

MR. C. F. A. VOYSEY'S HOUSE: THE CHILDREN'S BEDROOM.

Photo: Henry Irving.

"THE ORCHARD," CHORLEY WOOD, HERTS: BY C. F. A. VOYSEY.

THE site of the above house is on the western border of Hertfordshire, 400 feet above sea level and about ten minutes' walk from Chorley Wood Station on the Metropolitan Railway. It is situated in an old orchard, in extent

about two and a half acres, and stands on ground slightly sloping away from Shire Lane to the south. On the sunny side of the house a large old cherry tree, fifty-nine feet in diameter, casts a cool shade on the lawn, but is not near enough to shut the sun from any windows of the house. There are three other such cherry trees, but hardly so large, and about 100 apple trees, mostly of considerable age, two walnut trees, one mul-



MR. C. F. A. VOYSEY IN HIS STUDY AT CHORLEY WOOD.

Photo: Henry Irving



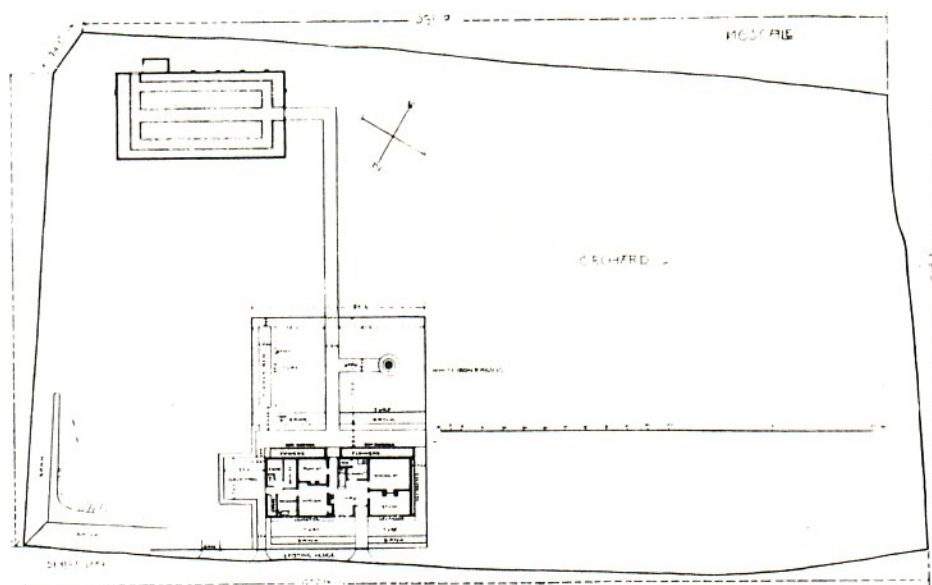
MR. C. F. A. VOYSEY'S HOUSE: "THE ORCHARD," CHORLEY WOOD, HERTS.
ENTRANCE FRONT.



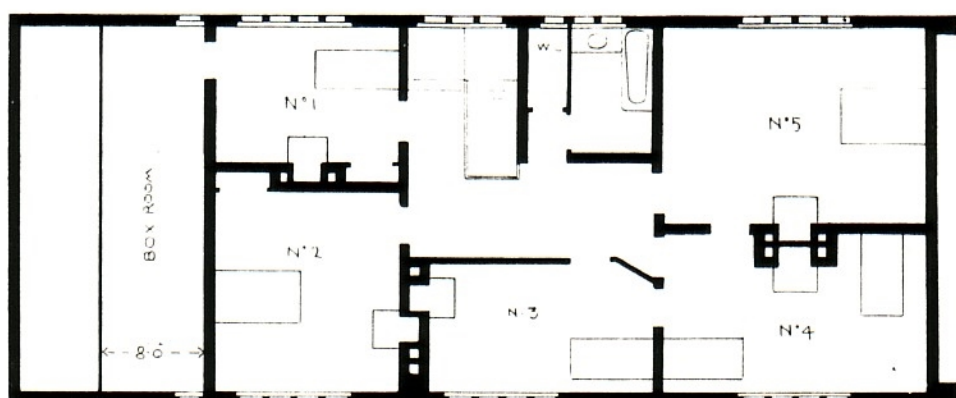
MR. C. F. A. VOYSEY'S HOUSE: "THE ORCHARD," CHORLEY WOOD, HERTS.
GARDEN FRONT.

