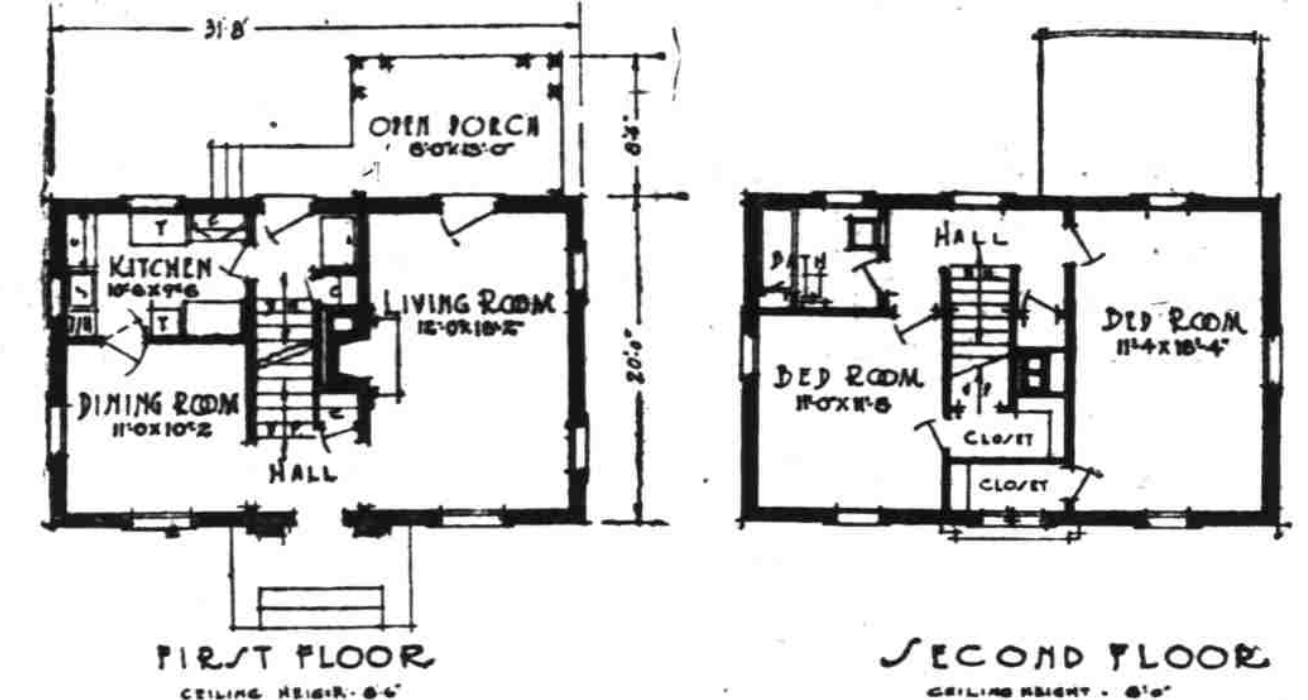


**FIVE ROOM HOME—ITALIAN STYLE**



Copyright, 1924—Architect's Small House Service Bureau. Plan No. 5450.



This five room home is an adaptation of Italian style to present day needs. It is a type which because of its individuality and refinement is popular with many small home builders.

The plan is an especially good one because it gets five good rooms into a limited space. There are practically no hallways wasting room. The plan belongs to the popular center hall type. The living room runs from front to back of the house. This permits light and air from three sides. The dining room and kitchen divide the other half of the first floor.

This house has been designed to face north or west, but can be reversed for other facings.

The house is planned to be built of hollow tile walls with stucco exterior and shingle roof and brick base courses. The windows show an interesting treatment in their brick sills. The first floor windows have wood panels below and recessed arches in the Italian style above with tile inserts relieving the stucco with spots of color. The iron rail above the door and the wrought iron lamp enhance the Italian effect.

