A HILLTOP HOUSE ADAPTED FROM A CRAFTSMAN DESIGN:  
BY LAURA RINKLE JOHNSON

To cooperate with Nature and make the most of whatever advantages she offers, whether it be in the shape of local materials, immediate surroundings or distant views—that surely is one of the requisites in the building of a successful home. And that evidently is what has been done by the owner of the house pictured here.

In an old apple orchard, at the edge of the village of Lyons, in the State of New York, commanding an extensive view of rolling hills and fertile valleys, stands this two-story dwelling, the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Colvin. It was built from a design published in The Craftsman for April, 1910.

The house, with its covering of California redwood shingles and its trim of “bottle green” is in keeping with the thickly foliaged trees among which it stands, and the boxes at the windows and on the porch railings are filled with flowering plants and vines that give a brilliant dash of color against the reddish brown of the shingles. You feel even from a glance at the photograph of the exterior that a two-story house was chosen rather than a bungalow in order to take advantage of the view. Extending across its front is a roomy double porch, the lower part being used as an outdoor living place, comfortably furnished with hammock, table and chairs. The balcony is used as an outdoor sleeping room, and from this, one has cross-country vistas for many miles to north, east and south. The openings are fitted with rolling porch shades, which form an effective screen from the early morning sun, and at the same time are not heavy enough to prevent air circulation. The floor of the lower porch is cement, while that of the upper one is covered with deck canvas.

The interior is equally simple and home-like, as the pictures show. The living room, which is 16 by 21 feet, is entered directly from the porch, and at the right is the stair-case. The flight is broken by a landing and turn, three steps from the floor, this landing being made light and attractive by a window with small panes. The stairs are easy of ascent, the treads being unusually low and broad, and an interesting feature of the construction is the manner in which the treads are treated. The ends which project into the room have fastened to them, by two wooden pegs, a strip of oak the thickness of the treads and an inch and a half in width, the strips being longer than the treads by three inches. The spindles are made of chestnut boards six inches wide, out of which is cut a conventional design.
and these spindles reach from the treads to the ceiling, thus forming a secluded staircase while not enclosing it entirely.

The living room has two large windows, the one at the front commanding a fine view. Opposite the door is a large fireplace of red pressed brick, with chimney extending to the ceiling, the mantelshelf being formed by a heavy slab of chestnut. At the right of the fireplace is a door with amber glass panes, leading into a coat closet.

At the other side of the fireplace is the opening into the dining room, which is lighted by two windows, one looking out on the garden and orchard on the west, the other facing the south.

The floors in the living room and dining room are of maple, shellacked and waxed, and the rest of the woodwork throughout the lower story is of chestnut, fumed, waxed and rubbed. The result is a velvety brown finish, of a medium shade, that harmonizes well with the brown paper on the walls.

Next to the dining room is the kitchen, an exceedingly pleasant and comfortable room. On the walls, to a distance of five and one-half feet from the floor, is hard wall plaster, marked off into squares to represent tile and painted white. A built-in cabinet and cupboards are useful adjuncts to this room, and at the rear is a storeroom in which the laundry tubs are placed.

The stairs to the basement lead down from the kitchen. A warm-air heating system is used and has proved satisfactory, notwithstanding the fact that the house is in an exposed and elevated location. In the cellar is a large cistern from which the water is forced to the first and second floors by an automatic pump, for which city water is the motive power. Thus the occupants of the house are assured at all times of an ample supply of soft water, and as the roof is covered with a sanitary patent roofing, the water is devoid of any foreign taste or color, and can therefore be used for drinking purposes.

The second story contains a hall, three bedrooms and bath, the east room extending across the front of the house and opening onto the sleeping porch. A large clothes closet with window adjoins this room, and each of the other rooms has a closet of convenient size. The woodwork in the bedrooms and bathroom is painted white, and while the same design of paper is used in
these rooms, it differs in color, that in the north room being yellow, while pink is used in the west room and blue in the south.

At the rear of the house is a garden in which every inch of space is utilized, either for flowers, vegetables or the smaller fruits, and on the south side is a rose bed where fine foliage and beautiful blooms repay the unceasing labor given by the owner.

An interesting feature of this simple home garden is the way in which native flowers and shrubs have been coaxed to take root and blossom there. Under an apple tree is a wild flower bed containing flowers in bloom, from the first hepaticas of spring to the asters and fireweeds of late autumn, while about the house many native shrubs have been planted—dogwood, sumac, mountain laurel and azaleas. Ferns and violets also grow around an ingeniously constructed bird bath, which affords much pleasure to the feathered folk and amusement to the occupants of the home.

A pergola has been built which in time will be covered with climbing roses, thus bringing the building into even closer harmony with its surroundings.

Altogether the garden, like the house, is one of unpretentious charm, and shows what an important factor in home-making is the interest and enthusiasm which the owner puts into the work.

STATE FAIRS: INTELLIGENT PROMOTERS OF THE VARIOUS INTERESTS OF RURAL WOMEN: OUTLETS FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES AND MEETING GROUNDS FOR SOCIAL INTERCOURSE: BY MARY A. WHEDON

ANY things are now tending to promote the interest and individual development of the farmer's wife, among them State and County Fairs as well as the work of State Schools of Agriculture. Through the Extension Division of the latter institutions advanced methods of farming and home economics are carried to the doors of rural schools and homes. Women are thereby touched to new thoughts on a common theme and to the realization that their homes now demand better sanitation and more wholesome cooking; their children, practical clothing; their community, sound schools and pleasant social environments. In the majority of cases they feel the cry of their country for general civic betterment.

These farm wives and sisters lack, all too often, what their husbands have in abundance,—association with others, co-operation in effort and organization.

The State Fair undoubtedly assists in the work of college extension by developing many additional lines of interest. It is, in fact, becoming more and more a centralization point for the common interests of rural women.

As an example of the impetus given to the lives of hundreds of women the individual work of one State Fair may be cited. The last State Fair of Minnesota dealt largely and liberally with its women. It did more than ever before to enhance their pleasure, their comfort, and to amplify their education. The Woman's Building was one of the "show" places of the great show itself. Not only did this State Fair give opportunities to women, but, like wheels within wheels, it permitted various organizations of women to have their headquarters on the grounds, while to these centers came women, not only of like interests and faith, but others of all creeds, even those of no creeds whatsoever.

The Woman's Building is at present one of the largest on the Fair grounds. Part of it is given over entirely to entries of woman's work from all over the State, while the rest of it is devoted to school exhibits. Large show-cases in the aisles and against the walls, and similar ones on the counters, are annually filled with patchwork quilts, knitted spreads, embroideries, lace work, darning, burnt wood, carving, painting, fine sewing and numberless evidences of home crafts. Products of the kitchen are to be found in every form,—pies, pickles, jellies, marmalades, preserves and other things associated with the hands of industrious farm women.

For the last ten years the Board of Managers has employed a woman superintendent to go through the State of Minnesota and meet the women at the various county fairs. This Superintendent has made a point of coming into personal touch and acquaintance with the women, thereby interesting them while assisting to increase this department to its present proportions. The result of this work is that every year women are, in increasing numbers, visiting the State Fair to see their own work and