Photos: Henry Irving.

Mr. C. F. A. Voysey's House.

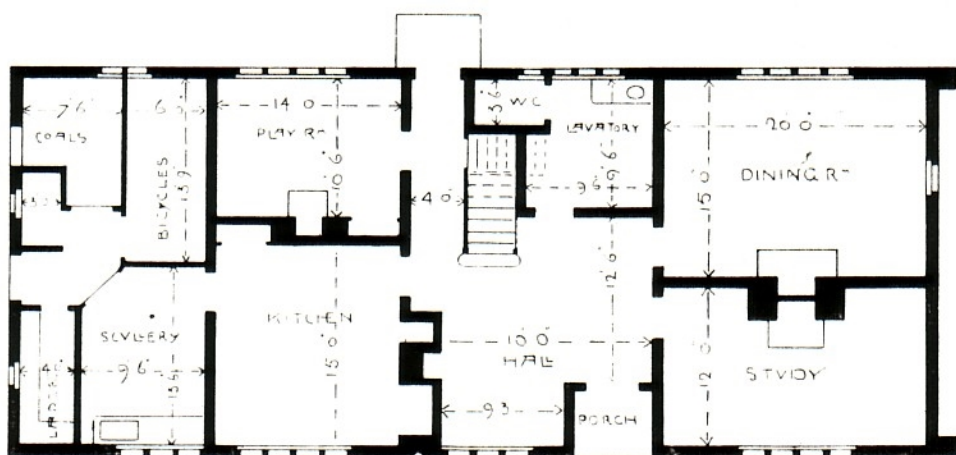


SITE PLAN.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

Scale 0 10 20



GROUND FLOOR PLAN.

