

Home Furnishings
Manual III

PULL YOUR ROOM TOGETHER

Projects

- 1. Planning Your Room on Paper**
- 2. Background for Your Furnishings**
- 3. Furnishings to Live With**

Pull Your Room Together

Introduction

Home furnishings projects continue for boys and girls as new ideas and tastes develop and money becomes available. The experience gained in home furnishings work will help in making decisions and planning the decorating of college rooms, apartments, and first homes.

The objectives for each home furnishings project are:

1. To learn principles involved in making the home more attractive and convenient at minimum cost.
2. To develop skills.
3. To demonstrate to others.
4. To attain those individual and social satisfactions that are possible in a comfortable and well-furnished home.

If you have carried home furnishings projects in *Start With a Small Change, Manual I* or *A Place to Call Your Own, Manual II*, you have had a good foundation for selecting projects from

Pull Your Room Together, Manual III. If you have not carried projects in these two manuals, it is suggested that you review some of the materials in them. They provide information which will help you in the projects in this manual.

There are three projects presented in this manual. You may do one or more a year. Be sure you have completed the requirements at the end of each section. You may use the same information in carrying projects into other rooms in your home or rooms away from home.

Planning is a very important part of any project. *Planning Your Room on Paper* is laying the groundwork for the projects that follow. Therefore, it is suggested that you choose the first one before you carry either of the others.

The projects in this manual are:

1. Planning Your Room on Paper.
2. Background for Your Furnishings.
3. Furnishings to Live With.

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 home is a private world at home — or it should be. There should be space for your clothes, hobbies, books, and other things you may 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've finished, and work toward that goal, making improvements as

you can. Try to earn the money — or some of it — for the work you plan to do. 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, learning some skills, and doing the job.

TALK IT OVER WITH YOUR FAMILY

Improving a room can be a family project, and working together on ideas, plans, and activities can be fun. Perhaps you and your brother or sister share a room. If so, talk it over and make your plans together.

PROJECT COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

You have completed a project when you have: first, finished the requirements listed at the end of each project; second, completed the *4-H Record (4-H R-1-8)* supplied by your leader or the county Extension home economics agent; and third, returned all the project record material to your Extension agent or home furnishings leader.

Planning Your Room on Paper

Introduction

This can be a project within itself, or it can be a part of Project 2, *Background for Your Furnishings* or Project 3, *Furnishings to Live With*.

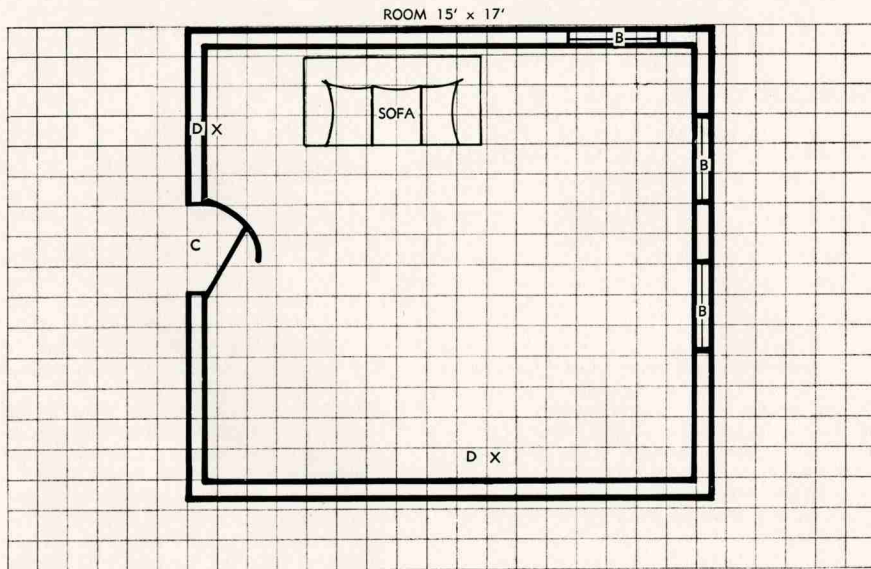
It is important that your room be planned so that the experiences and activities in your home furnishings project can be satisfying.

START WITH A SKETCH

Begin the way the decorators do and draw a

floor plan for your room. To make the plans, get down on your hands and knees and measure the room from corner to corner along the floor. Record these measurements on $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch scale paper, allowing $\frac{1}{4}$ inch for each foot.

Measure windows and doors. Indicate the way the doors swing if they open into the room. If there are any built-ins, sketch them in, too. Mark the places for electrical outlets and the ceiling fixtures. When furniture is arranged, show lamps on furniture.



- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| WALL 6 INCHES THICK | A | |
| WINDOW | B | |
| DOOR | C | |
| ELECTRICAL OUTLET | D | X |

ARRANGEMENTS

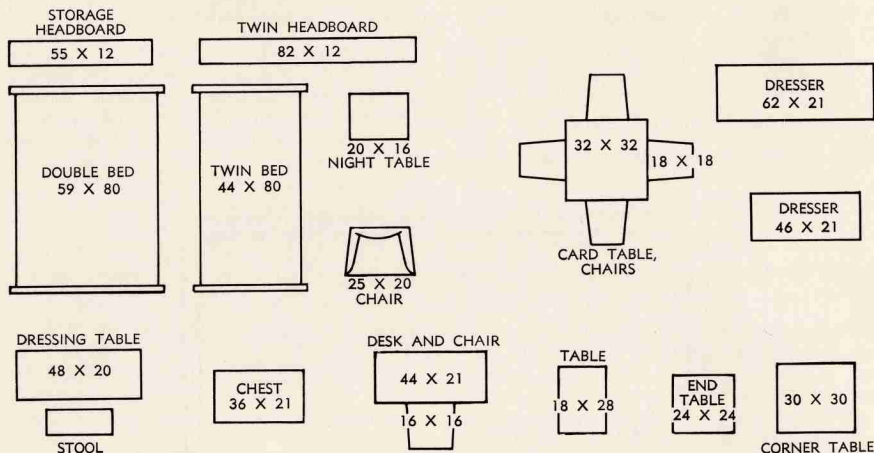
Experiment With Arrangements

Next, measure the furniture you plan to use and select from the cutouts the pieces that are nearest the size you have. Trace and cut out any of these pieces of furniture you need to arrange in the room you are redecorating. These sizes are standard; the scale is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch = 1 foot. If you need more different sizes or different pieces, measure

the furniture and make a cutout using $\frac{1}{4}$ inch = 1 foot.

This will give you a chance to experiment with furniture arrangements before you start shoving furniture around. Also, if you are adding other pieces of furniture to your room, you can measure these and place them on your plan before you purchase to check to see if they will really fit.

Place your room arrangement plan in your decorating folder.

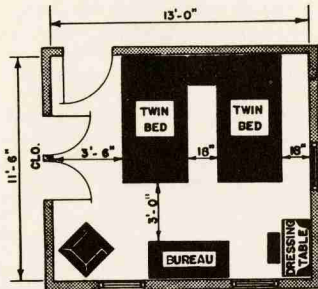


A Few Do's May Help

1. Arrange furniture in groups according to its use and your activities (study area, etc.).
2. Consider the traffic lanes in the room.
3. Consider the source of heat and ventilation.
4. Locate largest pieces of furniture first. The bed and its accompanying night table may form the center of interest in the bedroom. This group is placed first.
5. Arrange furniture to follow lines of the room. Place large pieces and rugs parallel to walls. Furniture angled across corners wastes space.
6. Balance opposite sides of room. A door, a window, or tall pieces of furniture may
7. balance a large piece or group against the opposite wall. Accessories may be used on the wall to help add balance; use such items as pin-up boards, pictures, or mirrors.
7. Consider the care of the room. Keep the bed away from the wall if possible so it will be easier to make. Place a waste basket near vanity and study center.
8. Consider the light in the room. The vanity might be placed near the window so the light falls on your face for makeup. The bed might be placed so the light will not disturb in the early morning.
9. Consider room use: Keep passages clear to closets; dressing table might be nearest the bath.

Sample Arrangements

Some typical arrangements are shown below. Make your room as attractive and convenient as you can. The way you arrange it and use it will reflect your own taste.



A LOOK AT COLOR

Color is an exciting and important part of every home furnishings project. To decide on your color scheme, consider the size and shape of the room, the number of windows, and how much light comes in. A northern exposure would probably call for a warm color. A southern exposure would probably call for a cool color. Plan the color for everything in the room: walls, woodwork, floors, furniture, curtains, rugs, bedspreads, lamps, and pictures. Plan how all of these will go together before you start to work. Making color count in your room is not a matter of dollars and cents but the result of planning.

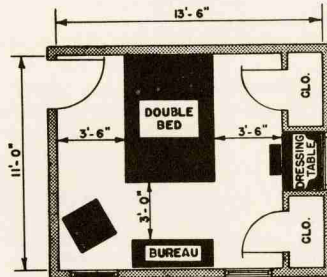
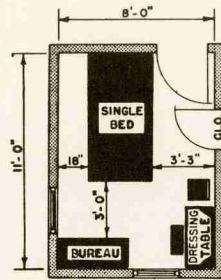
Choose colors which will help your room and be becoming to you. Did you know that all the colors belong to just three families—red, yellow, and blue? These are called primary colors. From them you can make all other colors.

