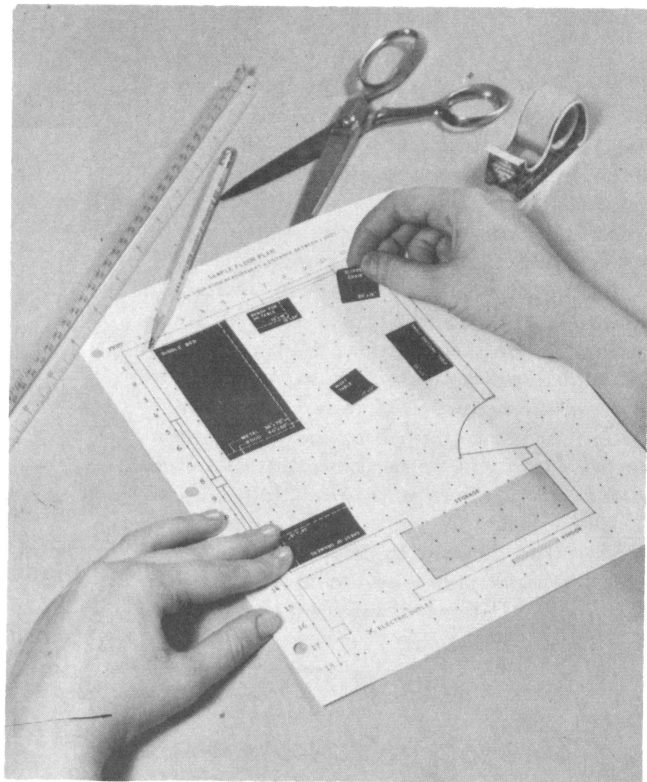


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DECORATE A COMPLETE ROOM



4-H Home Management Series



4-H CIRCULAR 155
SEPTEMBER, 1960
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

When You Decorate a Complete Room

The projects you have completed in Series I and II have centered about a particular area of some room in the house. Now you are ready to completely decorate one room. You enroll in a special room improvement project or you may work alone.

Any room from attic to basement may be improved. This could involve complete remodeling or changing the use of the room. Making a pantry into a bathroom, a porch into a family room or an attic into a bedroom are possibilities.

You can have fun selecting materials, furnishings and accessories. You may include everything from floor to ceiling. Arranging and maintaining the room will be as important as actual construction of furniture and furnishings.

The results of this project will depend upon the cooperation of your family. Plan together! Work together! But give credit to those who help you. After all, YOU are decorating the room.

Your Project Requirements

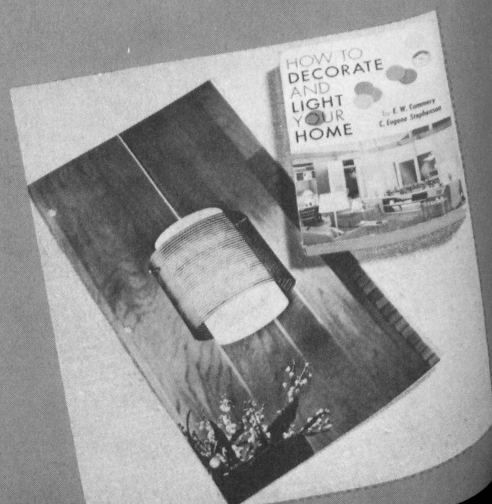
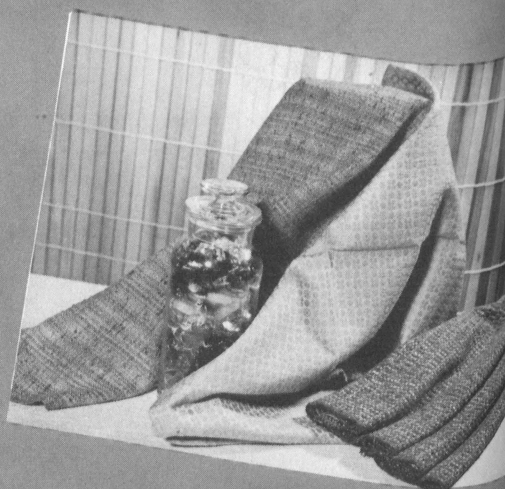
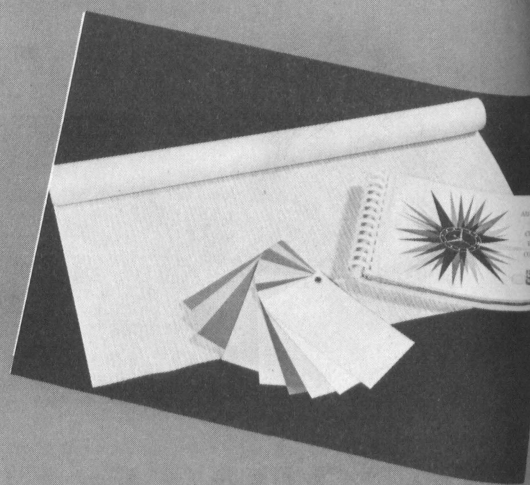
There are no specific requirements since rooms will vary. The time element as well as your physical ability also will determine what can be done.

