

Decorating the Home

An attempt should be made to beautify our surroundings, which is the only way they can be made interesting. Expense is not always necessary in this so much as artistic taste. The time to be applied in decorating, is beauty, appropriateness and utility. Spindle-legged chairs and other useless bric-a-brac are only too often found in our homes. A woman's home should express individuality. The exercise of an elegant effect on young people, and assists in raising life to a higher plane. To know what not to do is quite as necessary, as any other knowledge. Decoration is easy with lots of money. William Morris said, "Have nothing in your homes but what is beautiful and what you believe to be useful."

DECORATIONS AS A WHOLE

In planning decorations for a home the latter should be considered as a whole, and not considered as a patchwork. Plain papers in soft tones, as a rule, are best, as the effect is most restful, and a good background is formed for pictures. Small changes can sometimes be performed on a house with advantage. Stairways can be shifted, etc. and better proportion and lighting given to hallways or entrances.

The pattern of paper used can also be made to add to the apparent height of a room. Light colors, narrow borders and striped paper contribute to this effect. A room can be made either cheerful or sad according to the style of decorations used. The floor, also, should not be too light. Georgia pine is not considered a good



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restful. It is best to make sure, in choosing papers, that these will suit, and it is recommended that papers should be taken home, and a roll tried against the wall before purchasing.

RUGS AND FURNISHINGS

Rugs are favored as being sanitary

as well as beautiful. Plain curtains should be used with figured drapes and vice versa, otherwise the figures become too obtrusive. Curtains and portiers look better hung straight, not draped. Red is a good color for a hall with light but no sun, for instance a dado of red burlap, and the upper portion in green and gold or bronze. The same shade of burlap could be used with various floral tapestries. Crepe paper is a useful decorative material. A dainty blue stripe is suitable for a girl's room with white muslin curtains, with a blue dot to correspond.

Taken from an address by Miss Lillian Grey, read at a recent meeting of the Women's Institute at Preston, Ont.

Hints and Helps

Take old cotton blankets that have worn too thin for warmth on the bed, dye them any color desired, and use them for linings when you make your winter quilts.

Do not iron lace; after washing it press it in books or stretch it out on cardboard. Do not starch them, but in the last rinsing water, dissolve a little fine sugar.

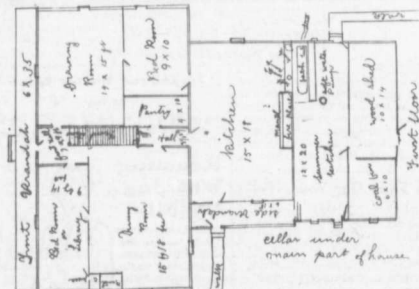
When hanging sheets out to dry, I fold them together and hang the hems over the line. This saves the wear on them, especially when hung out on a windy day.—Jessie Athens York Co., Ont.

Heavy flansons, with little fuel set a large pan—one with a handle preferred, so it can come over the edge of the stove—above the irons. Half the usual amount of fuel will keep them at a regular heat, whether you are using coal, wood, or oil, for fuel.—Bertha Small, Brant Co., Ont.

There is nothing else which sweetens utensils in which milk has been kept, so well as a solution of strong baking soda, and hot water, in the proportion of a level teaspoonful to a quart of warm water. Let the solution stand in the utensils long enough to get cold. Pudding dishes and pots and pans that have been burned with their contents, are easily cleaned in this way.

Put a small piece of charcoal into a vase with flowers. It will keep the water fresh, and absorb any colors that may arise.

In making loops for eyelets of thread, make them over a match. This makes the loop just the right size, and holds it firm while working the buttonhole stitch.



First Floor Plan, Prize Winning Home

material, with the rugs appearing as black spots on the surface. Nature is a good guide in the matter of color and we can get useful hints from the trees, flowers and leaves, and other natural objects.

COLORS TO BE USED

Rooms can be decorated to remove defects, and should be decorated in keeping with lighting. A north room requires warm colors, including yellows, reds, olive greens, browns, etc. Among the cold colors, are whites, blues, grays and water greens. The latter should be used for rooms where the lighting can be toned down somewhat. Harsh colors should be avoided. Some of the greens and yellows are very loud. The use of the room also should be considered. Light, dainty colors should be chosen for the parlors and bedrooms. The hall may be considered an introduction to the rest of the house and should be treated accordingly. The tones of neighboring rooms should be made to harmonize. Bright colors may be used in dining rooms, while in the library quiet colors are more appropriate and

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