

CAPITAL WEEK BY WEEK



The charming Muckleneuk home of Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Moerdyk.

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MR. GERARD MOERDYK, wife of the well-known Pretoria architect whose beautiful home forms the subject of one of my pictures to-day, is a daughter of the late Dr. F. Pirow, of Potchefstroom, and is one of a family of three, all of whom have made their mark on the current history of their country. Her brothers are Mr. Oswald Pirow, Minister of Justice and Dr. Hans Pirow, Commissioner of Mines. As children, they lived in Potchefstroom where their father personally conducted their education. He was a medical practitioner and though he was kept very busy, life was not so strenuous in those days as it is to-day, and in the happy atmosphere of his home he was able to find time daily to assemble his little family around his dining-room table, and there lay the foundations of the education which has so greatly assisted them all in their successful careers.

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MR. MOERDYK early showed signs of literary ability, and evidence of the success of her efforts is seen in many beautiful pieces of furniture in her home bought with money made as a free-lance journalist. Mrs. Moerdyk has contributed to most of the leading English and Afrikaans papers in the Union, and to many magazines in England.

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THERE are several unique features in connection with "Bynanbo," Mr. and Mrs. G. Moerdyk's home. To begin with it is the only house built of a special multi-coloured Brooklyn

slate, and it will probably remain the only one, as the quarry has closed down except for production of a small quantity of stone for concrete. The stones have been individually chosen—the large ones at the bottom, the smaller ones higher up. The colours range from buff to russet and brick-red and from dull grey to autumnal shades of green and yellow. Outstanding features include a delightful bathroom with a recessed bath built of small square white tiles. The bedrooms have an old world air with their low, sloping ceilings and recessed dormer windows. The dining-room, with plaster panels in early Renaissance style, is carried out in ivory and gold with a reflecting ceiling. Original water colours painted by Mr. Moerdyk in different countries give the only note of colour. The furniture, made according to Mr. Moerdyk's own design, is of polished Rhodesian mahogany. The table is specially interesting, for it has a star-shaped design in the centre with triangular pieces radiating and a broad circular band round the edge. The living room is altogether South African, the walls being panelled with Rhodesian mahogany, and the beamed ceiling and floor being of Rhodesian teak. Paintings by well-known South African artists grace the walls. A foreign note is introduced in the electric fittings imported from Holland and in one or two valuable statuettes from Egypt and Italy. Uptairs on the landing, in a recess with dormer windows, Mrs. Moerdyk has her desk where she spends many hours of the day in writing.

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