THE MESSAGE OF THE WESTERN PERGOLA TO AMERICAN HOME- AND GARDEN-MAKERS: BY CHARLES ALMA BYERS

MERICA is turning her face with unmistakable conviction and enthusiasm toward enlarged outdoor life. Both as individuals and as a nation, we are rediscovering our inherent physical and spiritual need of fresh air and sunlight, of outdoor exercise during the day and outdoor sleep during the night. We are realizing the important relation that exists between the fulfilment of these needs and the attainment of our greatest mental and bodily efficiency. And so we are trying to adjust our lives in such a way that they will include as much of these healthful privileges as the limitations of our work, circumstances and dwellings will allow.

For most of us, the pressing demands of daily work or household tasks render impossible any great amount of outdoor freedom. Our duties, our pleasures, our whole mode of living are so closely bound up with our homes and places of business and recreation, that if we are to include in our overcrowded days the joy of life in the open, the opportunity for such life must of necessity be brought within very easy reach. We have no leisure or energy to seek it; it must be literally at our door, incorporated, if possible, into our actual everyday existence.

We have found, naturally, that the chief medium through which we can accomplish this is our architecture. It is possible to plan and build our homes or remodel old ones so as to provide a porch, balcony, pergola or other architectural feature which will serve as a close connection between house and garden, linking the indoor to the outdoor life, giving us at the same time shelter, privacy and the wholesome pleasure and stimulation which, for every normal being, are the inevitable results of intimate contact with the invigorating, refreshing forces of nature. And this is true not only for owners of country homes, but for all who dwell in villages, suburbs, towns and even cities. In fact, the more congested the buildings and the population, the greater is the need for some architectural provision for open-air life.

In grappling with the difficulties of this problem and endeavoring to arrive at some practical solution, the home-builders of the Eastern States have drawn from the example of their neighbors of the West much help and inspiration. For, favored by the natural clemency of our Western climate, which offers such strong inducements for life in the open air, we have arranged our houses to permit just as much of this as possible, during night and day, at all seasons of the year. We have made outdoor living and sleeping places such comfortable and
TWO VIEWS OF WESTERN PERGOLA CIRCLING A BRICK WALL, GIVING THE EFFECT OF THE USE OF THREE KINDS OF MATERIALS, CONCRETE, BRICK AND RUSTIC: A CHARMING METHOD OF COVERING A GARDEN PATH.
A CONCRETE AND RUSTIC PERGOLA LEADING TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE HOUSE; THE MASSES OF FLOWERS EDGING THE PATH GIVE AN ADDED BEAUTY.
THE MESSAGE OF THE WESTERN PERGOLA

delightful parts of our buildings, and accorded them such an important and unquestioned place in the building scheme, that they have come to be inherent characteristics of Western architecture. There is one especial garden feature which is very widely used here in the West, and holds immense value, from both a utilitarian and a picturesque standpoint; and that is, the pergola. While more generally used in the Western and Southern States, it has no geographical limitations, and should be equally welcome among the homes and gardens of every part of our land, from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian boundary line. As the pergola is a most friendly and adaptable structure, capable of infinite variety of form, lending itself to practically any material and site, it is rapidly becoming a potent factor in the adjustment of our dwellings, gardens and lives in the right relation to each other.

Among the practical virtues of the pergola is the fact that when connected with the house, it shelters and beautifies but does not darken the rooms within as does the roof of an ordinary porch. It forms an ideal living room in summer, and in winter when the vines that drape it are bare, the stem-twined pillars and beams give a touch of reminiscent summer grace to the outlines of the main building, without obstructing the light of the windows.

THE evolution of the pergola reveals an amazing richness of practical and artistic possibilities. This apparently simple structure contains seed of architectural beauty that need only the individualizing touch of new conditions and new usage to blossom into fresh structural expression. Originally, of course, it was a semi-sheltered path, as evidenced by a study of the old Italian pergolas along the terrace of Cappucini at Amalfi, for instance, or in the garden of the Villa Gori in Siena, where the pergola is erected over a walk to support climbing vines and flowers and afford a grateful shelter from the fierce sunlight without interfering with the enjoyment of light, warmth and color. Architecturally, its object is always to create a harmonizing link between house and garden. Consequently, the pergola has architectural rightness when it arises naturally out of the need for a semi-sheltered walk to a garden room, to a fountain, a tea pavilion or other garden spot; when it leads to or from the house, along a terrace or natural boundary, as between the lawn and the kitchen garden, where it serves also as a screen.

Remembering that the pergola was originally built to provide a cool and beautiful walk, we cannot err far in our adaptation. It should be a sort of corridor of greenery, dappled with sunlight and with shadows from overhanging leaves and flowers. But the drapery

477
of vines must not be too thick; a tracery of clinging vine or climbing rose on the columns, with a canopy of generous growth across the lintels fringing in trailing tendrils over the edges, afford the best protection, admitting plenty of air and softening the sunlight. Care must be taken, however, to keep the canopy thinned, so that shafts and splashes of sunlight and moonlight may fleck and bar the pathway.

Particularly interesting are our Western pergolas with supporting columns of rough cream-colored stucco and cross-beams of rustic branches of the redwood. These are readily adapted to Eastern gardens by using slender cedar poles for the cross-beams. Especially beautiful is a long vista of these warm-colored columns rising from a trim lawn or from low-growing border plants close set in a mass of foliage and flowers at their base.

