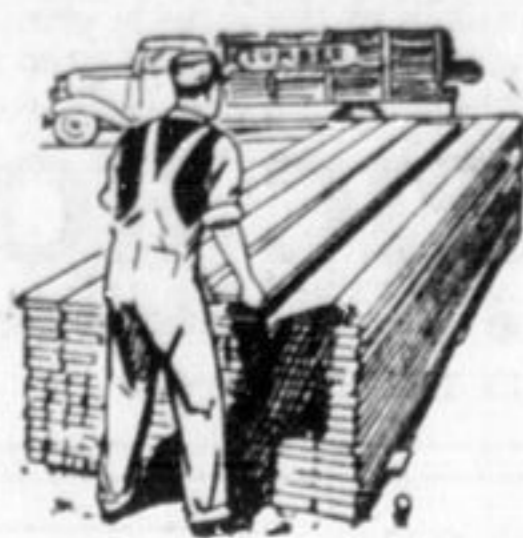


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Special Importance of Doors in Modern Home

Doors Add to Appearance of the House or Subtract from its Beauty. Thought and Care Given to the Choice of Doors will be Fully Repaid in Beauty and Utility.

(By Experience, in Maclean's Building Annual)

Of all the one hundred and one things that go into a new home, doors are perhaps most important. Few things about the home are used more often. One is constantly looking at doors. They are indeed as much a piece of furniture as the radio, table, chairs. When a piece of furniture is wrong, or irritating, it may be replaced or disposed of. Not so with doors; to change one door is never thought of; changing all doors is a very expensive matter. Few think of doing such a thing, though there are many otherwise beautiful interiors almost ruined by clashing, freakish, out of balance doors. Why make a sad mistake in the beginning? Like most things, if done right at first, it is finished with.

But selecting doors is not altogether a matter of design. There are many stock designs on the market, designs that balance up perfectly with most any scheme of architecture or decoration. The all important thing is the door itself. Doors improperly constructed, or carelessly thrown together, are most certainly the real source of much dissatisfaction, and discontent. The making of doors is somewhat of a science, much the same as boots, radios, pianos, furniture, clothing, etc. — one would never think of going to a boot shop, radio shop, clothing store or furniture store to buy doors; one would naturally go to a dealer in doors, a door shop, if you like.

During the past 25 years, the manufacturing of doors has become a highly specialized industry, and much has been accomplished through specializing. For example, it has been found that the finest door is a veneered door; on the other hand, a veneered door when im-

properly made (as it is so frequently) is without doubt the worst thing in doors, and a veneered door cannot be properly made, without proper equipment and experience. Good and bad look much the same at first, but in time, often a short time, improperly made doors will show up defects, clearly the result of lack of experience and knowledge. Therefore, in purchasing doors, the first consideration should be the door itself; it must come from a door factory, a firm who know their doors, otherwise, well, it's just too big a chance to take.

Need Good Core

Let's see just what must happen during the process of manufacturing a good veneered door. First, suitable core stock must be provided. This should be sound, white pine, thoroughly air dried, then kiln dried to a moisture content of not more than five per cent. This, then, is cut into narrow strips, which must be glued together, with the best glue, under great pressure. We then have the core, which must be re-dried back to the five per cent moisture content, after which this rough core must be perfectly surfaced two sides. Now we are ready for face veneers. These face veneers have been kiln dried, but they must be re-dried so the moisture content is around two per cent, when glue is spread. The veneers are then placed and quickly subjected to great pressure in especially adapted presses. After glue is properly set, we have the semi-rough parts of the door, but not yet ready for machining, for they must again be re-dried, or in the parlance, sweated to prevent shrinking, warpage, or checking of face veneers. Now we have the foundation, so next comes machining, and we are immediately face to face with the old, old

trouble—improper tools mean improper work—antiquated or worn machines surely mean a poor product. Again we see the importance of the door specialist; his machines are up to date—he has the proper machines, and experience has taught him through constant use, how to use them; being so equipped, it is simple. Everything is set with greatest precision. He has the finest foundation, and cannot help turning out the finest door.

Now this door must not go to the job until it is ready to be hung, and it must be hung as soon as it reaches the job. It should be completely sealed with good oil or paint promptly, to protect it against any moisture, for remember this is a scientifically-built door, dried and re-dried. Moisture will quickly undo all the good that has been done during the construction of the door; even the dampness from recently fresh plaster will spoil it quickly. All this having been done, there remains only the matter of painter's finish. A good finishing means a good door, and so we have the best that can be produced. The extra cost of such a finely and scientifically constructed door is very small, compared to other costs in your building.

