



Building and Improvement



FAIRBANKS TO SPEAK OF ART

Architecture, estheticians tell us, is the most practical of arts. Man needs a home to protect and enhance his family life, a hall wherein to transact affairs of state, a church that would lift his soul to spiritual heights. In building them, he learned that they made him happier when they served purposes of beauty as well as of usefulness. Art so architecture grows.

At first it concerned itself with temples and tombs and palaces. Royalty, nobility and religion claimed it as their own.

But as individualism developed, and with it the tendency of the common folk to demand some of life's best for themselves, a philosophy expanded to include houses

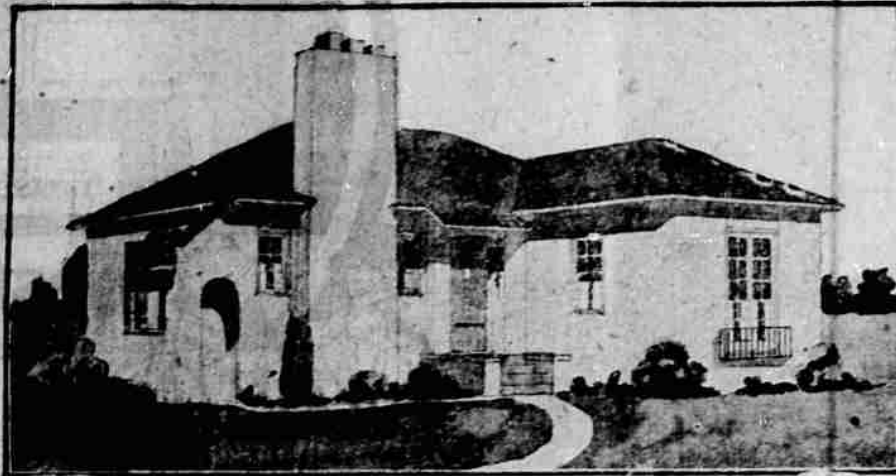
which, although comfortable, made no pretense at magnificence. Today the humblest cottage strives eagerly to please as it serves. It strives most successfully when its builder begins with a practical understanding of what architecture is.

J. Leo Fairbanks, one of the most respected consulting architects in the Northwest, has been invited by *The Observer* to come to La Grande Thursday and deliver two lectures at the free home-makers' institute on practical architecture.

Not just the prospective home-builders, but owners of houses that are not just to their taste will be interested in Professor Fairbanks' talk Thursday afternoon. His subject will be "Home Planning and Remodeling." The program schedules that lecture from 1:30 to 2:30 o'clock.

At 3 o'clock in the evening—arranged for that hour because it is the lecture of the entire institute most interesting to men—Professor Fairbanks will speak on "Art in the Home." At that time he will outline the requisites that make a home architecturally good.

A SPANISH DESIGN



(By W. W. Purdy)

The home illustrated, of Spanish design, has a floor plan of unusual arrangement. About 40 feet in width over all, it would require a 50 foot lot, preferably, a southwest corner.

The entrance is into a small reception hall with vaulted ceiling, steps lead to the living room, dropped about a foot, through plastered arches. The whole effect is most pleasing.

The living room of fair size, has a high arched ceiling, with rough tinted plastered walls, and is entirely shut off from the dining room. The fireplace is of Spanish design.

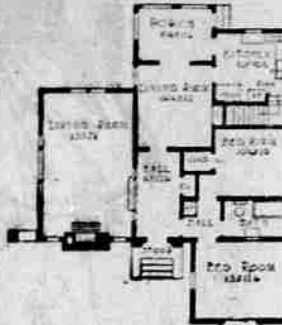
Two nice bedrooms and bath open off a private hall. The dining room, and kitchen arrangement is most complete. Rear entrance is to be had to the kitchen from the rear porch, or from the grade door. The screened-in porch, accessible to the dining room through French doors, is ideal for serving the meal in warm weather, and does away with the breakfast alcove, as well as serves as a sunroom.

There is a full basement with the usual laundry, fuel and furnace room, storage, as well as a fine amusement room.

