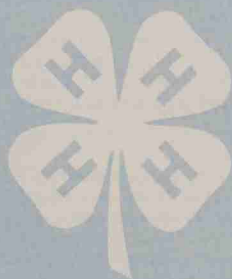


***PULL your
ROOM***



together

Home Improvement III

Room improvement continues in most homes as ideas and tastes develop and money becomes available.

Room improvement grows into home improvement, since its influence is felt by the whole family. The experiences you have had will help you with your college room, your apartment, your first home or wherever you live or whatever you do.

If you carried the Room Improvement project, review the material in "Start With a Small Change" -I and "Wake Up! Furnish and Area" -II. If this is the first time you have chosen Room Improvement as a project, study some of the work included in these activities.

This publication presents some ideas and a list of "where-to-find it" information that will help you and your family get the most satisfaction from your efforts and money.

In this activity, try to do more than "complete" an area, as was suggested in "Wake Up! Furnish an Area" -II. You should consider the over-all room arrangement; painting or papering walls; finishing or refinishing floors; refinishing, recovering or reupholstering furniture; and effecting window treatments.

What Is Needed? What Is Your Plan?

It's easy--and fun--to turn an old room into one that is bright and new-looking. Or, if your room is brand new, there are still many things you can do.

Your room is a private world at home--or it should be. There should be space for your clothes, hobbies, books or whatever you want to have in your room. You need space in which to use your things, and also plenty of storage space for keeping them. Your room should be colorful and bright. It can be, you know, and you'll enjoy it much more if it is. Most important, though, is that it be a restful room for comfortable sleep.

This is a lot to ask of any room, isn't it? But yours can measure up if you give it some thought and put your imagination and ability to work. So can a home--"be it ever so humble."

Plan Ahead

Don't worry if you can't make all the improvements you'd like at one time. Think of how you'd like your room to look when you're finished, and work toward that goal, making small improvements as you can. Try to earn the money for your improvements. This will make you feel more independent as you start to make additions. Improvements need not cost a lot of money! Some very attractive rooms for teenagers have been done at little cost. It's just a matter of knowing what you need for your room, planning ahead how you're going to get it, and doing the job.

Talk It Over With Your Family

Improving your room is a family project, you know, and all of you should work together on ideas and plans for carrying out the project. Perhaps you and your brother or sister share a room. If so, talk it over and make your plans together. You'll find it to be a lot of fun.

How? Here's How!

1. Arrange Your Room. -- The correct arrangement of your furniture is one of the easiest and best ways to re-make a room. And it costs nothing! What are the activities in your room? What pieces of furniture do you need? How can you arrange them best for your activities?

References:

- a. "Room Arrangement Ideas, Book -II in Home Improvement" (mimeographed).
- b. "Room Arrangements Worksheets for 4-H Room Improvement."
2. Areas With a Promise. -- The activities to be carried on in any room should be planned for if the room is to be as convenient and enjoyable as possible.

For instance, your bedroom should have at least four specific areas, if not more--one for sleeping; a second for dressing; a third for studying; a fourth for storing belongings; and perhaps a fifth for playing records.

References:

- a. "My Sleeping Area," (Reprint) Club Series 96. "Better Bedding for Better Sleep," Extension Misc. Pamphlet 213. "Selection of Household Linens" (mimeographed). "Make Your Own Bedspreads," Misc. Pamphlet 212.
- b. "My Dressing Area," (Reprint) Club Series 95.
- c. "Study and Business Area," Club Series 144.
- d. "My Clothing Storage Area," Club Series 143. "Clothing Storage," Misc. Pamphlet 214.

3. Color and Design. -- Color works wonders. If used properly, color can do more than any other single improvement. Therefore, a knowledge of color and of how to use it is a "must" in interior decorating.

It costs no more to have pretty colors. Basic information on color is presented in "Color in Your Room," Club Series 119.

4. Fabrics. -- As soon as one speaks of colors, beautifully designed fabrics that we have seen in magazines, stores or in someone's home flash into mind.

