

MC 081 Boston Evening Transcript "Advice on House Building", June 14, 1900.

BOX 1 FOLDER 17

ADVICE ON HOUSE BUILDING

Concluding Lecture in Miss Ethel F. Fifield's Course on "The Relation of the Architect to the Home"

The closing lecture in her course on "The Relation of the Architect to the Home," was given by Miss Ethel F. Fifield this morning, at the School of Housekeeping. The interior decoration of the house was first considered. For the finish of rooms, Miss Fifield recommended the use of redwood, cypress and hard pine covered with white enamel. She suggested wrought iron and stone staircases for use where practicable, as they are superior to those of wood in case of fire, and advocated an arrangement of the steps so as to make several landings.

"Mouldings," she said, "must be designed so that they will not collect dust. Simplicity is a most important factor, particularly in the selection of mouldings." Libraries finished in dark woods were advised, as the most satisfactory and glass doors on the bookcases were suggested as a protection for the contents from dust.

"A veranda should be quite wide, not less than ten feet. It should have a slight slope to allow rain water to run off and should be built of close-fitting boards," she said.

The fact was emphasized that the most expensive furnishings are not always the most satisfactory and illustrations of several New York drawing-rooms were exhibited in proof. Prospective builders were advised to plan their dwellings so that doors and windows would be of sizes which manufacturers carry in stock, thus avoiding the extra expense of having material made to order.

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