The floors throughout are of oak, with oak trim, except bed rooms and kitchen, which are of ivory enamel. Floor and wainscot of bath is of tile, with shower over the tub.

The outside walls are of frame construction, with insulation between the studs, so that this home can be adapted to cold as well as warm climates. Smooth, white cement stucco is used over galvanized metal lath, and the roof of red Spanish tile.

Built complete as described, exclusive of heating and plumbing, it is estimated that this home would cost about \$4500 to \$5000.



MAKING HOMES FIRE PROOF

What price unprotected wood residence construction? The national board of fire underwriters puts the annual fire loss in the United States in wood and wood frame houses and their contents at \$56,880,747. The loss in masonry dwellings is but \$4,314,665.

The necessity for fire protection and the desirability of heat insulation often result in a dilemma. The home builder wants both, and his budget may require stretching to provide one. But let's see whether or not both qualities can be bought in the same material.

Tests Made.

Laboratory tests show that many heat insulators have high fire-resistant value. Several of them, each one inch thick, were placed four inches away from a blow-torch and the time required for a flame to pierce the material was recorded.

Cattle hair, quilted between paper, was scorched on the side away from the blow-torch in 3 minutes and was burned through in 21 1/4 minutes. Shredded wood fiber, covered with heavy kraft paper, was scorched on the side away from the flame in 5 1/8 minutes and was burned through in 3 minutes.

A quilt made of sea-grass and paper was pierced by the flames in 8 1/8 minutes and was scorched on the cold side in 4 minutes. It required 6 1/2 minutes to scorch the cold side of flax fiber stitched between two sheets of paper and 2 minutes for the flame to burn through.

Cane-waste, compressed into a semi-rigid board, was scorched on the cold side in 7 minutes and was burned through in 8 1/8 minutes. A rigid board of cork was scorched on the cold side in 15 1/10 minutes and was burned through in 18 1/4 minutes. Four gypsum insulators—two of which were boards and the other two fillers—were not burned through at the end of 1 hour and 15 minutes and the first to scorch on the cold side was not scorched until 26 minutes had elapsed.

"But how about the flues between the studs in the walls?" the home-builder asks. "Won't fire go roaring up them the same as warm air?" Of course it will, and if those flues are lined with wood lath and wood sheathing, just that much easily ignited material will be presented to the flames.

May Avoid This.

The shrewd builder will avoid this condition. He will see, for example, that an incombustible, insulating dry filler is placed between the studs. Or fireproof, insulating sheathing can be used in place of wood sheathing and building paper. Mineral lath can be used in place of wood lath. These are other ways of combining fire protection and insulation.

But the principle remains the same. Insulate your home by all means. But in doing so choose an insulator that provides fire protection, and, if possible, one that adds structural strength to the building and that is not an extra item in the building cost.

Insulation chosen on this basis will be cheap. It will cut the cost of heating in winter and will give comfort insurance in hot weather.

MAY COST HER \$10,000

SAN FRANCISCO—If Miss Claire Dux, grand opera singer, lets her marriage to Charles H. Swift, meat packer, interfere with her singing she will be sued for \$10,000. The San Francisco opera company says suit will be filed unless she fulfills her contract for three operas this fall.

R. W. Pape Will Build Dwelling on F Avenue

Only one building permit was issued last week, that being applied for Saturday.

R. W. Pape will build a one-story frame building, to serve as a home and garage, on F avenue between Sixth and Seventh streets. The structure to cost \$2,500.

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DAVIDSON JAILED

SAN FRANCISCO—William C. Davidson, who recently gave startling testimony before a congressional committee involving coast bankers in rum running activities, is in jail here on a bad check charge. He offered to sell an alleged expose entitled "Banker and bootleggers" to anyone who would furnish him \$25,000 bail.

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What Seek You?

A POT OF GOLD?

WHEN the ancients conceived the tory of a pot of gold at the rainbow's end they were speaking figuratively. They meant each man should look ahead and see where his trail of life was leading to—a worthwhile end or not.

What could be a worthier end than to raise your family in your own home? It's the beginning and end of all things. It's the result of your savings and the beginning of a new joyous life.

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