



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



THE USE OF WATER IN THE GARDEN

Whether your mood be happy or sad, rollicking or quiet, there is a water-feature for your garden, which can change the blue sky to a brighter hue, can drive sorrow away and bring to your day a joy and thrill which it has missed.

It matters not your age, for gardens with water therein are no respecter of persons. They rather bring youth back to the aged, and stimulate the bubbling joy of childhood, which is seemingly seeking someone or something which is in tune. We are not talking of flow-

In the case of the smaller pools, with few exceptions, notably large lily ponds where the banks may be of puddled clay, the material best adapted to their construction is Portland cement concrete, and the whole pool should be reinforced to prevent its cracking in the heaving effects of frost action in this climate. If you do not care for the smooth cement surface, it can be masked by a weathered stone or even by a rub-

ble wall. Slate in its varied colors is also well adapted to use on the coping or top edge of the pool.

For the more formal pools in the Italian, French or English gardens where the mansion is of stone or of brick with stone trim, a cut stone pool should be preferably constructed with carefully cut stone coping in keeping with the architectural character of the house.

In shape and in size the pool must be designed to fit the size of the lot, the landscape plan which has been studied, and the use to which it is to be put. If for wading, then it should be shallow at least at one end; if for fish or for water-lilies or for both, its depth will not exceed eighteen to twenty-four inches; if for swimming, avoid too great a depth on account of danger to the children of the neighborhood, and avoid further any jutting rock formations on which the child may be injured.

The water may be introduced into the pool in a great variety of ways. A fountain of a single jet, falling back into a thousand brilliant drops and ripples as it strikes the pool surface is the simplest form. The pool may be fed

from what appears to be a hidden spring which bubbles out of a stone pocket, trickles over the stone ledges until it loses its individuality in the quiet pool below. The water may in turn come from the mouth of a grotesque set in the garden wall into a stone basin over the rim of which it clingingly falls to the larger pools below.

The overflow should be so designed that it permits the maintaining of a uniform level, the opening being screened to keep out the leaves or foreign objects and yet so attached that it can be unscrewed and the pool drained and cleaned in the fall.

Among the gardens of the world in which water is ever present we immediately think of the cascades, water-falls, pools and basins, secret fountain jets which sprayed the unwary passer-by, fountains of beautiful sculptural perfection and water-organs of old Italy. It is there that the use of water reached its height with elaborate pumping and hydraulic systems to enable the estate owner to use the same water over and over again, pumping from the lower levels to the higher from whence by gravity the water appeared and re-appeared on the terraced gardens into which the hillsides were divided.

Space does not permit of a discussion of the artificial lakes, their design and construction, nor yet of swimming-pools and a myriad of other uses to which water in motion can be put. Perhaps you have received some little inspiration, enough so that your little family may yet have their gold-fish pool, about the iris-lined borders of which many a family council has been held, and in the waters of which the dancing flames of the camp-fire are silently reflected to the accompaniment of the merry voices of the children at a marshmallow roast.

CUSHING SMITH, Landscape Architect. Wilmette, May 25th, 1924.

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Nobody but a spendthrift dislikes to save money. There are only a few people who, if they could get something for 90 cents, would insist on paying a dollar. And so, since most of us are fairly thrifty, why shouldn't we, on certain occasions, look into the Want Ads for what we want and save something to put into our savings account?