First, outline a plan of work with the assistance of your leader. Then you or your leader present it to your agent who will determine whether or not it is in line with usual requirements.

Add Your Own Ideas

In this leaflet, instructions are not given. The general information will apply to many situations. Your leader will have some suggestions and reference materials are available which will be helpful. You can also get ideas from books, magazines, store displays and interesting homes.

By Alice Mae Alexander



PS IN DECORATING A ROOM...

Take a good look at the room. Imagine how it would appear without any furniture or furnishings. Consider how the room is to be used. List activities. What furnishings will be needed? List these.

Make an inventory of present furniture, and equipment. Note condition of these. What changes or improvements would you like to make?

Collect pictures of furnishings, arrangement ideas, and color combinations. Save fabric and color swatches that appeal to you.

START WITH A FLOOR PLAN

Make an accurate floor plan of the room you are decorating. You will find graph paper easy to use. (Half an inch to equal one foot is the usual measurement.) Indicate doors and windows, electrical outlets, heating units. Show the direction in which the doors open.

Make cut-outs to represent furniture, using the same scale. Label the cut-outs.

Try different arrangements of the cut-outs on your floor plan. You will be surprised at what you can do simply by rearranging what you have. You may want to add other furnishings later.

Points to remember in furniture arrangement:

1. Make the best possible use of space and natural light.
2. Keep traffic lanes open.
3. Distribute large pieces of furniture around the room to create a feeling of balance.
4. Place large pieces of furniture parallel to the wall—not across a corner.
5. Establish your center of interest. If you do not have a natural center of interest, such as a window or a fireplace, you can create one.
6. Balance pattern and color around the room for a pleasing result.
7. Finish with accents and accessories. Last to go in place will be the personal things that make a room so truly yours—the decorative lamps, pictures, pillows and books.

COLOR CAN WORK MAGIC

Before you decide on a color scheme, remember: pale colors make rooms seem larger. Strong colors make rooms seem less spacious. Choose one color to be the important one—let all others accent or compliment it. Colors based on yellow or red suggest warmth, while colors based on blue and green suggest coolness. When you are choosing a color for walls or draperies always look at as big a sample as possible, because the larger the area, the more intense the color will seem. Observe colors under both natural and artificial light.

A color wheel is a simple way of showing the relation of all the colors of the rainbow to each other. Become familiar with its use. You can obtain one at any paint store.

Avoid too many colors in one room. Usually it is better to limit them to two or three, but you may use several values of a color.

To balance amounts of color in a room you will need to:

- Use a warm color as a contrast to an all-cool color scheme and a cool note of color to contrast to an all-warm color scheme.
- Balance values in a room by using a small quantity of dark to balance large amounts of light.
- Once a color is used in a room it is well to use it again. A book, pillow or accessory may pick up and repeat the color of a chair.
- Keep large areas such as walls and floors quiet in effect. The larger the area the duller and more quiet the color should be.
- Use sharp contrasts for small areas.

SELECT A COLOR SCHEME

Colors must be arranged in planned schemes before they are effective. Artists and designers are experienced in the use of colors. Why not make use of color plans they have made? That means selecting your color scheme from a furnishing already in use or one to be purchased.

