Modernize Your Walls With a Wall Hanging of Gay Color and Interesting Design

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Recommended Citation
Berry, Virginia (1936) "Modernize Your Walls With a Wall Hanging of Gay Color and Interesting Design," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 16 : No. 6 , Article 3.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol16/iss6/3

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HAVE you been visiting art shops in a vain effort to find just the right picture to fit that empty wall space in your room or home? If you have, perhaps the very touch you need lies in the bottom of a box containing family relics, or awaits your discovery on some bolt of yard goods on the shelves of a secluded store. An idea may even lurk in a corner of your mind, awaiting its chance to guide clever fingers in the creation of a lovely wall hanging.

In selecting a wall hanging it is necessary to look for many of the same characteristics that one would desire in a good picture. It must, first of all, be suitable to the room, and its surroundings. It should seem a part of the wall and harmonize in color and design with the other furnishings of the room.

The special advantage of wall hangings lies in their wide variation of shape and size—they may be very small, or they may be as large as quilts and bed-covers. There is almost no end to the selection from which to choose.

One may be fascinated by the elaborate Indian prints made by those great lovers of beautiful color and texture who with their quick, clever fingers created the finest printed fabrics ever made. Their patterns were divided into geometric spaces and the space filled in with their favorite floral forms—the palm, iris, lotus or rose. Into the most minute detail went some legend or story of the people. The borders of the prints were usually of black and some shade of red. Green, yellow or other colors were often painted in by hand. Sometimes the design on the fabric had the outline drawn with a reed pen and the colors painted in. The soft colors of these Indian bed-covers make them especially well adapted for wall hangings. But the really lovely ones are expensive.

Likewise we find that the old hand woven tapestries, English and Persian embroideries and similar wall hangings are far out of reach of the average income But stuck away in a corner of the attic, or even in a corner of your mind, may be many things lovelier than any of those one might buy. Aged samplers or cashmere shawls of rich, soft wool that have been in the family for years, things that are to be kept and cherished, may come out and add charm of the past to a corner of the library. The person who is fortunate enough to have old textiles which peasant parents or grandparents brought to America will find these treasures full of romantic stories, and they deserve a place in the living room where the whole family and the rest of the world may see and enjoy them.

For the individual who has “gone modern” there are all manner of things to choose from. Block prints are among the smartest of the newer textiles and wall hangings. Stencil, batik, weaving or tied and dyed designs may be found in many colors. In preference to these a person may choose to create a crayon, applique, stencil, block print or other hanging to fit the situation, thus lending a bit of her own personality to the room.

As one looks through bolts of lovely cotton and linen prints on the store shelves, she may direct a questioning eye toward those which will do for wall hangings. There are many which closely resemble hand blocked prints. Floral, pictorial or abstract designs to suit the individual taste may be found. They will be welcome additions to the bedroom. Pictorial chintzes, cretonnes or crash with children’s designs are particularly suitable for the walls of their rooms.

The hanging of these textiles is a relatively simple matter. They may be tucked to a thin strip of wood and hung just as a picture would be.

Let us look then for color and interesting design in the things nearest us rather than pining for those of which we cannot hope to secure more than a cheap imitation.