



OUT *Went the Surrey*

Remodeled carriage house of
Mr. and Mrs. Paul R. MacAlister in Chicago, Illinois



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Jean Austin

This former carriage house, remodeled directly after the war, solved the housing problem for at least one ex-naval officer. Its stucco exterior, an artful deceiver if ever we saw one, is modest to the point of being self-effacing; but its interiors are another story altogether. There's only one important room to a floor, but one is never conscious of being cramped. On the other hand, there's a cool airiness about it that is largely due to the expert hand of the tenant, Director of Interior Decoration for Montgomery Ward and Co. Without the use of mirrors, Mr. MacAlister has packed in more pleasant surprises than you'd find up the sleeve of the most expert legerdemain artist. There's excitement immediately upon entering the small foyer. Here walls are of corrugated plaster paper finished in a combed black and white wood effect; closet and telephone room doors are painted brilliant lacquer-red and are dashingy studded with bright brass stars. On ceiling and door trim, gold has been used with dramatic effect.

Principal room on the first floor is used for both living and dining. Here the stairway has been left open in the interests of spaciousness, an illusion further enhanced by the delicate philodendron vine climbing its graceful iron trellis. For balance, the opposite wall has been painted a deep green. The remaining side walls and ceiling are one color—a medium chartreuse. Bleached-oak shelves along these latter walls take the place of movable chests and make for easy cleaning of the gray wall-to-wall broadloom carpet. One shelf is deep enough to receive even the most sizable of periodicals, while its companion houses a radio phonograph. Furniture is arranged so that the largest number of people may be readily seated in conversational groups. Over the open shelf, interest is focused on a modern-looking torso collected in the Philippine Islands. It is actually a fifteenth-century ecclesiastical figure and is of one solid piece of Marra wood. Supporting it is a block cut from a section of 40 m.m. anti-aircraft gun.



● Covered with identical green marbled paper of stair wall, unpainted drop-leaf table serves equally well for small or large dining groups. Doorway on left leads to small kitchen, while under stairs is located a hobby closet for storing games, household tools, and the owner's "hobby" photographic equipment



● Dividing second-floor master bedroom into sleeping and dressing areas is a wooden screen, laid out in open squares and carefully draped in sheer panels, ranging in color from deep rose to off-white. Mural over the headboard with built-in fluorescent lights is by Folydia Etting and interprets the MacAlister family's zodiac signs



Photographs by Montgomery Ward's Photographic Department

