



*The home as an expression of the personality of the owner depicted through the keen insight into human nature by the architect.*

THE BUILDING of a home has become a living art; one in which the highest ideals are brought into practical use. Honesty seems to be the keynote both in the frank and straightforward expression of the materials employed as well as in the endeavor to meet the real needs. Here as nowhere else can the personality of the individual be felt. The endeavor is not to suit friends and relatives, but rather have a home expressive of our own true selves. Modern independence is felt and we build from an inherent taste for decorative features, harmonious furnishings and natural surroundings. The home should prove a true setting for the dweller and no place is successfully designed unless it portrays to a certain extent the character of the owner.

The architect must be broad enough to read his client, feel his simpler nature and understand his moods. To disregard these is a irretrievable wrong, for so much of one's future is dependent on the harmonious relations of the home. Every detail is carefully considered in relation to each other and also to the *tout ensemble*. No longer can the house of many styles be the acme of true art, but rather the style of the owner himself, and it is quite fitting that the architect make it expressive of the person who decides to live therein. The plan of each home is a special problem and merits the best work of the architect in charge. Just as the desire for truth develops in our domestic building, so will the general appearance of our residential districts improve. For to depict the personality of a great man is to create a work of profound interest which cannot fail to impress. And little fear may arise as to the final results for individuality is seldom eccentric.

Aside from the æsthetic taste, the planning of a house is essentially a practical problem. The

site, the client's needs, the cost, are all matters of consideration. The site fortunately adapts itself to so many styles that it conforms to buildings of varying costs. The cheapest materials, and beyond doubt the best both artistically and practically, are the local ones, which lend themselves to the most perfect harmony with their surroundings. With a symmetry without and a livable charm and convenience within, the architect has given a free and frank expression of his own ability to depict the client's inmost wishes. Which can only be done when there is a sympathetic relationship between the architect and the owner. And such a perfect understanding has already resulted in the appearance of a large majority of our charming residences and augurs well for the future trend in residential work.

It will not be possible to list our modern home under a class or certain style, but rather the product of a personal element. In doing this we must allow our own individual selves to speak. We cannot, nor would we, ignore the past. The influence of historic styles will always be felt, but to bring about a domestic style suitable to our life and conditions we must borrow motives instead of copying exact forms from other ages.

The house, like all other types of buildings, has been a continuous growth, deriving its changes from the various styles of the past. Probably the greatest force was felt in the Italian Renaissance although the pure classic furnished many ideas. The spread of the Gothic was also a potent factor in its development as well as the many other periods resulting therefrom. The real estate man and speculative builder has helped to fill our cities with unsightly dwellings, but we are gradually rising to a higher plane and will soon feel the wave of reform brought about by a keener insight into the needs of the people both from the artistic standpoint of the architect as well as a desire on their part to enjoy the charm and comfort of a real home.