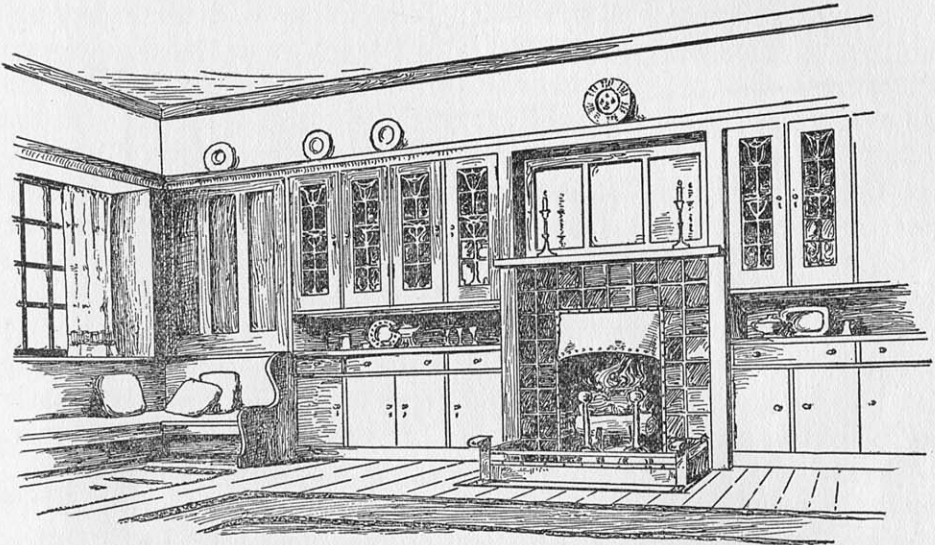


## THE DINING ROOM AS A CENTER OF HOSPITALITY AND GOOD CHEER



EXT to the living room, the most important division of the lower floor of a house is the dining room. The living room is the gathering place of the household,—the place for work as well as for pleasure and rest, but the dining room is the center of hospitality and good cheer, the place that should hold a special welcome for guests and home folk alike. Instead of being planned to fulfill manifold functions like the living room, it has one definite use and purpose,

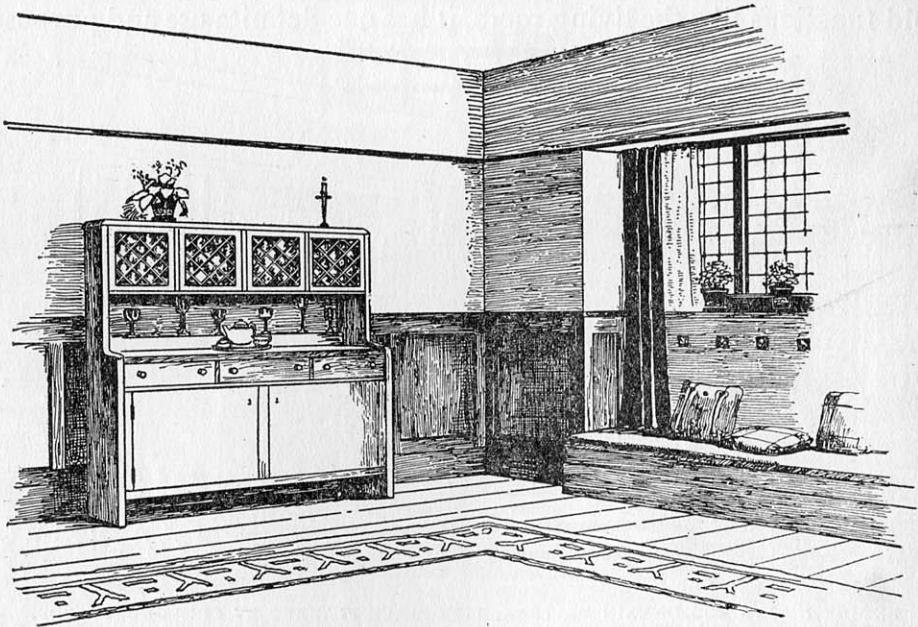


END OF DINING ROOM—MAIN FEATURE, FIRE-PLACE FLANKED BY CHINA-CUPBOARDS.

and no disturbing element should be allowed to creep in. Under ordinary circumstances, its use is limited to a small part of the day, so that in its arrangement and color scheme, a latitude is permitted which would not be found advisable in a living room. This latitude, however, does not extend to furniture and such accessories as pictures and bric-a-brac. A well-arranged dining room, more than almost any other room in the house, rejects any but the absolutely necessary furnishings. If the wall spaces are well divided and the color scheme rich and interesting, there is no need for pictures,—which usually seem out of place in a dining room,—and the shining array of silver, glass and china on sideboard, shelves or plate-rack leaves nothing lacking in the way of appropriate ornamentation.