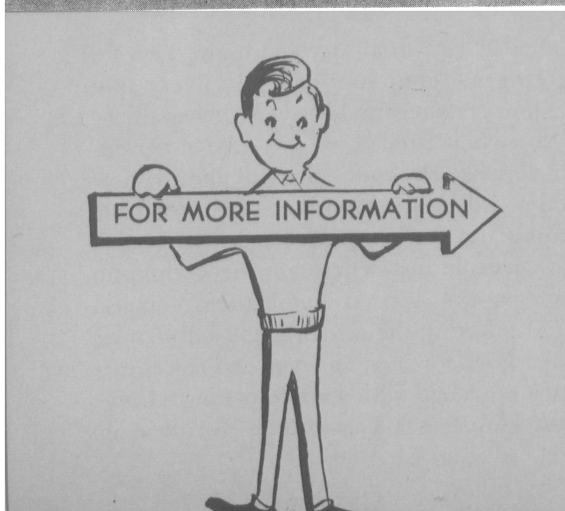
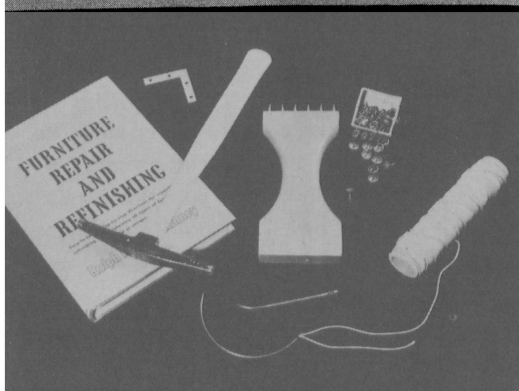
For inspiration in creating new color schemes, go to nature—not the whole countryside views, but look at smaller pieces of nature such as a rock, a leaf, or a piece of bark.

PATTERN IN RELATION TO COLOR

The most important guide to follow in selecting the amount of pattern for one room is—no room is large enough to have more than one large-scaled pattern. Too many patterns in a room all try to command attention at once. This gives a feeling of restlessness and confusion.

LIGHTING

See your room at its best, both day and night. Plan for two kinds of lighting: close-up and general. Every spot where work or reading is done should have its own specific light planned for the job at hand. You also need softer diffused illumination to make the room cheerful and to show off your decorating—and, most important of all, to create the balance of strong and mellow light needed to protect against eye strain. Decide just where you need close-up lighting, and where you want general illumination. You also have the problem of selecting the actual lamps and fixtures you will need to use. Look for these in styles and colors that harmonize with each other and with your decorating scheme. Consult "See Your Home in a New Light" for ideas on lighting.



ACCESSORIES

Accessories are all the personal touches that give your room individual personality. A room might be well done—have good seating, good lighting and comfortable arrangement, but without accessories it would look bare and uninteresting. The pillows, the dishes, the flowers, the ash trays—even the arrangement of books—add sparkle to a room.

SELECT ACCESSORIES TO FIT YOUR FURNISHINGS

By the time you are ready to choose accessories, you have already established your furnishings theme, the color scheme and the room arrangement plan. Resist the impulse to buy some item unless it fits the style and color pattern of your room.

SELECT ACCESSORIES IN PROPER PROPORTION

For example, the height of a lamp should be in pleasing proportion to the chair or table that it serves. It should relate to the room size as well.

ARRANGE ACCESSORIES TO EMPHASIZE THEIR BEAUTY

One well designed piece of pottery in good proportion to its surroundings will be seen and enjoyed. The same piece used with several others loses its identity.

CONSIDER CONVENIENCE AND APPEARANCE WHEN YOU PLACE ACCESSORIES

Recently there has been a trend toward using fewer and more important accessories—one big ash tray on a table, rather than several small ones, or a big wall accessory rather than two small pictures.

RECONDITIONING FURNISHINGS

A face lifting job may be necessary. Often you can do this by refinishing furniture, making slip covers or upholstering. Collect bulletins and books pertaining to the thing you plan to do. Professional people are often willing to share tricks of the trade if you explain what you are doing.

CHECK YOUR FINAL PLANS

- Is the room attractive, comfortable and convenient?
- Space used to good advantage?
- Have you made the best possible use of natural light?
- Is the artificial light functional as well as decorative?
- Have you chosen furnishings appropriate to the use of the room?
- Is the furniture arranged to give a feeling of balance?
- Is there a sense of openness? Can you move about easily and freely?
- Are the traffic lanes short and direct?
- Are needed items stored where they are to be used?
- Is there a center of interest?
- Have you been able to work "magic" with color?
- Do the accessories reflect the personality of the person using the room?

REFERENCE LIST FOR DECORATING A ROOM

Home and Garden Bulletin No. 22—Cut-Outs to Help in Planning

Extension Circular 698—Which Paint Shall It Be?

Extension Circular 699—Choosing Your Wall Finish

Extension Circular 700—When You Paint

Circulars 690, 707 and folder 69—Upholstering Series

Circulars 710, 711, 712—Picture Series

Extension Circular 714—A Well Lighted Desk

See Your Home In A New Light

Circular 564—Refinishing Furniture

4-H Club Circular 103—Your Room

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C. B. RATCHFORD, Director, Agricultural Extension Service
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