

THE NEW COURSE IN INTERIOR DECORATING

"I'M going to make a silk lamp-shade just the shape Lord Hartley had in his rooms," said Mary.

"Yes, wasn't it a dear? And if I can afford it, I'm going to make some oblong pillows, like those Margaret Sherman had in her boudoir. They are awfully smart, aren't they?"

No, they were not coming from a reception at Lord Hartley's nor a dinner at the Shermans. Mary and Barbara had been to that great educator of the supposedly middle classes, the pictures. Going to the pictures these days is like taking a course in Interior Decorating. And, what's more, the average home is benefiting from the new ideas in decoration.

The furniture in the pictures, of, say, even ten years ago, was just furniture. Things are different to-day. To-day, producers are using their skill in making the movie a thing of beauty, as well as a guide to what to have in the home.

If the actors represent culture, you may be sure that their background reflects the same strata of life. The home of good taste is the one quite free from too many ornaments. When you see a representation of a young man's living-room, you may be sure that the plain-line furniture, the severe hangings and rugs, the comfortable chairs, the big fireplace, represent the sort a young man of wealth is likely to have.

The keynote of the modern living-room is simplicity, taste and beauty. These are echoed in the

films. But be sure that you are copying the right kind of rooms, the rooms inhabited by the people you want to be like—and then go ahead and copy.

In colour, of course, you must use your own judgment. But, even here, the pictures will help you. You can tell the colour of wood-work by the polish of the wood. Oak is dull, mahogany is polished. In decorating a home, it is well to avoid brilliant colours. Keep to quiet tones, except in small touches, an occasional brilliant cushion or a daring vase. The pictures, if you watch them, will give you the intensity of tone even in these things.

The real homes of people of culture and standing are shown in detail and correctly. For years real exteriors were shown on the screen. Now, by the use of the moving studio lights, real interiors can be taken. Millionaires are as delighted to have the interiors of their home snapped as they were formerly in having the exteriors.

Each studio to-day has its own decorator, who chooses personally each piece of furniture. If there is any question about suitability, books on decoration are consulted. Colour is chosen with as much care as if it were to appear in its original hues. So, when you go to the pictures to-day, besides an entertainment, you are receiving a course in interior decorating. Keep your eyes open, and study the background as well as the foreground, if you wish to beautify your own home.



Objects of Art

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