

Arranging
My Bedroom

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Is your bedroom all you would like it to be? It should be a place of order and beauty—a place where you can either rest comfortably or concentrate on your homework and hobbies. It should be a place where you can keep yourself and your clothes well groomed; where you and your sister or you and your friends can go and talk—a place of your own.

Your bedroom says a lot about you! It tells whether you are orderly or “messy”; whether you like things about you to be pretty or if “any old way” will do. It tells whether or not you are developing your “taste”—your sense of what is valuable and what is not, what is beautiful and what is not.

Use of Room

How does a person go about planning a room? If an interior decorator were “doing” your bedroom, she would first ask you: “For what are you planning to use this room?” What would you answer?

Sleeping, of course. But what else? Dress-

ing, storing clothes, putting on make-up and fixing your hair? How about studying, reading, listening to records and maybe even practicing the latest dance steps with your friends?

Do you sew in your bedroom? Work on your hobby? Do you share the room with someone else and if so, what are her special needs? If you share the room with a baby sister, does she need a place to keep her toys? A place to play?

Furniture Needed

After you decide what activities you need to plan for, ask yourself this question: “What furniture do I need in my room?” Can the same piece of furniture be used for two purposes? For example, can you use your desk chair at the sewing machine? Can your bookcase hold your hobby supplies as well as your books? Be practical! If you put your make-up on in the bathroom, do you really need a dressing table?

It might be helpful to make a list something like this:

I use my room for:	I will need these furnishings:
1. sleeping	1. bed, small table, lamp
2. studying	2. desk (or table), chair, light
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

Complete the list with the activities you need to plan for in your own room. Put a star by any activities you very seldom do. If you don't have room, perhaps you can plan to do them somewhere else.

Arranging Furniture

After you have listed the uses of your room and the furnishings you need for these activities, you are ready to plan the arrangement of your room.

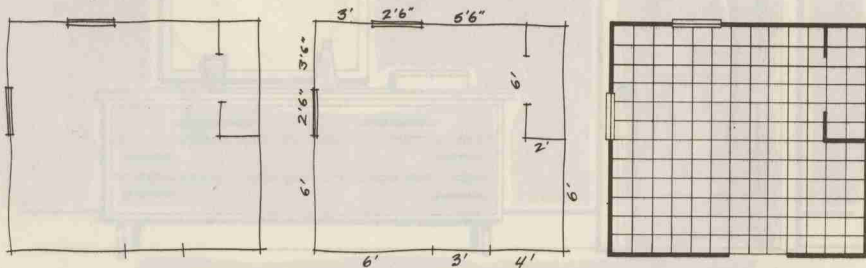
There are two ways of doing this: One way is to push, pull, shove and tug furniture around and by “trial and error” find out

where you want it. The trouble with this method is that it wears you out and certainly doesn't do the furniture or floor any good.

The other, the better way, is to make a floor plan on graph paper, cut out paper models of your furniture to scale, and try them in different positions until you find the best arrangement.

Here's How!

1. Get a pencil and paper and roughly draw the shape of your room. Note where windows, doors, fireplace, and any jogs in the wall are located.
2. Then, using a yardstick or tapeline, measure each wall area, window, door, etc. Mark these measurements on the sketch you have just made.
3. Adding it up, we find this room is 12' x 13'. Using $\frac{1}{4}$ " graph paper and letting 1 block = 1 foot, we can easily figure that we have to draw off a rectangle 12 blocks by 13 blocks. Put the windows and doors in the proper places and you have a floor plan.



4. Your Home Agent or 4-H leader can give you a sheet of furniture cut-outs which are drawn on the scale of $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1'. Cut out the ones like the furniture in your room. Or, if you prefer, you can measure your furniture and draw your own models.
5. Try two or three different arrangements of furniture before you paste the furniture on the floor plan. Don't be afraid to experiment. But before you decide where to paste the furniture, study the following principles of furniture arrangement.

Plan For Convenience

It's a good idea to:	For example:
1. Store things as near as possible to where you use them	—Chest of drawers near closet is most convenient.
2. Group together all furniture used for one activity. Ask yourself, "Where shall I locate the study unit?" rather than "Where shall I put the desk?"	—Desk, bookcase, chair and lamp should be grouped together for reading and studying.
3. Place large pieces of furniture parallel to the walls. Do not place a large piece near the entrance of a room.	—Bed placed "kitty-korner" wastes a lot of space. Bed placed in wall space nearest the door makes the room seem small and crowded.
4. Plan for traffic and for moving around.	—Try to keep some "open space" in the room. Don't allow furniture to block traffic in and out of the room.
5. Make best possible use of light from windows.	—If desk and dresser can be near window you will have better light.
6. Plan your color scheme before you buy anything.	—You may be able to use some of the things you already have. Be sure the things you plan to get are available in your area.

