HOME & FIELD presents
THE MASONITE HOUSE at
A Century of Progress
INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION
CHICAGO 1933
THE Prize-Winning Masonite Home

A Century of Progress

One of the most visited features of A Century of Progress is certain to be the Masonite Home—truly modern in design and construction. Its plans were first awarded an architectural prize in competition, its finishes are the most efficient; and it is built largely of Masonite products.

Exterior walls are Masonite Presdwood, painted and natural, resistant to moisture, heat and cold. Interior walls and ceilings are Masonite Structural Insulation, protecting against heat losses in winter and shutting out the intense heat of summer. Being insulated, the house may be used in air conditioned and is heated at a low cost. Some walls are natural, some plastered or papered, some finished with Masonite Presdwood or Quarterboard. Floors are covered with Masonite Commercial Flooring, beautiful, resilient and enduring. Masonite Tempile tiles bright, clean finishes for the bathroom and kitchen. When in Chicago, don’t fail to visit the Masonite Home—a cordial welcome will await you.

The eyes of all the world are on Chicago’s Century of Progress Exposition. There, to serve as inspiration and example for future generations, stand the modern, tested achievements and discoveries of today. In the building of the Exposition, yesterday’s methods and materials often have been replaced by the more efficient developments of recent years.

A notable triumph is accorded to Masonite Presdwood—the world’s most versatile building material. Because it has been proven best for hundreds of different construction jobs, literally millions of feet of Masonite are built into the Exposition. Almost everywhere the visitor goes, Masonite products are doing tough jobs better than other materials could do them and furnishing an endless variety of beautiful, rich decorative effects. Hundreds of thousands of square feet of floors, walls, roofs and insulation withstand wear and weather. Beer, fruit juices and sauerkraut are served over counters of smooth, clean Presdwood. Even the three-foot numerals on the 200-foot giant thermometer are cut out of this versatile material.

An especially beautiful and complete Masonite building houses Infant Incubators. The high insulating qualities and strong, clean construction of Masonite products make them ideal for this delicate task.

Where tough jobs abound, where other materials have failed, where beauty, hard service and economy are called for, there you will find Masonite products doing their unique jobs—striking examples of the fruits of a century of progress. Masonite Corporation, 111 W. Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

Masonite Presdwood
MASONITE STRUCTURAL INSULATION • MASONITE CARBONIZED FLOORING
MASONITE QUARTERBOARD • MASONITE TEMPILE • MASONITE INSULATING LATH

THE most important aspect of A Century of Progress (Home & Field has been saying) is the opportunity it gives people to see the things that are new. They’ve heard about them, read about them, but for many good citizens the first opportunity of actually seeing them is in Chicago. They’ll find there the new things that electricity can do, learn what air conditioning is all about, see the new designs and materials in plumbing and kitchen fixtures, find that insulation may be more than just rough strips of fibrous stuff which are hidden away under plaster never to be seen again. They’ll learn what the new architecture aims at, have a chance to see enough of it assembled together to decide whether they like it or not. They’ll see the new styles in decoration and the way they are combined with the clean-cut, tailored lines that express the best of the modern idea. Before they’re through with it, they’ll become pretty well acquainted with today.

THE Masonite House which appears on the following pages, reprinted from the July issue of Home & Field, is an excellent illustration of what A Century of Progress is all about. Here is a comfortable, inexpensive, attractive dwelling with exterior and interior walls made entirely of various insulating materials. The house, we venture to say, was not constructed with the idea that from now on the nation will make its houses only of insulation board. That was not the idea. Rather, it is meant to show the versatility of this building material, to give the home owner something to think about, to tell him, in the most graphic terms possible, that today’s whole point of view in building and decoration is one of originality in adapting tried materials to fresh uses for striking effect.

BECAUSE it expresses this point of view so thoroughly, Home & Field has chosen it to show in its pages as giving the keynote of A Century of Progress. Chiefly, we feel, it is important in awakening your own interest in building and the possibilities it offers today. Modern, fresh, original in both design and execution, it points the meaning of A Century of Progress.
Almost every wall and floor surface, within and without, of this modern house built for Chicago's Century of Progress Exposition has panels of compressed wood fiber either as a base or finish, painted or simply given a coat of wax over its natural color. It was created by the Masonite Corporation to show the versatility of Masonite Prolwood and structural insulation materials. The architects were Prier & Rafferty and the decorator Marjorie Thuesch, both of Chicago.

At Chicago's current exposition there are, in the Home and Industrial Arts group, something under a dozen small houses designed as a sort of "report of progress" in the fields of modern architecture and house construction. Each of the houses features one building product, material or principle in particular and a number of subsidiary products and items of household equipment in general. Of the group, one of the most interesting and visually appealing, both inside and out, is that sponsored by the Masonite Corporation to illustrate the adaptability of their synthetic wood-fiber in various forms to many phases of house construction. Masonite Prolwood, structural insulating board, insulating lath, flooring and simulated tile, together with products which facilitate their use, are featured throughout the house. Their application is vividly illustrated on these and the next two pages, both inside and outside the exhibition house. As both report of progress and forecast for the future, here is the story.