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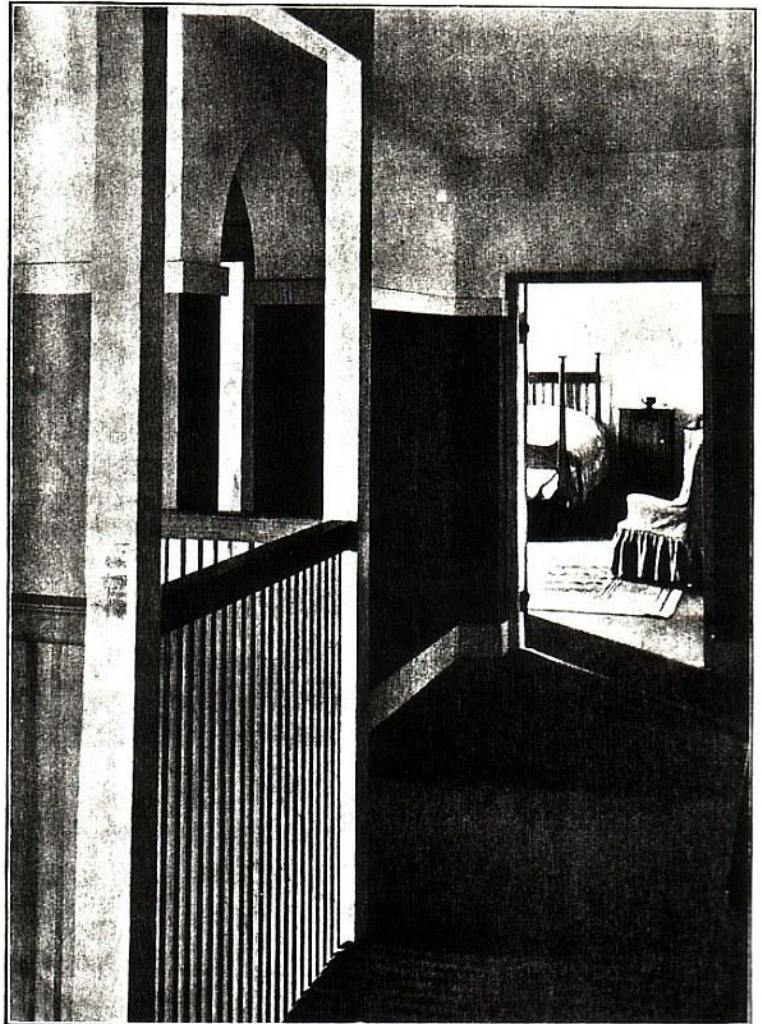
berry, and a well-formed wych elm. The ground is surrounded on three sides by very high hedges, interspersed with holly bushes. The soil is gravel on chalk, and the cowslips, primroses, buttercups, snowdrops, violets, orchis, and honeysuckle grow wild in their season. The house is small, having only five bedrooms and a good-sized box-room, with ventilation at each end; the hot-water tank in the middle warming long rows of shelves, where linen is kept. There is a dining-room 20 ft. by 15 ft., and a study 20 ft. by 12 ft. with recess for ottoman couch. The school-room, which is 14 ft. by 12 ft., and the dining-room have long windows, which let in all the sun until the hottest part of the day, when the sun gets round to the end of the house with its one small circular window. The hall is 16 ft. by 17 ft. with the porch cut off one corner. It has a fireplace and a long window seat, arranged for storage of rugs. Under the lavatory there is a cellar, which derives light and air from a window above ground but under the lavatory enclosure above. This allows of easy access to all pipes, supplies, and wastes from the lavatories and bath-room over. The w.c. out of the lavatory on the ground floor is built sound proof, the w.c. on the floor above is exactly over it, and only the stupid local by-laws prevented the soil-pipe being carried through the two w.c.'s in a straight run to the drain; as it is, they had to be twisted and turned to the outside of the wall, thanks to the unpractical theorists who frame these regulations.

The study looks out to a wood on the opposite side of Shire Lane, which by the grace of the Duke of Bedford is not to be bought or built upon, so that this room has a steady north light and plenty of it. The rooms throughout the house are only eight feet high, and with their deep white frieze have an abundance of reflecting surface.

The kitchen is on the north side of the house, also the scullery and larder, so that the servants have the benefit of a cool aspect and all the life there is in Shire Lane, and the

