



The LANDSCAPE DEPARTMENT BY CUSHING SMITH, M.L.A.



THE AMERICAN GARDEN

There are scenes of native beauty which the artist has caught upon his canvas, or the composer has woven into his melodies which appeal to the imagination. So in every work of art, and the American Home should be the greatest, we must see deeper than the materials of which our dreams are builded to the underlying plans which are the foundation of all home structures from time immemorial.

when Le Notre, the famed Garden Architect, produced perfect examples of garden design, the massive scale of which for out-of-door entertaining has never been equaled in any other country. Here were great promenades, tiny bosquets hidden in the woodland, long tree-lined vistas, parterres of strange designs and colored stones and gravel used for walks or for fanciful patterns.

the art of designing gardens and surroundings for our homes which are adapted to the architectural character of the house, and what is even more important to the mode of living of their owner. In but one or two noteworthy instances has it been at all possible to recreate the elusive beauty of the Italian garden in this part of America. It seems to the writer that such a garden and home is better fitted to the south or far west where both flora and climate are more conducive to the effects secured in sunny Italy.

It is the dream of my co-workers, the architects, to create an American style of residential architecture, and various schools, so-called, of architecture have been developed in our great Middle Western country. To those who would aid this worth-while effort, encourage this group in this undertaking, that the homes of America and her gardens be symbolic of the age and days in which we live. The great expanse of the country and consequent changes in materials of construction, in flora and climate of necessity varies the architectural styles which seem best fitted to these conditions.

The Colonial house and garden, with their simple charm may ever appeal to many and their well-proportioned entrances, excellent elevations, and homelike inviting gardens give us pause for thought in these bustling days. YOU can help to bring back to American life, to American consciousness the crying need for real examples of American Gardens and American homes, not imitations of the arts of other countries poorly adapted to American conditions but sane virile original styles which will persist long after their designers may have gone.

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mit touching upon but a few of the many countries from which inspiration for our home gardens may arise.

History has painted our earliest ideal picture in the Garden of Eden, from the midst of which God drove Adam and Eve because of their sins. It would almost seem as though beautiful gardens were meant for those whose industry, thrift, right living and great dreaming made them worthy of the quiet of their Eden.

Within the gardens of Egypt, walled high for privacy, were palms and fig-trees, beneath the shade of which played a gay fountain, or where in the waters of a quiet pool, the sacred ibis and the scarlet flamingo made their stately stand. The architecture of that oldest of countries was adapted to the climatic conditions and to the customs of the day, and the low rooms looked out upon the court-yard garden in its earliest form.

The gleam of the Italian lakes as seen from the upper terraces of the gardens of old Italy is a sight once seen, never forgotten. Here the rugged hillsides lent themselves to villas which from above or below presided upon the long series of terraced, balustraded walls which enclosed and ornamented the gardens. Vistas formed by cypress avenues, and delightfully cooled alleys, where fountains and water-falls trill their bright music, pools reflecting the matchless blue of the Italian sky, or the stately formality of the cypress spires, all these and many other happy dreams we take away with us as we leave Italy.

In French chateaus we begin to learn of the grandeur of the days of the kings,

flowers so brilliant, or the rockeries so ablaze with alpenes as about the estates and country houses of England. It is almost as though the pride of possession in these fine old homes has grown as the years pass by and a new generation takes up the work and the joys of garden and home development. The English people, and we believe the American nation are learning to live out-of-doors and plan their houses to accomplish that worthy aim.

And what can we of America learn of the arts of Landscape Design of other countries. To try to create an English garden beside a French chateau would surely be folly, nor would a Japanese garden with its religious settings look or feel at home beside an English stone and half-timber mansion.

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