This home should be reasonable to build if you use simple materials and inexpensive equipment. The cost will depend upon what the house is made of and what you put into it. The cost will also be affected by the locality in which it is built.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The plans for small homes are furnished by the Regional Bureaus of the Architects' Small House Service Bureau of the United States, Inc., an organization made up of the representative practicing architects from leading architectural offices throughout the United States. This Bureau is controlled by the American Institute of Architects, and has the endorsement of the Department of Commerce, United States Government. It is practically a non-profit making public service, and has as its purpose the furnishing of a very complete and dependable small house plan service at moderate cost. For information regarding the blue prints and specifications, address the Home Building Editor of this paper. The United States Bureau maintains an information department to answer home builders' questions at no charge. Enclose stamped addressed envelope.

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**EVERY WALL SHOULD BE KEPT WASHABLE**

Easiest Methods for Washing Walls Presented By Real Expert

By Jean Overton

Every wall should have a washable surface. For only such a surface can be satisfactory from an economical and a sanitary viewpoint. In addition, only if you have walls that are washable, can you manage to keep the fresh trim look that contributes so much to the charm of any room. The most simple and inexpensive scheme can be cozy and attractive if it is fresh and neat at all times.

Walls are especially important because their surfaces form such a considerable part of the room. Any painted wall may be successfully washed, whether it is plain or decorated with some novel treatment. Scumbled walls, stencils and Tiffany glazes are as easy to do as a plain wall finish. Wall paper that has been varnished may also be washed.

The easiest way to wash a painted wall is to prepare a solution as follows: Share a cake of pure neutral (non-alkaline) white soap into a quart of boiling water. Dissolve about two ounces of glue in another quart of boiling water, and mix the two liquids together. A little flour may be added to make a thicker solution, and a little sal soda or washing powder to make a stronger solution. This jellied cleaning liquid is applied with a soft sponge, working from the bottom up. The wall is then wiped down with chamolite. If the surface is quite soiled it will be easier to apply the solution to a wall area with calcimine brush, allowing it to stand two or three minutes to loosen the dirt. Then wash off with a clean sponge and a pail of clear water.

Walls in kitchens are sometimes coated with a thin film of grease. In this case a stronger glue size solution with more than the usual amount of sal soda and a little ammonia will simplify the work. Never try to wash spots off a kitchen wall, or any other wall for that matter. It will leave rings. It is easier in the end to wash the whole wall.

For varnished surfaces that have become dusty and perhaps sticky, luke-warm water to which a very little household ammonia has been added, is the best solution for cleaning.

Where a starch coat has been used and you are ready to remove it, simply wash with a pail of clear water.

Starching is a simple process that deserves much wider practice. By applying a protective coating when the wall is new, the surface may be kept in perfect condition. When the coating becomes soiled it is removed and beneath in all its freshness is the new finish. The coating may be applied several different times, saving as many bills for redecoration. A handful of starch is dissolved in just enough cold water to cover it, and boiling water added until the mixture has a thick jelly-like consistency. It is then thinned with cold water until it has a consistency about like that of milk and brushed on to the wall with an ordinary flat wall brush. Thorough brushing is essential to good results. A pinch of dry color, if desired, may be added to tint the coating. In case the wall has a gloss finish, it should first be wiped down with vinegar or alcohol. A coating of this kind does not alter the appearance of the wall in any way except by removing glossy spots and giving greater uniformity. It should not, however, be applied to a poorly painted wall as it is liable to emphasize lops and streaks, or to any wall that has an insufficient number of coats.

Pasteurized buttermilk serves the same purpose as a starch coating. It is usually easier to apply. It is brushed on and stippled with a wall stippling brush.

It is so easy to keep walls in top notch condition with starching and washing that there is no excuse for carelessness in this respect. If we live with shabbiness, we cannot help feeling its depressing effect. Fresh clean walls are as big an item as any in warding it off.

**GOOD WEATHER AID IN BUILDING STRIDE**

January Will Fall Short of 1927 But Will Pass 1926 First Month

Despite two unfavorable periods, when cold and disagreeable weather discouraged the starting of new construction activity, prospects for acceleration in this line are noticeable in the daily building records at the city hall.

