Pictures for the Family They Change Houses Into Homes

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GOOD pictures change houses into homes, parlors into livable rooms. Pictures that are colorful, wisely selected, well framed and carefully hung lend interest and an atmosphere of cheer and beauty to every room in the home.

A good picture will have one or more of the following characteristics: Expressive line, interesting arrangement of lovely color, beautiful pattern or a worthwhile story well told. A picture for the home should be especially suitable for the room and its furnishings. Everything on the wall should seem a part of it.

It is a travesty on art to use pictures merely to fill wall space. Bare walls are restful and more to be desired than too many pictures.

When purchasing a picture one should always insist upon quality. It is wise to look at and to examine many pictures several times before purchasing. One’s choice should be governed by: The size and shape of the wall space; the color scheme of the room; the other furnishings of the room.

Pictures with color are specially desirable. They add interest to a room which seems to be dull or monotonous.

“The Flower Girl in Holland” by Hitchcock is a charming example of this type of picture.

In every room there are choice places for hanging pictures. In the living room above the fireplace, or over the davenport, desk, or chair are excellent places for them. The pictures of the living room should be general in interest. They should have dignity and stimulate pleasant thoughts. Pictures especially suitable for the living room are landscapes such as “The Dance of the Nymphs” by Corot, “Watermill” by Hobbema, “The Sower” and “The Gleaners” by Millet and “Harp of the Winds” by Martin.

Portraits such as “My Mother” by Whistler, “Mona Lisa” by Da Vinci, “Boy Blue” by Gainsborough, or “The Laughing Cavalier” by Frans Hals, are also good.

Pictures in the hall should welcome the members of the family as they return home and offer hospitality to friends and acquaintances who enter.

Formal arrangements are well adapted to hall use.

Informal dining rooms can be brightened by using flower or garden scenes, prints from old English views or French color prints. For more formal dining rooms landscapes, etchings, or possible idealized portraits will add interest.

In the bedroom one’s personal treasures such as framed photographs of friends, choice views from travels and other things one wishes to have should be kept.

For a child’s room, the child should choose the picture he or she particularly likes. “The Age of Innocence” by Reynolds, “The Boy With the Torn Hat” by Sully, or “Christ in the Temple” by Hofman are good pictures for this purpose.

In the nursery, pictures should have little detail and should be hung low enough for children to see and enjoy. “Can’t You Talk,” by Holmes, “Kittens” by Adams, or “The Spring Song” by Gluclich are simple enough for children to understand.

The pictures should be changed as the child and his interests grow.

Most homemakers spend several hours in the kitchen daily, so this room should be made as attractive as any other. A cheerful, colorful picture will brighten up this room tremendously. It may be a sunny landscape, an old fashioned garden, or even a portrait which radiates beauty and understanding.