Plan For Beauty

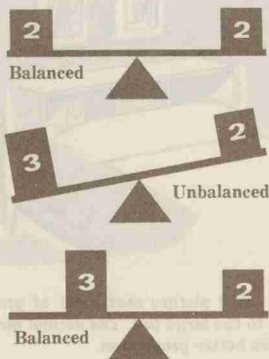
Unity comes when the whole arrangement is in keeping with the style of furniture and style of the room.

Unity is achieved by making large pieces of furniture and rugs conform to the lines of the wall and curtains blend with the shape of the windows. Simple, sturdy furniture is in keeping with dull surfaces, rough textured fabrics and informal prints. Delicate, rich, period furniture, on the other hand, calls for smooth surfaces, formal prints, and dressy fabrics if unity is to be maintained.

Variety is still "the spice of life". For the sake of variety, small pieces of furniture may be placed at an angle. Grouping furniture for "activities" will also add to variety since each activity group will be a little different from the others.

Proportion refers to the way furnishings look in relation to one another and to the room itself. If a very small, delicate table is used beside a large upholstered chair, both of them look awkward. We say they are "out of proportion" or they are not in "scale" with one another. Sometimes small pieces of furniture may be grouped together, so that they will appear to be in better proportion to the other furnishings.

Scale or proportion is important in choosing objects such as lamps and pictures for a room. A large lamp on a tiny table shows poor proportion. One small picture over a large bed will seem out of proportion, too, whereas a large picture or several small ones grouped together would be in much better proportion.



Balance is easy to understand if we think of a see-saw. If two equal weights are on the see-saw it is balanced.

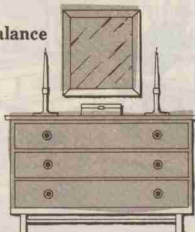
When one is heavier than the other it is unbalanced.

To make the see-saw balance, the heavier weight must move closer to the center and the light weight nearer the edge.

Balance may be:

Formal: Objects the same size and shape, attracting the same amount of attention, are at equal distance from the center. This picture illustrates a formal arrangement of accessories on a Chest.

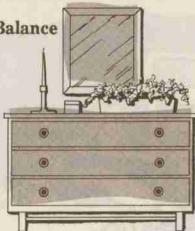
Formal Balance



Informal: Objects unlike in size and shape are placed so that they seem balanced by having the heavier object near the center.

Here the heavy planter has been moved toward the center and the light candlestick moved toward the edge, using the same idea as the heavy weight and the light weight balanced on the see-saw.

Informal Balance



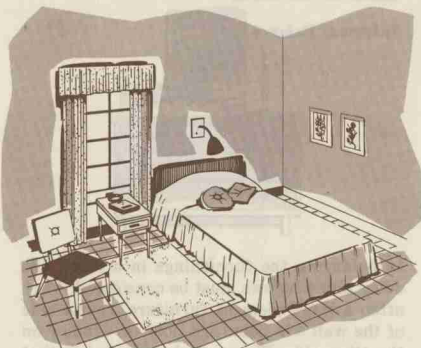
In balancing the furnishings in a room, the doors and windows must be considered. Very often a large piece of furniture on one side of the wall will balance a door or window on the other side. We must also remember that color attracts as much attention as size and weight. To achieve balance in a room, then, we must distribute *color* and *furniture* carefully around the room.

Rhythm comes from repeating shapes, textures and colors at different places around the room so that the eye moves easily from one to another. For example, flowered drapery material used at the windows on one side of the room may be used to cover a chair on the other side of the room. An oblong mirror in one place may be repeated by a smaller, oblong picture frame somewhere else in the room. Look at the heights of furniture against a wall. It should suggest a flowing line rather than a series of ups and downs.



Plan room arrangement. Arrange furniture according to its use and convenience.

Emphasis comes when you feature one group or another and make it a center of interest. The way a room is built may help you decide on a center of interest. Fireplaces

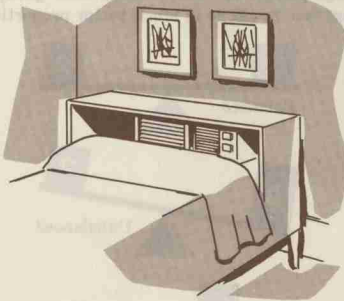
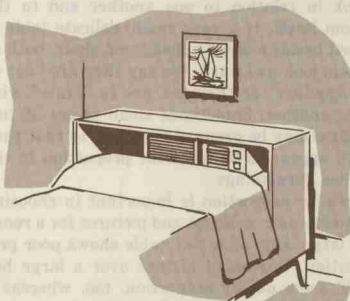


The arrangement and style of this room shows basic **UNITY** with **VARIETY** achieved by grouping furniture and placing small chairs at an angle.

