A MISSION BUNGALOW IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: BY HELEN LUKENS GAUT

THERE is, perhaps, no type of modern architecture that shows wider variation under the influence of environment and surroundings than what is known as the bungalow. The difference between the crude thatched bungalow of India, from which we derived the first inspiration toward the building of this most comfortable and commodious form of dwelling, and the modern American bungalow with its widely varying beauty of form and its many comforts and conveniences, is as wide as that which exists between the national life and ideals of the two countries. In India the sole idea is to provide a shelter that will serve to temper so far as possible the fierce heat of summer, but in this country there are a hundred requirements to be fulfilled, and each part of the country seems to have evolved a form of bungalow that fulfills them to its own satisfaction.

The bungalow shown here is typical of Southern California, and its plan and construction are both derived directly from the form of architecture originated by the old Spanish padres as being best adapted to the requirements of the climate and the mode of life. That their judgment was unerring has been shown by the event, because more and more the architecture of Southern California tends to a use of more or less modified forms based on the pure Mission architecture.

This is distinctly a modern house, fitted to supply all the comforts and luxuries of modern life as well as to satisfy its demands for beauty of home environment. The walls are of cement construction and the widely projecting roof is covered with metal tiles painted a dull red. The construction of the walls is rather interesting, for they are built first with a framework of two by four studding, sheathed with rough pine boards an inch thick. On these boards are nailed wood lath ten inches apart and on these again are nailed the steel lath that holds the cement. The cement itself has been given a deep warm cream color by means of a patented process, by which the coloring matter is mixed with the cement in a way that renders it waterproof. The eaves are five feet wide and this wide overhang of the roof is supported by heavy projecting timbers which form an essential part of the structural decoration of the house. The square iron eave troughs are painted black and are held in place by black iron brackets with an eighteen-inch spread.

The square entrance porch at the front is singularly attractive in design. Its wide-eaved gable roof is supported by heavy round pillars of cement, and between these pillars and the wall on either side is placed a high-backed settle which not only affords a comfortable resting place but adds a charmingly decorative feature to the house. The front door is rather more definitely ornamental than is usual, but its effect in relation to this style of house is particularly good. It is made of dark oak with long panels of beveled glass leaded in a simple tree design.

At the southeast corner is the octagon porch, which is used as an outdoor living room and which is one of the pleasantest places in the house. This porch is partially enclosed by the walls of the house and the open part is protected by a parapet three feet high and by adjustable hanging screens of beads and bamboo. It is furnished as an outdoor room in a land of sunshine should be, with a comfortable couch, roomy wicker chairs and a cool looking Japanese rug spread over the cement floor. A broad French window filled with square panes opens from this porch into the den, which is really its indoor complement.

The dining room, which is placed at the opposite end of the house from the outdoor living room just described, is also octagonal in shape. At the rear of the house is a small court, and extending from this to the kitchen garden is a beautiful pergola with roof timbers made of shaggy eucalyptus trunks eight inches in diameter, raised upon supports made of round

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cement pillars founded on cobblestone squares. Honeysuckle, wisteria, asparagus fern, bignonia, heliotrope and climbing roses have been planted so that they will twine around these columns and clamber over the roof timbers, and at the rate flowers grow in Southern California the place should be a wilderness of bloom by the end of the first year.

Like all properly designed bungalows, the lower floor of this one is practically one large room, as the wide openings that serve in place of doorways are more in the nature of decorative structural features than actual divisions. A little triangular vestibule with the apex pointing inward is just inside the entrance door, which forms the base of the triangle. One wall forms a corner of the octagonal dining room and the other is nothing more than the wide opening which serves to make the vestibule a nook in the corner of the living room. Directly opposite the vestibule is a projecting triangular closet, which serves on the one side to preserve the octagonal shape of the dining room and on the other cuts off the corner of the living room in a line that balances the opening from the vestibule. There are practically no divisions between the living room and the dining room and den, and only a suggested division between the den and the large bedroom just back of it. Another bedroom occupies the center of the house, and opening from the dining room is a perfectly fitted kitchen that leads out upon a cement porch and thence into the court and pergola.

In these California bungalows it is the usual custom to have the interior woodwork, and very often the walls and ceilings, done entirely in one or the other of the California native woods, left so far as possible in its natural state, but in this case the scheme of interior decoration is more conventional and elaborate. The walls in the living room are covered with satin-finished paper in tones of green, and verdure tapestry is used in the dining room. The ceilings throughout are done in deep cream. The fireplace in the living room is also conventional rather than rugged in effect, as it is made of red pressed brick with an elaborate mantel above, showing fanciful paneling of redwood strips and an elaborate cabinet in the center of the mantel shelf. Most of the furniture is of black oak and dark brown leather and shows the heavy plain forms that seem so essentially to belong to a California house.

The floors in the living room, dining room and den are all of polished oak, and the rest of the floors are maple. The woodwork in the living room, dining room, vestibule and den is all done in selected redwood, highly polished. The woodwork in the bathroom and bedrooms is done in white enamel, while in the kitchen, pantry and kitchen closets it is of Oregon pine left in the natural color.

The cost of this house was approximately $6,000, this amount including the cost of furnace, plumbing, electric and gas fixtures, water heaters, wall paper, shades, cement walks, pergola; in fact, everything about the house. The design could be duplicated for much less money without losing the general effect by substituting cheaper glass, pine floors and woodwork, tinted walls and plain cupboards in kitchen and pantry, and by dispensing with the cellar and furnace, which are by no means necessities in Southern California.

In fact it is by no means certain that the cheaper house would not be even more charming because it would be more in harmony with the accepted idea of a bungalow. The finishing and furnishing of this house is more in accordance with the ideas of the East than of California, and the construction and appointments are such as would withstand the severity of an Eastern winter. In California, especially near the coast, there is no need to prepare for climatic extremes and this fact gives a wide opportunity for the building of beautiful houses at comparatively small cost. While it is desirable, of course, to have all the luxuries, effects quite as beautiful are within the reach of a much slenderer purse.
A CALIFORNIA BUNGALOW FOLLOWING THE ARCHITECTURAL STYLE ORIGINATED BY THE SPANISH PADRES.

DETAIL OF ENTRANCE SHOWING AN INTERESTING SIMPLICITY OF STRUCTURE.
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WIDE CEMENT PORCH AT SOUTHEAST CORNER OF MISSION BUNGALOW.

PERGOLA EXTENDING FROM THE REAR OF THE HOUSE TO THE KITCHEN GARDEN.