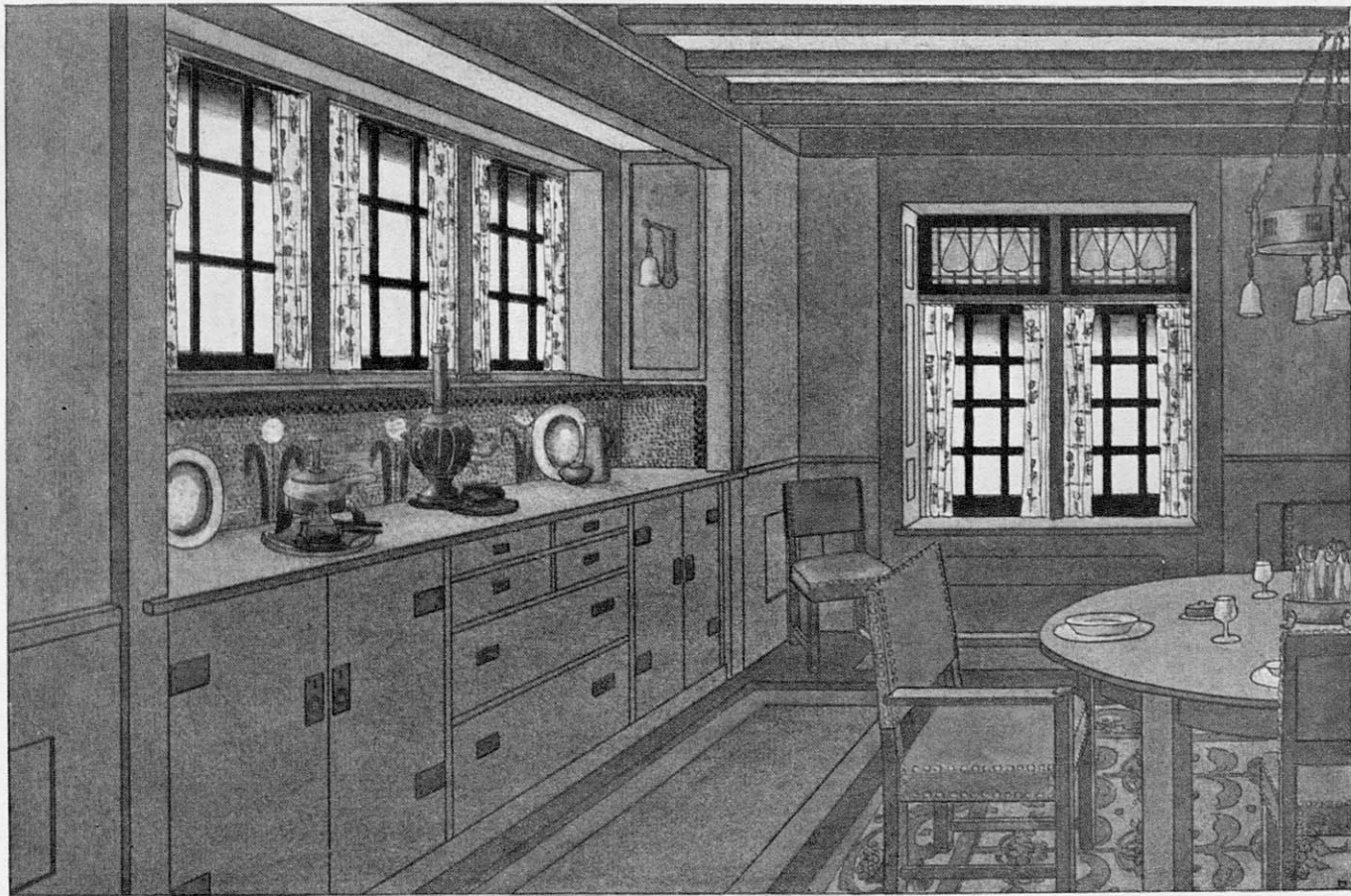
## THE DINING ROOM

In planning a dining room, two considerations take equal rank,—convenience and cheerfulness. Convenience must come first, for in a carefully planned house the work of the household is made as easy as possible. Hence it goes without saying that the dining room should be in such relation to the kitchen that the work of serving meals goes on with no friction and with as few steps as possible. A noiseless and



