

Mortar Joints Big Factor in Home Building

So many colored spots arranged in different order as to produce a certain pattern effect, but this depends very largely upon what is regarded, the mortar joint. The mortar joint is a very common place thing which the workman takes

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PENNSYLVANIA COLONIAL FOUR-ROOM HOUSE

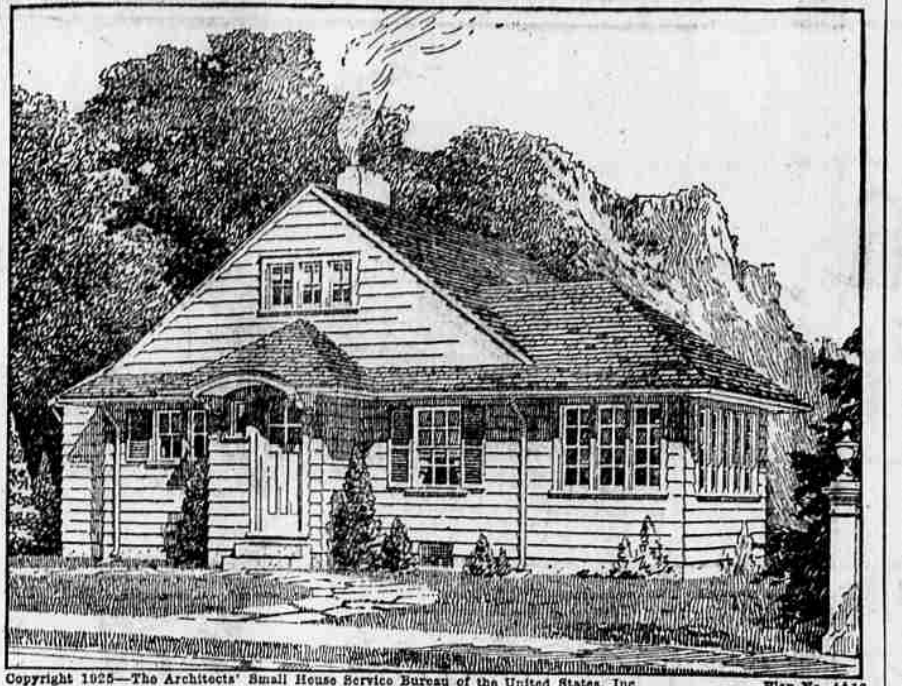
and carries in a load to the beholder; but it is one of the most important elements entering into the beauty, as well as the strength, of a brick wall.

When you consider that all the joints in brickwork, both vertical or "head" joints, and horizontal or "bed" joints, are filled with mortar of one color or another, amounting on an average to one-seventh of the wall, it is evident what a vital part they play in the appearance of the entire wall surface. An artist will tell you that this amount of color introduced into any surface will greatly modify, by contrast or analogy, the general effect, so that it is of the utmost importance, in selecting the sort of brick you wish for your wall surface, that you also select the mortar joint.

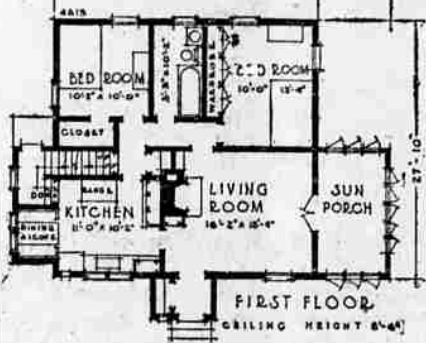
Three elements must be carefully considered in dealing with the mortar joint, its color, its texture and its size and kind. The color of the mortar joint may be such as entirely to destroy the beauty of the brick. On the other hand, if it is properly chosen, it will bring out the fine shades and tones of the brick in such a way as to enhance very greatly its natural beauty. Then, the mortar joint has a certain texture which is produced either by finishing it rough or smoothing it with the trowel or a tool made of some purpose. This mere treatment of the surface of the mortar joint has more to do with the appearance of the wall than one might at first suppose. In addition to that, the size of the mortar joint, running from a thin, "buttered" joint up to an inch in width affects the color relation of the whole surface, and the kind of joint, whether cut flush, raked out, or beaded in various shapes, has a distinct bearing on the whole effect. In a word, do not neglect the mortar joint, for it is one of the most important elements that go to make up the beautiful fabric of the brick wall, in the building of which there is reserved and required the exercise of a fine discriminating taste.

Colored mortar joints may be produced in two ways, first, by the use of a natural colored sort of ground granite or other stone, and secondly, by the use of artificial mortar colors. Pure white joints are obtained by using white sand or ground limestone or marble. As the color of the mortar greatly affects the appearance of the finished wall, much care should be given the selection and proper use of these colors, whether natural or artificial. At various stages of the finished mortar after it has set and dried is never the same as that of the fresh mortar, experience is the only guide for the proper preparation of the mortar. Someone has well said that the right way to make mortar is to mix brains with it.