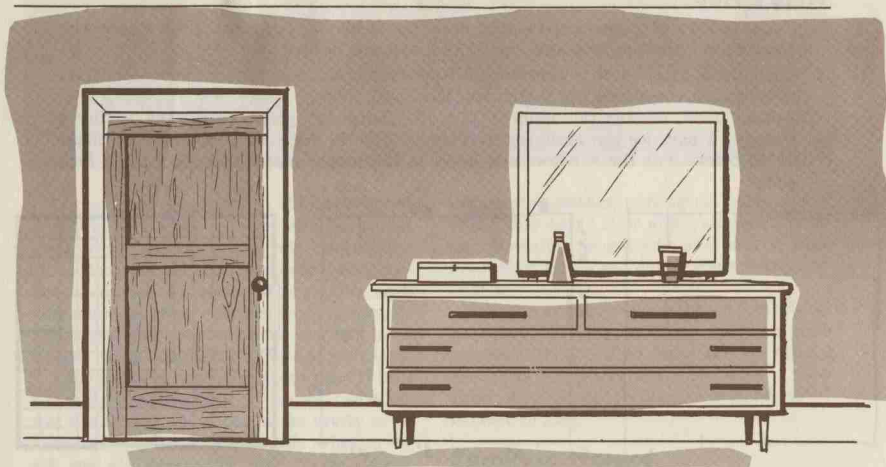
or beautifully curtained windows are natural centers of interest and can easily be featured. Or you may have a really beautiful bed or dressing table you would like to feature. Whatever it may be, try to plan for some center of interest in your room.

With these guides in mind, you can now decide on the best arrangement for your room. Paste your furniture models in place on the floor plan. Now you are ready to move the actual furniture in your room, certain that it will be just what you want. Of course, you can change your arrangement whenever your needs change or when you think of a better plan.

Planning and working on the improvement of your room will help you to appreciate two very important things in life: **ORDER** and **BEAUTY**. Arranging furniture doesn't cost a cent. Yet it can certainly make your room more orderly and more beautiful.



The small picture seems out of proportion to the large bed. The second picture shows better proportion.



The furniture grouping on one side of the wall balances the door on the other side.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Make a scale drawing of room before and after improvements are made.2. Plan room arrangement. Arrange furniture according to its use and convenience.3. Plan a color scheme for the room. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Plan improvements desired and, estimate cost.5. Keep clothes and belongings put away when not in use; make a place for them, if needed. |
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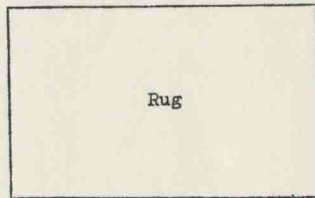
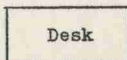
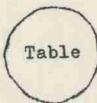
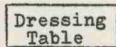
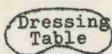
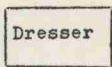
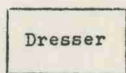
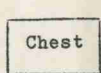
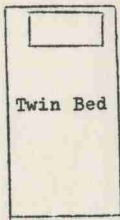
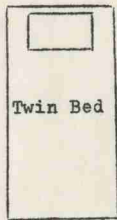
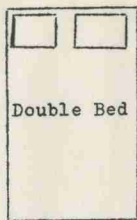


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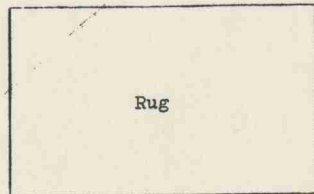
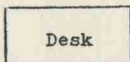
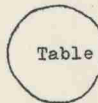
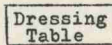
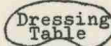
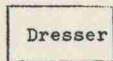
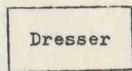
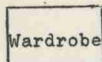
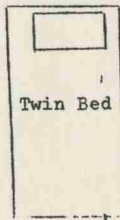
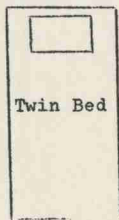
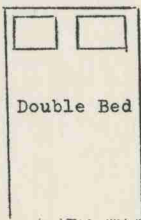
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