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## Forget the Joneses...

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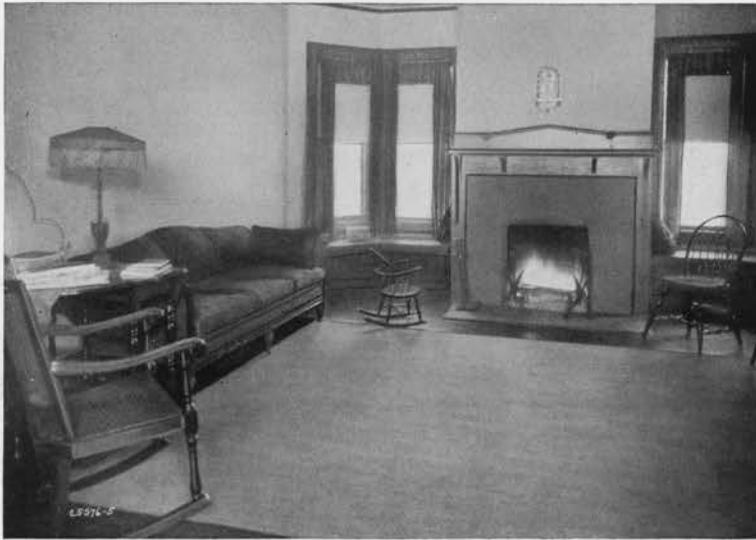
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A Fireplace Can Make a Home

## Forget the Joneses . . .

By Ruth Hornung

**H**ARMONY is the keynote in the attractive homes of today. The sense of unity and completeness to the simplest detail is gained by considering the house as a unit, and treating it as such in the selection and placing of the furniture, from the main suites down to the most insignificant pieces. For the furnishings should be selected to harmonize with the architectural detail of the house.

Since the house is the basis from which most people plan their attacks upon the furnishing question, it is well to choose a type of house that is emblematic of what is most attractive and suitable for the requirements of the family. It is not foolish to buy a simple cottage-type house, when the family likes to be surrounded with luxury and ostentation rather than the charming, simple pieces fitting to the humble house?

**T**HE most essential characteristic of any home is that it be friendly and livable, a representation of the family taste and mode of living adapted to the needs of the group, as well as to its income. Many families have homes far beyond their means, because they are afraid of what someone else may say of an humble environment. They have no confidence in their own judgment.

In this way a false philosophy of "keeping-up-with-the-Joneses" has become a national menace to the creation of "home-like" homes. It should not affect the homemaker, however, for the charm of a room is not dependent on the amount of money spent on it. It should

be remembered that things are usually out of keeping because they are too pretentious, rather than because of their simplicity. The spirit of informality that prevails in a modest home may often be a blessing in disguise for the family that cares little for extravagant entertaining.

Folks that plan to build their own homes have a bit of an advantage over those of us who take what we can get and are grateful if it is anywhere near what we would choose. Aside from being able to have the exact style of architecture they want, they have the added opportunity of fitting their plans to the furnishings desired, as well as vice-versa.

Through careful planning and consulting with authorities over a long period of time the difficulties encountered in furnishing a room, due to architectural limitations, are cut down to a minimum. Not only do the size and proportion of the rooms affect the manner of furnishing. This is also affected by the placement of doors, windows and fireplace, and the style of decorative detail used. In a house that is well-planned it is possible to achieve a great variety of arrangements, and still adhere to an inexpensive scheme.

**J**UST as the house has a definite character, so must the rooms be assembled to be harmonious, inviting, and adequate for the needs of the family, expressing their likes and dislikes. They must be appropriate and suitable. Though the furnishings need not be of exactly the same period, style and era, they must

at least be friendly, and express the ideal of home life in the family. There are some few styles of furniture that can be adapted to fit an amazing variety of rooms, such as the good mahogany pieces of Colonial America and the simple styles of Eighteenth Century England. But for the most part, furniture styles are distinctly individualized; and such pieces as the massive, ornately carved ones of the Renaissance Period are not suited to be used in any but very large, formal rooms. So their use becomes greatly restricted. An attempt at grandeur in a simple room is odious, and there elaborate trapping would be as out of place as a Louis XIV chaise lounge in an igloo.