CORNER OF DINING ROOM, SHOWING WINDOW SEAT AS CENTRAL FEATURE.

well fitted swing door serves as a complete bar to sounds and odors from the kitchen, even if the connection is direct. If a butler's pantry is preferred for convenience in serving, it would naturally be placed between kitchen and dining room. Much time and many steps are saved if the principal china cupboard is built in the wall, with doors opening on both sides, so that dishes may be put away after washing without the necessity of carrying them into the dining room. Such an arrangement results in a great saving of broken china as well as in added convenience. This kind of a china cupboard may be made very decorative by putting small-paned or leaded glass doors on the



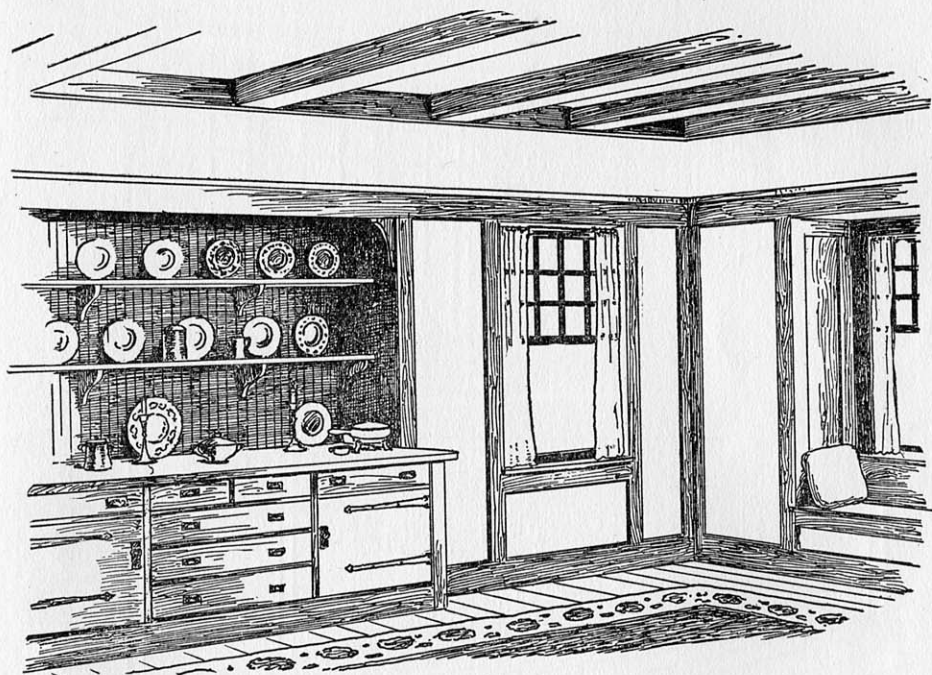
A CRAFTSMAN DINING ROOM, WITH RECESSED SIDEBOARD SHOWING TILING ABOVE



## THE DINING ROOM

dining room side, and the wooden doors at the back treated like the wood trim of the room, make an effective setting for the china.

If possible, the dining room should have an exposure that gives it plenty of light as well as air. The windows play such an important part in the decoration of the room that a pleasant outlook is greatly to be desired. The brilliancy of a sunny exposure may always be tempered by a cool and restful color scheme in walls and woodwork. On