Because of these stormy periods, the amount of new construction started in January will not reach the total of the same month a year ago, but it is closely approaching that of January 1926, which was the start of Salem's record year in building.

In fact it is practically certain that the January 1926 total of \$112,650 will be surpassed, for on Friday there remained but \$3,250 margin to overcome.

Up to that day \$109,400 worth of construction had been started, and excellent weather was renewing the rapid filing of requests for building permits.

The month has seen rapid strides made on a number of larger buildings, notably the Presbyterian church, on which exterior construction is nearing completion. Work on remodeling the old Larmer warehouse for use as a cold storage plant is also proceeding rapidly.

Numerous remodeling jobs on downtown buildings are under way, including that at the Marion garage and at the D'Arcy building on State street.

The month has seen completion of the new Senator hotel building which was formally opened Friday night, and work is nearing completion on the Market building and other important downtown structures.

**New Residence Is Attractive**



An attractive four-room bungalow is shown in the house design for today. With the semi-colonial lines for the exterior the house would make an attractive dwelling for the small town lot, or with proper landscaping for the suburban home.

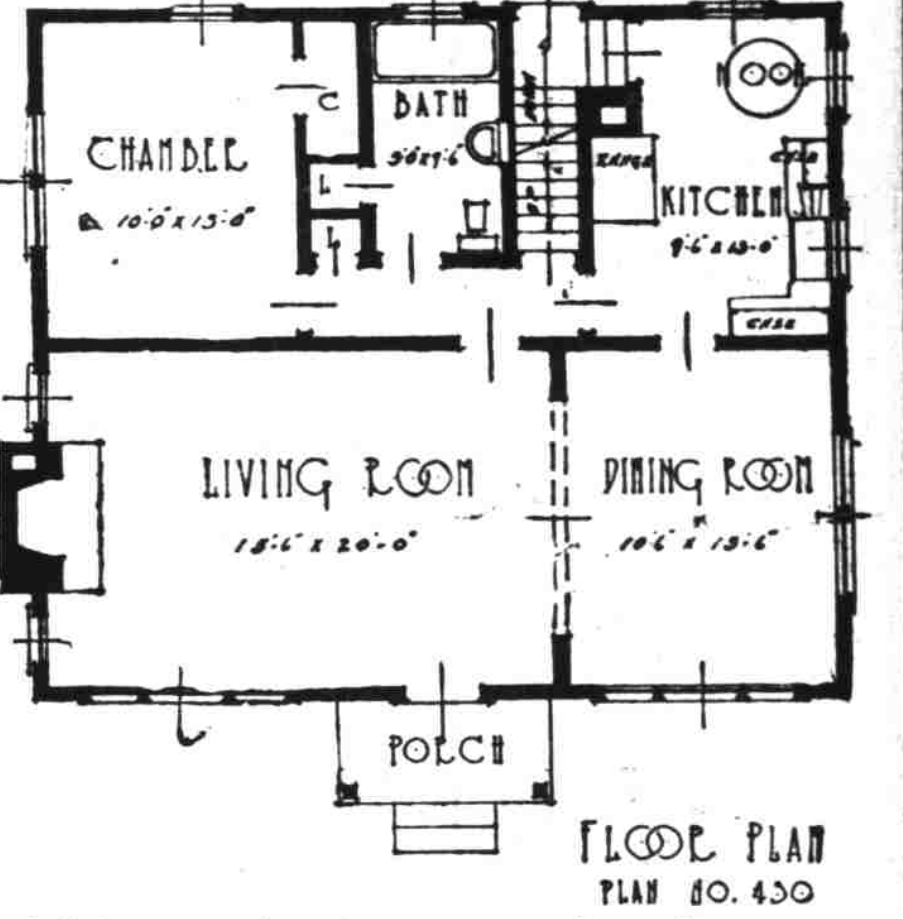
Four rooms are provided for on the ground floor, and the spacious living room, equipped with a fireplace, is especially desirable. It will be noticed that both the living room and dining room are at the front of the house, while bedroom, bath and kitchen at the rear are entirely separated and form a complete compartment on the ground floor. By means of the archway between the living room and dining room these two rooms can be used as one.

