

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

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

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BENJAMIN A. HOWES

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FIG. 1. LIVING-ROOM ON TERRACE AND GARDEN

NO. 1000
AMERICAN

BUILDING BY A BUILDER

*Practical and Economical Con-
siderations for the Man
About to Build*

BY
BENJAMIN A. HOWES



Illustrated
LUNA OF
CALIFORNIA

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1914

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AMERICAN

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PREFACE

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

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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.

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.

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