overstuffed pieces are too massive, smaller suites in cane and upholstery are appropriate. Velours are very popular for the cushions of these, also mohair, frize, and leather. A good cotton tapestry is a wise investment, promising at least eight or nine years' service.

In this lighter furniture all the good periods are available—Queen Anne, Adam, Chippendale and Hepplewhite.

A comfortable place for the living-room is a chaise longue, or if one prefers it, a day bed. For the small apartment there is a sofa that can be made into a bed very easily, supplying extra sleeping space.

Polychrome furniture is being manufactured for dining-rooms. It must be chosen carefully, else there will be too much color in the room.

For the bedrooms in the smaller house, walnut or mahogany sets are always good. The ivory suites are not as popular as they were.

It is notable that manufacturers of high-grade furniture will maintain their careful construction and good materials in their less expensive lines as well as in their costly ones.

For the breakfast room there are several types of furniture offered. Enameled sets, hand decorated, are very beautiful. One of these in Queen Anne or a grey surface with a narrow gold line. Windsor chairs are good in this room.

A breakfast-room in fibre or reed makes an attractive place. Besides the table and matching chairs, one may find

both serving table and buffet. A pretty fernery at the window will add living green, while a glass-topped tea cart will save steps for the housewife.

**Crotonnes and Chintzes.**  
Brightly patterned crotonnes and chintzes are used to upholster fibre and reed furniture, for the sun parlor and porch. Enamel skillfully repeats notes of color from the crotonne patterns. Printed linen is too expensive for most people and is not much in demand.

Among the small pieces one may select for this pleasant room, are chaise longue, lamps, desks, small tables and lounging chairs. A pretty little sewing table had baskets at each end and a wooden top with two drawers in the center. A kidney-shaped desk of fibre has a cunning round chair to match. In one corner a small octagonal table may stand, to hold a plant, with a shelf below for magazines.

Tasteful arrangement of the hall with a few pieces carefully selected, is important. Mirrors lend themselves to this space admirably and are designed to match in periods, or are attractive in gold or colored frames. Placed above a console table with its bright bit of gay Venetian glass, the mirror feels quite at home. Pottery parrots are suitable below the glass, or a bowl of flowers flanked by candlesticks.

One of the handsome polychrome chairs with its high-curved back mentioned earlier, will be sufficient by itself for the hall. The chief service performed by the hall is the creation of a pleasant impression on those who are entering. Here again simplicity is paramount. In fact there is no room in the house where this principle is not of the greatest importance in making an interior at once restful and attractive.

## CONVENIENCES FOR HOUSEHOLD COMFORT

BY MARJORIE HOWE DIXON.

The little mechanical devices that assist in making housework less of a burden are rapidly becoming so within reach of all, that every home boasts some of them.

And the workmanship is improving at the same time. One of the newest ideas is a sewing machine (with a motor), that folds into a neat table, that makes a very pretty console for the dining-room.

Of course, electric irons are a joy. There are the two sizes, one for the household and the other for the traveler.

**Helps for Baby.**  
One can imagine several little comforts for the mother, whose baby's cry awakes her in the night. With a switch with a double socket she could turn on a little heater for her toes and a softly shaded light. Another outlet would heat a clever little bottle warmer, so that in great coziness and comfort the little one could be cared for and quickly sent to sleep again.

For the table there are several practical appliances. The lamp and coffee percolator are two of these. A waffle iron and a grill are wonderful helps at the breakfast hour, with their appetizing odors sent into the air.

One of the newer table accessories is an electric tea pot with its own tea ball. The tea ball is held on a chain through the knob at the top. When the tea is steeped, the tea ball can be raised and caught, so it will be free from the water, and not make the tea too strong.

**Gas Appliances.**

Where electricity is not available there are several very convenient gas appliances. One of these is the gas iron, and another is a light portable heater with copper facing, so that it sends out a cheery glow. Of course, the gas stove will have its clever little lighter, so that pressing a button lights the burners as the gas is turned on. With the gas stove comes a good kitchen heater for cold mornings, and also a modern kitchen contains a good incinerator.

So it would seem that with a well-planned house the modern woman should be far freer than her grandmother, who was not fortunate enough to possess all these labor-saving devices.

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