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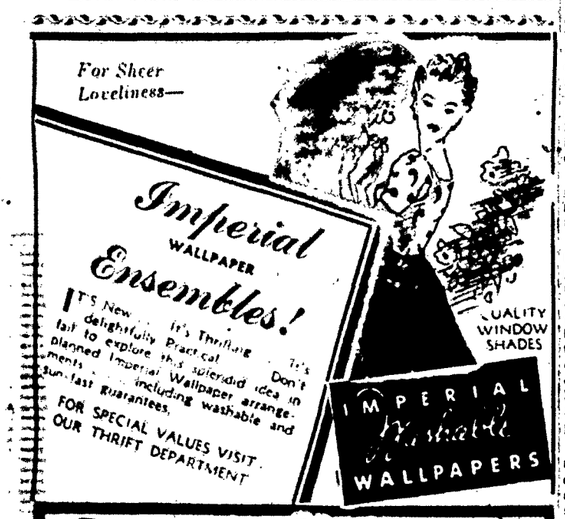

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Money Value Brings Change In House Design

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 8, 1941 — The natural desire of people to get the most for their money is having a beneficial and perhaps far-reaching effect on the design of small houses, Federal Housing Administration officials stated today in announcing publication of a revised edition of FHA Technical Bulletin No. 2, "Modern Design."

In recent years, they stated, it has become necessary to lower construction costs and still produce dwellings that meet family requirements, maintain the standards of living, and add many comforts and conveniences not demanded some years ago. To accomplish these objectives, designers are striving to eliminate nonessentials from plans, to increase convenience and utility by skillful arrangement of functional elements, and to simplify exterior design and details.

Utility

The practical necessity of obtaining greatest usefulness with economy is stimulating marked changes in today's houses. In plan, they tend to become more compact and easier to maintain from a housekeeping standpoint and to contain some rooms designed for dual purposes. Integrated with the plan are highly developed plumbing, heating and electrical systems and equipment.

As an illustration of the trend, the detached stable of yesterday has become the attached garage of today.

The exterior of the modern house is largely dictated by the plan. No attempt is made to force a symmetrical composition which does not result naturally from the plan. Since the basis of a good house is its plan, there is no attempt to adapt a plan to fit a predetermined structural shell that can be immediately identified as English, French, Spanish, or Early American.

Lasting Design

Architectural studies indicate that lasting changes in exterior design usually have been brought about by radical changes in construction methods or the availability of materials.

Types of architecture adopted as a result of a fad or passing fancy or used for the sake of novelty have been of a temporary nature, it was pointed out.

Slavish copying of traditional architectural compositions and details and conscious effort to make them fit new living and economic conditions bring neither satisfaction nor progress. The logical answer to an enduring type of architecture appears to be found in continued development of generally accepted forms. It is an evolutionary step which does not discard the good of the past but adds new vitality by meeting modern needs.

Signs of evolutionary change, it was said in conclusion are seen in our present small houses as a result of the demand for dwellings built economically and planned efficiently.

Technical Bulletin No. 2 may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., at five cents a copy. In requesting your copy please mention the CATHOLIC COURIER.

Questions and Answers

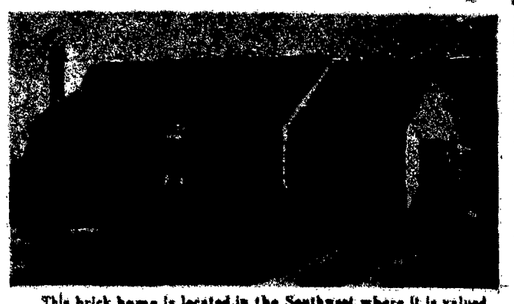
Q. Can I use open sheathing for a wood-shingle roof? What size should the sheathing strips be and how should their spacing be determined?

A. Open sheathing, or shingle lath, as a nailing base for wood shingles has been satisfactorily used for a great many years. The wood strips may be one by three, one by four, or one by six inches, spaced the same as the shingle exposure. In areas having considerable moisture the use of open sheathing is generally recommended so that shingles will dry out readily. In regions subject to dry drifting snow or intense cold, tight sheathing and in some cases tight sheathing and felt should be used for its additional protection and insulating value.

