

CHAPTER TWO

DEVELOPMENT IN HOME DECORATION

Home decoration was sought thousands of years ago, but at present man and society have changed vastly. Yet basically man's urge of seeking beauty in his surroundings and his zest for novel creations of beauty continue even today.

Man influences the environment around him and in turn is influenced by it. The rooms, their size and their interior decoration have an indirect impact on the development of one's personality. It can be easily observed that the arrangement in the room of an untidy, depressed, impatient man is rarely systematic and disciplined. Conversely we can also say that to some extent an unclean atmosphere at home aggravates man's depression and impatience. Basically, everyone has some urge of decorating his or her home and its surroundings. But due to lack of systematic planning one's urge remains unexpressed. Moreover, laziness, depressed mind, unfavourable original construction of the house, financial problems, non-availability of time for the home decoration are also other factors which hinder the progress of home decoration. In India, women are expected to keep the house clean and in good shape by arranging different things, articles and furniture. Moreover they show more interest than men in keeping the house clean and decorated.

In man's daily life he is closely attached to his home which is the mirror of his personality. Home decoration is one

of the important factors to create a congenial atmosphere at home. The main question is - what is exactly meant by home decoration ? How to begin it ? Should we purchase new furniture ? Should we colour the walls or spread matting on the floors ? What should be done ? - Such are the questions but one thing must be remembered that home decoration is not a programme of ten or fifteen days, but a continuous activity in a family. When we are planning for home decoration many elements or aspects like room and its floor, matting, furniture, mattresses, pillows and its covers, stools, tea-poys, writing table, table-cloth, windows and its curtains, curtain-rails, table-lamps, wood-lining, paintings, wall-hangings, etc. have to be considered. Hence, home decoration is not only an art but also a science which requires a definite and systematic approach. }

Due to increased urban and housing development schemes now-a-days there is more need of planned home decoration. Government Housing Development Corporations and Co-operative Housing Societies are popular now-a-days. In such type of multi-storeyed buildings, variety in every block is not possible but a set-plan is worked out. So to avoid the replication of particular models of decoration and to present from your existence and originality, one has to be interested and have the necessary knowledge and information about the developments in home decoration.

Home decoration can also become a hobby which is refreshing, personal and closely connected to the private life and

one's likes and dislikes. It brings a sense of closeness towards the home. One gets attached to one's home and the home becomes a part and parcel of him.

Home Decoration as a Science

Architecture is concerned with man's daily activities in his life. By building house scientifically he gets protection from the sun, rain and cold. Utility is the main function of the home, where man takes rest and completes his daily activities which are required for his physical body. They are three important things regarding construction of a house. Firstly, ^{need to} the vital and important requirement of the body is to get pure ^{had} air constantly throughout the day and night. Secondly, the home ^{new} must get natural light properly to keep healthy conditions and ^{material} cleanliness, and thirdly, the disposition of waste material is equally important as that of air and light. ^{there are more basic} ^{needs of shelter}

These three basic elements are mainly concerned with man's physical and biological living. Architecture as a science is concerned with such things. Home decoration can be included as a branch of architecture. Home decoration is planned without disturbing these above basic elements like fresh air, light and cleanliness. Here we are considering home decoration as a science. When we consider certain conditions from the point of view of good health it means, it has got a scientific base. There should not be any decoration that creates ill-healthy conditions like for example plants in bedroom or light arrangement

that hurts one's eye sight. Thus home decoration is a science because it provides the knowledge of healthy and ill-healthy conditions, knowledge of certain colours and paints which creates certain feelings and moods in man's behaviour.

Utility is the main base of the house. So home decoration should not hamper down man's activity against it. If a well decorated chair does not give comfort to the body it is useless to keep these decorative pieces in the hall because it has lost its basic importance of giving comfort. The seat and the back of the chair must have a correct angle which will provide comfort while sitting on it. Therefore to design a new chair means a discovery in the science of architecture and utilising it for home decoration is an aesthetic activity.

Decoration should suit the basic needs of bodily structure and movements. By sitting on a carved chair one should not feel inconvenient for relaxing. Thus home decoration is developing into a science in many developed countries and is also spreading to important cities and towns in India. The schools of architecture in cities play an important role by producing architects, designers and building decorator's who spread their knowledge to other people. Diffusion of such recent developments in designing and home decoration also takes place through media like films, exhibitions, printed matter and advertisement, T.V., radio and interpersonal social contacts in the society.

Modern Approach to Home Decoration

Need
of ?

In the 20th century science and technology have made great impact on the life of the people. Building the houses and decorating styles have completely changed due to new materials like steel, cement, plywood, plastic, aluminium, nylon, fibers etc. Due to changing nature of the family's roles, occupation and profession, women and men are increasingly giving attention to well planned 'home decoration'.

At home the drawing hall occupies a major and important space which reflects the families cultural, religious and economic background. Many times the drawing hall is divided in two sub-units, sitting room and part of it is given for dining. Under one ceiling the dining is close to kitchen. These three units are closely related with open axis to each other.