You will find how to make a color wheel in Project 1 in *Begin With a Small Change*, 4-H C-17-6.

How to Use Color

You can use colors together in your room in one of the following ways:

1. *One color* can be exciting when you vary the



values and intensities. Try pale gold, gold, and brown together.

2. *Neighboring colors*, such as yellow-green, and blue-green, get along well together. They are adjoining colors on the color wheel. Such a color plan is interesting if you can use some light, some dark, some bright, and some dull colors.
3. *Complementary colors* are colors which are opposite each other on the color wheel, such as blue and orange. Blue makes orange look brighter; orange makes blue look bluer.
4. *Neutrals* such as black, white, gray, buff, beige, cream, or oyster white are modern, light, and cheerful. One or more neutral colors with a bright accent are often used in a ranch-type or modern room.

Inspiration. Color can tie your various pieces of furnishings together. Let the color of a fabric, rug, piece of wallpaper, picture, or other decorative articles you have be the inspiration of your color scheme. Use an advancing, neutral, or receding color according to the amount of sunlight the room gets.

Plan to use the subdued, light, or neutral colors on the largest areas, walls, floors, and windows. Accent the smaller movable furnishings in bright colors. This will give you balance.

A LOOK AT TEXTURE

Rough, velvety, fuzzy, crinkly, stiff — have you ever touched materials that feel like this? These words describe different textures. Texture is as important as color in choosing materials that look well together in our homes.

What is texture? It is the surface appearance and feel of materials—

- How they look—fine or coarse, shiny or dull, or in-between.
- How they feel—smooth or rough, or in-between.
- How they handle—soft or stiff, or in-between.

Texture is part of every material thing. Run your fingers over your cheek, hair, clothes, and chair. This will give you some idea of the variety of textures within your reach.

You will find a great variety of textures in all kinds of furnishing materials, also. They range from coarse and rough to fine and smooth. Many materials have textures that fall between these extremes.

Texture has lots to do with how formal and dressy a material is, or how informal and casual it is. Four different groups and their degrees of formality are shown below. Can you add other examples to each group?

Group I. Some materials with coarse, rough

textures: burlap, tweed, cork, used bricks, shag rug, bamboo window shades. These materials give a rugged, informal effect.

Group II. Materials with in-between textures: Indian Head, denim, felt, tufted bedspreads and rugs, matchstick window shades, redwood. These materials give a sturdy, informal effect.

Group III. Materials with in-between textures: dotted swiss, polished cotton, batiste, organdy, chenille bedspreads, fine-loop rugs. These also give an informal effect, but are daintier than those in Group II and not so dressy as Group IV.

Group IV. Materials with fine, smooth textures: satin, taffeta, brocade, floor tiles with metallic chips, velveteen, marble. These materials give a dressy, formal effect.

Points to Remember

- Like color, texture is a source of beauty.
- No texture group is better than another. You can use any group of textures to make pleasing combinations in furnishings.
- Use your fingers and your eyes to learn the differences among textures and which ones go together. Sight and touch will help you enjoy the wonderful world of texture.

A LOOK AT DESIGN

Have you ever thought of yourself as a designer? Actually, we all are designers.

We are creating designs when we plan and make a poster or bulletin board, or make a flower arrangement. We are assembling designs when we arrange cookies on a plate, set the table for dinner, arrange grooming supplies on a dresser, or tack snapshots on a bulletin board.

We are making decisions about design when we select earrings, a necktie, shoes, or material for a dress or curtains.

What is design? Design is the selection and arrangement of colors, textures, shapes, and lines. Its aim is to create order and beauty. A design can be an individual object such as a chair or a car, or it can be a group of objects used together, such as a room with all its furnishings.

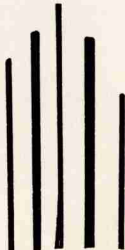
Line and Shape

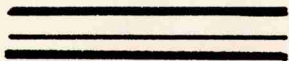
Lines

- Lead our eyes through space.
- Give direction or movement.
- Outline shapes.
- Make spaces.

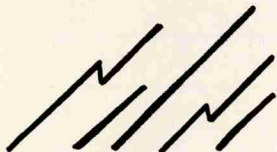
Some examples of lines in a design are: pleats in a skirt, seams in a bedspread, mortar between bricks, spiderweb, and shelves for books. Can you think of others?