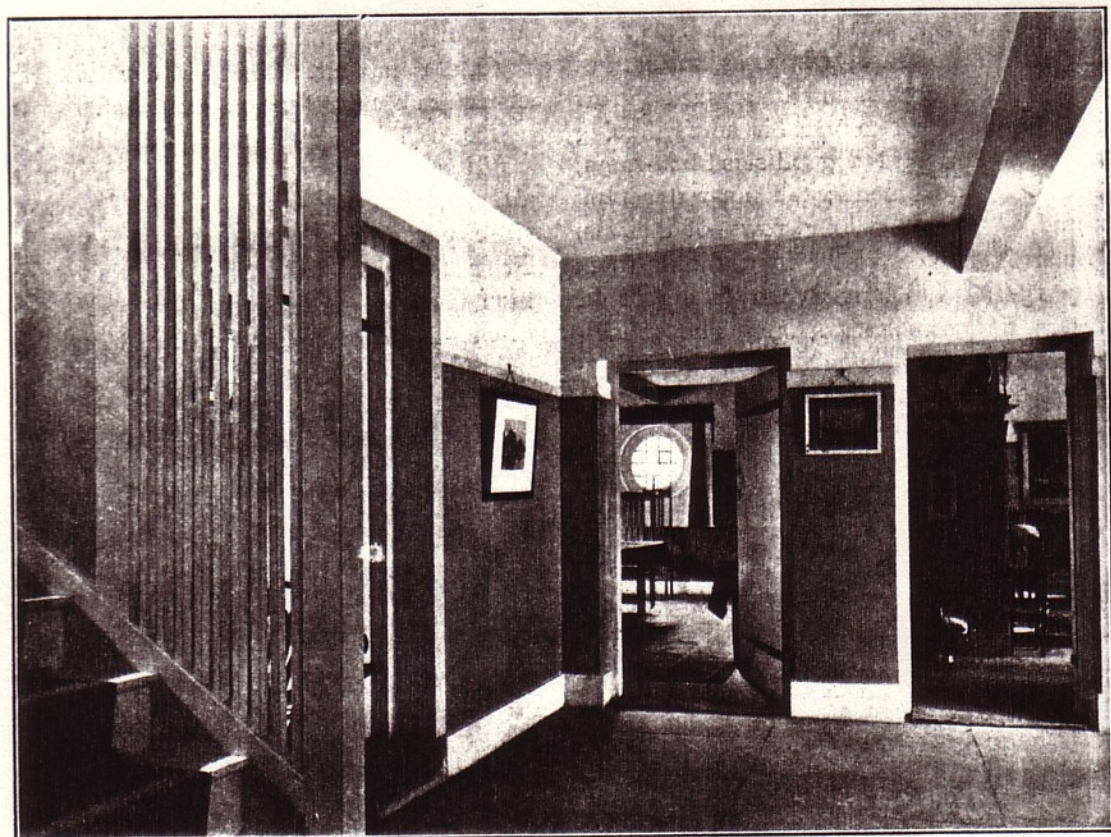
privacy of the garden and orchard is not impaired. There is a bicycle room close to the kitchen entrance inside the house, proof against fog and damp air. The servants' w.c. and coal cellar are both under the main roof.

The hall fireplace has been found by its central position to keep the whole house warm in severe weather, and the wood across the lane and the little porch together ward off the cold winds. From the south windows Chorley Wood Common is to be seen over trees, high hedges, and ditches in the valley between, and not a house or building of any kind will ever rise to mar the view. Nightingales, larks, linnets, thrushes, blackbirds, wood pigeons, and even foxes, deign to keep company with the little white house, which externally is faced with cement rough cast, lime whitened, and has window dressings of Corsham Down stone fitted with Wenham & Waters' iron casements and lead lights. All the paint work outside is pale Brunswick green, and the roofing