The modern houses have more privacy than the traditional ones. However, the total number of rooms and its functional use vary from situation to situation. How?

In the sitting hall of the house we have to consider the dimensions of the hall first. It must be full of natural light and air. While considering air and light, we have to hide unpleasant sights and impure air.

While decorating the hall one gets much choice of different materials like wood, steel, aluminium, stainless steel, plywood, sun-mica, plaster of paris, glass, oil paints, water paints, acrylic paints and so on. Also for the artificial light we get

different light arrangements for example tube light, concil lighting with the help of plaster of paris ceiling. There is ample scope for individual's expression in home decoration, using the above materials.

Drawing room is comparatively a larger room of the home where guests are welcomed, entertained and chit-chatting takes place. New plans are discussed here in a relaxed mood and social relations with the newcomers are established here. This room is a place where so many persons come together and spend most of the time. Hence this room is of creative nature and helps to develop and foster social relations.

The drawing room helps us to guess the financial status of family. It also represents the culture of the family. The arrangement of the drawing room reflects the way of thinking and liking of the family. It also gives an idea about the social status and personality. Most people consciously try to keep the drawing room in good order and shape. So it is necessary that arrangement of all the items in this room, size of the items, their appearance etc. should be in perfect harmony, so that the drawing room gets the required get-up.

Essential Elements of Home Decoration

Repeat Some of the important and scientific elements and functions of home decoration are light, air, lamp shades and colours.

Different intensity of light brings different moods while different colours are also associated with different feelings. Ultimately,

it is the effect of the appropriate combination of different elements of decoration light, colour, furniture, decorative things, etc. that gives a "pleasing" look to the hall and the house. In the science of home decoration, careful planning and study is done on the appropriate combinations, directions, angles, colours, furniture, and so on. The psychological effects of colour on the moods of the people, intensities of light, use of natural plants, use of proper windows, etc. are carefully done. Ref ?

Colour and Feelings

Colour is more related to feelings, likings, sentiments, attitudes etc. their own choice regarding colours too. Our reactions against some typical colours are definite. These are general tastes regarding colour which may vary individually. Some colours have received cultural, political or religious attachment e. g. Orange colour is meant for sanctity, it is normally given to the devghar (place of worship). Generally blue colour is said to arouse the feeling of largeness (sky). Red is said to bring the feeling of warmth. Green colour is said to symbolise cheerfulness. Yellow colour is for luxuriousness and prosperity. Whatever may be the likes and dislikes, I feel ultimately the net resulting effect of various colour combinations is important that gives a pleasing look to the house.

These are culture bound meanings of the Colour ?

Permanent and Temporary Colours

Under the category of permanent colours we can include the colours of mosaic tiles, floor, wood, furniture, or the colours of the items in that room e.g. books, telephone, radio, cupboard, etc. Furniture occupies a major portion of the drawing hall. It represents the nature, standard of life and the social status of the family.

Under the category of temporary colours changeable colours can be included. The colours which can be replaced or repainted e.g. pillow covers, curtains, colours to wall etc.

Types of Furniture

Modern furniture can be classified into four categories :

- 1) Furniture used for relaxation e.g. chair, couch, sofa, stool and beds.
- 2) Luxurious furniture : which are useful e.g. radio, telephone, table, T.V., stand and lamp shades.
- 3) Furniture used for storage and collection like drawers, racks, freeze.
- 4) Decorative furnitures like mirrors, frames and objects of sculpture.

are these
furniture?

There is a basic difficulty in classification.

*you need to read to know more
that "furniture" existed and was "needed"
of Indian life in pre-colonial era etc.*

History of Furniture

The furniture existed even in the pre-industrialised societies. The art of making furniture developed as per the social needs of life. For the traditional Indian life, the need of furniture was not felt. Writing and reading was done by sitting on the floor itself. || ?

During the 19th century science developed and industrialization took place. It was the beginning of a new era. Due to industrialization population increased rapidly. The construction of new and modern cities also was done on a massive scale in minimum time. Hence the need of the furniture, useful for daily life was felt. Like wood, stainless steel, aluminium, plastic were also used for making furniture. Now materials like suhmica, formica, etc. was produced. New varieties like plywood and laminated wood are also being used. Now-a-days, most of the items required for the construction of the house are made in industries and so carving is not possible. This lacuna is wiped out by the use of other artistic items. But the traditional furniture was doubtedlessly sturdy. It was purely made on the principle of durability. Now-a-days the furniture manufactured in the industry can't be durable for a very long period. At present there are faster changes in furniture designs and fashions.

Convenience of Furniture

Furniture should be convenient relaxing and receptive. Such a furniture increases our energy and working conditions.

Furniture should be suitable to the room as well as to the members of the family. Now-a-days there is tendency of the interior designers to reduce the height of the furniture, the assumption being that the furniture of shorter height creates a feeling of broadness in small-rooms giving more comfort. Double purpose furniture like sofa-cum-bed to save space are also used now-a-days.