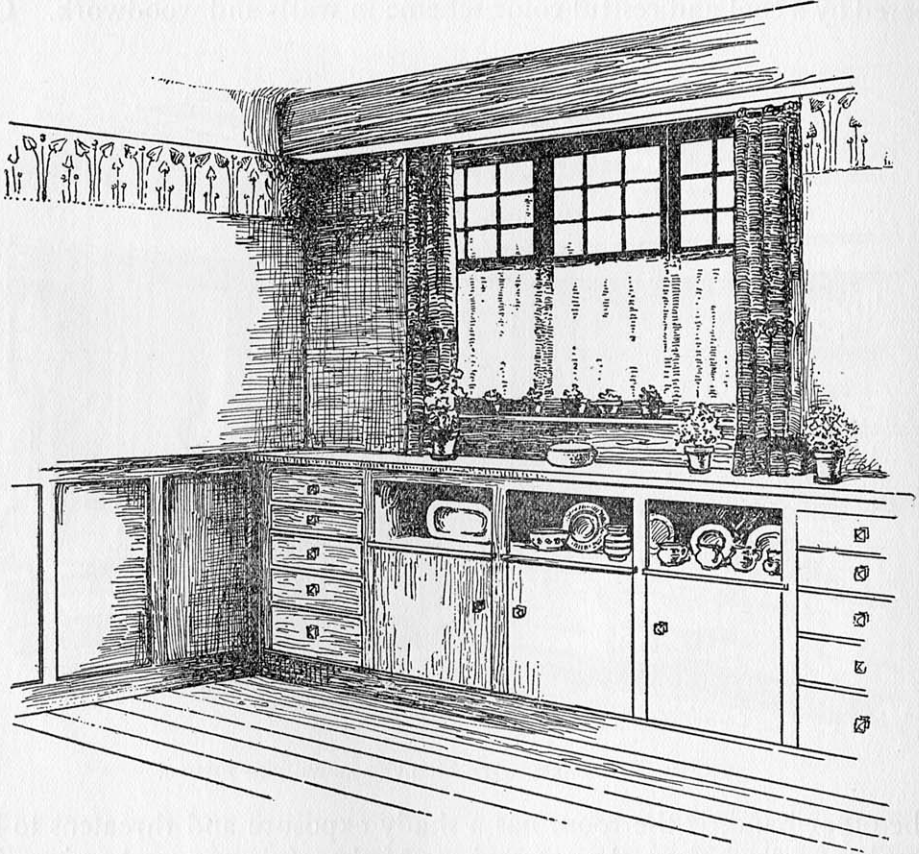


BUILT-IN SIDEBOARD, WITH SHELVES ABOVE FOR DISHES.

the other hand, if the room has a shady exposure and threatens to be sombre on dark days, the atmosphere of cheerfulness may be given by the warmth of color in the room. A richness and decision of wall coloring that would grow wearisome in a room lived in all the time has all the pleasant and enlivening effects of a change when seen occasionally in a dining room. If, as is often the case nowadays, the dining room is a part of the living room, it is well to plan it in the nature of a large recess. In that case, the color scheme should of course be in close harmony with that of the living room, but even then

## THE DINING ROOM

it may strike a stronger and more vivid note in the walls, while the woodwork remains uniform throughout. A large screen placed in the opening of the recess may be made very decorative if it serve as a link in the color scheme as well as the leading element in that pleasant little sense of mystery that always accompanies a glimpse of something partially unseen.