Aside from being unsuitable to the style of the house, the various furnishings may be inappropriate for use together. It is this inconsistency in assembling a room that is frequently a mistake of persons who are zealous of being correct. For instance, a well-dressed woman who would not think of wearing evening slippers with a sport dress often carelessly arranges her house, so that a room of the "sport" type is decorated with articles that are sophisticated, or definitely comparable to evening wear in clothing.

The decorative principles that help evolve a harmonious interior are those of line, form and balance. Obedience to these principles, with the use of carefully selected furnishings, creates a room that is charming and inviting. It expresses the likes and dislikes of the family, their social customs, and their appreciation of what is appropriate and suitable.

And now in regard to the buying of furnishings. Purchasing is of itself a study in psychology; there is no end of external and internal factors that influence the shopper. Many people succumb to a clever sales-line and buy something unwanted against their better judgment. One of the typical arguments put forth by a salesman is that the article he is selling "is being used exclusively this year." Nine times out of ten he sells the useless fad to a dissatisfied customer.

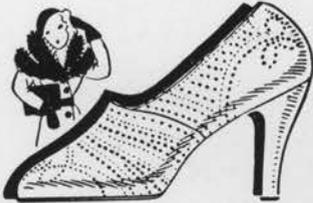
It is wise to be selective always in purchasing, have a critical attitude, and attain a viewpoint of perspective. If you are satisfied that the article will prove useful over a long period of time, it is safe to make the purchase.

Another temptation in buying is the thought that something is a bargain. Remember that nothing is worth the price, regardless of the amount paid, if it cannot become a useful part of your environment. Women who buy an article because some friend or neighbor has one are reproducing the actions of one person to gain the approval of the group, and so lose sight of personal individuality. Dare to express yourself and assert your idea of beauty in a harmonious way, the chief

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## Doll Up for Easter

(Continued from page 5)

straw," a smooth ribbon-like fabric. A cluster of brown satin ribbon loops at the back added to its chic.

Perky quills in some of the hats make them reminiscent of Robin Hood or a Scotch Highlander.

I've mentioned before the versatility of spring costumes, so of course you will expect to see many two-piece dresses. Clever girls are making them into three-piece outfits, by buying one of the new lacy sweaters in a harmonizing color and alternating between the sweater and the

dress blouse. These sweaters are called "wings," which is very appropriate, for they have deep armholes and full push-up sleeves.

For afternoon, sashes, slashes and bows are favorites for milady's costume. Unexpected slashes in the sleeves or back of the dress add greatly to its interest.

What a glorious world this is in the spring!

Yours,

Sally.

## Forget the Joneses

(Continued from page 6)

restriction being that your views do not conflict with those of other people with whom you live.

There is so much unadulterated joy in shopping for every piece that goes into the home, and in being sure that each article is just what you have searched for, dreamed of, and waited to come upon, that the home becomes a medium of expression for unbounded pride and individual energy well spent. When a family calls on some professional interior decorator to completely furnish its house in the best aesthetic manner, the result may be flawless, but it has a machine-like appearance, in that it contains nothing of the individuality of the group.

Another suggestion that may be helpful in establishing a harmonious interior is to "clear the atmosphere." Discard all those "hang-overs" that have outgrown their usefulness. Things that are no longer useful or beautiful have no place in the home. They were probably fads in the first place and are kept around merely for the sentimental attachment, regardless of the fact that such inconsistent articles often mar the prevailing spirit of harmony.

This does not mean, however, that everything that is old has no place in the modern home. On the contrary, some of the old pieces are very valuable, and this type of pseudo-antique, when it is refinished, may be fitted beautifully into the scheme of the room with justifiable pride.

Look about you in your own home, and see if it is as harmonious as it might be, a worthy retreat for your family. See if it is perhaps a little more pretentious than the budget warrants, or if there are present any noticeable little inconsistencies that have been heretofore overlooked in the planning and arrangement. Perhaps it is just a matter of readjustment or of selecting and rearranging a few of the accessories.

Most homes are a combination of old and new, good and bad. As the appearance of the home is important as a place where we entertain our guests, and as they judge us by what they see there, it is a mistake to create a single room alien to the personal tastes of those who use it.

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