

B. S. THESIS
"A TUDOR COUNTRY HOUSE"

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A TUDOR COUNTRY HOUSE.

The Problem.

Upon an eminence overlooking a valley near Pleasant Ridge, -- a quiet suburb a few miles from one of the large cities of the Middle West -- lies the property of a successful business man. Here he desires to build a house, which, while it shall enable him to entertain in a fitting manner, shall be, above all else, homelike and inviting.

On the ground floor he desires a great hall, a library, living room, dining room, kitchen and all necessary service. A breakfast room is desired but not required. There shall be three bedrooms for the family and accommodations for half a dozen guests. The only other stipulation of the owner is that, being a lover of music, a pipe-organ should be installed in the house.

It is the purpose of my thesis to present a solution of this problem.

The Choice of Style.

The Tudor style of architecture was chosen because it seemed most in keeping with the character of the estate which is, for the most part, wooded and of a slightly rolling nature and because, above all

other styles, it seems to express those intimate qualities that make a dwelling truly homelike.

The English have always paid a great deal of attention to their domestic architecture, but the Tudor period stands out preëminently by the magnificent manor houses it produced. Much of the charm of the Tudor house is in its rambling plan. From this springs a never-ending interest, that a formal, symmetrically-planned building lacks. Not only does the style lend itself admirably to an irregular plan, but it also leads to a picturesque exterior and easily combines, in a logical manner, the fine traditions of old England with the modern developments of planning as influenced by the complexities of present-day housekeeping.

Location of the House.

The view over the valley to the south is of supreme importance. So the house is placed on the top of the eminence, and, in the development of the plan, every effort has been made to take advantage of this outlook over the valley. The living-room and the dining room face in this direction and terraces extending on the west and south sides of the house give a delightful promenade and enable one to fully enjoy the beauty of the panorama.

The Gardens.

West of the house is the formal garden, which is laid out on a level eight feet lower than the terrace, to take advantage of the falling off of the ground. At the further end of the garden is a semicircular pool with banks of shrubbery beyond. The west façade of the house, which faces the garden, is symmetrically treated, so that it is quite in harmony with the formal garden.

The Approach.

The high road runs about three hundred feet north of the house, a curved drive leading from it to the main entrance of the house. As one approaches, he obtains several charming vistas through the trees before he catches sight of the entrance tower.

The House.

The drive leads to a forecourt, whose axis is that of the entrance porch. Upon passing through the arched door, one finds himself in a vaulted vestibule. This leads directly into the great hall at the end where the carved oak screens form an entry, through which one can proceed to the main staircase just ahead or to the gallery leading to the living room. The visitor gets his first view of the great

hall from the most advantageous point as he enters through the door in the middle of the screens.

This room has been made the feature of the building, for, while the hall of the manor house no longer serves as dining room, consultation hall, and armory, as it did in the mediaeval centuries, its value for the entertainment of a large number of people and its use as a music room make it eminently fitting as the central element of the plan.

The hall is 52 feet long and 25 feet wide. It runs through two stories and has great hammer-beam trusses supporting the roof. These trusses have been carefully studied from old English examples and give, with the panelling of the beams and rafters, a very beautiful ceiling, as well as a splendid construction.

The oak screens that have already been mentioned support a balcony, on which is placed the organ. The design of the organ case again has been most carefully studied and should form as beautiful a feature at this end of the hall as does the great fireplace, with its carved, stone mantel, at the other.

The hall is lighted from one side only -- the mullioned windows being placed sufficiently high to clear the oak wainscot. At the end farthest from the entrance is a great bay window running from the

floor almost to the ceiling. Its fan vaulting forms a note of interest and contrast to the wooden roof of the hall proper.

The Living Room.

The library and living room were placed at the western end of the great hall, the living room to the south, giving an outlook in three directions. It will be panelled in a soft, dull brown oak, and the unpanelled portion covered with a patterned fabric in dull blues and browns, chosen to harmonize with the woodwork. In the windows of this room, as well as in those of the library, are shown inserts of stained and painted glass, leaded into the frames. These give a note of color to the rooms and suggest a custom frequently followed in the decoration of English homes.

