

THE OUTSIDE WALLS of the house are covered with fresco paintings. The statuary for the gardens was made by Mrs. Bontempi, here seen at work.

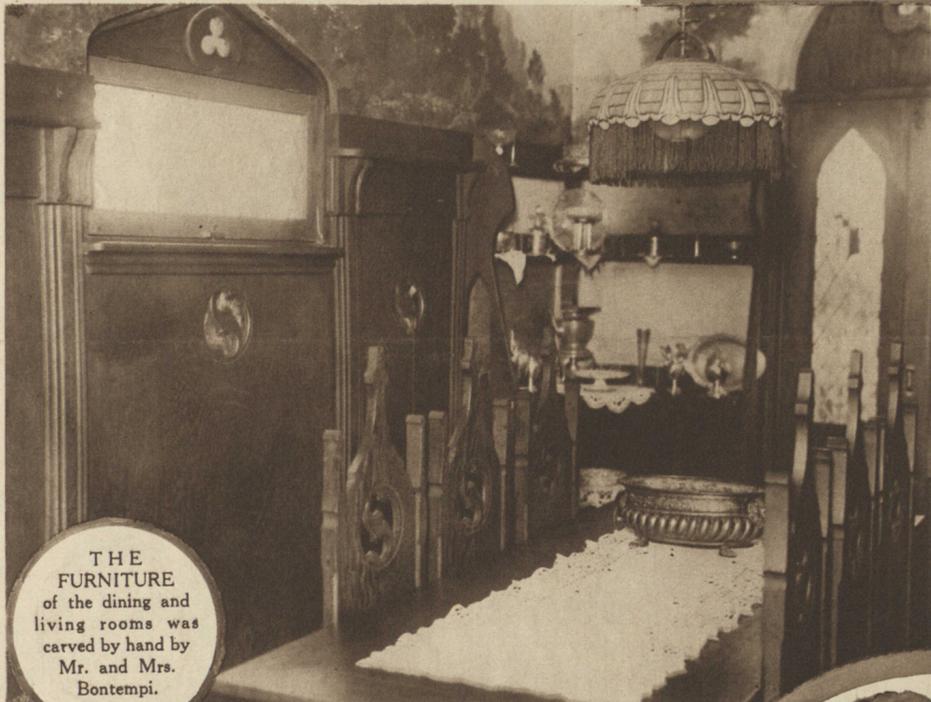


An Italian Villa on the Palisades, Built by an Artist and His Artist Wife. It Took Them Seven Years to Complete It.

Photos by Social Press Association.

THE OWNERS of the villa, on the hill opposite 180th Street, are Mr. and Mrs. August Bontempi. Mr. Bontempi paints; his wife is a sculptor. Together they did all the work on the villa.

THE STATUARY is made of cement and marble dust, without the use of a model. Before her marriage Mrs. Bontempi was Elisna Focardi, daughter of Giovanni Focardi, the famous Italian sculptor.



THE FURNITURE of the dining and living rooms was carved by hand by Mr. and Mrs. Bontempi.



MRS. BONTEMPI planned the tea garden and open pergola and executed it in cement and marble dust.



THE GARDEN seat, the detail of which appears above, is said to be the first of cement construction ever made in this country.



THE ARTIST and his daughter, Myrian, who is seven years old. She is sometimes a model for her mother.



THE COLORS for the fresco work were brought from abroad and applied to the walls by a method used in Italy hundreds of years ago.