Planning The Home Grounds

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Planning The Home Grounds
By ESTHER ELLEN RAYBURN

THE world would not be livable without homes. It doesn't matter particularly whether the home is large or small just so it is a home. And as the world would not be complete without homes, neither would a home be complete without pillows. All houses which make at least a pretense of keeping a homey atmosphere should contain many pillows. It's a case of, "Here a pillow, there a pillow everywhere a pillow, and not a pillow too many."

The shape does not so much matter aloud the odd little shapes are most attractive. Let it be round, square or oblong, yen even triangular, that's as you like, for the covering determines whether or not the pillow is to be original and comfortable.

Square pillows have been in use since the time of Peter the Great, so it is natural to color them first. Perhaps satin, cretonne and tapestry are most suitable for this style. Plain colored satin lends itself readily for applique, and indeed the upholstered pillow is a very desirable one for use in the children's rooms. Cretonne and tapestries quite naturally fit into the Sun Porch. Because of the decorativeness of the materials it requires less time to make them. This appeals to the busy lady of the house.

There is one place about the house that cries for a triangular pillow and that is the comfy davenport. Because the davenport port itself is so very comfortable a stiff brocaded, tasseled pillow is quite in order. Let it be colored blend in with the drapes and you can be sure you've produced the right effect.

Most loved of all are the round and oblong members of the pillow family. They can be made of soft materials and be very downy feathers, because they are to be placed on the bench in the chimney corner, in the chairs and in all the other places where the family delights in curling up when there isn't company. Strive to give to the pillow a fat fluffy look, and soft silks and velours help to give this.

Pillow accessories are various. There are tassels, fringe, applique fruit, flowers and buds, embroidery designs, corded effects, covered buttons and even ribbons. If you have not seen a triangular pillow

A Pillow for Every Need
By ESTHER ELLEN RAYBURN

The sentiment of many of us today, and the individual of this desire is within reach of us all.

With the growth of democracy, people in America have come to view fences, hedges, and all similar means of enclosure as undemocratic. As a result, too many homes have barren lawns, no privacy in the out-of-doors, and uninteresting architecture.

Rather, should we seek to plan our homes in correct relationship to the out-of-doors, and to make the out-of-doors livable.

Naturally, the parts of the grounds that are close to and appear almost a part of the house, repeating and carrying out its lines, require a formal treatment. In the design of the house, the first essential of good planning is to treat it in perfect harmony with its surroundings. We should plan for the connection of the various rooms of the house with the grounds. The entrance for the family should be a part of the entrance walk, the service should connect with the service portion of the house and the most livable should be connected in a most intimate way with the private portion of the grounds, such as terraces and lawns. This last part should be a sanctuary for the social life of the family and their guests. The whole garden composition is the room. The plants and architectural features are the furnishings, and the walks and open spaces, the floors and rugs. Distant views are as fine paintings. If these do not exist we must provide interest in the garden itself in the form of some terminal motif.

In design, the first principles are utility, simplicity and beauty. In my garden there will arise questions to which answers must be found. What is to be the shape of the ground plan, rectangular, circular or oval? What walks are necessary? What circulation must be provided for? What proportions of length and width are best? The fundamental thing will be, first, the division of the space into areas and, second, the arrangement of the things within these areas so as to give the right emphasis.

The final success or failure of the garden will depend upon whether we have emphasized the right features. There is no garden problem so common-place, none so proaic, that the final garden cannot be made more livable or interesting when the designer really studies the problem.

The location of the house is of great importance, for when the house is located the various areas about the house are automatically determined. A common mistake is the placing of the house in the center of the lot, and thus dividing the grounds into too many unrelated areas. A better arrangement is to locate the house near the front boundary line to allow for a garden in the rear, or near a side boundary line to make room for a garden at the side. In order to feel that the garden is an outdoor living room, the ground level should be close to the first floor level. In the case of houses with high foundations, terraces built about the living portion of the house bring the house into more intimate relationship with the grounds.

Walks and drives are important factors in the division of lawn spaces. The driveway and walk should enter the property at right angles to the street, except where the greater part of traffic goes in one direction in which case the entrance to the driveway can favor that direction. If the lot is a corner one, the driveway or walk should be connected to the corner. If it is necessary to locate the walk or driveway close to the corner, the entrance should be at least several feet away from the junction of the property line. The walks and drives should be as direct as possible; they should never follow a curve which would seem to carry one away from the place desired. For small places, straight drives are most desirable, and can be placed close to the side of the property so as to avoid interference with any other space which might be desired for the public lawn areas. When a curve is desirable, it should be staked out and sighted until a pleasing effect is assured. Then, where (Continued on page 11)
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possible, it should be tested by driving over it before construction is started. An area for a car to turn in should be at least 60 feet in diameter, which is too large a space to be given over for this purpose alone on a small place. This problem is better handled by a spur which is planned to conform with the turn made by the car in backing out.

In considering the different areas, the public area is of great importance because it forms the setting of the home as viewed from the street. Do not plant in the parking unless it is the policy of the whole street to do so, and avoid high planting toward the street intersection, for such planting is objectionable to public safety. The great portion of the lawn should have an open center unbroken by planting except for trees and specimen plants, the shrubs being massed about the foundation and border lines.

The private area should be planned to express the individuality of the owner. Admittance to this should be as sacred as to the house itself. Often walls of brick or stone or fences of lattice covered with vines will secure enclosure and their arches and niches will afford attractive features in the garden.

This private portion can be planned as an informal lawn area bordered by trees, shrubs and flowers, or follow a more dignified design where the architectural lines of the house are carried out into the garden and repeated in a formal scheme.

The service portion includes the garage, garage court, vegetable garden, laundry yard and all other out-door working parts. This should be screened both from the street and the living portions of the house and grounds. The service area should be easily reached from the street and should be accessible to the kitchen entrance and to the entrance leading to the basement of the house.

The greatest satisfaction is gained when the planning and at least a part of the work we have done ourselves, for it is only when we help construct do we love the finished product.

"And there is no employment or recreation which affords the mind greater or more permanent satisfaction, than that of cultivating the earth and adorning our own property."

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