

The Individual House

HINTS ON LIVING-ROOM FURNISHING

(Continued from page 35.)

A two-faced room can be changed round to a much greater extent than one devoted to a single purpose.

In winter the hearth is naturally the chief point of interest . . . the chairs drawn up and the dining table brought close to the blaze.

In spring and summer the grouping drifts toward the windows. Table looking out on a green garden, perhaps, and big cosy chairs under the front windows to catch the south-west sun.

Although your living-room is large and there is no need to create illusions about its space, there is still every reason to make intelligent use of its dimensions.

An overcrowded big room can look even more "cluttered" than a small one.

It is not necessary nor even desirable that pieces should match in such a room. French-polished mahogany and oak might not be a friendly contrast, but several shades of the same wood can meet to their mutual advantage.

Concentrate on furniture which is well planned and compact, leaving that kind labelled "occasional" to other and lesser rooms.

A corner bookcase with cupboards, or a desk . . . a table with flaps folding deep on either side of balise-lined drawers . . . dining chairs upholstered in the same material as the loose covers . . . these are admirable suggestions for rooms in which two faces smile.

HOWEVER, you may have a large house or a house in which it is impossible to have a large living-room. Or, frankly, you may just dislike the idea of living and eating in the same room. Let us consider the dining-room . . .

IN all the homes that I help to plan I advise particular attention to the furnishing of the dining-room. A fresh and fragrant room, a shining table, gay dishes, bright touches of flowers—these are the perfect setting in which to receive compliments on your achievements in the kitchen.

Although not many of us either wish or can afford to refurnish the dining-room, there are improvements we can make. Here are some of my pet ideas for good dining-rooms. Perhaps some of them will help you to cheer up yours.

I think that rough-surfaced "canvas" papers are the best choice for dining-room walls. They are dignified and durable, and can be revived with a single coat of distemper when time makes a discoloured pattern on their surface.

With what should we adorn our walls? At the risk of seeming very ungrateful to previous generations I suggest not with portraits of our estimable ancestors.

I love family portraits, but I feel the proper place for them is in a more intimate room of the house than the dining-room. Here we want something unobtrusive and purely decorative. Perhaps a print which you can buy for a couple of shillings or a decorative flower panel in applique work done by yourself or a simple colour poster of harmonious tones.

What is your dining-room carpet like? If it has rather an old-fashioned and obtrusive design, have you ever thought of having it dyed? Take the advice of a good firm of dyers on this matter, then if the report is favourable consider new curtains to tone.

Material for dining-room curtains is astonishingly cheap. Just the other day a friend of mine took me into her dining-room to admire her new folk-weave curtains in a strong, warm-toned hessian! "I made them myself, and they only cost 10/-," she exclaimed proudly.

Nothing makes a dining-room look so overcrowded as a heavy, ornate sideboard. If you have begun to look with animosity at yours—sell it. Buy a trolley table fitted with flaps, or one of those engaging little cupboards which are sideboards in disguise.

Do you know about bentwood stools? They cost only a few shillings each and are splendid as extra seats for the dining-room and can be used for occasional coffee and cigarette tables.

Just as important as the furniture for your dining-room are your table appointments. Breakfast, in spite of the thought of the eight-thirty tram or train, can be a cheerful affair if you use a gay linen cloth with matching napkins—they can be bought as reasonably as six or seven shillings for a set for six persons.

Flowers are rather highly priced now, but that need not mean that we must have unadorned meals. I have several little pottery troughs, both circular and oblong, which I bought for two or three shillings each. The heads of three or four flowers arranged with greenery from the garden make a lovely decoration.

The Modern Garage

IN how many garages we visit do we find that it is so narrow that skilful driving is important if wings are not to be scratched?

The trouble in this connection is very often to be found in doors which do not give sufficient clearance to ensure a clear run in after dark.

A wide garage means everything in regard to comfort. Besides being able to drive in or back out easily, it facilitates the tasks of changing tyres, going round with the grease gun, and doing minor adjustments to the engine and mechanism. The ideal clearance is at least three feet on either side.

In addition to housing the car, a spacious garage is of great value for other purposes. The addition of four or five extra feet in length beyond the actual requirements of the car will provide a clear space which will accommodate a work bench. This will be useful in connection with running repairs, and a handy place in which to undertake minor household repairs.

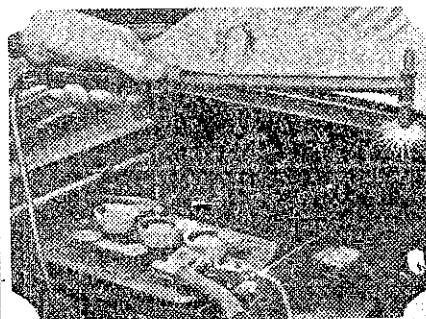
Other essentials for the ideal garage are a water supply for washing, also good lighting.

Garages are seldom properly lit. There should be one lamp just within the entrance doors and two at the far end, one on either side to illuminate the engine when the bonnet is raised.

For safety and convenience have plenty of light in the garage. 60-watt pearl lamps will give ample illumination. A wandering lamp-head should also be provided.

Good ventilation is essential, for there may be times when it is necessary to run the engine for a few minutes to get it warmed up before taking the road. In this case one should remember that exhaust fumes are poisonous.

Another essential for comfort—and cleanliness—is the provision of an oil tray under the engine to catch dripping oil.



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