

Modernise Your Home

a talk

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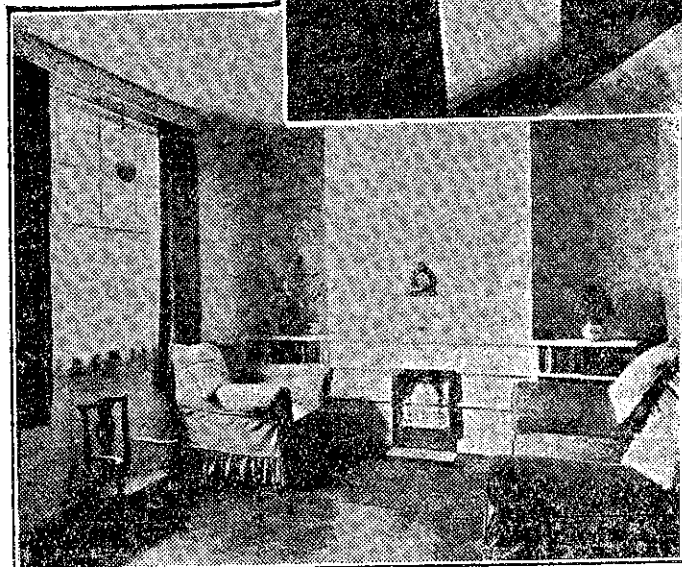
N.Z. Institute of Architects

THERE are probably quite a number of people who are facing the problem of finding their home too small for growing requirements or not comfortable or convenient according to present-day standards. In any city the older homes will be found in the best and most advantageous localities. It is natural that good building sites within reasonable proximity of the city should be utilised before areas for development are sought further afield. This being the case, the location of many of our old homes leaves nothing to be desired, and even if the owners of the old houses wished to dispose of them and build an entirely new and up-to-date place, it would be almost impossible for them to find a position which would appeal to them as much as the one they at present occupy. When they were built these houses probably represented the last word, but to-day they are quite out of date and their owners envy those who are able to erect a modern home carefully planned to avoid work and to include up-to-date equipment and conveniences.

It is by no means necessary to get rid of the old home with its sound construction, favourable location, mature surroundings and happy associations. The solution of the problem can be one of compromise. The old home can be retained in its choice position, and alterations and perhaps additions can be carried out with modernising, remodelling and redecorating, to give it all the comfort and convenience of an up-to-date home. If given proper consideration, full advantage may be taken of existing work so that the minimum of personal inconvenience may be experienced and so that a workable whole may be evolved, with the result complete in every way and not a patchwork-looking job.

IF properly approached, a scheme of modernising should not prove costly, and the old home should achieve an increase in value for more than the financial outlay at the present time. In fact, there could be no better time for a general check-up on your whole house, and nearly everybody must have some work in mind which they would like attended to. Perhaps you have even had alterations in view at some time in the past and were possibly deterred from carrying them into effect on account of a quotation received which appeared too high for the amount of work to be done. It would surprise you to find out how very much lower any work can be effected on the building bargain counter to-day.

Perhaps your problem is one of additional space. With a growing family more accommodation is required. An ardent student may want a room of his or her own in which to work quietly. The man of the house has often longed for a private den where he can keep inviolate all his cherished treasures of sport, hobby or business. The lady of the house has often wished for a small sewing room properly equipped with linen cupboards and shelves which would help her considerably with a large part of her work. Or maybe she has often



The dining-room, above, and living-room of a modernised home. The dining-room has walls, ceiling and woodwork in a pinkish shade of cellulose enamel. The furniture is in black, green and silver cellulose. A green pile carpet is laid over the biscuit-coloured composition floor. The living-room has the same treatment of walls and ceiling. Wood fillets across the chimney face carry the lines of the bookshelves on either side.

thought how nice it would be to have a sun porch where she and her friends could get the benefit of warm afternoons. Perhaps some of the living rooms are too small and the halls and passages too big, or perhaps some room is too large and could be most advantageously utilised if divided in two.

SUCH things as these might be considered a difficulty on account of a chimney which is in the way, but at to-day's prices it is not an expensive matter to remove the chimney and rebuild it in a better position with a modern tiled fireplace. Or even those chimneys which do not need removing would give more comfort and less hard work if the old iron front and dusty mantelpiece were taken out and a modern fireplace surround with simple shelf were substituted. Old fireplaces which are perhaps never used at all might be completely removed and the space used for a better purpose. For instance, the advent of the electric radiator has almost entirely replaced the bedroom fireplace, which could be taken out altogether, giving more space or provide room for a much-needed wardrobe.

Perhaps the windows about the house were not arranged originally to take the best advantage of view and sunshine. Re-arrangement of larger windows would gain these benefits and improve lighting in the rooms. Doors in a different position would probably allow more convenient access and a better arrangement of furniture than is now possible.

In the kitchen there is probably a great field for improvement. Ideas of kitchen layout and equipment have undergone complete changes even within the last few years. I wonder (Continued on page 2).