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Don't Scrub, Carve!

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Don’t Scrub, Carve!
by Peggy Schenk

I VORY and soap have something in common—they both can be carved.

Soap is a good carving medium because of the ease with which it can be cut, its availability and its cheapness. Tools for soap sculpture are simple and easily obtained. They are: a knife with a thin pointed, medium-sized blade, one or two orange sticks and a standard sized cake of white soap.

Remove all the lettering from the cake of soap with a knife. Draw your design directly on the soap with pencil or pointed tool, or trace a drawn outline from paper. Let the sketch come as close to the edges on each side as you can.

Look for the big forms, when you plan your carving. Contrary to the old adage, if you look after the big things, the little ones will take care of themselves. Rounded forms are broken up into planes that must be carved and then rounded. Avoid thin projections, which are liable to break off.

Keep the silhouettes simple. Turn the work often. Do not carve too long in one place, or you may find that the view is all wrong from one angle. It is best to watch the direction of the planes and to work to keep the relative projections and depressions of the right shape and in the right place. Keep the heavy masses at the bottom—for stability.

Do not take yourself or your work too seriously. Relax and enjoy it. A little practice and you will procure a well-carved piece of soap as artistic as an ivory carving.

Wind Proof and Warm

S KI enthusiasts, as well as coeds, will be able to keep warm this winter without bundling up in bulky clothes that impede their progress. Suits for skiing and other winter sports are now being made of a light-weight twill that is absolutely waterproof and windproof. The material is coated with a chemical compound in which clear latex is used and this treatment—combined with the hard, tightly woven textures of the fabric—prevents the penetration of dampness and chill winds.

Its development explodes the old-fashioned notion that winter sport garments must be heavy in order to provide warmth. Scientific tests have proved that the material is equal in warmth to wool which is 50 percent heavier in weight.

Furniture of 1937
by Marjorie Pettinger

A N AIR of grace and refinement seems to dominate the furniture for the modern home of 1937. Emphasis is being placed more than ever on color and design of fabrics while individuality in decorations heads the “smart” lists.

Colonial styles continue to be favorite but of special interest are the semi-modern pieces derived from the French styles of Louis XV and XVI. These are less theatrical than the originals but are just as rich and luxurious.

The old “three-piece suite” seems to have disappeared forever from the living room. The newest idea is the use of twin chairs with a davenport which harmonizes, but does not match. The chairs may also be used together as a love seat.

No color or color combination is expected to dominate, but some authorities claim that home furnishing colors generally follow the trend in women’s clothes. In that case, considerable dum-bonnet, royal blue, navy and white, chartreuse and other shades of red may be expected.

A wide variety of fabrics is being shown—velvet, frieze and wide-wale corduroy, along with the better-known fabrics—mohair and damask. The fabrics are being selected to harmonize with the finish of exposed wood areas in the furniture.

Mahogany is destined to make its first entrance into the modern field, but walnut will remain the most extensively used wood. Along with the old standbys—mahogany, maple and oak—will come many woods of unusual grains or coloring. Aspen, butternut, elm, prima vera, satinwood, adivore and Harewood, the English sycamore, are the most favored woods for decoration.

Mice gnawed holes in the moon
And tore the clouds up into small woovy balls.

They look a lot like cottage cheese
Or the foam on Niagara Falls—
—Ronny Ronningen

I love a fireplace
That’s full of glowing coals
That snap and crack, and toast
My bedroom slipper soles.
—Ronny Ronningen

February, 1937