



# Furnishing the House in Units

By Marie Stahl

To be beautiful a thing must possess unity. It must be so constructed that every part of it blends and harmonizes to make a perfect whole. This is particularly true in the decoration and furnishing of a room. The unity must be kept, but it must be given enough variety to interest any occasional visitors, and to keep it from being monotonous to those who frequent it. If the whole decorative scheme of the room is restricted to any one color, even if that color be used in different shades, it becomes monotonous. On the other hand, too many colors produce a restless and disquieting effect, and take from the room all sense of relaxation, and kill all desire to linger for any length of time. In this way the whole purpose of decoration is lost. If a room, when completed is not inviting, if it does not silently urge all comers to enter and remain, then there is something wrong with the whole scheme of things and the efforts of the designer have missed their mark and have proved themselves absolutely futile. It may be just some one thing that stands out in color that offends the eye of the casual observer. It is then subject to one of two simple remedies. Either the offending object can be removed and replaced, or it can be balanced by something else. A color

that is in striking contrast to the rest of the room may be too glaring in one spot if it is not balanced with some other object, either in the same color, or in another of equal intensity, placed some place else in the room. By repeating this one color note a perfect harmony may result that will make the room far more interesting than it would be if reduced to a more simple color scheme. It may be the means of introducing the touch of originality and interest that lend it individuality. One of the most deplorable things about the average home today is the sameness of it. You go from house to house and you see the same furniture, reproduced time and time again. It is set in the same relative positions in home after home, the same materials used in upholstering and in draperies even the same stereotyped bric-a-brac is placed in the same deadly way. Unconsciously you long to take a lamp or a vase and put it some place else. You would be so relieved if that davenport and that table were placed in a different relation to each other. This is particularly true of many of the furnished apartment houses which are fitted in this way. Davenport, chairs, tables, beds, lamps, and all other kinds of furnishing and accessories are purchased in wholesale lots

and except for a few personal pictures, or books, or some thing of the sort, every apartment is identical with every other apartment. The living rooms are apt to be grey and mulberry, the dining rooms blue, and the bedrooms are invariably carried out in insipid blues and pinks. There is no reason for this. There are those who prefer the lighter colors for bedrooms, but even these may show a decided lot of originality. They do not have to adhere to the flat and uninteresting scheme of pink and white or blue and white. There are charming combinations for the bedroom that can be made with lavender, green, tan and yellow and any number of different and interesting shades. They can be just as dainty, just as attractive, and still they will reflect personality and stand out in the minds of all who see them. Rooms are quite like persons. There are some that are pleasant and agreeable, but that leave no definite impression. There are others that irritate and annoy us by some little foolish affectation which does not harmonize at all with the real thing, the substantial thing beneath the surface, and there are again some that remain indelibly in our minds because of some originality or cleverness which at first surprises and then pleases us and makes that particular room a vivid

and delightful memory for us always. This is not entirely due to the color scheme of the room. It is just as likely to be the selection of furniture. People are too prone to buy furniture in "sets." This is all right in the case of the dining room, perhaps, that all the chairs should match and that the other pieces should follow the same design and pattern. This is a formal room and the set furniture lends to the formality of it. It gives pictures to add to its interest, but they should not be hung in a haphazard way with no regard to the rest of the room. Here again the unity of the home is not a formal place, we are not essentially a formal nation. Our homes are built to live in and by living we mean being comfortable and at ease. This is more possible if the house is

not carried out after too rigid a scheme of furnishing and decorating. Odd pieces in the living room and bedroom make them more informal, more livable, more cozy, more comfortable. This is all right in the case of the dining room, perhaps, that all the chairs should match and that the other pieces should follow the same design and pattern. This is a formal room and the set furniture lends to the formality of it. It gives pictures to add to its interest, but they should not be hung in a haphazard way with no regard to the rest of the room. Here again the unity of the home is not a formal place, we are not essentially a formal nation. Our homes are built to live in and by living we mean being comfortable and at ease. This is more possible if the house is

with some regard for the placing of the furniture, of the doors and the windows. Small units combine to make up the general effect and in many of these a picture is the tie that binds. When hung above a small table on which are perhaps some candlesticks or some books, with perhaps a very handsome vase that reflects one of its predominant colors, the picture furnishes the keynote of a small unit of decoration. Each of these should be complete in itself, all combining to make an attractive whole. Depending upon the size and shape of the picture, the manner in which it is framed, the influence of the room it is hung on wires, cords, or invisible hangers. A natural sense of balance,

combined with some knowledge of the fitness of things will direct the placing of pictures and the manner of hanging them. To have an attractive home does not entail the spending of a huge sum of money. There are luxurious homes and there are more modest ones, but the main idea is to have the appropriate thing well placed, and the result is all that can be desired. Tokio.—Miss Sophia Francisco Rivas, daughter of the Chilean minister to Japan, is being congratulated as the heroine of a fire which wiped out the popular mountain resort at Ikaio. Miss Rivas, awakened by crackling flames in Ikaio hotel, roused her mother, veteran young brother, and they went through the burning hotel arousing guests.



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