AN EXAMPLE OF PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE FROM THE PACIFIC COAST: BY HELEN LUKENS GAUT

S
O many beautiful and unusual designs for houses come to us from the Pacific Coast, that it would almost seem as if the West were the only home of the new American architecture. It is perhaps natural that this should be so, for the true Westerner is a practical soul, and ever open to suggestions from any quarter which promise to increase his comfort and gratify his sense of beauty. Furthermore, the Californian has the courage of his convictions in building the kind of house that seems to him most suitable for the climate and surroundings of that part of the country. Therefore, he either builds it of concrete, in which case it takes naturally a form resembling that of the old missions; or he builds it of wood, and here we get the influence of the Orient, especially of Japan.

This does not mean that both types of houses are not entirely modern and distinctively American, only that the same conditions which created the older forms of building have been met with equal directness in the new.

Therefore the bungalow shown here reminds one distinctly of the Japanese grouping of irregular roof lines, and also of the Japanese use of timbers. Yet there is hardly a feature which one could point out as being derived from the Japanese. The resemblance comes rather from the same appreciation of the decorative possibilities of wood as a building material, and of the modifications that present themselves naturally when the wood is combined with the rough cement blocks and pillars of a part of the construction. Both the shingles and the heavy timbers are of redwood, the rich red brown tone of the oiled wood contrasting pleasantly with the deep biscuit color of the concrete. The decorative use of wood is shown in marked degree in the fence which extends from the back of the house to the stable. The device of wide boards of alternate length, set close together and capped with a heavy square rail, is so simple that the individual effect of such a fence is amazing, and sets us to wondering why most of these high screening fences are so irredeemably ugly when it is such an easy matter to make them beautiful.

This bungalow, which was designed by Mr. Alfred Heineman, a Los Angeles architect, and is owned by Mr. E. A. Webber, of Los Angeles, shows the result of close sympathy and clear understanding between the architect and the owner. It contains eight rooms, with a bathroom, screen porch, large upper screen bedroom, front veranda, patio, cellar and furnace room, and being on one floor it naturally spreads over a fair amount of ground. It is not at all the sort of a building to be put up on a narrow city lot, for in addition to covering a reasonable area of ground itself, it absolutely demands to be set in an ample space of grass and shrubbery, or much of its charm would be hidden.

One of the most charming features of the house is that which marks it as belonging to a warm, sunshiny climate,—the patio on the south side. This is put to precisely the same use as it was in the old Spanish days; that is, much of the family life is carried on out there, the place being made charming
with rough, comfortable furniture that can stand exposure to the weather, and with pots and hanging baskets of palms, ferns and flowering plants. A small open space between the pavement and wall of the house allows for a flower bed, so that all the plants are growing and healthy. At night the place is lighted with lanterns of hammered glass that hang in wrought-iron frames from the cross-beams of the pergola. The vines, which will ultimately clamber all over this pergola, have been planted so recently that they have barely reached to the top of the pillars, but when they attain their growth, as they will do within a marvelously short time, the last touch of beauty will have been added to this pleasant outdoor retreat. The admirable arrangement of the bungalow is clearly shown by the floor plan, but a more

PATIO IN MR. WEBBER'S BUNGALOW.

LIVING ROOM, LOOKING INTO DEN.

vivid idea of the rooms and their relation to one another may be seen in the reproductions from photographs of the interior. Although this house is distinctly a bunga-

low, there is nothing crude about its finish or construction, either inside or out. The woodwork of the interior is all of redwood, finished so that the satiny surface and beautiful color effects are given their full value. The beams which span the ceilings of the living room, dining room and den are all boxed, as are the massive square posts that appear in the openings between the living room and den and also between the dining room and breakfast room.

