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Course IV

1906

Thesis

Subject: A Country Residence

Eleanor Learning

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A Country Residence.

A wealthy gentleman wishes to build a large residence in Brookfield New Hampshire. He has chosen for a site land on the eastern shore of Lake Meriden on the western shore of which is a range of mountains. The land slopes gently from the road toward the lake thus giving splendid opportunities for effective terracing. The design of the house is inspired by the Petit Triannon, that beautiful piece of French Renaissance work, and I have tried to have the exterior express as far as possible the character of the interior.

On account of the fact that the most beautiful scenery is in the west, I have planned the house with the longest axis running

north and south, and have placed the more important rooms the salon, dining-room, music room and library in the side over-looking the lake.

The main entrance is on the facade facing the street and is emphasized by a portico which rises through two stories. A vestibule flanked by a coat room on the left and a small office on the right, separates the portico from the main hall. The hall is rather grand in scale and has a large fireplace on the right and the grand stair-way on the left. Beside the stairway is a small reception room for utilitarian purposes, while on the opposite side of the hall and opening into the billiard-room which occupies the front part of the north wing, is the sea.

In the south wing I have placed the more private rooms; the living room with its ingle-nook and small adjoining room, the conservatory which is circular in form and into which the living room and the library open, and lastly the library which is across the corridor from the living-room and occupies the lake-front of this wing. The library is somewhat similar to the living-room in form - it opens upon the terrace immediately adjoining the rear of the house. A writing-room and elevator well and small house keepers room adjoin the library.

The most important position is occupied by the Salon which is oval in shape and situated on the main axis. It may be entered from the main hall

or through the music or writing room. It is a large room and distinctly monumental in its treatment - large detached columns add ^{to} its imposing appearance and a door-way gives access to the terrace.

The other rooms which are semi-public in their nature are immediately connected with the salon, - first, the music-room then the dining-room which occupies the position corresponding to that of the library at the opposite end of the house, and lastly the billiard room. A small round breakfast room opens from the dining-room and also from the service room in which are placed service stairs connecting with the kitchen and also with the second floor.

On the second floor are the bed-rooms with bath and dressing rooms, sewing-rooms etc., while the basement is occupied by the kitchen, laundries and servants' rooms.

The main short axis of the plan is expressed in the portico of the facade while the end wings containing the living-room library, and the billiard and dining rooms have been given a slight projection. The conservatory and the breakfast-room are at opposite ends of the long axis and are but one story in height and hence provide less abrupt break from the level of the roof to the terrace level.

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