

mistakes not infrequently made by those who ought to know better, are anything to judge by. It is a lamentable fact that there is an amazing lack of comprehension of true fitness displayed in many pretentious gardens. And until it is the rule for us to think first and think intelligently, I am afraid that such errors will go on being made.

The pergola madness results from one of them. Who the man was that perpetrated it in the first place, no one knows; but over the length and breadth of the land it has spread—and the end is not yet. Jacobean mansions, English half-timbered cottages, Swiss chalets, French chateaus, and our own comfortable Colonial manor houses alike display, with astounding impartiality, a riot of (alleged) Italian pergolas, at front or back or sides, or maybe all four and again in the garden; to say nothing of the nondescript dwellings of the nondescript class which have added or been added to, a pergola.

Nothing in architecture has caught the popular fancy to such a degree since the deluge of "Queen Anne" style which engulfed the builders of a generation ago. And just as the good and charming Queen Anne domestic architecture became sponsor in those days for dreadful monstrosities, little and big, so the lovely pergola of Italy is to-day responsible for endless absurdities.

Perhaps if the foreign word were dropped and the literal translation substituted, it would be possible to consider these structures in a more rational manner. "Pergola" is literally "arbor," "pergula," from which it is derived, being "vine arbor." Here surely we gain a better sense of relation—and proportion. The English equivalent, being honest, is more conducive to honesty—for who would build an "arbor" in place of a roof, over a porch? Yet many have put "pergolas" there; and as a crowning absurdity we hear therefore of the "pergola roof."