In foregoing paragraphs we have dealt with interior doors only. The outside doors must be dealt with separately, due to different conditions; insufficient thought is given to this. Few realize the severe treatment outside doors must withstand; slam—bang—pull—push; sun—frost—snow—heat—rain—wind; in fact, all the elements, plus the punishment of the users. Of course, it will swell, shrink, warp, etc. When we find a door that won't, it's the exception. If we don't spend the extra for a specially constructed outside veneered door, we can only use solid pine, fir, chestnut or cedar. Be sure it is properly built (mortis and tenon construction is to be preferred). It must have at least three coats of good paint; be sure that top, bottom and edges have three coats after it has been fitted. The maker's guarantee is void if this has not been done.

Cheap Paint No Good

It is stated above "that unless we pay extra cost for a specially constructed outside veneered door, the extra cost is considerable. This is because it is built differently. First, keep in mind that the standard thickness of veneer for doors is 1-8 inch, but veneered doors for outside use should be 1-4 inch thick, 5-16 inch even better. In either case, the service it gives depends greatly, in fact, almost entirely on the matter of finish, how and when. They must be treated exactly as outlined above for solid doors, and given a new coat of paint or varnish each year, top, bottom and edges as well; glass, if any, should be taken out, and finish applied to that part of the door as well. When so treated, it will most certainly give satisfaction, and be far less inclined to swell, shrink, or twist, than any solid door. A veneered door used outside, not so treated, is a positive waste of time and money. The use of cheap paint, varnish and other finishing materials is worse than a waste of money, for not only is lost the material and labour, but the protection is not there, and the door is lost as well.

In dealing with solid doors, which are impractical entirely, except in the case of pine, fir and chestnut, we have an entirely different situation. The lumber must be dried and re-dried to around six to seven per cent, content. After this, it is only a matter of machining, as in the case of veneered doors. The performance of the door and the service it will give depends upon proper drying and construction (mortis and tenon certainly preferable). So many things may happen to solid doors, things uncontrollable, for nature produced the wood; its characteristics are impossible to regulate. With moisture they swell, with dryness they shrink; being exposed to moisture on one side, and dryness on the other, means warpage; only the best of oil and paint, several coats, top, bottom and edges, all will help, and even this will not completely stop it.

It must, from the facts, appear clear that the building of doors is distinctly a door maker's job, and to get the best in doors, one must deal with door people. Just the same as buying any other commodity, it must, to be properly bought, come from the specialist in that particular line of work. The all important thing in doors is the same as anything else: that is, \$5 won't buy a \$6 door. A good door will be a source of pleasure, pride and contentment for a lifetime. A bad door will be an eye-sore as long as it lasts.

A piece of lumber is a piece of lumber, shingles are shingles, and so on, but a door is not just a door; it is something some one must look at and use constantly. We will replace rugs, chairs, tables, etc. We will change radios, stands, cabinets, etc.; but doors go on and on. No one thinks of replacing doors. We need a new dining-room suite; we get it; but the doors stay on.

There is something about doors; you bet there is; a great deal more than so much wood and so much work. Yet most buyers will order doors just as they order lumber, shingles, lath and other wood products.

About Painting the Newly-Built Home

Good Materials and Good Workmanship Essential for Best Results

(By J. I. Phillips)

Moisture is at the bottom of most painting difficulties. New wood must not be left too long unpainted or moisture will cause it to weather. But it must dry out sufficiently to prevent blistering, which results when the sun draws moisture to the surface after paint is applied.

It is advisable to apply a priming coat as soon as possible after the carpenter has finished working. Delay more than a week or two and the joints, cracks and nail holes may open up too much.

The thermometer should register at least 35 or 45 degrees or above. In colder weather the moisture present in the atmosphere condenses on the freshly painted surface. Although the paint dries eventually, its durability and life are impaired.

Never should exterior painting be done during rainy weather or while the lumber is wet. Frost and fog on fresh paint kill the gloss and cause "ashing." Painting on a windy day will cause small particles to settle in the wet film. Succeeding coats will not entirely cover such defects.

Good materials and good workmanship are equally important. Interior paint will spoil the job. It is apt to crack, peel and discolor. It does not last. Repainting will be imperative in a year or two. As the cost of application is estimated at more than three-fourths of the cost of the job, cheap paint is poor economy, and while costing less per gallon, it costs more per square foot.

The same arguments apply to the employment of superior workmen. A good painter understands his work and the precautions necessary to ensure a good job. An expert brush hand will cover about 25 per cent, more surface with the same amount of paint than one less experienced. He works faster so that while his charge may be more per day, it will probably be less per job.

Do not attempt to skimp. Three or more coats are always necessary for new work, but they will cost less in the end than two coats. They last longer, look better and form a more effective protective coating. This applies to exteriors and interiors alike.

Window Leakage Is Easily Prevented

Much Loss Through Infiltration of Air Around Windows. Value of Storm Sash

(By M. B.)

Approximately 53 per cent, of the total heat loss in our homes is through the glass of the windows and through infiltration. There is little to do about the first, for the loss through a plate glass window, one of single-strength glass or one of double weight does not materially differ.

