Recurrent Design Mistakes

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When a designer overlooks the effect of the separate parts of a house on a wall, or, in making a very common mistake, and contributing to what the American tradition of home design error.

Most houses are designed in such a way that the entrance occupies a position of visual importance in the facade. Front and center, so to speak. But what happens when we open the door and enter the house? What is the view from the visitor's standpoint? Not infrequently, the view from the front door is directly into the kitchen, of the bedroom hallway, or just as bad, straight into the living room, with no visual break of stopping space to orient oneself before going on to the rest of the house.

The importance of the entrance area is important in creating a feeling of warmth and hospitality in a house. It need not be the typical foyer or entrance hall. The same effect can be created with walls, screens, planting, or even a window looking from the patio beyond. The important thing is not to tell the whole story at first glance, being at the same time very selective in your choice of entrance views.

Study Room

Whenever an entrance door is located at the inner corner of an all, you run the risk of getting water down your neck while waiting for someone to answer the door. In these situations it is extremely important to study the lay of the roof and make sure a valley doesn't occur directly over the door, it has happened. Ask any aluminum awning salesman.

Too often, we see front entrances very attractively placed, impeccably detailed and landscaped, and yet almost totally inaccessible to anyone arriving either by foot or car. Before you send those plans out for pricing, check to make sure that your guests have an attractive, comfortable way to get to the front door. Concrete, brick, slate, or even a roofed over pergola, all make entrances good for looks and walking.

Furniture Groupings

In any listing of housebacks this one would have to be ranked near the top... the room (usually a living room, but bedrooms are not immune) which must be traversed diagonally to get from one part of the house to another. Such an arrangement can completely derail the placement of furniture with any semblance of functional order. If you must go through one room to get to another, arrange the doors in such a way that the passage is made along a wall, in the case of very large rooms, avoiding anticipated furniture groupings.

The old technique of placing a window in the center of each exterior wall of every room will almost guarantee that, in some