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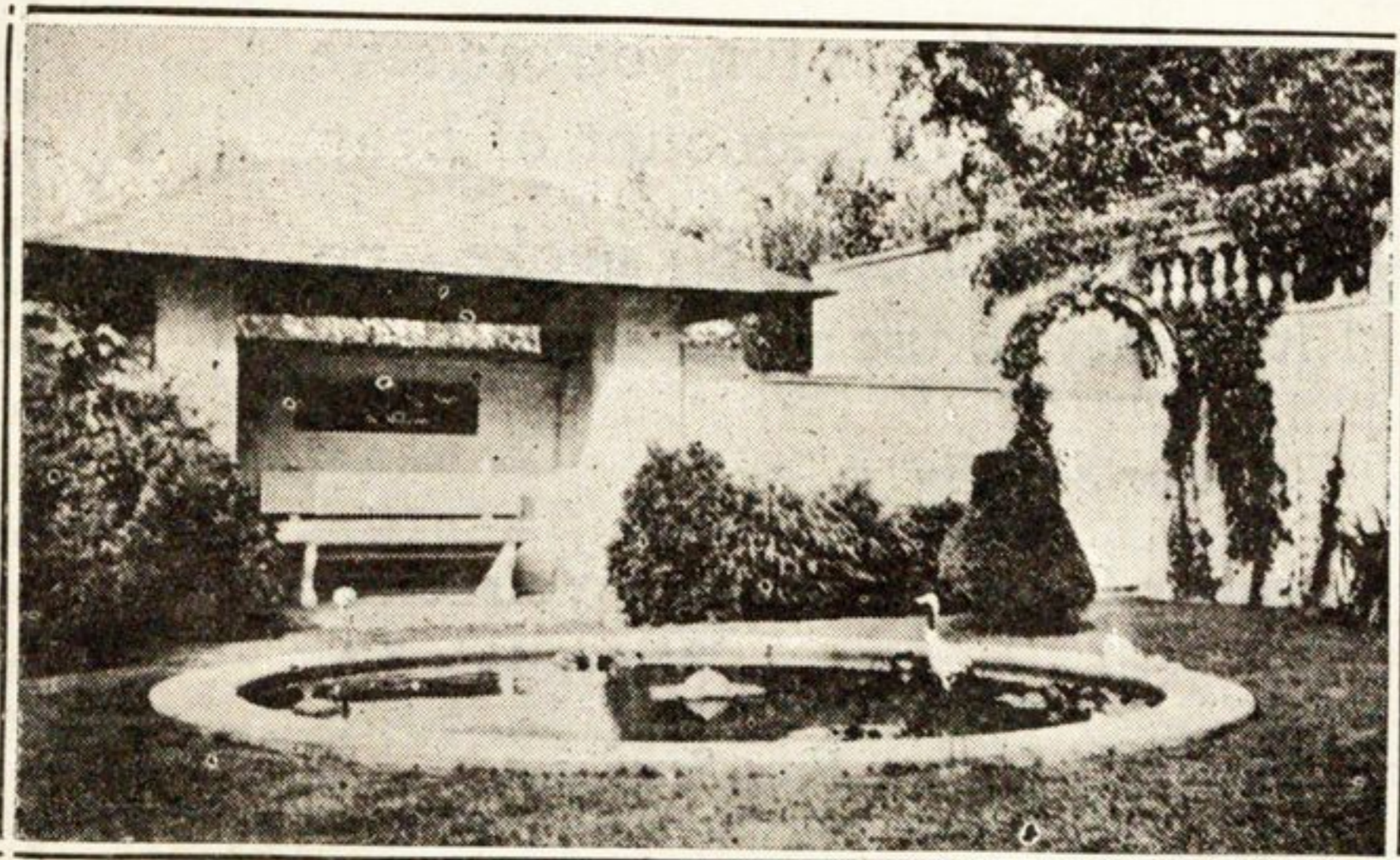
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er or formal gardens only, but of informal lawn areas where there may be room for a small bird-bath, or for a water-fall or rivulet, along the shores of which the butter-cups vie with the iris in absorbing the treasured moisture.

Why is it that as a child we enjoyed most the spot known to us alone, where upon an old log across a quiet flowing stream, in the heart of the woods, alone with nature and with God, we fished, dozed, swam, or watched the old turtle or the frogs as they sunned themselves on the river's bank. This, the earliest form of water-garden should be emulated more than has been the case in the past.

To reproduce a spring-fed brook in a naturalistic setting, is a task for a lifetime, and is a work of art in the creation of which the efforts of even a Corot are but amateurish. Too often with the pliable changing materials with which we are working, we fail to realize the secrets of the natural physical phenomena, the physic-graphical and geological formations which must be studied and aspired to, as they are spread out before our wondering eyes in our native landscape.

For a small pool for gold-fish or even any pool of average size the water should be in motion to insure its freshness. Without that precaution the pool becomes only a mosquito-breeding pond and a menace to the health of the entire neighborhood. Water-lilies seem to do better in a sluggish stream where the crowns of the plants are not over twelve to fifteen inches below the water surface. The tender varieties of lily corms may be planted in tubs sunk in the bottom of the pool.

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