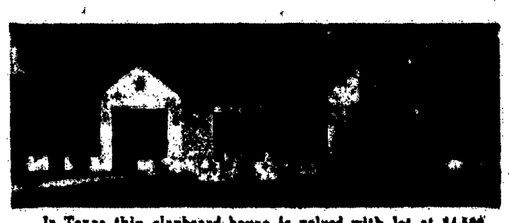
Q. In reference to the floor line, where is the most effective location for cold-air-return grilles of a warm-air heating system?

A. Cold-air-return grilles should be placed in sidewalls as near as possible to the floor line. Locating these grilles in the floor or on the sidewall well above the floor line decreases their effectiveness.

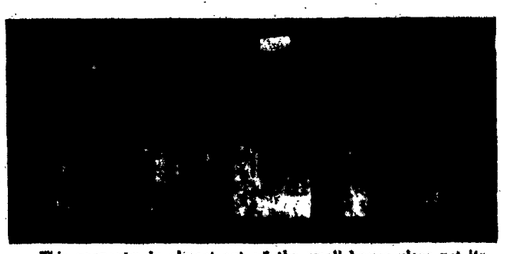
The Long-Neglected Small Home Is Now Given Attractive Design



This brick home is located in the Southwest where it is valued at $4,000, including land.



In Texas this clapboard house is valued with lot at $4,500. Its price, like that of other houses, will vary in other localities.



This property is almost out of the small house class yet its valuation is only $5,750. It is located in a South Atlantic State.

These houses show that much has been done toward solving the problem of design for the inexpensive home. Constructed and located to conform to FHA requirements and financed under the FHA-insured mortgage system, these houses show that the attractive low-cost home has become a reality.

Landscaping Service

CHAPTER VII

Dahlias

One of the most popular, beautiful and useful plants is the Dahlia. A native of Central America, it early attracted favorable attention and has been in cultivation since the eighteenth century. For more than a hundred years there has been steady improvement made by the propagators and during the past several years the improvement has been very marked. The plant itself has been made compact and ornamental, its size has been reduced to garden proportions and its flowers improved in form and color. There are now nine or more classes of Dahlias but for all practical purposes this may be reduced to five.

Varieties

The four main varieties of Dahlias are the Decorative, the Peony-flowered, Show, and the Cactus.

The Show Dahlias are those that have a round or spherical head of quilled petals. The petals look as though they were rolled into quills, as people used to roll small papers for lighting purposes.

Decorative Dahlias are very different. The petals are broad, flat (not quilled) and nearly straight, arranged somewhat irregularly. The flower heads are not spherical like the Show Dahlia, but are inclined to be flat, or massive.

Cactus dahlias have large, loosely - formed, chrysanthemum - like flowers. The long, narrow petals are rolled or twisted, into quills—some tightly rolled, others more loosely.

Peony-flowered Dahlias are so called from their resemblance to Peonies. Some are artistically irregular with long stems.

Height

Dahlias are from 2 to 4 feet in height, or more. The dahlia is very adaptable. May be planted in beds, borders, base plantings, in clumps in the open places in the shrubbery, may be used with striking effect as a flowering hedge for summer beauty. The effect heightened if a row of lower-growth perennials is planted in front of it. The remarkable colors and forms in the newer kinds make it a queen among plants. Recognized as such it grows steadily in favor from year to year. It is classed as a bedding plant because, being a tuber, it must be taken up in the fall and stored.

It is satisfied with almost any type of soil, but it blossoms most profusely when planted in a warm, loose soil, not too rich. It does well in partial shade, but does not like too much moisture. However, it is not necessary to take any of these precautions, as it will do well anywhere.

Dahlias are in bloom from July till frost, and are among the very best flowers for cutting.

Our landscape consultant is always at your service to answer any questions you may have. There is no charge for this service. Write Catholic Courier Landscape Consultant or Phone Stone 1136.

DID YOU KNOW THAT—?

Glycerine has powerful solvent properties, especially for substances soluble in water or alcohol. This includes the flavorings used in baking and confectionery and the flavoring substances of the fruits employed. This property is valuable because glycerine, having dissolved the flavoring substance, retains it during baking, so that the product has a stronger, fresher flavor when done. The flavor, too, is better distributed through the cake or confection.

