Whether You Choose Modern or Traditional It's Your Dream Home

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Whether You Choose MODERN or TRADITIONAL

It’s YOUR Dream Home

By Patricia Close

You may wait half a lifetime before you build that dream house of yours, but even if the chances are slight that you will ever get it, don’t stop dreaming. An active imagination may inspire you to improve the only house you can afford—or make it do until your dream comes true.

To form a fixed plan in your mind of what you want before you have met that dream husband doesn’t work. His opinions, hobbies and occupation as well as the place you will live may alter the dream. The surest thing to change your mind will be his salary. Expensive ideas might not sound so good on a salary able to afford only a one-room basement apartment. But even if your plans for the future aren’t certain, a little dreaming can give you a head start on that house.

Men Like Comfort

Ask the average man about his idea for his future home and the first word he’ll mention is comfort. He won’t mention what his house looks like as far as decorative beauty, but he’ll tell you that he doesn’t like to be afraid of a house or the furniture. He must be able to relax and feel at ease. Look at the fraternity houses which men have designed for themselves, and you see that they want furnishings that can take masculine treatment.

Mary Lou Taylor, ’49, who last month became Mrs. Dick Hanson, dreams about a modern ranch house style home. Dick is building editor of Successful Farming at Meredith Publishing Company in Des Moines and is just as interested as Mary Lou in house planning. The Hansons hope for a hobby room big enough for a wood shop. Mary Lou’s sewing machine, weaving loom and silk screen. There must be room for Dick’s guns and for his photography dark room, too.

The Hansons want their house on the outskirts of town with a picture window in the living room if there is an attractive view. Mary Lou wants modern furnishings and bright dominant colors. A rustic stone fireplace would go across one side of the house. She has made the first of her furniture—a coffee table and end table with a light, natural finish. An applied art major, Mary Lou wants to silk screen the draperies for their apartment, which will be their home before they build.

Though modern houses are the latest thing, historical period styles are still good for comfortable living. It all depends on what you like best. A good style is safe any time. Beware of fads in anything as permanent as a house since the value of a home will go down after the fad has passed.

Sylvia Shoemaker, H. Ec. Sr., already knows where she will live, and it meets the qualifications of her dream. Her cape cod home will be furnished in early colonial style. Sylvia is now choosing her china to go with her dream house. The practical kitchen will be modern. Sylvia hopes for a laundry room on first floor someday.

A modern ranch house style with emphasis on the “functional” will be the home of Phyllis Potter, H.
Ec. Jr., and her architectural engineering husband. Painted barn red with white trim, it will have large windows across the back. The interior colors of jade green, gray and light green will be carried out in the draperies and upholstery of rough textured fabric. Large boxes of leafy plants will separate the living room and dining area. Plants will be placed in niches in the wall above the stone fireplace. Phyllis is planning her china, crystal and sterling in the same modern design.

If your ideas and inspirations in houses change often until you’re confused as to what you really do want, why not start a scrap book or file of ideas? It could be divided into sections of ideas for each room. You probably will find that the clippings and notes on houses you have seen will vary, but they may follow a certain type. When the time comes for you to actually arrange for the building or improving of your house, you’ll have a wealth of ideas to choose from.

Harriet Hammerly’s farm dream home will be the center of farm community activity. The two and one-half story house will be large enough for farm organization meetings and church parties as well as for her large future family. Harriet has already designed her dream house in her house planning class.

**Ranch-style Preferred**

Like most Iowa State women who think of modern ranch house styles for dream houses, Marla Jean Robinson and Janet Adams both say they want modern homes. Marla Jean’s ranch style home will be of light colored brick if her dream comes true. There will be a huge back yard for gardening. Janet doesn’t want her home to be cold modern, for her home must be friendly and lived in. One room, perhaps a study, may have strong colors of deep blue, chartreuse and Chinese red to go with a painting Jan has done. Although she is not afraid to use color, Jan says that the entire house will not be in such dominant colors, because they don’t suit her. There must be a place for the piano in the living room so that friends can group around the piano to sing.

Although many Iowa State women seem to prefer modern designs, decorators say that most people still cling to period styles. Carolan Carlson agrees with the Blandings in the recent movie about dream houses. Hers is a two-story Georgian house with shuttered windows. The interior will be of colonial design in maple furniture. Cheerful colors, such as a yellow kitchen, will be used throughout the house. Carolan definitely wants a dining room separate from the living room, for she feels that this is better for entertaining. She wants a lot of closet and drawer space and plans one wall in the bedroom for closets.