With its cozy fireplace, its window seats, its splendid view over the valley to the south, and its bay overlooking the gardens, the living room should be a most pleasant place in the gloom of winter as well as in the sunshine of the summer months.

The Library.

We have already mentioned the library. Being placed at the western end of the great hall,

it can be opened into the hall at times of large parties, dances, etc., and will form a quiet retreat for those so inclined. It will be framed in oak toned a deep brown and, with the decorative woodwork of the shelves, will make a very handsome room. The quiet treatment of the mantelpiece and its flanking recesses, giving spaces for books, accords with the purpose of the room.

The Gallery.

The long gallery forms a connecting link between the family part of the house and the service wing, its mullioned windows commanding a fine view of the valley. Wainscoted in oak, it has a ceiling covered with delicate Tudor tracery. Here will be placed interesting pieces of furniture, curios and trophies of the hunt.

The Dining Room.

Beyond the carved oak screen at the end of the gallery, lies the dining room. This is a large room lighted by the windows of a great bay which overlooks the terrace. At the other end of the room is a great, carved, stone fireplace, with massive supports of black and gold marble. The walls will be panelled in English oak, painted and enameled after

the Tudor manner. On the axis of the gallery, between the doors which open out into the breakfast room, will be placed the buffet.

The Breakfast Room.

The breakfast room is a one-story porch, facing the south and east, so that it may obtain the morning sunlight, and is served through the same pantry that supplies the dining room. It is incased in glass during the winter, but inclosed only by screens in the summer months.

Second floor. Owner's Suite.

The owner's suite occupies the wing over the library and living room, thus enjoying the garden outlook. This is taken advantage of more fully by giving each of the bed-rooms a bay window. The suite consists of two bed-rooms with baths, and a boudoir. The bed-room to the south has also a bay (with a window seat) from which one can enjoy the valley view. A fireplace is found in each bed-room and closet space is abundant.

The boudoir has a charming little oriel window which, occurring on the main axis of the formal garden, gives a splendid view of the gardens and of the pool beyond.

An octagonal staircase enables the family to descend to the living room or library without the necessity of passing through the gallery to the main staircase.

On the 3rd floor of the family wing are two more bed-rooms with a bath between them.

Guest Rooms.

In the wing over the dining room is one large guest room with bath adjoining and two bachelor rooms with a bath. These are small in size because of the space required on this floor for the organ pipes, but on the 3rd floor are three more guest rooms of ample size.

Service.

The service is all kept in a separate wing, as is obviously the best arrangement whenever possible. On the first floor of this service wing is an ample kitchen, with scullery, pantry and large closets, a servants' dining room and a servants' hall,--the latter conveniently located for serving the front door.

The basement floor contains storerooms, laundry, boiler room and coal room.

On the 2nd floor of this wing are found four servants' bedrooms, with a bath, while the third floor is left as attic space for storage.

Stables and Garage.

The stables and garage are located at some distance from the house, very near to the main road. A lane, branching from the road at a point near the stables, runs to a service court. This obviates the necessity of delivery wagons using the main driveway.

West of the service court and of the drying yard is a large kitchen ^{garden} yard, concealed from the house by a screen of trees.

Exterior.

The house is to be built of a grey Minnesota granite, the oxidation of the mineral particles, of which gives warm tones of buff, pink and brown. Flat slabs of the same stone will be used as flags in the terrace walks. The roof will be covered with a heavy green slate, laid in graduated courses.

Cut stone will be used for mullions and coping stones but the general exterior stonework will be rough and irregularly laid to further the design and ideal of the architect -- that the house may be of an informal and homelike nature and appear to be

a natural outgrowth of the site, rather than a formal architectural composition.

DRAWINGS.

The following are the drawings submitted:

1. Block plan of grounds --	Scale $1/32'' = 1'$
2. First floor plan --	" $1/8'' = 1'$
3. Second floor plan --	" $1/8'' = 1'$
4. Longitudinal Section --	" $1/8'' = 1'$
5. Cross section through great hall --	" $1/4'' = 1'$
6. Side elevation --	" $1/4'' = 1'$
7. Front elevation --	" $1/4'' = 1'$

Respectfully submitted,

Chas. F. Pellmar

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

The following are among the works used in the study connected with the preparation of this thesis:

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