The house is framed in wood, orthodox enough in respect to foundation, studs, sills, rafter and joints. From that point on, however, it is a thorough departure from traditional ideas concerning both form and structure. Inside and out Masonite products have been used for every kind of purpose and surface, giving rise to a large measure even to the external physiognomy of the building. (Continued on last page)
FABRICATED WALL PANELS FOR BOTH 
STRUCTURAL AND DECORATIVE USES

The Masonite Exhibition House is equipped with the latest system designed by the Bryant Heater & Manufacturing Company for supplying circulating conditioned air. At right, the arrangement provided for showing the installation, which is accommodated under the front porch. The half-floor is of Presswood, patterned and polished Masonite, which is well named, furnishes the wall surface for the upstairs study, right, sided with a coat of wax. Burnished bands of copper cover the panel joints, which here come horizontally. Copper also trims the corners and serves as molding around the ceiling. This is the only room on the second floor.

Presswood leads itself to lustreous simplicity in the design of the living room fireplace, and brings incidental brilliant contrasting notes to the show of a sensitive wall covering. Of course, Masonite insulation is the basis of the underlying wall structure. The floor in this room is like that of the hall. The end dining bay is mirrored.

Bathroom and kitchen reveal still other uses for this compressed wood fiber paneling, here simulating porcelain and tile with excellent reflectiveness, in joint of both beauty and durability. All equipment is, of course, the newest in type.
Insulation—Inside and Out

Furnari & Rubey, Inc., Chicago architects, created the design, which was selected by a jury as the best example of the essential character of modern living. Since the chief of these materials is building board of standard four-foot widths, the plate and solid geometry of the so-called modern style of architecture was inevitably called upon. The architects, however, achieved an individualized distinction through the combination of white-painted areas of Masonite Presswood breaks into by bands of the natural color—a deep rich brown.

LACE THES OMLINING of the house in this group of modern exhibition homes, the Masonite house has neither attic nor cellar. All heating and air-conditioning equipment has been tied neatly and completely into a room corner under the stairs on the ground floor by the turn of the winding staircase it the entrance hall. Incidentally, the heater even is just all the kitchen. The garage at the street side of the house and just across the hall from the kitchen is in a single compartment. It has an automatic control. Flat metal doors furnished with windows, where the heating ducts are covered to provide outdoor living space.

But we may vary ceiling heights of the floor space, these rooms have different sizes. The result is an interesting irregularity in the sizes and heights of the individual blocks or rooms of the house. Windows to large areas form another important element in the concise floor plan: maximum or minimum daylight and view. The Standard and the Presswood, each with the floor plan of 1,000 square feet and the fact that it may be built up out of eight boxes or what is called the Presswood panel, and re-assembled as desired. Double-panel walls are used throughout.

Masonite applied to walls and doors is not an innovation, but Masonite Presswood as a finished exterior sheathing is something new. Panels are first sheathed inside and out with Masonite structural insulation, a board form of insulation much like sheathing, which is air-tight and water-tight, also covered with sheets of tremont Presswood, an extremely dense fiber board of a beautiful rich brown color, slightly darker. It is impermeable to moisture and highly resistant to both scuffing and scratches.

The exterior surfaces of the house have been treated varnished. The wide newspaper entrance hall with its winding staircase to the upper level has walls of color-pressed Presswood; capital beams, corner posts, and furring strips have been shaped and treated with a similar color-pressed Presswood. Flat, narrow bands of color-pressed Presswood divide the fireplace from the floor panels. The ceiling and two walls of the hall are painted flat white; the third wall is left in its natural natural-colored Presswood. Banding and handrail are Presswood: the floor is Masonite. Presswood flooring, in a haystack-shape design using two shades of brown. The ceiling and walls have been treated throughout the house, including the kitchen. The latter, however, is furnished to the Presswood design, with Presswood wall treatment. Here on the lower level, the usual Masonite aluminum panel has been used for insulation and enclosed with Masonite Tongue.

Besides the kitchen, the ground floor contains a large combination living and dining room, two bedrooms and a bath. In the living room and great bedroom the structural insulation board has been used as a base for a thin wood veneer that has been used as paper in the main, and in the main, in the master bedroom, however, ordinary ceiling has been used as a base for paper and wall paper. The edges of the built-in cabinets are painted a deep russet color, and a similar color is used for the average base of the main and dining room.

WATCR THE NEXT

Century of Progress

UNFOLD IN THE PAGES OF HOME & FIELD

MONTH by month, we pride ourselves, Home & Field is something of a Century of Progress Exposition in itself. If you have scanned its pages regularly these past two or three years you've seen in photographs most of the new developments that pertain to the business of living, read in accompanying text and captions an explanation of what they meant. The world's news for home builders, month by month, marches across the pages of Home & Field.

New styles, new materials, fresh wonders of an inventive world, these are the things which concern Home & Field wherever they cross your threshold. Each page is some carefully arranged exhibit filled with ideas which contribute to the comfort, the convenience or the attractiveness of living.

This Century of Progress is more a prelude than an epilogue. A record of great development, but more than that, a forecast of the new movements that are only just begun. The next few years will show the fresh tangents to which impetus has been given here.

Home & Field is dedicated to watching for these new things as they come, explaining them for its readers as they develop. As it unfolds, the next Century of Progress will be recorded for you in the pages of Home & Field.
A majority of the buildings in the Home Planning Section of The World's Fair are glazed with L.O.F. Polished Plate Glass and Quality Window Glass. You will see, as you go through the Fair grounds, that bright, clear glass that gives even reflections, emphasizes and enhances every other feature of design and creates an atmosphere of warm friendliness combined with sparkling beauty that it is impossible to achieve by any other means. That is the atmosphere you want in your own home. That is why it is important to talk about glass with your architect.

Libbey-Owens-Ford
Quality Glass