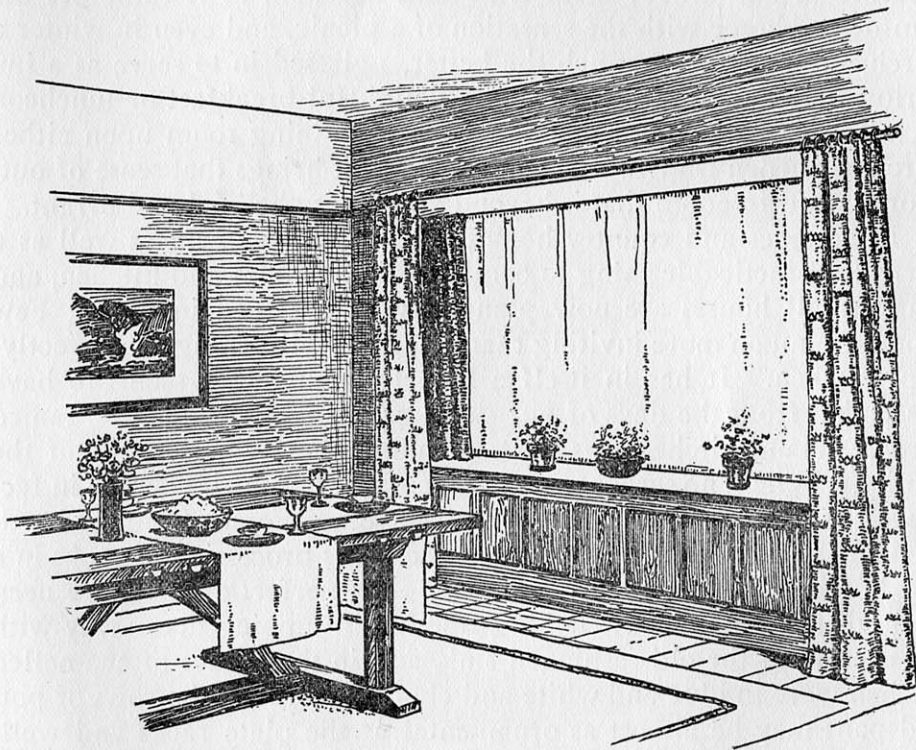


BUILT-IN SIDEBOARD, WITH WINDOW ABOVE.

Nowhere more than in the dining room is evidenced the value of structural features. Almost all the decorative quality of the room depends upon them. In addition to wainscot and ceiling beams,—or instead of them if the room is differently planned,—the charm of well-placed windows, large and small; of built-in cupboards, sideboards and cabinets for choice treasures of rare china or cut glass; of shelves and plate-rack, of window-ledge and window-seat, and,

## THE DINING ROOM

above all, of big, cheery fire-place, is as never-ending as the ingenuity which gives to each really beautiful room exactly what it needs. As in all rooms, there should be one central structural feature which dominates all the rest. Some examples of these ruling features are given in the accompanying illustrations. In one case a wide window



CORNER OF DINING ROOM—PRINCIPAL FEATURE, BROAD RECESSED WINDOW.

is recessed, with a broad ledge for the growing things that always add beauty and life to a room; another recessed window shows small-paned casements with plant-ledge and a well-cushioned window-seat below; still another window is just above the broad built-in sideboard, which has cunningly-planned recesses above the three central cupboards. A simple but very effective recessed sideboard is surmounted by shelves for the display of favorite jugs and platters, and one of the most satisfactory structural devices shows a china cupboard on either side of the fire-place at the end of the room, and a built-in seat running

## THE DINING ROOM

down the side and ending in a quaint angle which fills the corner. The two color plates show beautiful examples of built-in sideboards surmounted by windows, as well as unusually effective color schemes.

Fortunately placed indeed is the dining room which opens out on a porch that may be used for meals out-of-doors. In summer, the pleasure of an outdoor meal is beyond question, as it combines the comforts of home with the sensation of a picnic, and even in winter a porch,—if recessed so much the better,—glassed in to serve as a sun parlor, may be the scene of many a delightful breakfast or luncheon on mild days. A door opening from the dining room upon either porch or garden is always to be desired, as it brings that sense of outdoor air and freedom that is beyond all things cheerful and bright.

In cottages and country homes it is often a pleasant as well as a perfectly practicable thing to combine dining room and kitchen, and many small houses are now planned with that end in view. Few rooms are much more inviting than a large, well-arranged, perfectly-kept kitchen. It has in itself a homely beauty that seems to have descended from the days of our great-grandmothers, when the famed New England kitchen was in its prime as the favorite resort of the family. Where no servants are kept, and the housewife is such in fact as well as in name, the kitchen is a place very different from the hard-used and untidy realm tenanted by the endless procession of cooks in a city house. With a hooded range, kept in perfect order, there need be no distasteful odor of cooking; modern plumbing does away with the eyesore of the old-fashioned sink, and in these days of enamelled kitchen ware in blue and white and chocolate brown, the rows of pots and pans may be almost as ornamental as the plate racks and well-stocked dressers. A recess in such a kitchen, or even one end of the plain, square-cornered room itself, may well serve as a most comfortable and homelike dining room for a family that "does its own work" and enjoys doing it. A pleasant color scheme for walls and wood-work is as possible in a kitchen as in the most elaborate dining room, and its necessary simplicity is usually an added charm. The furniture of such a kitchen-dining room would of course be simple and substantial, and everything in the room capable of feeling a special affinity for soap and water, from the fresh muslin or homespun window curtains to the prettily-painted walls and the spotless floor.