The kitchen space is economically arranged so as to lessen the steps of the housewife, while the breakfast nook opening at the rear of the kitchen gives the occupant ample room to serve informal family meals.

It will be noted that all of the rooms on the ground floor have two exposures, thereby insuring adequate ventilation.

The attic, if finished, has plenty of room for two chambers.

Blue prints of plan 430 are available to readers of this paper at nominal cost. For complete information write the



FLOOR PLAN PLAN NO. 430

**COAST HEMLOCK GAINING FAVOR**

LONGVIEW, Wn., Jan. 28.—West Coast hemlock, one of the four major woods of the northwest, is gaining great favor with home builders in the east as interior finish, according to C. Hugo Nelson, Philadelphia salesman for several West Coast lumber mills, who is in the northwest on business. Philadelphia builders are obtaining beautiful effects by using this wood, Mr. Nelson says, and appreciate its merits more than do home builders in the region it is produced.

Mr. Nelson says that he has recently sold four carloads of West Coast hemlock finish, two cars of hemlock moldings and a quantity of hemlock flooring. Since building in Philadelphia he has built three houses himself, using Douglas fir timbers, Western red cedar siding, and West Coast hemlock finish on floors. He has had no trouble in disposing of these, all of which were built originally for his own family.

In addition to West Coast hemlock, Douglas fir dimension lumber and timbers, and western red cedar siding and shingles are being sold in increased quantities in the territory about Philadelphia and the adjacent towns and cities of New Jersey, according to Mr. Nelson.

They say that Secretary Mellon is holding the key to the 1928 campaign. That is better than being left to hold the bag.—Buffalo Courier and Express.

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**ROMANCE OF BRICK HOLDS ATTENTION**

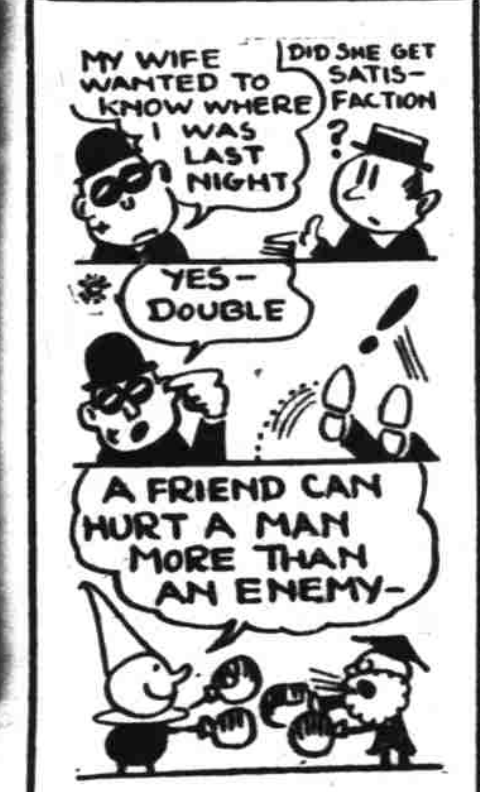
Brick Found To Be Most Ancient and Most Modern of Building Materials

By W. J. Howard

Of all building materials brick is the most ancient and most modern.

"Granite disintegrates and crumbles into particles of mica, quartz and feldspar; marble soon moulders into dust of carbonate of lime, but hard, well burned clay endures forever in the ancient landmarks of mankind," said Sir Charles Lyell in The Antiquity of Man. Wherever men have lived and reached any degree of civilization, brick of one kind or another have been unearthed. In the Euphrates valley, in the cradle of civilization, sun baked blocks of clay were used and at a later period fire burned brick. There are pyramids in the Nile valley built of brick.

Roman bricks were of such a distinctive size and shape, long



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and thin, as to make the name receive permanent application to present day brick of this type. Much of the great wall of China is built of brick. Both sun dried and burned brick have been used probably for centuries by native American tribes.

