Building Pointers

It is not any added expense to build a "good fireplace." Not a dollar more, really, than it costs to build one which gives out barrages of soot and smoke and has faulty draft control. In fact, the good fireplace is the cheap fireplace, for many a high redecorating bill has followed in the wake of poor fireplace construction, or perhaps an equally high remodeling bill. Equipment must be proper and interior construction accurate—these are the two essential safeguards to correct fireplaces.

Ceramic tiles, which are tiles of clay molded and fired to a lasting beauty, are among the oldest building materials in the world. Those who are planning to remodel an old bathroom or build a new one can well pause to consider a bath of real tile. Egyptian tombs of 6,000 years ago still show tiles of coloring and brilliance undamaged by time. In range of colors these tiles present an almost unlimited possibility. And because each tile is a separate unit wide variety in design is easily achieved.

Polychrome effects in stucco are growing in popuarity because of their lively appearance and freedom from any monotony or sameness. Into the finish coat, colored mortars are placed separately on the mortar board, and the trowel, cutting through the colors, applies them to the wall. Or if one wishes, all the colors on the mortar board may be blended before being troweled on the wall. Color is now a permanent part of stucco, a fascinating part. Most any tone combination may be secured. In planning a stucco house, study carefully the various possible color surfaces.

A new insulating board and plaster base has just appeared on the market which is manufactured from wheat straw. For years farmers of the wheat growing belt have burned their straw stacks after every harvest as being entirely useless, but now from what was formerly waste, this new insulating board is manufactured. Straw at the present time is being baled and shipped into St. Joseph, Mo., in large quantities, and a board manufactured which, it is claimed, possesses splendid structural strength as well as insulating value.

Star sprinkled wall papers, popular for some time in various rooms of the home, have now invaded the bathroom. If this paper seems a bit expensive, gold and silver gummed stars may be purchased for small cost and placed on the walls to resemble various astronomical groupings; the big dipper, the milky way and the like. After this the walls should be varnished with some colorless material to keep the stars from being affected by the inevitable bathtub steam.

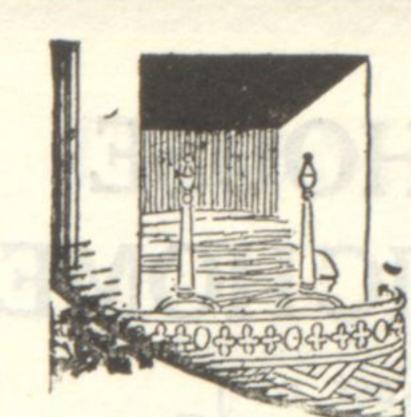
One of the drawbacks to stucco construction heretofore is that in time the surface of the material would get dirty and would not be in complete harmony with painted window frames, porches and stairs. Stucco contractors then devised a method whereby they were able to brighten up a stucco home. They used a thin splash coat of cement, which was put on over the original material. This, however, for the average small home owner, was an expensive procedure, and consequently many were forced to allow their homes to assume that dirty look which ordinary stucco will acquire in a few years' time. To fill the need of the small home owner, there has been put on the market a specially prepared paint for concrete work and, particu-

larly, stucco homes. After covering a stucco house with it, the home, to all purposes, is new. It acts much like the paint on a wooden house. By using an attractive combination of colors, there are unlimited possibilities for artistic effects, either for inside or outside work, and the owner may make his home far more beautiful than when first built, regardless of how delapidated the building appears.

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A first floor bedroom and lavatory are a big aid to the young housewife with small children. These features are also invaluable where there is an old person in the house or an invalid. If one cannot see his way clear to having a bedroom on the first floor, at any rate install a lavatory if it is financially possible. It adds to the resale value of a house, should one wish to sell, and contributes constantly and continuously to the all round comfort of the home dwellers.



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