

ers claim our attention, but in comparison with what they might be, we find ourselves speaking of many of them as atrocious.

Even as we look back at our own work of a comparatively recent time, we label much of it as very crude. Indeed rock gardening is in its very infancy and this only adds to its lure, to the romance of this new type of gardening.

Surely there is no sort of gardening art which offers such a wide range for the testing of skill and art. Here we may combine colors, plan perfume effects, assemble the whole as one unit and in picture array. Beyond all this we may give a suggestion of the time and patience with which the creator patterns the stones, we may indicate the thought of permanence and stability by a studied use of rugged boulders and of layered stones shaped into overhanging shelves, sharp shoulders, miniature cliffs and stone clogged draws. And then beyond all this we may pour in that mysterious element, an element which may be unseen to the unseeing, the message which the artist uses the picture to convey, his reason for building the picture.

In selecting the few pictures which you can give space to in your home, you choose them from among the mass, because of these elusive qualities, these notes unheard by many but notes which have touched responsive chords in your personality. This is what bespeaks personality in the appointments of your home. This is what lifts the rock garden out of the general average and makes it stand as a work of art, with its own peculiar charm, its impelling and continued interest.

Now many will say, "why all this nonsense about a pile of stones overgrown with flowers and vine." Well, just so long as a rock garden is just merely rocks and plants, just that long it will be just a rockery and not a work of art.

So long as we incorporate in our rockeries, caves which look like tunnel mouths or rustic fireplaces, force streams to flow over the highest points of the garden, invert nature's scheme of stony strata, and lead waterfalls out over the top of caves, just so long we will be about where we started.

Masterpieces are not painted by day laborers, by plumbers, by teamsters, carpenters, cement contractors, etc., unless as is sometimes the case, they happen to also be artists, capable either by nature or practise to do really artistic work.

Art like many other things is not secured so much on a price basis as it is on a quality basis. We know intelligent people who do not see the difference between a few hours spent in designing and the same hours spent with a shovel or piling up some stones.

Just ordinary landscape work requires much thought, artistic feeling and practice. A lifetime will not suffice to fully appreciate this one fact.

Among our really worthy Alpine gardens, we can see beauty of contour, balance, proportion, natural effect both in the general design as well as in the minor details. We see truly clever color schemes, continuity of beauty, proper arrangement of plant materials as to height. In the water areas within and adjoining, we see

the many possibilities of charm and interest brought out into view, utilized and co-ordinated. These gardens speak to us of the cooling woods, the soothing waters, the tranquil shades, they are a background for the play of the sunlight, the romance of the twilight, the flit of bird and splash of fish, the play of the colored lightings, the wafted perfumes. We find all this in many of our better gardens, and still there may be room left for the touch of the master, for the embodying of a soul, for a human message.

One stroke of the brush may make or mar a masterpiece. Masters do not always turn out masterpieces.

Before we can embody that superb something in our garden picture or in a painting, we must first be able to see it in a landscape, a picture or in our mental vision. To build up to this point we must simply wish to see, and then practice seeing, and as sight begins to come to us we must practice recording, painting, building.

While we are still in the kindergarten class, we can set down a few principles which will be an added help.

First, rock gardens are intended to be copies of the methods of nature in building the hillside gardens, the rugged hillside slopes, miniature Alpine sweeps. Nature does not duplicate, no two spots look alike. She uses but few rocks and stone outcroppings in comparison with the mass of growing things. Nature groups stones, trees,

flowers. Study how nature avoids clashing of colors.

It is possible to imagine a rock garden wherein should be used but one kind of stone. But why do we see most of them that way? Nature does not so restrict herself. When so much more satisfying an effect can be secured by using more variety, most surely we should use some sorts other than the prevailing type. You do not equip your entire home with just one sort or pattern of chair.

A rockery should not be primarily a display of rock but rather a garden, and a garden means growing things, evergreens, alpine, flowers, vines, ferns always, mosses, wild flowers.

A rock garden is much more than a place to grow rock plants. It is among other things, a place to utilize geological specimens, souvenirs, a place to give a home to the new found flower, a place to experiment, a place to express ourselves in constructive art, a quiet retreat, an ever changing panorama, more than any other bit of garden, a happy combination of the many and varied qualities and influences, all of which are needed and must be appreciated, blended qualities which make this garden.

Here the seasons as they go marching by can add their lavish contributions, each with its peculiar influences.

The amateur painter may see but one color, while the master will see

each color of which it is a combination.

In the building of your garden picture, the master may be yourself, the professional gardener, your neighbor or the man who cuts the grass. Let us fully enjoy these delightful gardens and at the same time know that here is a little developed art and one with much promise, opportunity and lure.

Number of Nurseries in Illinois Is Increased

An increase of 60 nurseries in Illinois has been reported during the year ending June 30, a total of 762 as compared to 702 the year before. This includes the acreage devoted to the propagation of fruit trees, ornamental shrubbery, plants and flowers, subjected to inspection by the plant industry division in the state department of agriculture. Small nurseries covering less than two acres of ground were mainly responsible for the increase.

If "unhappy the bride the rain falls on" holds good, there will be few divorces for this summer's crop.—Dayton Journal.

Many a poor human worm hasn't enough energy to turn. — Toledo Blade.

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(Inside Rock Garden, with pool and waterfall in conservatory)