Furniture sturdiness and durability

Sturdiness and durability are one of the important technical aspects of furniture and successful home decoration.

Surface

The surface of the roof or floor is covered by using varied materials like sheets, tiles, polish, paints etc. Three surfaces which are required for decoration and protection are carpets, tiles, paints, polish and curtains.

Floor

Firstly 'chikken clay' was used for the floor, then came the cement and marbles. Now-a-days tiles of different colours and designs are used, cement tiles of different shapes and size are available in the market. The skin of wild animals lenoleum carpet, door mats, etc. are also used to cover the floor.

Harmony is the key-note in Home Decoration. Furniture, fabrics, space, people's life styles, colour schemes and many

other materials are included in home decoration. Decoration creates a healthy environment at home. It turns an interior space into an environment atuned to the users tastes and expectations. It creates the right balance between expense and effect-blends colours, space, lighting, furniture, furnishings to achieve both functional efficiency and style. Harmony is the key note between many elements that go into the interior harmony between the interior and the people who inhabit it. It may also reflect the people's cognition and psychological and social welfare and well being.

Grills and Mesh

In the ancient period and in the eastern countries use of mesh was done on a large scale. The mesh of marble used in the sculpture at Delhi, Agra, during the regime of Moghul is worth-seeing. Next came the stage of wooden and carved mesh. Then it led to the use of iron rods and now-a-days we find grills of cement. In the modern architecture again mesh has got importance to get protection from sun-heat, to make attractive temporary partitions and to make artistic pieces. Normally partitions are made of glass, board or ply-wood. Due to curtains ventilation is possible.

In the room varied type of pillow covers, table cloths, bed-sheets, chair backs are used. All this material is used to give a feeling of one-ness and to make it appear attractive.

Flower decoration

The art of flower arrangement, which is useful for decoration developed in Western countries. Upto the 15th century flower arrangement had received religious support in Japan. But during 15th century after Japan experienced a terrible war, flower-decoration became common in order to forget the destructive effects of the war.

'Moribana' flower-decoration originated during the 19th century. After the great World War II in the 20th century Japan's artists life was influenced by American thinking, American architecture and home decoration.

In modern home decoration, flower arrangement is of secondary importance, but however the hobby of flower decoration helps to create a fresh atmosphere at homes.

Home Decoration as an Art

We have so far seen how science is playing its part in the home decoration. It helps to keep our body healthy. The mind is equally important as our physical body. To keep one cheerful and enthusiastic, mind must be peaceful and balanced.

Art can create a pleasant environment or atmosphere through home decoration. Without the touch of art home decoration is incomplete. A good decoration of the home is like healthy food to ones mind. Art removes the monotony of routine life. It gives a new outlook towards the things around us. We start to

look at things in terms of forms and shapes rather than recognising a cup, or as merely a physical object. Art makes one fresh for the days to come with its many fold visions.

Home decoration, certainly is an art, expressed by an individual for the society. He creates and develops for his life's pleasure and for the appreciation of the society in which he lives. To live artistically is a basic urge of human beings.

Home decoration is an applied art to decorate the home. Art and utility combine together in home decoration. It is science to keep our body fit and it is art to keep our mind healthy and cheerful. H.D. is a combination of both art and science. "reads like class note"

As I said 'To live and to live artistically is the basic principle of home decoration'. Home decoration has followed the basic principles of art structure like line, form, colour, tone, texture and composition.

Also home decoration does not neglect the basic elements which are required for our physical body like pure air, natural light and cleanliness with the disposition of the waste.

So home decoration is a combination of both art and science.

Home decoration as the place of Art Exhibition in Miniature

In home decoration, drawing hall is an important place in many respects. The members of the family welcome their guests

in this room. They talk, entertain, take important decisions, discuss on various subjects in this room. So the members of the family concentrate on this place. To win the minds of the visitors and to make good impression on them, whole family tries to decorate the hall with their best ability. They arrange art pieces and different craft articles in the best manner in the hall to satisfy their guests. Many a times these articles are presented to friends and relatives in different functions and ceremonies. They expect the appreciation from the society. It is a little exhibition in miniature and a symbol of social status in the cities. There are continuous changes in designs, styles, colours, types, materials etc. in home decoration. Home is the indicator of likes and dislikes of the family. 'HOUSE BUILD BY HANDS AND HOME BUILD BY HEARTS'. It is true when man tries to execute this house in to his home, he executes his personality through the arrangement of his home, like furniture, colour-scheme, texture and other artistic things. He decorates his home with his liking and the home becomes a pleasurable thing for him and feels comfortable in his home.

We have so far discussed home decoration as a science and art and the modern approach to it. It is also an expression of man's tastes, desires, feelings, attitudes, likings and dislikings and a reflection of his socio-economic cultural and religious norms and values. Art brings human beings closer to each other and is a means of communication and socialization. This is 'Sociology

of Arts'. What is its nature and importance of its study and what is its history, shall be described in the next chapter on Methodology. The present study which falls under the branch of 'Sociology of Arts' and methodology of the present study are also discussed in the next section.