

can be turned properly to account. The garden can be truly described as "an employment and a possession, for which no man is too high or too low" and it can be treated in accordance with the needs and tastes of its possessor, without in any way disregarding nature's precepts. To make it "equally the pleasure of the greatest and the ease of the meanest" all that is necessary is to understand how the materials available should be used. The lordly pleasure grounds can be a wonder and delight, by drawing lavishly on nature's store for the working out of complex and costly decorative schemes, but the owner of the modest villa can produce with the means at his disposal, effects which are, proportionately as interesting and as important artistically. The charm of the garden does not belong to the rich man, for it is not to be secured merely by the expenditure of money—it comes really from the exercise of taste and correct judgment and from that artistic insight, which uses what is the worthiest of consideration, and utilises it with discretion.

The expensive garden is often like the expensive building, in that its over-elaboration becomes too artificial, and thereby loses its charm and becomes vulgar. We have to bear in mind that it takes more thought to design a simple effect, but it denotes a higher standard of artistic intelligence. The garden, whether it is elaborate or simple, must in all its details reflect the breadth and dignity of nature. It must have beauty of proportion and there must be an absolutely correct relation between the different parts.

Another thing to be considered is time. A garden architect must allow for time to mellow down his design and to complete the work he has begun by bringing its details properly together. Therefore, when the design has developed, it should look as if it were of nature's own preparing. Do not make the mistake of believing a garden to be superficial, a mere ornamental accessory to be added when one feels inclined. A garden is vital, just as much a part of the house as the washhouse or kitchen. It should be considered with the house plans, and not left to be developed at a later stage years after. In the planning of a garden, the natural conditions of the site must be studied first of all. The average site we have to deal with is from 40-ft. to 80-ft. wide and there is no problem before the architect more difficult and at the same time more interesting than the long and narrow site.

In Wellington, where so many sections are sloping, we have the advantage of obtaining what, in my opinion adds 25 per cent. to the appearance of a house, and that is a terrace. Setting a house on a terrace, is like setting a statue on a pedestal—it lifts the main object up and gives it prominence. The terrace has also this advantage, that where the ground slopes both across and down the section, and it is not possible to level it across, the top line of the terrace is parallel with the horizontal lines of the building, whereas without the terrace the sloping ground line clashes with everything.

Should the site be very steep, then the position is different, as the house wants to grow out of the contour of the ground.

The cheapest finish for the front of the terrace is grass, which causes great labour in cutting, but the most pleasing is either brick or stone; or even concrete may be made to look well.

Holes can be left in the wall or it can be laid dry, and plants and creepers allowed to grow over it. Great care is required in building the wall dry, as it requires to be sloped, and each stone carefully bedded, and then the back rammed in well with soil.

From the terrace we come to the paths. How a man in his senses can say asphalt is artistic, is beyond me. Yet here we see more asphalt than anything else. Concrete is no better, as there is neither colour nor texture in it, and it cracks badly after a while. Blue metal or shingle are much to be preferred to these two materials, but what looks infinitely better is brick paving. There are numerous



A Charming Fountain in a Sunk Garden in a English Home

patterns in which it can be laid. There is a pleasing colour contrast between the grass and bricks. Both have a lightness and freshness that is a joy to anyone viewing the garden. No doubt paving is expensive, but if the cost would not allow all the paths there are portions that can be done, such as the top of the terrace or between the flower beds. It is not necessary to have wide paths as you can see in the illustration, where they are evidently 18-ins. wide. This garden was designed by Triggs, and I consider it a little gem.

Stone flagging looks most effective, especially where the stone has decided tints, or where it has