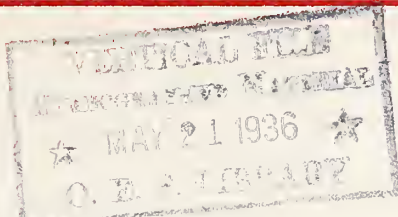




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BUILT-INS USEFUL  
ALL OVER THE HOUSE

When a house is planned on paper, a good architect places windows, doors, chimneys, and other fixed features with some regard to the dimensions of the necessary furniture in each room. If cost is to be held down to a minimum, not only for building but for furnishing it, he will give some thought to the possibility of various built-in features that will serve instead of portable equipment or furniture. While lumber is being delivered in quantity and workmen are available, such features if planned in advance may often be installed more economically during building than later. Some of them, like pass closets or china closets in walls, must necessarily be built with the house. Others can be added later and often help to modernize an old house. In such cases a built-in may serve the purpose better than a movable piece of furniture because of filling a definite space or making its surfaces fit the height of a particular person.

No room offers more opportunity than a bedroom for substituting carpentry skill for movable furnishings. It is not only that bedrooms are less on view than other rooms so that amateur work is less noticeable, draperies, slip covers, and large bedspreads conceal much of the furniture anyway.

Dressing tables are easy, just broad shelves braced against the wall at a suitable height, covered with a gathered chintz, cretonne, or gingham flounce. Further storage room is found in a window seat which is



(Built-ins useful all over the house)

- 2 -

just a long wooden box with a hinged lid, built to fit the space under the window. A padded, fitted mattress or cushion on top completes it.

Even the bedstead may be home-built, at least the frame of it, providing a sturdy resting place for the spring and mattress. Covered-wagon pioneers made many a built-in bed of this kind because they could not carry heavy pieces of furniture for long distances. Rope or slats supported the mattress in those days. Thomas Jefferson had built-in bedsteads at Monticello. Some interesting recent farmhouse plans show how bunks can be built for boys to give each one in a large family a small place all his own. The same idea is used in summer cabins and on shipboard. In a number of localities at the present time, people are making their own good cotton mattresses.

The bedroom closet is another place where convenient built-in features make a great difference in the comfort of the user. The rod for garments on hangers is the first thought. Then a shelf or rack for shoes. In some closets, a high tier of small shelves, each wide enough for one pair of shoes, is better than a rack near the floor. Places can be ingeniously designed and built for hats, for sliding trays of clothing, for shoe-shining outfits, for long mirrors. When a boy or girl must study lessons in his or her own room and there is no space for a desk, a wide hinged shelf with legs that pull out will be greatly appreciated.

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(Note to Extension Editor--One of a series of four articles on built-ins.)

