BUILDING BY A BUILDER: PRACTICAL AND ECONOMICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE MAN ABOUT TO BUILD

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649405923

Building by a Builder: Practical and Economical Considerations for the Man About to Build by Benjamin A. Howes

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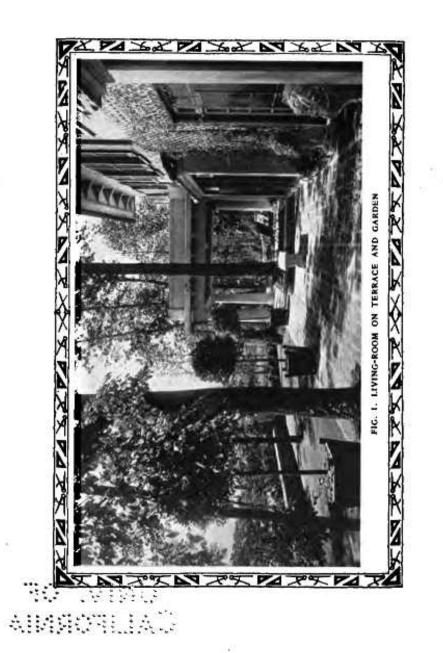
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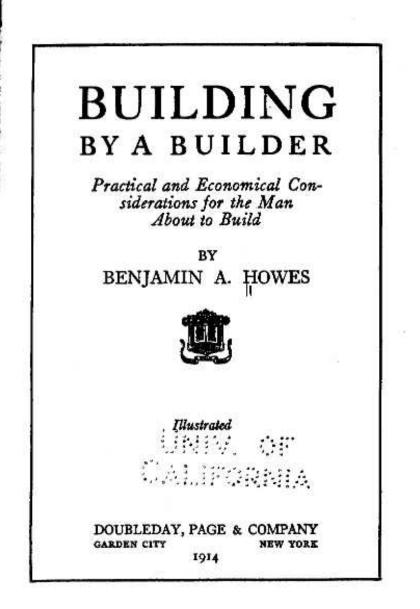
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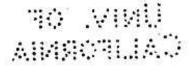
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PREFACE

MR

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1.

This little book is addressed to the man who is about to build his own house for the first time. It does not seek to take the place of a popular manual, but aims to answer his first questions, to suggest to him the matters he ought to ponder and settle for himself, and the others on which he will need expert advice. Its principal claim to originality lies in its effort to help him to a definite intelligent choice of possibilities.

The one point where the homebuilder calls for aid is the point where he must decide between several courses, all of which invite. Any amount of building lore is spread before him; half of it full of detailed application to modern problems, but frankly in the service of specific manufactured articles; half of it authoritative, colorless, carefully impartial — too impartial to be of use. Comparisons are odious; yet practical building is impossible without comparing, sifting and rejecting. No building material and no type of construction is the best in every situation; yet

v

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PREFACE

for every situation some definite combination is best. The homebuilder's anxious question is not, "What is there to choose from?" It is, "Which should I choose?"

These essays do not pretend to cover all the types of cases; but they do aim to indicate some typical problems and solutions, and points of divergence leading to other solutions. The book means, in short, to help the homebuilder to lay his own course in a crowded, shifting fairway.

1

I wish to record, therefore, my gratitude to the architects and fellow-engineers who have generously given me of their experience, and to the manufacturers' representatives who have entered with me into frank discussion and exposition of building conditions. B. A. H.

vi

CONTENTS

CHAPTER

II. CHOOSING YOUR HOUSE 28

Warning Examples: The Flimsy Palace and the Clerk's White Elephant — For an Outlay Under Ten Thousand Dollars — Over Ten Thousand — Over Twenty Thousand — The Permanent House — The Rich Man's Half-Way House, and Others.

III. THE UNBURNABLE HOUSE . . . 54

What the Man Who Dreads Fire Wants to Know — Different Combinations of Unburnable Materials, and Their Comparative Cost — How to Get an Inexpensive Unburnable House — How to Finish the Interior — The Development Company and the Fire-safe House — The Ranch House — The Southern Country House — The Servantless House.

IV. THOSE PLANS

х

85

The Romantic Lady and the Impracticable Picturesque — The Architect's Province — How to Use Books on Building — The Housewife's Part — Type and Material as Determined by Climate and Geography — Planting — Local Inspirations.

vii