Midseason Opening to Feature the Cape

Besides the Separate Cape of Sundry Characteristics There Are the Cape Coat, Coat with Cape Sleeves.

The midseason openings in Paris give the cape a tremendous impetus, says the Dry Goods Economist. However uncertain may have been its previous status, it is now established upon very firm ground. In the forms it takes includes every conceivable one. Besides the separate cape of sundry characteristics there is the cape coat and the coat with cape sleeves. The cape may be anything that attaches capelike to coat or dress and is destined to be heard and seen many times before the season is over.

Capes are admitted apparently to every classification of day and evening dress, both as separate garments and as part of the costume. The jumper dress is quite likely to have its short cape, something reaching to the hip perhaps. Other dress costumes will be served with three-quarter or full length cape. For formal afternoon wear, the cape is likely to be of lighter fabric to match the frock. Already for evening the velvet or metal brocade cape is widely accepted, whether as part of an ensemble or as a separate wrap.

Some Reasons Why an Architect Likes Brick

There is an old song that runs, "How happy could I be with either, Were t'other dear Charmer away."

That exactly expresses the case of the architect when asked to tell why he likes any certain kind of building material. Enthusiasm expressed for one does not necessarily mean a lack of enthusiasm for another. He can easily content himself with whichever of the several "charmers" fate may wish on him, knowing that the resources of each, though different, are sufficient unto themselves.

Supposing the "charmer" of the moment to be brick, what then are it's reactions?

In the first place, the architect has the comfortable feeling in using brick that he is not being extravagant. Even the more expensive bricks are relatively cheap in the end, considering their durability. And there is the further consideration (although it is probably indiscreet to print this where a manufacturer can see it) that some of the cheaper varieties are more effective, when rightly used, than some of the costlier varieties. Witness, for instance, the dramatic picturesqueness of "skintled brickwork" as lately devised by Chicago architects out of the cheap brick that ordinarily get used only in the back of a wall.

There is further satisfaction in the indubitably proven fact that brick is practically indestructible. For actual resistance to weather and fire nothing has yet been devised to surpass it. Centuries of exposure serve only to enhance its beauty.

But undoubtedly the great appeal of brick to the architect lies in the possibilities it offers for decorative effect. These particular possibilities belong peculiarly to brick; no other material offers anything quite like them; and few materials offer anywhere near the variety of effect possible with such simple means.

Analyzed these possibilities result chiefly from color and texture, qualities inherent in the material itself. To them should be added the imposed quality of pattern. Those imposed qualities of form and proportion so essential to stone and wood are of relatively small importance in brick. There cannot be got with brick the same kind of beauty that can be got with stone or wood; there must be sought only that kind it is capable of giving. But inside its capacities what a wealth of beauty lies!

Different clays, burned in different ways, give an infinite variety of colors. Different surface treatments, different joint sections, give the flecks of light and shade that make texture. The uniformly sized blocks, laid in different geometrical combinations, give almost any kind of pattern that the ingenuity of the architect can devise.

Designing with brick is like playing with hundreds of little islands of glowing color, set in rivers of contrasting mortar, woven into subtly sensed patterns, and all textured with little points of light and shadow.

And if visible justification is needed for the architect to enthuse over this sort of play, there exist, among countless other examples, the patterned walls of Italian churches centuries old, the plum-colored facades of English colleges, and the mellow-walled houses of our own Colonial days.

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What You May Want to Know About Building

Questions addressed to this paper will be answered by the Architects' Small House Service Bureau of the United States, Inc. controlled by the American Institute of Architects and indorsed by the Department of Commerce, United States government. Inclose self-addressed envelope for reply.

Question—In my dining room the ceiling is cracked. I have had it repaired several times, but it always cracks again. I want to put up a beam ceiling. Please tell me what is the cause of the cracking and the way to fix it.

Answer—The joists in the ceiling over your dining room are too light, consequently the plaster cracks. We suggest that you have the ceiling covered with gypsum wall board. False wood beams over the joints will give you the effect you want.

Question—How do you build a concrete terrace that won't crack? Almost all of those I have seen are cracked.

Answer—The cracked concrete floors you have seen were probably all supported on earth fills. We definitely advise against this practice. If such floors are reinforced with steel and properly made they will not crack.

Question — What kind of finish is used in bathrooms to imitate tile? How is it put on?

Answer—Bathroom walls should be finished with metal lath to a point about four feet above the floor. On this ordinary plaster is applied, but the finish coat is Keenes cement. This finish is very hard and smooth. It may be scored in imitation of tile.

Question—Is it necessary that I employ an architect to see that the building of our small home is carried out according to contract?

Answer—There is no substitute for the service an architect can give on a house. His employment is a guarantee that you will get what you pay for. It is sometimes difficult to get a high grade architect to prepare working drawings and specifications for small houses. This is the reason the architects' small house service bureau has been formed. Even though you use stock plans be sure to get one of your local architects to superintend the construction. You will be repaid many times over.

Question—I own a two family frame house which is of balloon frame construction. During storm and winds the house sways considerably. Is there any way to brace it to prevent this swaying?

