Charm of Colonial Design
Easy to Duplicate Today

Colonial architecture, after more than 200 years, still ranks as one of the most popular of all home styles.

This sustained popularity is due "in part to sentiment, and in the balance to good common sense," according to an article in House Beautiful's building manual, spring-summer 1965.

In the article, "You can create an Authentic Colonial House with Stock Millwork," the editors attribute the sentimental attraction to the fact that Colonial design gives us a nostalgic link with the past.

The "good sense" part stems from the traditional style itself, which, they say, "is one of the most comfortable, livable, attractive forms available to us."

IN THE PAST, good modern Colonial houses with authentic details were hard to find. Today, however, it's no problem to build or buy a new home with honest Colonial styling.

The main reason for this, according to the article, is "the high cost of custom millwork has been cut from the price of authentic Colonial architecture."

To illustrate this point, House Beautiful shows a modern Colonial house typical of those built on the Eastern Shore of Maryland from 1730 to 1776.

The main entrance is simply styled and practical, with the front door recessed to provide protection against the weather. Small panes above the exterior entry provide light and are matched by similar ones just above the recessed front door itself.

DOUBLE-HUNG wood windows are used throughout the house except for a large bay window in the family (or "keeping") room at the rear of the house. Origin of multiple-light windows can be traced to early colonists who wished to exclude more sun and to provide better viewing.

Many of the woodwork used, including doors, windows, fireplaces, moldings and stairways, are available in authentic reproductions.

In addition, complete package window units are available that permit easier installation and lower-over-the-job labor costs.

Today, exterior doors and windows of ponderosa pine are in demand for their unique beauty and energy efficiency. New windows provide space for flower boxes and a free, illustrated reprints of the House Beautiful Building Manual article about Colonial house may be obtained by writing to Pioneer Pine Woodwork Association, Dept. H.P., 39 S. Lake St., Chicago 3, Ill.

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