The heat loss through infiltration is one of the greatest individual losses, however, but one that offers many opportunities for reduction. When a wind blows against the wall of the house, the pressure against it forces the cold outside air to come through every crack and cranny in almost unbelievable volume. Supposing a living room of average size, having four double hung windows of conventional size on one wall; with a 10-mile wind blowing against the wall, the incoming air would entirely fill the room in 17 minutes, and with a 30-mile wind every 8 minutes.

Air infiltrates around the window frame, through the cracks between sash and frame, and between two parts of the sash. Leakage around wooden frames can be materially reduced by careful construction. Metal frames, set in masonry walls, can be caulked with plastic material made for this purpose and leakage entirely stopped. Crack losses can be reduced by weatherstrips and storm windows, but few people realize how effectively.

Careful tests have shown the value of storm sash in no uncertain way. It was found, quite naturally, that the value of extra sash of this kind decreased with the tightness of the window sash. However, where cracks around the windows were of normal width, the application of storm sash materially reduced the leakage. It is obvious that, as leakage is influenced by the velocity of the wind blowing against the surface, storm sash are of greatest value on those sides of the house most assailed by winter winds. Also it was found in these tests that storm sash applied with four turn-outs was much more effective than sash hung with hook and eye fittings. Such details are well worth careful consideration.



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For Success in Use of Stucco as Finish

Metal Lath Recommended as Well as Cement Stucco

(By Wm. T. Ferran)

People ask about stucco. They want to know whether it will stay on the wall, what effect climate has, sea air, regions of the Great Lakes, winter, wood lath.

Once we thought in order to get a good stucco coat it had to be very rich, and, when it did not work out always, we thought the lath should be put on differently. Then many different devices for attaching the lath so as to get manifold keys were employed. Some economical soul managed a way of scoring boards to take exterior stucco. But none of these methods worked.

Now we use metal lath. Metal lath fastened with metal furring devices of wood frame construction is used, otherwise well burned brick or concrete blocks or tile. That's the beginning of the job. It has to be well done. Foundations have to be strong, walls braced. We can't have them moving after the stucco is on. Lap the metal lath, nail it well, run it around the house—not up and down—turn it around corners, make it tight, don't over nail it, keep it away from the backing.

Then use cement stucco. Put it on the way the manufacturers have worked it out. Thousands of tests have been made, specifications have been prepared by men who are competent, experts, technical scientists. Thus all the mystery has been removed. Get the backing on right, get the stucco on right, use the right kind of materials. Satisfaction is assured, but there is a lot more to it than can be read here.

It takes good workmen. This plastic material can be put on a half inch thick or more. The men who skin the job put it on thin. The good men make it thick. There should be an inch of it. Also, this plastic material holds potentialities for the good modeller such that he may make it a delight to see. Unfortunately, also, anyone who slings mud can dabble in it.

Stucco surfaces have been worked out technically. We can be assured of certain different textures by following certain formula.

New Furniture to be More Subdued Tone

British Furniture Manufacturers Say Trend is to Quiet Beauty.

"We are on the verge of a new period in furniture," said a London furniture manufacturer at the British Industries Fair last spring, "and it is to be a subdued period."

Looking round at the exhibits in the Furniture Section of the Fair one was struck by this "subdued" note. The tendency toward the extreme which has been so noticeable during the past few years is giving place to a restrained modern type, relying mostly for effect on the rich beauty of the veneer. Graceful curves are replacing the severe lines, and the use of metal is definitely disappearing.

Designers, it is felt, are looking backward for inspiration; are seeking out the best in the old types of period fur-

niture and adapting it to present-day needs. There must be no fiddling bits of carving to accumulate dust, but the comfort and grace of the best 18th-century suites must be available.

Fine-figured veneers on scientifically constructed, laminated backgrounds are being widely employed, and there is a definite increase in the use of Empire woods—Indian laurel, Australian and Canadian maple, and English walnuts and sycamores.

The fact that upper class families are moving out of large houses into circumscribed flats or suburban "bijou" dwellings, has influenced the size and shape of much of the modern furniture. Until recently small furniture was made almost exclusively for the middle and working class homes. Now the big demand is for small furniture which will fit the new homes of the wealthier classes.

Furnishing fabric follows the colour and grain of the wood. A light oak chair has seat and cushion carried out in a light oak material with a "grain" weave that imitates or resembles the actual thing.

Sudbury Star:—A youth incarcerated in the Sudbury district jail told the magistrate that during his four days' stay he had gained eight pounds in weight. The keeper may have to consider the possibility that this institution will become too popular.

Huntingdon Gleaner:—A perfect attendance for 16 years is the school record of Mabel Thowe, Alma, Kan.

During eight years in country school, four in high school and four as a teacher she has been neither absent nor tardy. She also attended Kansas State Teachers' college at Emporia two summers without breaking her record. During two years in high school she had to drive four miles morning and evening. One term as teacher she drove four miles also, and a second term six miles.

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