Every fabric has been designed for a specific purpose. Some are delicate--for hanging and looking pretty. Some are for general use: draperies, slip covers and bedspreads that can be laundered easily. Others are quite heavy or tough, such as those used in upholstery.

Fibers, fabrics, weaves, design and finishes are discussed in a general way, along with fabric uses, in "Fabrics for Your Home" -IV (mimeographed).

5. Wall Finishes. -- Walls and the floor provide the background for your room. The paint, wallpaper or paneling used in your room will set the mood in which you will work.

Painting may be easiest for you. There are hundreds of colors and shades to choose from and there is a paint for every job. Paint dealers can mix the color you need to match the fabric or design you have chosen. Take fabric swatches with you to the dealer so he can match them with the paint.

References: "Walls and Wall Finishes" (mimeographed).

"Painting Interior Walls" 4-H Misc.

6. Floors. -- Do your floors need help? If your floor is your target, study the references listed below. These will give you an insight into some of the things that can be accomplished.

References: "Floor Finishes" (mimeographed).

"Selection of Rugs and Carpets," Home Ec. Series 1.

"Resilient Floor Coverings," Home Ec. Series 6.

"Braided Rugs," Misc. Pamphlet 188.

"Hooked Rugs," Misc. Pamphlet 189.

"Care of Upholstered Furniture, Carpets and Rugs," (mimeographed).

"Care of Floors," (mimeographed).

7. Developing Skills in Repairing, Re-decorating or Improving Furniture. -- Room improvement is a ready-made project for boys, especially since it gives an opportunity to build. Often, you can build exactly the piece of furniture you want when you can't buy it or find it anywhere. Don't hesitate to call on your dad, 4-H leader, or neighbor to help with the carpentry. Built-in desks, chests, benches and closets are inexpensive and easy to build. They often give you more space in a small room.

You can buy furniture that is unfinished and enjoy choosing your own finish-- paint, stain, shellac or whatever. Much of the unfinished furniture available is well-designed and reasonably priced.

You may have a treasure of furniture already on hand that simply needs repairing and refinishing. An old piece that is of good wood, good design and in reasonably good condition is usually worth repairing and refinishing. These jobs can be fun for the entire family. A refinished table, desk or chest may easily be the "thing of beauty" in your room.

References: "Refinishing Furniture at Home" (mimeographed).

"Refinishing Furniture, Using a Penetrating Seal" (mimeographed).

a. Reupholstering Furniture. -- This is a good project for many homes. (Many industrial schools have given training on the technique.) The time spent, if you do a good job, can be rewarding and money-saving.

References: "How to Upholster Overstuffed and Occasional Chairs," University of Missouri Circular 690, available at your county agent's office.

b. Slip Covering. -- Furniture with slip covers has a definite place in many rooms. These covers can add color or design while covering or protecting furniture. Simple slip covers can answer a real need and can be a project for you.

Reference: "Easier Steps to Slip Covering," Miscellaneous Pamphlet 184.

8. New Furniture. -- Replacing worn-out furniture can be a major item of expense. In the series of bulletins on furniture selection, published by the University of Missouri and available in your home agent's office, you will find:

"I. Before You Buy," Circular 751.

"II. Upholstered Furniture," Circular 742.

"III. Wood Furniture," Circular 753.

These guides will help you and your family set up a buying plan for new furniture.

9. Caring for Furniture. -- You are referred to "Care of Furniture" (mimeographed) for a guide in giving furniture the best care and long wear.

10. Accessories. -- Accessories are the finishing touch. Make your room and home "personally yours" with wise selection and use of accessories. They may be practical, purely ornamental or both. The important point is to make them expressive of you. Accessories can be your hobby, especially as handicrafts. Accessories are fun to choose, to make and to use.

References: "Accent with Accessories," HEG-1.

"Pictures - How to Select Them" (mimeographed).

"Pictures - How to Frame Them" (mimeographed).

"Pictures - How to Hang Them" (mimeographed).

11. Other Study. -- Home improvement is a big field. Other areas related directly to home improvement are: home lighting, history of furniture, house plans, home and time management topics, yard beautification, family food, clothing, and family life.

Ask your home improvement leader and home economics agent where you may get information and help.

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