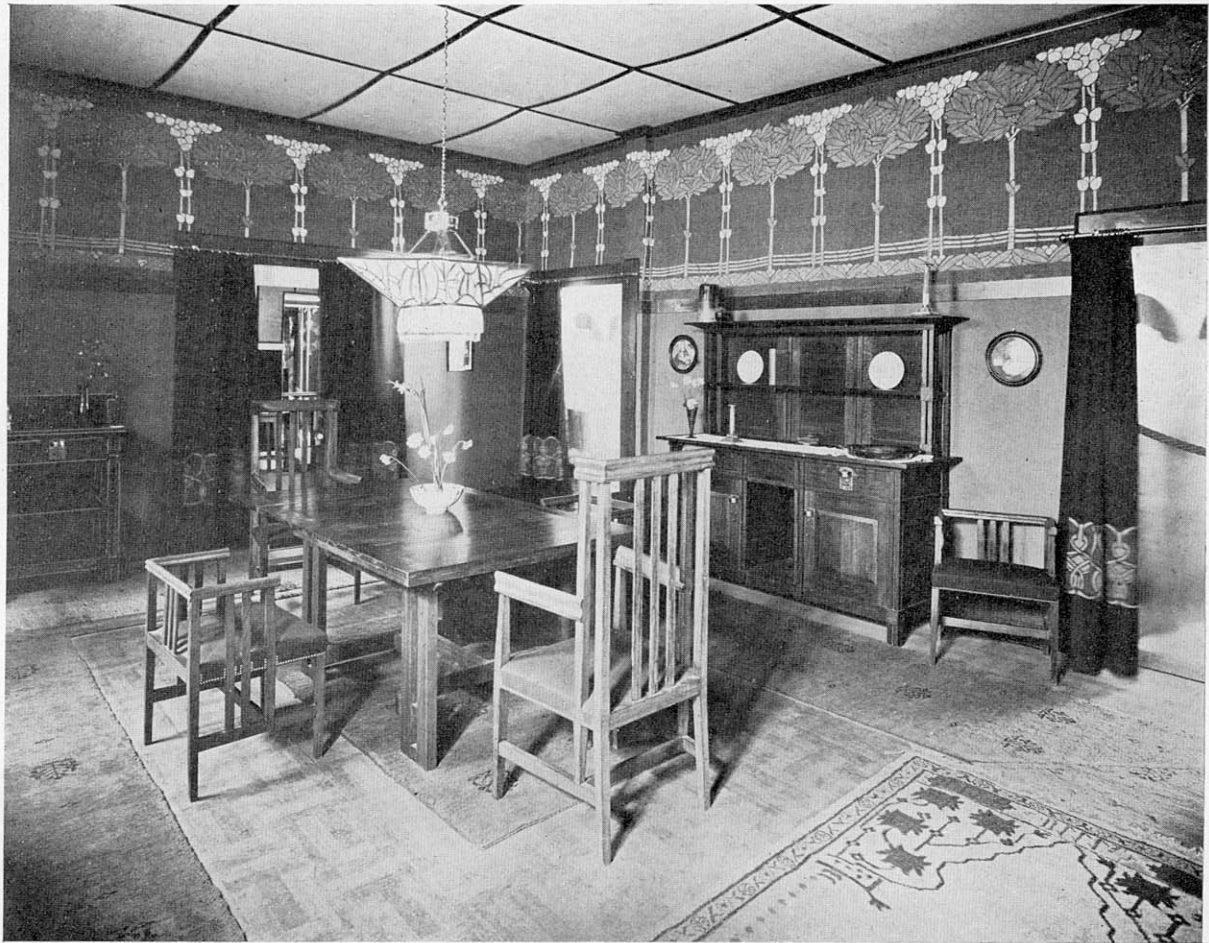


A CRAFTSMAN DINING ROOM, WITH BUILT-IN SIDEBOARD AND RECESSED WINDOW





AN ENGLISH DINING-ROOM WITH COLOR SCHEME OF STRONG YELLOW AND BLACK.



AN ENGLISH DINING-ROOM DONE IN RED AND SOFT GREEN.