**Romance Holds Interest**

The old tales are interesting, but the romance of the story of brick is hardly touched until one gets to the modern work in brick-making. Older builders took the clay which they found and from it manufactured the best and most beautiful brick that they could make. The modern manufacturer does not accept any such limitations. Through research work in the laboratory and through observation of the kilns, he finds out what the materials bring to the kilns in the possibilities of color and of qualities and the effects of texture. He selects what he wants. He decides what results he wishes to obtain and he works and tests and tests again until he has finished his product. Texture is completely under his control, from the excessively rough to a comparatively smooth surface.

The present trend, however, in the country at large is for a modified texture. Any effect can be obtained or any color scheme carried out in modern brick. As someone has said, brick's greatest disadvantage is that it is such an old friend. It has always been with us and is taken for granted while newer materials have appeared and drawn out curious and intent scrutiny even as the new baby becomes the center of attraction and little brother is forgotten for the moment. If some one should discover and put on the market a new material with all the advantages of brick, the kilns of the country would be taxed to the limit of their capacity to supply the demand.

When English and European visitors come to this country, especially if they come inland they remark upon this as a country of wooden houses, and possibly comment on our tremendous and unnecessary fire waste, more than ten times per capita that of European countries. To be entirely fair one must remember that our fire loss is not entirely due to wood construction. We expect fires and we take few precautions against them—except insurance, which spreads a tax on all to make up the loss. This obliviousness to fire waste is a matter in which the next generation must effect a change. Fire resistance is only one of the good qualities of brick.

The psychology of an earlier period when brick was the building material, par excellence, of wealth and aristocracy still tinges our present thought until it is with surprise that people realize, how small a margin of first cost there is between wood and brick construction. By the time the house has stood for its second or

third painting the margin of difference in first cost is entirely eaten up and after it has stood for this period the beautifully built brick house shows its aristocratic lineage in the way it carries itself and in the value which is still put upon it.

One may judge by the signs, we are at the breaking of the dawn of a renaissance of brick building in this country. The stage is set, but the players have just come or are only beginning to appear. The romance of brick is still unfolding in the long, long building drama.

**Appreciation of Fire Waste To Cause Change**

Increasing appreciation of America's annual waste in fire losses will inevitably lead to greater effort toward the erection of fireproof homes and commercial buildings. This conclusion is inescapable. When Americans finally become aroused to this necessity brick buildings, especially homes, will predominate. The adaptability of brick, its strength and fire resistance, coupled with its permanent beauty, burned in and unfading, makes it an ideal material and one that is certain to lead in popular favor. Especially so when one considers its moderate first cost and remarkably low up-keep expense in later years.

This is apt to be a prosperous year for most of us—providing we work hard enough to make it so.

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**Ask Cities and Suburbs To Link Traffic Plans**

"Take the chaos out of traffic management and much of present day congestion will be done away with," said D. C. Fenner, chairman of the Motor Vehicle Conference committee, speaking at the January meeting of the Springfield Safety Council, Springfield, Mass.

"No large railroad could operate under the divided authority that now exists with respect to traffic in many of our metropolitan communities. No matter how conscientious each official may be, when you have a situation where there are from twenty to one hundred governing bodies within a metropolitan area, you cannot get a satisfactory traffic program unless there is some central authority to work it out. Traffic conditions will, I believe, be bettered a great deal within the next few years. One necessary step in this direction is for every large city to have some central commission which shall serve as a clearing house for all the traffic programs



**YOU PAY FOR A BRICK HOME WHY NOT OWN ONE?**

You pay for a brick home if you do not own one in extra depreciation, upkeep and insurance.

A home is an investment and its cost should be reckoned over a period of years. The answer is the brick home. Brick that needs no protective coat of paint, that only mellows with age. Brick that saves fuel in winter and forms a shell of protection against the heat of summer because of its excellent insulating value. Brick that does not shrink or warp and depreciates so slowly that depreciation is almost nothing.

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