

Help for the Man Who Wants to Build

Shingles on Walls Allow Variety in Color and Texture

By the Architects' Small House Service Bureau of the United States, Inc.

We can use shingles not only on the roof, but also on the side walls, thus securing a covering which is unsurpassed in texture and color by any other means. It is a logical wall surface for a wooden frame, is weather resisting, and if left without paint will weather to exquisite colors. The various woods weather in a manner distinctively their own—white cedar shingles take on a pearly gray not to be matched with paint, redwood turns a rich brown.

Our forefathers sometimes covered the walls of their houses with hand split shingles; many of them still stand after hundreds of years. And very picturesque they are. Splitting the shingles along their natural grain gave them resistance to the weather which is not found in our modern sawed ones. Yet we may catch some of the qualities of the old hand split shingles by laying our modern ones so that the lines of shadow made by their butt ends are wavy or broken to relieve the uniformity of machine cut shingles.

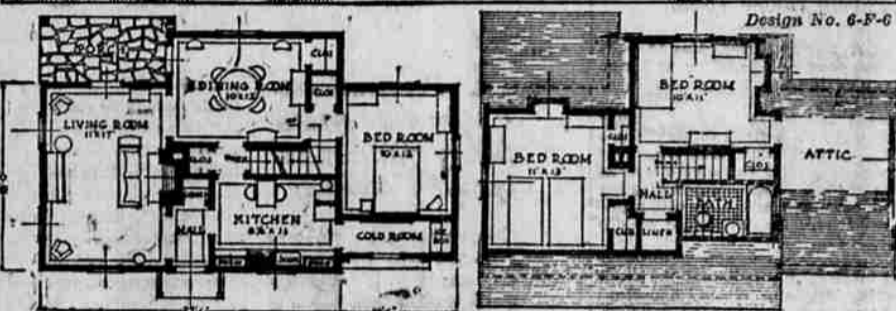
Straight Edges Not Needed
When not laid too regularly, shingles give the wall a softness of texture which neither stucco, brick nor wood siding can reproduce. They do not have the smooth, combed horizontal lines of walls protected with siding. The vertical joints which continually contract the importance of the horizontal courses give a more picturesque texture. Sometimes the lower edges of the shingles are laid in an irregular manner, thereby giving the house an intimate, informal appearance.

We do not need as many shingles to the square on the side walls as on the roof, for more of their length can be exposed to the weather. Six or eight inches can be exposed on the wall as against four and a half on the roof. Properly treated with creosote, their life will be practically doubled. If we are to paint them with creosote after they are laid, however, we must be absolutely sure they are dry, otherwise this process may do actual harm. Factory dipped shingles eliminate this danger.

Good Taste Necessary
Today there are innumerable effects of color and texture to be achieved with creosote stains on shingles. They afford the opportunity to use rich color, and unlike paint allow the grain of the wood to show, giving a surface almost rugged in its texture. Even the most picturesque, washed out effect which old shingled walls develop when the whitewash which has been applied to them, has grown old, can be imitated with creosote stains. Like other processes of building, care must be used here to obtain the most satisfactory results.

When using color, a combination of harmonious browns; tans, reddish browns and yellow browns may be used on the same wall—likeivie on roofs—by using shingles which have been dipped in these tones. This mixing of various colors is often overdone, but when good taste is exercised many beautiful results are possible. The rules for achieving durability in shingle roofs apply also to side walls—buy good shingles, see that they are properly laid, and use rustproof nails. When these are followed we have one of the most picturesque and durable wall coverings possible.—Copyright 1928, The Architects' Small House Service Bureau of the United States, Inc.

A Picturesque Dutch Colonial



Plan Is Commodious and Convenient—First Story Bedroom Feature

THE modern small houses that go by the name of Dutch Colonial are nearly always something else. They may be good architecture, but they are rarely Dutch architecture. Here is one that is truly Dutch. It does not make any difference what its name is if it is not beautiful architecture and does not have a good plan, but this design, 6-F-6, is an extremely beautiful one and has a plan which is not only commodious and convenient, but is unusual in its arrangement.

The location of the kitchen at the front and the inclusion of a first story bedroom will meet the requirement of many women. The downstairs bedroom carries its own recommendation with the kitchen located as it is one has a view to the front of the house during the long hours when working there, and this makes possible the setting of the dining room where there is a view of the garden. Both living room and dining room open onto the porch.

The exterior is planned to be finished of shingles, in keeping with the quality of the architecture. The front wall, like many of the old Dutch Colonial houses, is to be stuccoed.

Construction: Wood frame, exterior finish shingles and stucco. Roof of shingles.

Lot size: Approximately 30 feet. If the first story bedroom is omitted, the house can be accommodated on a 40-foot frontage.

Facing: East or south. May be reversed for other facings or to take advantage of peculiarities of site. Complete working plans may be obtained for this and other designs shown in this series. For further information, see editor's note.



Rear Porch Under Roof

The rear porch is brought under the main sweep of the roof and thus becomes part of the house as it should. The flagstone steps and floor in combination with graceful woodwork lend qualities of charm which everyone will appreciate.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Working drawings and specifications for the house shown above may be secured at moderate cost through the Home Building Editor of this paper. This service is presented to our readers through co-operation with the Architects' Small House Service Bureau. The Bureau is controlled by the American Institute of Architects and has the endorsement of the United States Department of Commerce. Questions from our readers regarding home building will be answered at no charge by the technical department of The Architects' Small House Service Bureau. Address the Home Building Editor, enclosing a 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. Enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Q—In a Colonial house would you paint or paper the walls?
A—We would paper them.

