A HOME WHERE EFFICIENCY, ECONOMY AND BEAUTY ARE COMBINED: BY M. H. PRATT

All along the street bordered with tall oaks and elms pretentious costly homes are to be seen, each very large, each very modern; for Wilmette, one of Chicago’s suburbs, is noted for its many beautiful residences. Yet no one will pass down this street without stopping to look and admire the quaint little cottage set right down in the middle of one of the blocks of splendid mansions. It looks for all the world like a little demure child standing between its dignified, stately parents, who cannot quite understand it, yet gaze down leniently and fondly upon it.

It appears so small, yet so harmonious and artistic and withal so complete, that you fairly know it is meant for just two, and perhaps a tiny third. Its low roof, well balanced wings and windows gay with flower-boxes of red geraniums give it a look of an architecturally perfect houseboat, yet the entire cost of this modest home was but $3,500, the lot adding about $1,200 more in value. And inside it is just as complete and interesting and as well planned as outside.

In the first place it is a house without a cellar, purposely built so, which effected a big saving in the beginning. Yet it has an up-to-date, hot-water heating plant, coal room and laundry room, all of which are usually to be found in the basement; but here the many steps of going up and down cellar to the furnace several times a day are abolished, and also the laundry room with its neat porcelain tubs is made dry and sunny and airy by virtue of being situated on the first floor.

There is also a built-in vacuum cleaning system operated by electricity, and the little room containing this, and room holding the
The hot-water plant are entered from the laundry. This plant is on a cement floor sunk one foot below the regular floor level, and there is an overhead tank so as to insure proper circulation.

A large enclosed porch is built on one side of the front, and a still larger enclosed sleeping porch in the second story. The living room is 13 x 17 feet, the alcove dining room off from the living room is 10 x 13 feet, and the kitchen is a convenient size.

On the second floor are to be found two good bedrooms, a very large bathroom, and a nursery. One bedroom is 17 x 13 and the other 9 x 11. Then the enclosed sleeping porch is really another bedroom for it is used all the year round and has large casement windows which swing outward. These on two sides of the room with a smaller window on the third side give plenty of air. This sleeping porch is over the back porch and trellis, and is a most attractive feature of the unusual little dwelling.

The wing on the right side of the house is taken up entirely by the square living porch with big homemade swinging seat and comfortable chairs; while the wing on the left side consists of the dining room with high arched ceiling, giving an impression of spaciousness, although it is in reality but a wide alcove off the living room.

Two built-in cases form the dividing line between living and dining rooms. On one side are bookcase and magazine rack and on the other a china cabinet and a food-and-plate warmer. This latter is built in radiator style and holds an entire course with sufficient plates for serving it, while the first course is being partaken of. Thus is eliminated the labor of going into the kitchen for each article of food between courses; it also proves a saving of gas, as when the meal is cooked the gas range is no longer needed, for the dinner will keep hot in this radiator food warmer.

It will be seen that this house is planned with a view to making housekeeping easy and disposing of the servant problem. An hour a day with the vacuum cleaner keeps everything in spick and span order, and a chute for soiled linen from the hall upstairs to the laundry saves many an extra step. Each bedroom contains a wall closet as well as the usual built-in closet, and a set of wall drawers, so that there may be plenty of storage room for all clothes and linen.

The stairway opens both into the living room and kitchen, in order that mistress or maid may go straight from
the upper story to the kitchen or working part of the house, thus making a backstairs unnecessary.

Another feature designed by the owner is the built-in hood of plaster arranged over the gas range, which carries away all odors of cooking.

There is a beamed ceiling in the long living room and an unusually large and artistic fireplace of brick with plain oak mantel. For convenience in handling, the firebed of the fireplace is raised three bricks from the floor and extends forward about two feet. This elevation of the fire adds to the coziness of the family circle on cold winter nights when sitting around the big burning logs.

The floors are entirely of oak, except kitchen and bathroom, where maple is used—"because it looks so clean and white when scrubbed,"—the young housewife explains. The woodwork is all of a good grade of hard pine stained until it looks very much like dark weathered oak, while the built-in features are of mission style to correspond with the other furnishings.

The electric lighting fixtures were especially designed by the owner to give good lighting service, to be practical and low priced, and at the same time artistic and in harmony with the rest of the interior.

If there is one word in this article used more than any other it is the word "built-in," for the owner and designer of this house believes, after considerable experience, that the more practical "built-in" features a house can have, the more serviceable and livable it will prove.

The time and thought expended in the planning of this home and the personal supervision of its building has succeeded in producing a home with real individuality, a little different from any other house, and one that just suits the needs of the people dwelling in it.

All of which shows that even if one can afford to spend only about three or four thousand dollars on a house, one can still make it, in spite of its simplicity, both comfortable and artistic—an individual expression of one's home ideal.

**HELPING PENN'S "SYLVANIA" TO LIVE UP TO ITS NAME**

W hen William Penn, in 1682, colonized the State that bears his name, he was struck with the picturesque woodlands in that part of the country, and borrowing the beautiful old Latin word, he called it "Sylvania." To this, as every schoolboy is reminded, the King politely prefixed his enterprising subject’s surname. Evidently, however, Pennsylvania's forests are in need of a little reinforcement, judging from a statement recently made by Robert S. Conklin, State Forestry Commissioner, and the _New York Times_ gives the following account of the projected work:

"More than 3,500,000 seedling trees will be planted on the 1,000,000 acres of Pennsylvania's forest reserves this year. This work was authorized by the State Forestry Commission at its recent meeting, and will be started within a few days.

"Many of these seedlings were raised on the State's nurseries. These are located in Franklin, Tioga, Potter, Clearfield, Huntingdon, Clinton and Monroe Counties, and the trees to be set out on the public domain will include white, red and Scotch pine, European larch, Norway spruce, black walnut, blackberry, sugar maple, fir, elm, honey locust and sycamore, together with basket willows which will be planted along streams. In addition, 85,000 seedlings will be set out for twenty-one private individuals."

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