

**ART PRINCIPLES IN HOUSE, FURNITURE,
AND VILLAGE BUILDING; AN
EXPOSITION OF DESIGNING
PRINCIPLES WHICH EVERY HOUSE
BUILDER, FURNITURE USER, AND
VILLAGE DWELLER SHOULD KNOW**

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Art Principles in House, Furniture, and Village Building; An Exposition of Designing Principles Which Every House Builder, Furniture User, and Village Dweller Should Know by Arthur Bridgman Clark

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INTRODUCTION

Well-designed houses, cities, villages, yards, and furniture are an essential and integral part of worthy civilization. And so closely do the possibilities of individual attainment in these directions depend upon widespread culture that it is a serious national concern to make knowledge in this field general.

Ignorance in art is more dangerous than illiteracy. Furniture, houses, and towns are being built constantly—either well designed or poorly designed. Mistakes in street planning made one or two hundred years ago are still obstacles to the dignity and beauty of many cities, and mistakes made today will cause annoyance hundreds of years hence. The same statement holds with regard to house building. This book aims to meet this situation in the most practical way by explaining the principles of design in simple terms and illustrating them with such familiar material that everyone, builders of small houses, of large houses, and those who lay out residence tracts, may feel their responsibility.

To possess precise working methods in observation of good art, and to apply these methods constantly in observation of houses, gardens, and cities is to develop a knowledge of the "reasons why" for likes and dislikes. If enough people "reason why," the result will be a national art consciousness of design, the basis of a critical public sentiment which it will be dangerous to offend. No condition of what we call culture is more to be desired.

The book is an outgrowth of classroom lectures, the illustrative material for which is found in part within a half day's automobile ride of the lecture room. This material is visited and studied by the help of photographs, by both verbal and drawing analyses of the examples considered. Other illustrative material has been gathered from afar, but it is chosen with the aim of stimulating study and clarifying fundamental principles as applied to all of the examples which one sees constantly, rather than to afford an encyclopedia of brilliant examples (the only way to make art knowledge useful). It is hoped that other house lovers and art teachers may be inspired to apply art principles to an intensive study of the houses and yards of their neighborhoods, and also to study the excellent examples which are illustrated in the architectural magazines, and so develop this form of art into an habitual and vital part of life.

People about to build (even though the smallest of houses) are advised most

INTRODUCTION

emphatically, both for profit, for pleasure, and as a public duty, to employ an architect of full professional training—the best obtainable. He will save an owner the amount of his fee in the first cost of the building, and he will give the house art value, and art value is what none but the skilled and trained designer can create in building. Art value is also the quality which makes a building last. It is believed that this book will prepare appreciative and stimulating clients for skilled architects.

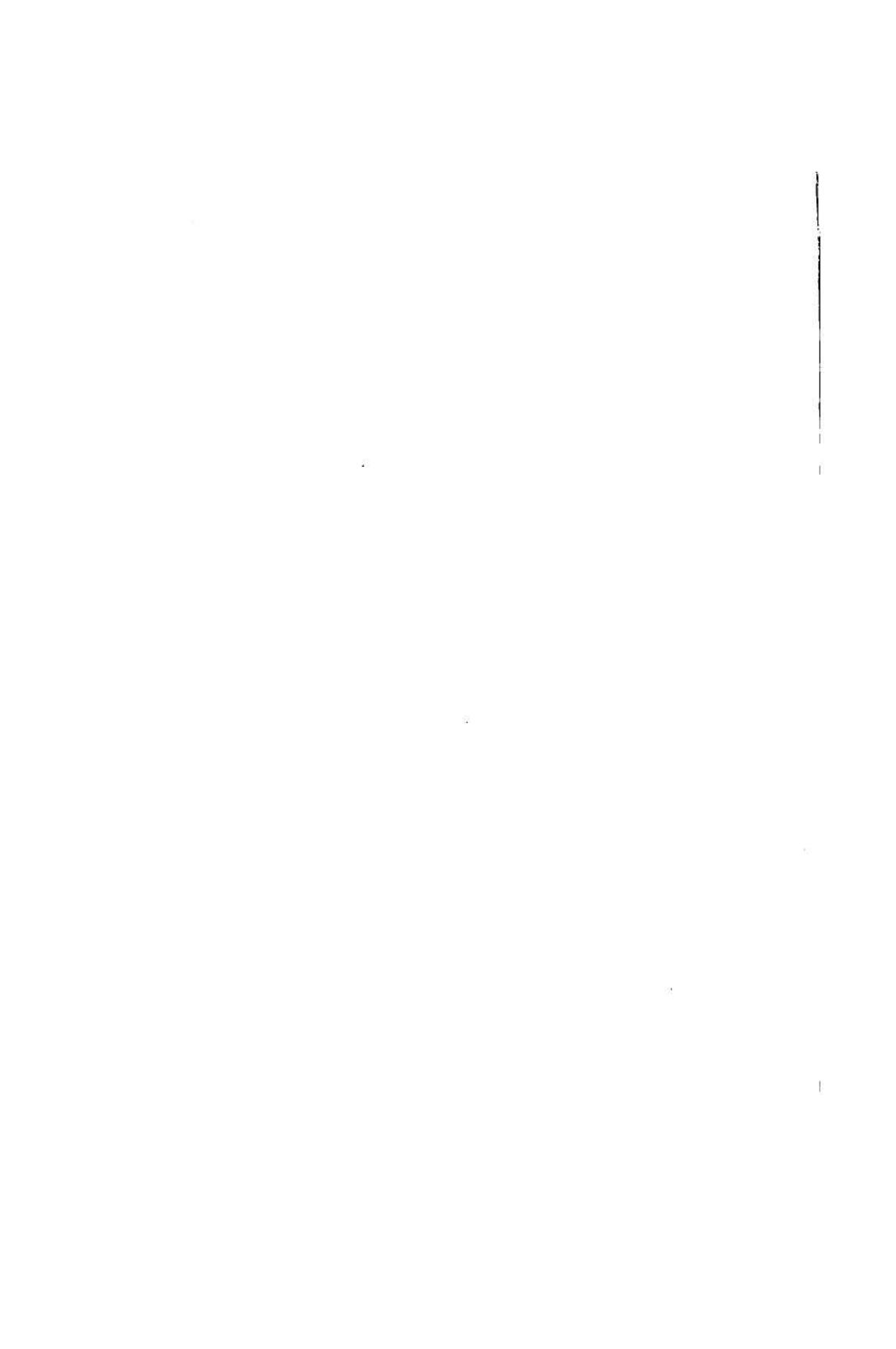
Grateful acknowledgement is made to the people who, in consideration of the service to be rendered thereby, have allowed their homes to be photographed or their plans to be published, and also to those who have furnished maps and photographs of development projects. The names of architects and of owners, when known, have been printed in the proper places.

ARTHUR BRIDGMAN CLARK.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA,
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