Q—The front rooms of my house always smell musty during the summer. There is no basement or any way to get beneath it. What can be done to overcome this disagreeableness?
A—The front rooms smell musty from rotting woodwork. The beams under your floor have rotted because they have not been properly ventilated. Make openings in the foundation wall two feet square. Keep them open in the summer time, closed in winter. Have the beams inspected, rotted work replaced.

Q—I have a brick house. The bricks are turning white and crumbling. Please advise how to take care of this. Would cleaning remedy the trouble?
A—Cleaning is necessary, but it would only be temporary. The difficulty is caused by water running through the wall, leaching out soluble salts that are afterward deposited on the surfaces of the brick. This process will ruin the bricks. It is called efflorescence. The way to correct it is to keep the water out. Find out where the leaks occur, through down spouts, eave troughs, or copings. If necessary, the whole wall may be waterproofed with standard compounds, practically colorless, made especially for the purpose.

Q—We have recently remodelled an old house. Some paneling was removed from the wall and the bricks plastered directly. Here, every time the air becomes damp, this wall is wet, the paper is ruined. We saturated the old brick wall before we plastered. Would that be the cause of its dampness now? What can be done?
A—The wall is cold, dampness is condensed out of the air on it. The condition will be worse in the winter time. We advise you to cover the wall with waterproof paper, or, better still, with standard insulation. Nail strips over this and apply standard gypsum wall board. You can paper over this. That will end the trouble. The expense will not be great.

Q—We want to have a hard wood floor laid and then finish it ourselves. Tell us how to do it.
A—You are wise to have someone else lay it. Have him also sand paper it with an electric sanding machine. If it is close grained wood, you can have it stained with special stain made for the purpose, then lacquered, varnished or waxed. If it is open grain it may be stained, filled, and then varnished or waxed. We advise you to have this work done by an expert. It will cost very little more than if you do it yourself, and will be infinitely better.

Q—Is gravel a good material to build on? Will it be necessary to put reinforcing in the foundations? The house is a two story brick.
A—Gravel is one of the best types of material on which to build. No reinforcing will be necessary if the gravel is continuous.

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GOLD BULLETS

by Charles G. Booth

SYNOPSIS: Nearly frantic in her efforts to prove that her fiancée, Jerry Ogden, did not murder his father, Lucy defies the law and takes the fight into her own hands. She learns that Jerry was seen speeding toward Skull Valley, probably to the deserted Ogden mine at Torridity. Determined to reach Jerry before he is arrested, she locks Henry Deacon, chief of police into a closet, takes his automobile and starts on a mad dash to the desert to save her lover.

CHAPTER 18.
The City of Silence.

What was I going to do, you ask? Well, I might smash in my English door—and let Deacon out. He would stop Lucy by telephone. Or I might leave Deacon and take

Two mountain ranges lay between me and my destination. The first 40 miles of road would be paved or good dirt, the next 20 would fall by degrees from poor to dreadful. Lucy would make for Pitchfork Canyon, the only possible approach to Torridity from the west, and I hoped to reach her before she began the descent. That road down into the Skull is a madman's nightmare and I didn't fancy her making it alone.

The San Felipe Valley was drenched in sunlight and the sweet scent of orange blossoms hung like incense. This morning I had little time for sentimentalizing, however, and when, some short while later, the rhythmic thrub of the engine fell steeply into silence, I had even less. I got out and looked in the tank. It was empty! The nearest filling station was seven miles behind me!

Raging at my carelessness, I flung my coat into the car and set off down the scorching road. When I finally got my hand on the wheel again Lucy was some three hours ahead of me. Likely enough she was at Torridity.

Skull Valley lies between the Skeleton mountains and the Red Gold range. From the west you descend into it by Shimbons Canyon and on the east you ascend from it by the Devil's Mouth. A road of sorts spans the valley from Shimbons to the Devil's Mouth and if you want a taste of the grim terror of the place you may cross it by car. But Torridity is ten miles south of the road which spans the valley and the intervening stretch of desert is impassable. Another road, a miserable affair, leads into the valley by way of Pitchfork Canyon, passes through Torridity, and joins the main road at Devil's Mouth on the east. This is the only road into the town from the west. I supposed Jerry and Lucy had taken it and I pursued following it my self.

It was just one o'clock when I reached the summit of the Skeletons. Time was precious—my fears for Lucy had increased with every mile I had come—but nothing on earth could have driven me down Pitchfork until my eyes had had their desire of that sardonic masterpiece below. Never before had the valley gripped my soul with so violent a sense of unholy horror and sleek and tawny beauty. The valley blazed with light and color. But as I looked upon this bewitching opalescence it seemed to me that something alive and watchful lurked beneath it. Something sleek as a sea-serpent, vital as a young tiger, alluring as a perjured goddess. Vaporous arms reached out to me and tried to cloud my senses—and I knew that



Torridity—nowhere was a sign of human life. Below me fell a 1000-foot drop and as I crawled around the sharp curves I looked at death a score of times. Nor did I for a moment forget that the next bend might show me Deacon's car upside down and Lucy's broken body.

In two hours I reached the bottom. The opalescent beauty of the desert had vanished. Grim and terrible, it seemed to say, "I've got you, fool!" The trail to Torridity lay before me, and I was cheered. Ah! there were car tracks. Several of them. Lucy was ahead of me. I would be with her in half an hour!

The trail was vile, but I got along fairly well. The empty desolation oppressed my spirit and

again I was seized by that profound melancholy I had felt in the canyon. The air seemed charged with sinister potency.

Out of a sky as hard as a metal bell poured a ferocious blinding heat that made my thankful for my water canteens. A light, hot wind blew and a faint moaning sound was in the air. Perhaps I was running into one of the shrilling windstorms for which the valley is notorious. They come in a twinkling, sometimes last for days, and cease as suddenly as they begin.

Just then Torridity lifted its sun-blanched bones into view and I

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