A particularly charming effect is given by the arrangement of the tiled chimneypiece in the living room. This is low, broad and generous looking, and the bookcases on either side, with the leaded glass windows above, form a part of the structure which is treated as a whole and fills the entire end of the room. Leaded glass, in beautiful landscape designs and harmonious coloring, is used with admirable effect in the windows above the piano and fireplace, and also in the glass doors of the buffet and book-
cases. The den, which forms a part of the living room, is treated in much the same way as the larger room, save that its walls are wholly paneled with wood, and in a recess at one side of the window is built a wall bed which can be let down when necessary, converting the room into an additional bedroom to be used when the house is full. The opening into the dining room is so wide that it also seems to be a part of the living room. The ceiling differs from that of the other room in that it runs up to a slight peak where a massive girder affords support for the cross-beams. The walls of this room are paneled with redwood to the height of the plate rail, and the wall space above is covered with tapestry paper in a low-toned forest design. The large buffet is built in, and with the china closet above, extends to the ceiling.

Just off the dining room is a small breakfast room which, with its wide bay window, is hardly more than a very large window nook that is flooded with sunshine in the morning, and is a delightful place for breakfast. It is also used as a supplementary dining room when entertainments are given.

The same taste that ruled the building and decorating of this house also directed its furnishing, so that the furniture falls readily into place as a part of the whole scheme of things, and harmonizes completely with the woodwork and the whole style of construction. It is not often that one sees this because, although people may build an entirely new house, they usually go into it laden with possessions which are dear to them, but which can hardly be said to harmonize with the structural scheme of a modern bungalow. In this case, however, the furniture might have been chosen with a special reference to this house. Even the Turkish rugs, ordinarily so difficult to reconcile with the slightly rugged effect that usually prevails in a bungalow, are quite at home here, because the whole interior finish is so complete and delicate that the house affords an admirable setting for Oriental rugs.

 Plenty of outdoor sleeping accommodations are afforded because a screen porch opens from one of the bedrooms, and up-
stairs is a large screen room which gives ample accommodation to all who care to sleep out-of-doors. This upstairs screen room is not only a convenience, but its presence adds much to the exterior beauty of the house, as it gives an opportunity for a slight elevation in the central part of the roof which breaks the roof line very pleasantly, and has the effect of crowning the whole building.

Provision for outdoor sleeping has come to be as much a matter of course in the East as it is in the West, and this screen room would be particularly well adapted to the Eastern climate, because the widely overhanging roof affords plenty of shelter even from driving storms. Also in an Eastern climate it might be advisable to transform the patio into a sunroom by the addition of a glass roof and a front wall of glass in place of the pergola and pillars. With a southern exposure this would mean a delightful sunroom and conservatory, especially in winter, as it would get all the sunshine there is and would also be sheltered from cold and wind by the walls of the house. If the glass roof gave too much light the open space could, of course, be roofed over in the ordinary way.

A BUNGALOW BUILT BY AN EASTERN MAN FOR HIS OWN USE ON A CALIFORNIA RANCH

So many of our best examples of bungalow construction come from California, which seems to be the natural home in this country for such hot climate dwellings, that it is hardly surprising that when an Eastern man wants to build a bungalow after his own ideas, he goes out there to do it. We have just received from Mr. C. L. Newcomb, Jr., of Holyoke, Massachusetts, some very interesting plans and elevations of a five-room bungalow which was planned and built under his own direction and for his own use at Kenwood, in northern California. The house was finished last year, but there are no photographs of it and none will be made until the owner goes out there this year, so we are giving the plans alone for the benefit of our readers, as the house is so compactly and conveniently designed that the plans are of value as suggestions to others.

In the first place, the bungalow complete cost only $2,000, although it would probably take a great deal more than that to build it in the East, as the prices of both material and labor are higher here. It was specially planned to do away with the usual drawback of the bungalow style of dwelling—dark rooms, for as a rule the wide verandas, which are the greatest charm of this type of house, mean that the interior is very dark. Of course, in a hot, sunny climate this is a distinct advantage, as shade is eagerly sought for during the greater part of the year, but in the East it forms an insurmountable objection to the bungalow in the minds of many who would otherwise find this kind of house most attractive.

As the floor plan shows, Mr. Newcomb's bungalow is built somewhat in the Spanish style, with a patio in front and a large square porch at the back. This rear porch, which opens from the dining room, is screened so that it can be used for an outdoor dining room if desired, and also for a sleeping porch at night. A wide terrace extends across the whole front of the house and around one corner, and a large pergola.