You Can Win Prizes at the "School of Cookery"

Better Homes & Better Living

by the Housing Editor

Built-in furniture offers a definite challenge to the planning skill of the builder.

Many older homes may be given much additional convenience and up-to-date charm through use of built-in furniture. Available spaces

exist in almost all homes, and many of these built-in items may be financed under the Modernization Credit Plan of the Federal Housing Administration.

Where the family contains one or more growing boys, a built-in bunk is a practical piece of furniture. Not only does a bunk capture the imagination of a young boy but when properly constructed or installed it is sturdy and able to withstand rough use.

Another advantage lies in the fact that built-in bunks are economical in the matter of space. Where two boys occupy a small room, a set of two bunks is likely to be a practical solution of the sleeping-arrangement problem.

Often young boys want their books in their own room, and few things cut down available wall space more than bookshelves. In some cases an entire wall may be employed, with bookshelves, bunks, and closets compactly arranged.

Many types of built-in bunks come ready-cut, requiring only assembly and installation. Home owners often prefer to design the bunk themselves and have a carpenter build it according to the specifications.

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PREMIUM BARGAIN COUPONS
They Are Worth Money To You—One on Every Bottle

GARDENER'S CORNER

CARE OF TREES

This year, more than ever before, our grounds and gardens should early be set in order. We must prepare in every way possible to offset the ugliness of war. Our gardens, shaded by healthy trees and bedecked with colorful flowers, can become veritable retreats in which our hours of leisure may be enjoyed to the full.

Remedy Winter Injuries First

Many forms of injury that occur during winter require corrective measures in spring. Ice-encrusted branches may have snapped off. If so, the stubs need to be properly removed or else the wounds, affected by wood-destroying agents, will develop into large cavities. Careful pruning may be needed to reshape trees that have suffered winter storm damage. If forks have started to split under the weight of snow or ice, immediate attention is indicated to prevent further damage and to repair the injury.

Spring Spraying, Preventive Measure

The annual spring check-up by a qualified tree expert will perhaps indicate the presence of destructive sap-sucking scale insects that cause the death of individual branches or entire trees. These injurious pests, along with many other species, can be controlled by the delayed dormant spray. Trees would then start the season free from these devitalizing agents. Spraying mature specimens must, of course, be done with a powerful sprayer if the spray is to reach and cover all the branches of tall trees.

Fertilize for Vitality

The spring physical examination by an expert will show the degree of vitality of trees. If vigor is impaired, feeding is essential. Haphazard feeding or the improper application of fertilizer can be very harmful, so also can excessive feeding as it is apt to make the wood of certain species very brittle.

John Davey, pioneer of all modern tree maintenance methods, developed a meticulously careful feeding dosage chart. Ornamental shade and evergreen trees may now be fed according to their actual ability to absorb food. Tree experts use a specially compounded tree food and apply it directly to the root zone, rather than broadcasting it on the surface. The latter method, formerly so commonly used, is dangerous. It tends to attract feeding rootlets to the surface where changing conditions would be decidedly harmful. Correct tree feeding is of the utmost importance in sustaining a tree's vitality and in enabling it successfully to withstand troubles that are fatal to sickly, under-nourished trees.

FHA Moves To Curb Dangers To Housing

The part played by the Federal Housing Administration in combatting the evils which in the past have threatened the security of home ownership was outlined recently by a FHA official.

Among the evils which the Federal Housing Administration is working to correct are:

Exorbitant home financing costs.

Uneconomic "patterning" of home mortgages.

Unwise city planning or the evil effects made possible by no planning at all.

Unwise and uneconomic zoning or the destructive effects permitted by the lack of zoning.

Bad subdivision layouts for new residential developments.

Poor workmanship in building construction.

Use of poor or inappropriate materials.

Poor functional design.

Unappealing or unsuitable architectural style.

Selection of locations unsuitable for long term residential use or for the particular residential building to be erected.

Overbuying.

Over-valuation by appraisers or others.

"SECOND" BATHROOM

The "second" bath in a small home is often a desirable thing, but it frequently offers a problem because of lack of space.

One possible solution is elimination of the tub and installation of a shower stall. A complete bathroom, with shower in place of tub, can be contained in a space as small as five feet square, with favorable window arrangement.

"Gracious, Yes!"
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