Answer—There is no way to avoid this excepting by taking off the siding and plaster and inserting the diagonal braces that should have been installed when your house was built. This would be rather expensive to do. It might be worth while if your house is being ruined.

Question—Give me some information about heating. Which is better, hot water or one pipe vapor?

Answer—The great advantage of hot water is that it gives a steady, uniform heat. The particular advantage of one pipe vapor is that it acts very quickly. It is more difficult to maintain a steady heat with vapor. Vapor costs less.

Question — What is a brick veneer?

Answer—As this term is usually understood it means a four-inch thickness of brick over wood frame. Of course, brick can be used as veneer over any kind of a wall.

Question—Is there a set rule for the cutting of rafters on bungalows? Should they have the same size points all around or do they have to be cut according to the slope of the roof? Are they different on the dormer roof?

Generally speaking the size of the rafter overhangs is adjusted so that it is less on the dormers than it is on the main part of the house. There is no set rule. Your architect will take care of these things for you so as to insure that appearances are entirely satisfactory.

Flowers for the Season

The single flower or bouquet which decorates the coat or wrap has a decided tendency to follow the floral season. Now that the frost is on the pumpkin the shaggy crysanthemum or colorful dahlia is best suited to the daytime ensemble.

The little accessories which add the final chic to the costume are as important in their relation to the ensemble as they are in themselves. The field flowers that bloomed on the spring coat are inappropriate for the fur coat that marches gaily to the football game. The colorful appeal of the shaggy fall flower is unsuited to the formal evening mode and the delicate tint of the orchid or camilia is appropriately used after dusk.

Each flower, beautiful in itself has its moment or correct appeal.

Colleen Moore is seen wearing the decoration in her latest film.

To allow the engine of the car to run in a closed garage is a sure way of courting death. Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas present in the engine exhaust. It cannot be seen, smelled or tasted. Carbon monoxide displaces the oxygen from its combination with the coloring matter of the blood, which absorbs oxygen from the air in the lungs and delivers it to the tissues of the body. Acute carbon monoxide poisoning is evidenced by a feeling of illness, a throbbing of the blood vessels, and a burning sensation in the face.

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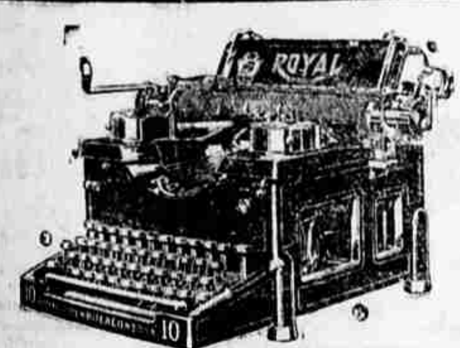

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HELP FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO BUILD

DUTCH COLONIAL WITH MODERN PLAN

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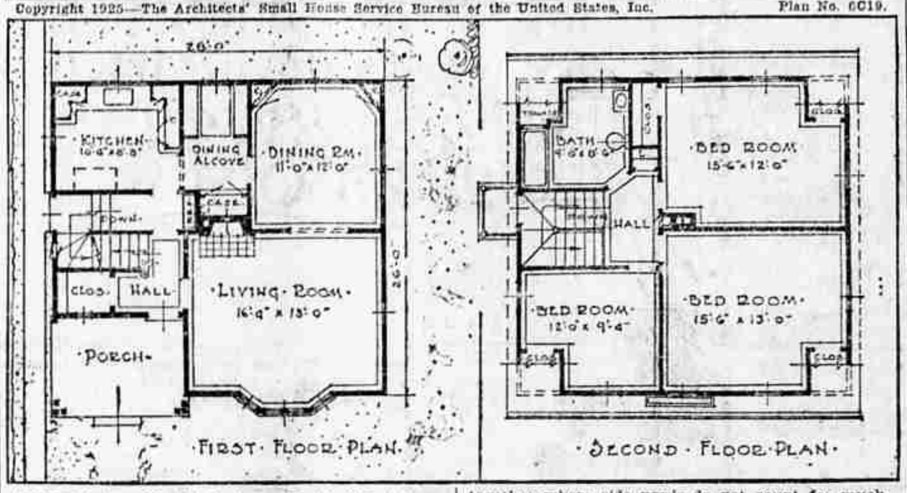

THIS design, No. 6-C-19, has a Dutch Colonial ancestry although it is marked, especially as to plan, with more modern tendencies. Like all well designed houses of this kind, it can be economically built and economically maintained in fine condition provided good materials and equipment are used throughout and good workmen are employed.

This design insures the home builder an attractive homelike exterior and a comfortable, convenient arrangement of rooms. Conforming to our American style of living, a dining alcove has been included between kitchen and dining room. It is nicely equipped with built-in seats and table. At one end there is a china case.

The kitchen arrangement should meet the most exacting demands of household scientists. Thus the housewife is assured a pleasant place to do her work and with economy of effort.

The plan has been proven by a test of time to be wholly satisfactory. The arrangement of dining room and living room along one side is especially suitable to a location where houses are built close together where side yards do not count for much. It can be readily accomodated on a 40-foot lot.

