

# FITNESS *in the* FURNISHING

By S. B. McDONALD

*of S. Karpén and Brothers*

CLUB officials who would like to obtain Mr. McDonald's comments on their own club's interior decorations are invited to send him, in care of GOLFDOM, photographs of the rooms. He will also advise club committees planning to re-decorate club-rooms, or faced with the task of furnishing newly-erected clubhouses.

THE club president and his committees often pass lightly over the importance of interior decorations, yet the duty of these gentlemen—besides keeping a cautious eye on the exchequer—is to harmonize, co-ordinate and make enjoyable the facilities of the club's properties whether it be sports, social activities or environment. It is the environment of club quarters that this writer is calling to urgent

attention, prompted by the appalling lack of fitness in the decorative schemes of many club homes, particularly golf and country clubs.

Committees are seemingly unmindful of the fact that almost every art and craft enters into the composite art of interior decorations and that it is a subject worthy of a great deal of attention. They are too ready to go about the task of equipping the social building with a reckless abandon which they may think is gay and informal and appropriate to the cause, but which is more likely to be a complex mass with no semblance of unity to purpose, nor beauty of composition. The selections are sometimes of personal tastes rather than the collective satisfaction of their membership's design and color sensibilities. No member should project his individual preference into a club's furnishings program, nor should he establish its



Figure 1. Furnished with a knowledge of Colonial design but a little too homelike and lacking in masculine sense of scale



Figure 2. Symmetry, balance and grouping are well illustrated in this lounge

decorative scheme unless he is specially qualified by training to do so.

The undertaking of clubhouse decorations should be, when completed, an environment which bespeaks of the joys of the entire membership consistent with the outdoor play and indoor social contacts, and so that it is obviously a creation in consideration of all and not a monument to individual glorification or—chagrin.

If the committee does not feel qualified to analyze and provide for the cultural status of their membership, they should seek advice lest they make unwise purchases regretted by present and succeeding patronage, for once a club is decorated it is difficult to have it changed.

It is not a simple task to be truly helpful in an article on interior decorations, and concrete rules shall not be given, for such rules could not remain constant in any case. A few observations are noted which are meant only as buoys marking the navigable channel in a sea of artistic interior developments.

A long tale could be written on the types and actions of decoration committees—the stern, unrelenting type with preconceived notions; the weak, vacillating, easily-swayed members; the fussing, fretting, fearful providers; or the committee who thinks a clubhouse merely a place to go into out of the rain and that anything would be good enough. For golf courses common to men and women an all-women committee might lose sight of masculinity's sense of scale, as apparently occurred in the clubhouse illustrated by photograph No. 1 where the treatment was of a living room. This setting has the characteristics of decorators or individuals accustomed more to thoughts of a home. It has been done by people with a knowledge of Colonial design but they stretched a point when they used rocking chairs in a lounge room. Or, the all-women committee will sometimes go to the other extreme of severity and austerity in their belief that the male of the species has little aesthetic sense. The mixed committees may as well be in most cases composed of only the ladies for the gentlemen



Figure 3. Better balance and a few heavier furnishings would improve this room greatly. And do away with the rocking-chairs

favor chivalry to argumentative discussion unless they happen to be related by marriage.

Large committees are unwieldy and small committees have too great a temptation to individualize. Committees in relays are an extravagant waste of time. The ideal committee is one with good taste but rather selected for its business ability and composed of from three to five people. They should first set about to fix the approximate expenditures based upon a careful study of the plans and the requirements from actual estimates or from other sources they may elect. They will thoroughly understand the club's activities and predict its future; they will grade and mentally catalog their roster to define the plan of artistic appreciation, regardless of their own attainments; they will insist upon practicability and usefulness; and they should know pretty well the idiosyncracies and traits or behavior of most of their members, for certainly this ideal committee would not treat a club for hilarious huskies in the manner of the effeminate Louis XVI.

This committee, after ascertaining all the facts and with an outline of the different use of each room, would be prepared to make specifications from which a supplier could work. These members would not be so imbued with the idea of their own ability that they would not give attention to suggestions from people in the decorative field.

Such a committee no doubt was in charge of the decorations of the club as illustrated in photograph No. 2. There is symmetry and balance, usefulness and good color, groupings and area of circulation.

If the house committee or management of the club illustrated in photograph No. 3 were to rearrange their room in a more balanced composition, dispense with some of the angles that are so confusing, cut the rockers off the chairs, and add a little more weight of effect by color and heavy objects, they would have a better looking lounge room.

Photograph No. 4 is basically well arranged except the wing chairs should be pushed back nearer to the wall. The elimination of some of the spindle effect of the tables would be desirable.

Photograph No. 5 shows a room that is comfortable, practical and well-arranged. It at once shows usefulness as well as interest.



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

Photograph No. 6 is of a lounge room that was no doubt planned on paper before any purchases were contracted; each piece has a duty to perform, and with the addition of a table ornament and a wing

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We serve a regular luncheon in the grill room at 90c; on Saturdays, a buffet luncheon for \$1.00; a ladies luncheon in the dining-room for \$1.00. Our regular dinners are \$1.75. Parties are according to price. I take care of orders for private parties myself, and in this way recommend what I have on hand, giving the club and the member the benefit.

Our daily bill of fare is carefully considered every day. My chef comes into the office every morning and we talk over everything pertaining to dinners, luncheons and private parties.

This is what makes for the success of our restaurant. Only the best of everything is bought and we are catering to a membership who knows what it wants and appreciates what it gets.

## Fitness in Furnishing

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chair on either side of the fireplace, the room would be pleasing indeed.

Decorations are enduring, yet every time a new club is equipping and decorating, they should respect present trends, and at the same time realize that in a few years they will have to add or replace certain items. The old clubs, redecorating in whole or in part, should manipulate their decorative units in such a way that the room interiors are always a transition from the past to the future style, realizing that styles vary even in periods.

One part of a scheme should not suffer for the benefit of some other phase; it should be consistent and well-balanced throughout. There should be a material expression of the needs, the sentiments and the emotions, and the decorations must be dependent upon the architectural backgrounds.

Color is used to assist in the development of form and to distinguish objects or parts of objects one from another, and should be carried out in a general theme of tone values enhanced with brighter hues as accents.

There is room for great improvement in the art of clubhouse furnishings and decorations and it can take place as soon as club executives realize their membership is entitled to that repose which the mind feels when the eye, the intellect and the affections are satisfied by the decorative expression of their club quarters.

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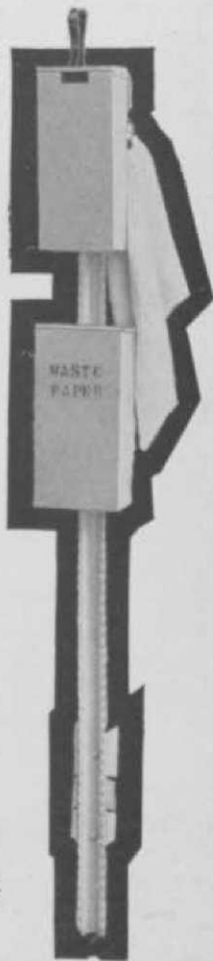
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