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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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CLIMATE AND ARCHITECTURE

In America, we have no one prevailing type of domestic architecture; we have various American climates and American architectural styles adapted to these widely diverse climates. A house must usually provide an artificial indoor climate, free from the severities and extremes encountered outside. In southern California, the outdoor climate throughout the year requires but little modification, therefore, light open construction is the rule, and sleeping porches abound. Furnaces and cellars are dispensed with, dryness prevents the breeding of insects so that wire screens are uncommon. Houses in the Middle West, on the other hand, must be prepared for extremes of either heat or cold and for heavy winds, and are generally more substantial and compact. Sometimes farmhouses have a separate "summer kitchen" to avoid extra heat in the dwelling. In this region as on the Atlantic coast houses are frequently protected with storm doors and windows and occasionally tar paper or burlap are placed around the lower part of the house in winter. Along parts of the seacoast and shores of the Great Lakes storm windows may be needed as a shield against gales, likely to break one thickness of glass. In the Gulf Coast region, particularly in New Orleans, overhanging balconies on the second or third story are frequent, and living rooms are usually upstairs, to avoid the excessive dampness of the ground floor. Throughout the country, gutters and leaders on a house are adjusted to the probable rainfall, and the slope and strength of the roof required determined partly by the maximum weight of snow and ice it must support.

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