For a simple garden the pergola may be informal in design, giving an air of intimate livableness to the house and garden alike; in fact, it is perhaps most delightful when least formal. But where one’s garden is more stately, the pergola may be almost classic in its simple lines, with built-in seats between some of the columns, the pavement and border well marked, and only a delicate tracery of roses or vines outlining the pillars and cross-beams. To this almost severe beauty one may add as many flowering vines and deep borders as one likes. But the foliage should never be allowed to grow too thickly overhead; the blue of the sky showing between the flower-hung irregular beams being one of the chief lures to walk beneath the pergola.

When the pergola is wanted also as a screen, an effective plan is to build raised flower-boxes eighteen inches high between the columns on the side of the pergola that shuts off the unwanted view. These can be planted with dense-growing climbing flowers to form a barrier which gives one perfect privacy. A row of iris between the flower-boxes and the walk will add another terrace of foliage and flower to the screening. Border plants may be set in wide rows to give a deep bank of color, as rich geraniums, daisies, chrysanthemums, marigolds, asters; or one may make a fringe of soft tints by using stocks in lovely old rose and mauve and ivory shades, or blue and rose larkspur and phlox. Or one may spread a carpet of pansies, sweet alyssum and forget-me-nots beside the walk.

The very pavement is part of the beauty of the pergola; brick gives a warm mellow color; cement and gravel are much used; flags are delightful in an old-fashioned garden, and square red tiles have a character all their own. The tread differs to harmonize with the pillars and with the rest of the surroundings. Any of these materials are appropriate with stucco or cement columns, but where brick pil-
A PERGOLA COVERING A TERRACED PATH, SHOWING HOW BEAUTIFULLY THIS KIND OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE CONNECTS HOUSE WITH GARDEN.
PERGOLA OF RUSTIC AND STUCCO LEADING PAST GARDEN TO HOUSE ENTRANCE: AN INTERESTING FEATURE IS THE BUILT-IN CEMENT SEATS WHICH FACE THE BORDER OF FLOWERS AND ADD TO THE OPPORTUNITY FOR OUTDOOR LIVING.
A PERGOLA LEADING FROM THE FRONT DOOR OF THE HOUSE TO THE GARAGE: THIS IS CONSTRUCTED IN SECTIONS OF BRICK WITH WOOD BEAMS; IT IS EXTREMELY WELL PLANNED AND SUGGESTS THE POSSIBILITIES OF ADDED PICTURESQUENESS OF COLOR IN BRICK AND WOOD.

RUSTIC PERGOLA CONSTRUCTED ENTIRELY OF CALIFORNIA REDWOOD LOGS AND POLES; THE WALK IS OF GRAVEL: THE VINE COVER FOR SUCH A PERGOLA WOULD SEEM TO BE CALIFORNIA ROSES.
THE MESSAGE OF THE WESTERN PERGOLA

lers are used the tread should also be of brick, and a patterned pavement adds to the decorative interest.

CARE should also be exercised in choosing cross-beams. Rustic branches or poles combine most picturesquely with rough stucco pillars, but with smooth-finished cement columns lintels of finished wood should be used. With the brick columns, square-sawn timbers, well finished, carry out the straight lines and flat surfaces of the brick, making a pergola of dignified structure, but softened into great charm by the warm tones of the materials. A sparing use of vines and flowers is peculiarly pleasing on brick pergolas.

One of the accompanying illustrations shows a beautiful and appropriate pergola leading from one side of the house down the terraces to a sunny dip in the garden where a sun dial stands between box-bordered paths. The columns are of marblelike concrete, with slender squared wood cross-beams stained dark green, and the pergola leads down three terraces, broken by short flights of steps—an unusual arrangement that gives a charming vista. Potted bay trees are placed decoratively on the landings of the steps, and the last flight is outlined by a close-clinging vine whose dark green emphasizes the warm brick of the steps. Roses are the only flowers used on this pergola, and the effect of the whole is exquisite. Rustic makes picturesque pergolas that may be used to great advantage when well placed. One of the illustrations shows a short pergola made entirely of redwood, with a gravel walk.

Altogether delightful is the winding pergola made by roughly trimming the old trees in an orchard, roofing them in with poles and training the graceful quick-growing hop-vine across them. Such a pergola belongs inevitably to the old-fashioned garden of a rambling farmhouse, and is possible in the East as well as in the West.

There are many climbing plants that may be used on a pergola, but perhaps the favorite is the rose. Some of the most beautiful roses that are easily cultivated in this country are the Gold of Ophir, Clothilde, Soupert, Alba Moschata, Queen Alexandra, Dorothy Perkins, the lovely Gloire de Dijon, and all of the ramblers—pink, white and red.

Wistaria, clematis, jasmine, the Madeira vine, the Japanese hop, Dutchman’s pipe and kudzu are all charming, and the grape-vine with its fragrance in flower time and its rich-colored fruit is one of the prettiest and most appropriate decorations. Then there is Virginia creeper, whose brilliant autumn coloring is wonderfully effective on a pergola. With so many vines to choose from, one should have no difficulty in making the pergola an inviting spot for outdoor life.