



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



FORMAL AND INFORMAL DESIGN

In court society in England not so many years ago, men of letters discussed heatedly and at great length, the two schools of Landscape Design. On the one hand were those men, among them architects of note, who had received their inspiration, their ideals of landscape architecture from Italy, where for the most part, the gardens and entourage of necessity took on the formality of terraced treatments. On the other hand were those, notably Capability Brown, who held that there could be no place for regularity in design of gardens, especially amidst the rolling, undulating topography of the English countryside. So serious did this controversy become, and so divided became the two groups that great gardens, a generation perfect, were demolished, their beauty destroyed, their paths, walks, hedges and topiary, even their water-features were obliterated to make way for rolling lawns, shrub and tree-bordered with masses of flowers at their base, and borders of alpinists in the midst of woodland glades.

As the years have passed in England, as in America, there has gradually come the realization that there is room for both so-called schools, yes room for both phases of design on even the small place. Such design must obviously be worked out to fit the site selected, and every advantage must be taken of variety in topography. The writer feels that the smaller the lot, the more are we forced into a somewhat formal treatment, with the regularity of the house carried out into the balance of the lot.

Turning to the principles of informal landscape design for a moment, it is here that only a true artist can portray his pictures. He has, and needs, no architectural features to control him in his development of the plan. Years of sympathetic observation, coupled with a knowledge of Botany with its array of plant families, of geology and physical geography with their secrets of natural land formations, are essential to conceive and carry out naturalistic effects. There are but few living designers of the naturalistic or informal school who have caught the spirit of the rock-edged lake, or the mystic beauty of the quiet pool, or the lilting music of the gurgling brook, and who have translated these dreams into permanent ever-thrilling nature retreats.

Formal design means merely carrying the lines of the house, in their regularity out into the garden design, preserving and emphasizing the axial views from windows or French doors, by the use of long turf panels, straight walks of gravel, stone or brick, with enclosures of architectural character and perhaps a summer-house, pool or some such feature as a terminus to the main view.

In formality in a design for a garden, avoid the obvious, yet keep the design simple. The more intricate a design, while it may and should contain points of interest, the more restless does it become. A maze is not necessary on a small place, but on a large estate it may by its intricacy as a unit, prove inviting for exploration.

As has been suggested in an earlier article, the design selected for the home grounds is in a great measure pre-determined by the design of the house. Let me again emphasize the desirability of designing the house and gardens at the same time for the sake of a unified final result. Perhaps on a small place outside of the living room, toward the west or south there might be an open terrace, paved with stone or slate, in the interstices of which alpinists spread their gorgeous colors. Outside the terrace from which could be viewed the gardens, passing down a few steps we enter an out-door living room, on the left of which is a covered seat or pergola, in front of which a pool reflects the red bursting blooms of the rambler climbing the latticed end. In front of the lattice enclosure within the limits of out slate walk is a wide border of perennials and annuals.

The most successful formal garden which can be designed should offer an informal formality, which the well-con-

ceived living room always portrays. Groups inviting in their appearance and arrangement will provide a welcome which no hostess can afford to lose.

Outside the lattice wall of our tiny formal garden, walk with me through a gate to an open lawn, bordered with shrubs with drooping branchlets, covered with masses of bloom to the corner of the lawn where a retreat nestles among the branches of some massive hemlocks.

Can you see that we have combined both formal and informal landscape design in our small lot? Perhaps if our house were low and rambling, it were better to keep the informality of a country home setting.

For the average country estate it is safe to keep the formality near the house and the naturalistic informality toward the borders of the property with inviting curving drives and walk approach, except where the house is near the main highway, when a direct and straight means of entrance may be more desirable.

CUSHING SMITH,
Landscape Architect.

FORD LAUNCHES SECOND GREAT LAKES FREIGHTER

Here in Detroit, the heart of the Ford industries, another step was taken to link these great manufacturing plants more closely and securely with the source of raw materials, when the Ford Motor company's second steel freighter, the Benson Ford, was launched at the shipyards of the Great Lakes Engineering Works.

The ship, which is named after Henry Ford's grandson, Benson, second son of Edsel B. Ford, was launched on April 26.

The new vessel will go into service about July 15, joining the Henry Ford II, which was launched about two months ago, and will carry iron ore from the Ford mines in northern Michigan to the great blast furnaces at the River Rouge plant of the company here. On trips from Detroit the boats will carry Ford coal to the upper peninsula of Michigan.

The Benson Ford, which will be one of the largest lake freighters, is of standard type lake bulk freight steamer design, 612 feet over all, with a 62-foot beam and a cargo carrying capacity of 13,000 tons. It will carry a crew of approximately 40 men.

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14 NORTH SHORE GRADS AT U. OF I. THIS YEAR

Many students from the north shore are among the 1612 who will be granted degrees from the University of Illinois this year.

While the fifty-third annual commencement will be held at Urbana on next Monday morning, when most of the degrees will be granted, special exercises will be held this Saturday morning in Chicago for the graduates of the colleges of medicine and dentistry, and the school of pharmacy, which is located in that city.

Dr. Lotus D. Coffman, president of the University of Minnesota, will deliver the commencement address next Monday. The baccalaureate address, which precedes, on Sunday afternoon, will be given by Dr. William E. Barton, pastor of the First Congregational church of Oak Park.

Among those from the north shore who will graduate, are the following:
Wilmette—R. Thomas, Pharm.; Lillian L. Borgfeldt, L., B.S.; Helen Evans, A.B.; Bernice C. Hosken, A.B.; Evelyn M. Humphrey, B.S.; Robert M. Jones, A.B.; William B. Robinson, Jr., B.S.; Martin H. Seifert, Pharm.

Kenilworth—Arthur B. Durham, B.S.; John Alling Keith, A.B.
Winnetka—George L. Cadenhead, B.S.
Hubbard Woods—Fred Ellis Hagen, B.S.; Jane M. Leichsenring, Ph. D.
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