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A SUCCESSFUL home is a combination of a pleasing, well designed exterior and a good practical plan. Good construction is the third necessary element. This house, design 4-A-13, has been carefully designed so as to provide a workable plan for a small family. The designer has proportioned the windows, doors, and walls of the house and has added the little touches that take it distinctly out of the class of the commonplace. At the same time every acknowledgment has been given to the necessity of sound and economical construction. Therefore this little house has proved to be one of the most highly desired of its kind.

The design of the house brings out the natural beauty of the wood finish. The wide siding gives a splendid texture to the walls. A so-called German-town hooded roof, broken to emphasize the entrance, recalls the old Pennsylvania houses. Its style is not a slavish following of a tradition. However, it is reminiscent of Pennsylvania Dutch architecture.

The plan provides four excellent rooms, two of them being bedrooms, and in addition there is a

commodious sun porch. This might be an open porch if it were desired to decrease expense. In addition there is a good size dining alcove off the kitchen. The alcove should be sunny and pleasant because of the two windows at the head of the built-in table. Linen may be kept under the seats and china in a closet above the seats. The living room is a splendid room with large open fireplace at one end. This has built-in bookcases on one side and a little cupboard built into the chimney on the other.

There is plenty of space here for a family of three or four. The bedroom to the left might readily be made into a sewing room with a modern folding bed designed to go into the large closet. In this way the accommodations of the house may be increased. Closet space is especially good. In one bed room there is a three door built-in wardrobe.

It also is possible to extend the accommodation by fitting up space in the attic. A stairway leads to this area. The ridge of the roof is high enough to permit a good size bedroom, a hall, a storage room, and a closet in the second floor.

This particular plan is extremely flexible. It may be swung around in various ways to get different effects. Other exteriors for this plan are contained in the collection from which this design was taken.

The house should be placed so that the living room and sun porch have southern exposure.

The construction is wood frame with wide siding as a finish, shingle or composition roof, and cement base course.

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 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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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 endorsed by the Department of Commerce, United States government. Inclose self-addressed envelope for reply.

Question—Are slate roofs better than shingles?
Answer—Slate roofs are more durable than wood shingle roofs. However, they cost considerably more.

Question—The screens on our old house were always rusting out. We should like now to have screens that will last. What do you recommend?
Answer—Copper insect screen cloth will give you the service you desire. It is more expensive than black wire, but will pay its way in time. If you wish to keep out mosquitoes and the smaller insects, specify 16 mesh cloth. This has been advocated by the United States public health service.

Question—I would like to build a house of cinder cement blocks. Do you think it will be satisfactory?
Answer—Cinder cement blocks made perfectly satisfactory walls. It is necessary to furr them out for the reception of the interior plaster coat. A course of water-proof paper underneath the furring is an additional safeguard and form of insulation.

Question—I have a four room cottage that sweats very badly in the winter. The ceiling and walls are wet. Is this caused because it does not have proper ventilation? The house has a chimney between two rooms and has a flue in the kitchen and is heated by natural gas.
Answer—Your walls sweat in winter time for two reasons. First, because they are cold. They are cold because they are not properly insulated. If you can get into your attic space and put insulating material between or on the ceiling joint you will be somewhat better off. It would be difficult to correct the walls. The second reason for the condition you describe comes from your use of natural gas. This gas is composed chiefly of carbon and hydrogen. In burning, hydrogen unites with the oxygen in the air and forms a vapor. This condenses on your cold walls and ceilings. If your heaters were adequately ventilated there would be less of this difficulty.

Question—Kindly advise whether it is preferable to secure a mortgage through a savings bank on the purchase of a house. In case of a bank holding a first mortgage on a residence, have they incentive to sell it prior to the expiration of the mortgage? How long a period do banks customarily carry such mortgages, and do

REDWOOD HIGHWAY GOOD OLD DETOUR ON THIS ROAD IS ELIMINATED

With the elimination of the detour just below Garberville the Redwood highway from Sausalito to Eureka is in very good condition. So far this route has not been adversely affected by heavy rains although the section where the detour was eliminated last week is somewhat muddy and slippery.

North of Eureka the road to Orick is in good condition, but from Orick to a point six miles north of Requa it is somewhat wet due to poor drainage. The highway into Crescent City is in good shape. The few slides which have occurred do not interfere with travel.

From Crescent City on to Grant's Pass, Ore., the Redwood highway is still under construction and at present it is being graveled between Patrick's creek and the Oregon line. This work should be completed in another two weeks, eliminating the bad pieces of road across the Oregon mountain.

Valuable Vegetable Vitamins
The very best sources of vitamins are the citrus fruits—lemons, oranges and grape fruit. But home grown vegetables are second, especially the tomato.

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The Well-Dressed Window

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Of course everybody knows what a glass curtain is—that veiling of thin net, lace or other very transparent material which hangs next the glass, to insure privacy for those indoors. Yet not every amateur decorator realizes the importance of the glass curtains to the outside appearance of the house.

The glass curtains are the only part of your interior decorations that you share with the world. The world, passing by, judges your taste by your choice of curtains as much as by the dignity of your architecture, the neatness of your lawn, the beauty of your shrubbery. If you show elaborate lace curtains at the parlor windows, flamboyant yellow gauze at the dining room, green silk in the library, pink ruf-

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