Construction: Wood frame on masonry foundations with brick in the bay window to the height of window sills, and exterior finish of wood siding elsewhere.

It is designed so as to fit very well any facing excepting East, for which, if desired, it may be reversed.

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 practising architects from leading architectural offices throughout the United States. This bureau is controlled by the American Institute of Architects, and has the indorsement 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 modest 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. Inclose stamped addressed envelope.

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BUILDING ACTIVITIES ON UPGRADE

Every Section of the United States Displays Substantial Progress with the South Leading the Procession

Prepared by S. W. STRAUS
(November 1, 1925)

The end of October found building activities throughout the country on the upgrade, notwithstanding the vast amount of construction already in progress.

Reports from 395 cities and towns showed $411,145,164 in new permits compared with $321,473,978 in October 1924, an increase of 28 per cent, and of 11 per cent over September of this year.

Every section of the United States displayed substantial building progress. The South again led with an increase of 82 per cent of total permits issued over last October in the 72 leading centers. In the eastern states, 129 cities reported 42 per cent more permits and new plans filed than in October, 1924. In the Far West, 84 centers revealed gains of 2 per cent, and in the central states, where 119 cities reported, the increase of 2 per cent.

Twenty-five Leading Cities

The reports from the 25 leading cities (in point of current building operations) brought out many interesting situations. In New York City plans for $110,575,094 of new construction were filed, an increase of 84 per cent over October, 1924, when plans were filed calling for an outlay of $59,974,557. In October, 1923, the five boroughs reported plans for $63,575,797 and in October, 1922, the figures were $48,955,851. Chicago, with $30,822,500 in permits issued, had an increase of 29 per cent over October, 1924.

In Detroit, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Los Angeles activities in immediate prospect are about on a par with those of the same period of a year ago. Substantial increases were revealed in Boston, Baltimore, Oakland, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Hartford.

St. Louis was the only city in this group of 25 where there was a sharp drop in comparison with October, 1924. Permits for $3,408,184 of new construction were issued by the building department of the Missouri metropolis, as compared with $9,032,225 in October last year. However, St. Louis figures this year were well ahead of both October 1923 and 1922. St. Louis' building program so far this year is about $12,000,000 in excess of the same period in 1924.

Total permits filed by the cities in the group of 25 leaders were 43 per cent ahead of October, 1924.

Activities in the South

Miami, Fla., reported $10,183,419 in permits in October, which gave it the rank of sixth place among the cities of the nation. A year ago, Miami's permits were $1,009,351. The increase was 909 per cent. West Palm Beach and St. Petersburg were included in the list of 25 leading cities of the country. In the fifteen leading Florida cities, building activities were 439 per cent ahead of October, 1924.

An impressive amount of new construction has been planned in Houston, Tex., where $8,572,730 in permits were issued in October, giving it seventh place in the country. The increase was 416 per cent over last October. In Dallas, San Antonio, Austin and Wichita Falls considerable new work was reported.

Among the many southern cities, outside of Florida and Texas, where construction operations of considerable magnitude were reported, were Louisville, Memphis, Chattanooga, Birmingham, Charlotte, N. C., and Greensboro, N. C.

Building Materials

Building materials exhibited tendencies to work toward higher levels during the month. With steel mills booking the largest orders they have had for many weeks structural steel prices began to show increased strength. Southern pine was somewhat stronger as was most of the other woods, with the exception of Douglas fir. Domestic orders for Douglas fir continued to show constant decline and, notwithstanding increased foreign buying, prices worked lower.

The outstanding decline was in Portland cement, which broke for the first time in many months. Linseed oil was off from Sptember quotations. Brick was higher in New York, but declined in some of the south central centers. Other starting materials were unchanged.

Books Should Be in Library

Of course books must have a place in the family budget; we cannot leave the home library to the mercy of occasional gifts or the income left over after everything else has been provided. Just where we place books depends upon our realization of their importance in the morale of the home. Some people will place them before clothes, and even cut the frills from the family table to buy a new edition of "Peter Pan" or the "Letters of Emily Dickinson." It is a case of sparing one loaf to buy a hyacinth; physical hunger is nowhere near so painful as hunger of the soul.

I think most of us will agree that books should come before recreation—the money spent for moving-pictures, theatres, baseball games and ice-cream sodas—that they stand next the necessaries of life should because their place in the home is permanent, they will give for each dollar expended a dollar's worth of joy the satisfaction renewed next year and the next, that is if we choose them wisely.

Be generous in your allowance for books. The only way in the world that you can buy a friend is to put your money in a good book.

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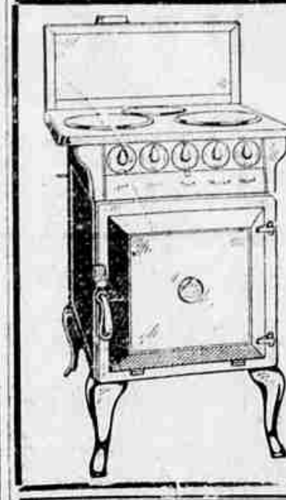

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