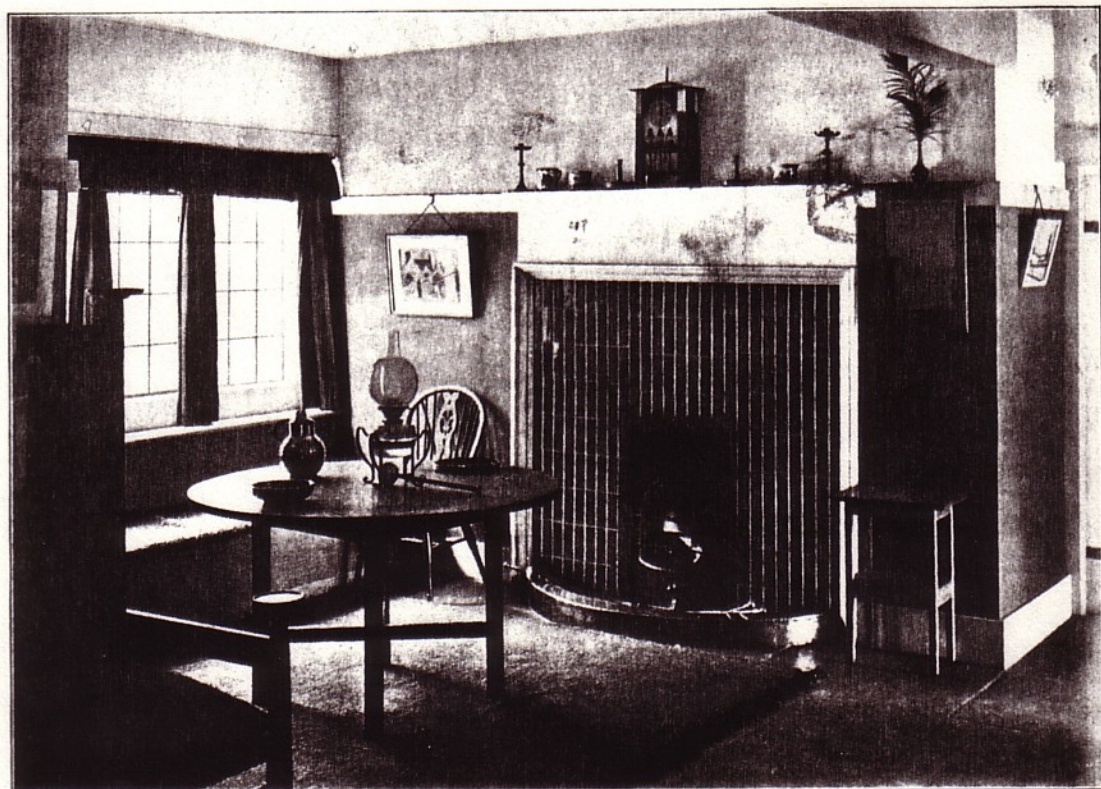


LANDING, FIRST FLOOR.

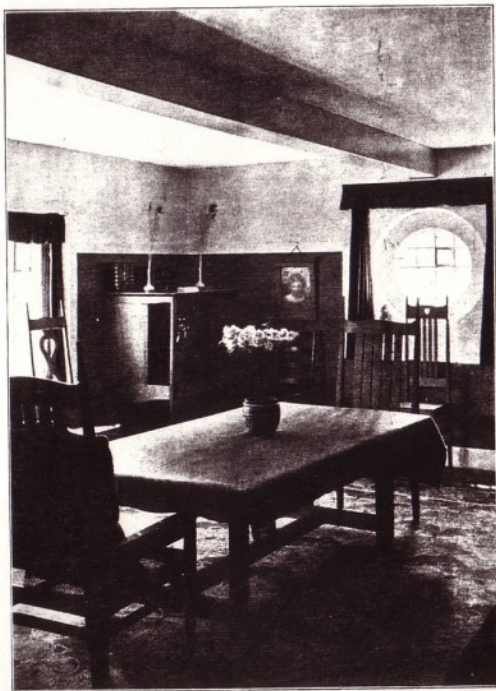
Photo: Henry Irving.



THE HALL, LOOKING SOUTH-WEST.



THE HALL, LOOKING NORTH-EAST.



THE DINING-ROOM.



THE PLAY-ROOM AND SCHOOL-ROOM.

Photos: Henry Irving.

is of green American slates in gradating courses. These are in colour a silvery grey tinged here and there with the tints found in the plumage of pigeons. The chimneys are weathered with red tiles and surmounted with tapered pots, twice tarred. From the entrance gate to the main entrance porch, hall, kitchen, and offices the floors are paved with large slabs of Delabole grey slate, all the woodwork throughout the interior being painted pure white. Every room has a low picture-rail with distemper white frieze and ceiling above. The filling below in the hall and on the staircase and landing is plain purple Eltonbury silk fibre paper. The dining-room walls are covered with the same material in green. The other rooms are papered with pattern papers designed by the architect, and the floors are covered with carpets by the same author. The whole of the first floor is covered with green cork carpet fitted to the walls, and upon that mats are placed where required. Most of the furniture is in quite plain oak unstained and unpolished from the designs of the architect. All the bath, lavatory, and w.c. casings are in similar oak framing. Each room has its fire-place and its separate foul air exhaust. The fire-place tiles are by Van Straaten, and the builders were Messrs. J. Bottrill & Son, of Reading. The plumbing work was executed by Wenham & Waters. Hot water can be drawn in the bath-room at any time of the day or night. The water is supplied from the local mains.