Lines have their own language. A vertical line "speaks" in a dignified, formal way.

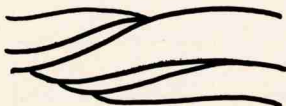




A horizontal line speaks quietly and restfully and suggests stability.



A diagonal line is active, sometime restless and exciting.



A curved line is gentle, quiet, and restful.

These examples will help you see other kinds of lines and "hear" what they are saying.

Did you notice how the thickness of lines influences the effect they give? Thick lines often give a feeling of strength and boldness, while fine lines give a feeling of delicacy and lightness.

Shape

When a line meets itself, we have a shape. Shape is the outline of something—a circle, leaf, spoon, cup, dog, etc.

Shapes also create different effects. For example, shapes that are blocky and square may give a sturdy, strong, and heavy effect.

Rounded shapes seem more feminine and graceful than angular shapes. The slender triangles that form church spires suggest dignity and a reaching upward.

When you look at other shapes, notice your reactions to them.

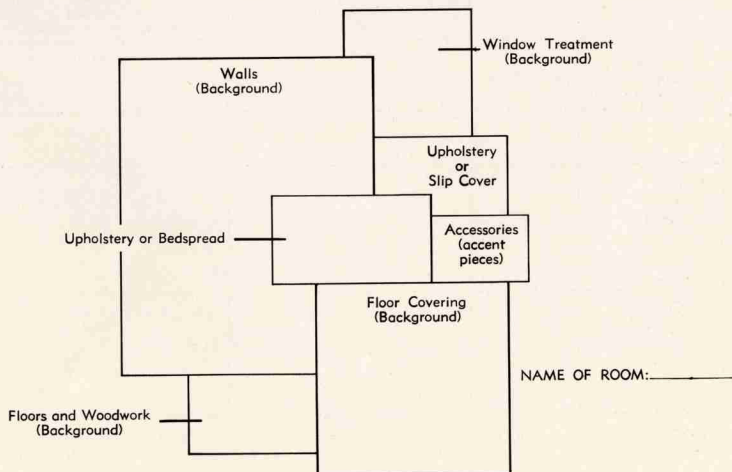
PLAN FOR REDECORATING

Color and Pattern Plan

A visit to stores and looking through shelter magazines and at decorations will help you to

make a plan for a four color scheme and the fabrics you wish to use in your room.

Make a folder in which to use the guide shown below. Place on the guide your color samples and pattern swatches.



Plan for Background in Room

On a sheet of paper make a form using the information given below. Leave space to fill in as you make your inventory, plans for changes, and work schedule.

Part of Room	Present Condition (good, worn out, soiled)	Changes to Be Made	When (month and year)
Walls Material Color			
Woodwork Finish Color			
Floor Finish Color			
Floor Covering Material Color			
Ceiling Material Color			
Window Treatment Material Color			

Plan for Furnishings to Live With

On a sheet or sheets of paper, make a form using the information given below. Leave space to fill in as you make your inventory, plans for changes, and work schedule.

		Present Condition (enough, right place, right kind, none)	Changes to Be Made (make, buy, renovate)	When (month and year)
Storage Closet Shelves Drawers	For What?			
	List	Present Condition (good, worn out, needs repair)		
Furniture Bed Chairs Chests Desk Table Bookcases Other				
Accessories Linens Lamps Pictures Plants Dishes Mirrors Others				

NOTE: Maintenance should be a part of every plan and is necessary for good wear and satisfactory life of every item and each area in the room or house. Save and mount labels and secure reliable information on how to do this.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS AND RECORD

Make a folder to include:

1. Your planned room arrangement.
2. Your plan for decorating — color and pattern.
3. Your plan for redecorating the background for furnishings.
4. Your plan for decorating for furnishings to live with.

Attach to this folder your *4-H Record* (4-H R-1-8) before turning it in to your county home economics agent or home furnishings leader.

PLACES TO VISIT

Furniture stores

Department stores

Open houses

DEMONSTRATIONS TO GIVE

Know Your Colors

Principles of Arranging Furniture

Principles of Planning a Color Scheme

Texture Plays a Part in Home Furnishings

How to Make a Furnishings Plan

REFERENCES

Ask your county home economics Extension agent or your home furnishings leader for the following publications published by the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service. These may prove helpful to you.

Arranging Furniture, H. E. 80

Begin With a Plan, H. E. 75

Furnishing Your First Home, H. E. 76

2

Background for Your Furnishings

Introduction

The background for your furnishings project will help you understand the importance of creating a pleasing stage for you and your furnishings. You will have an opportunity to study and select materials and also to develop some skills in the application or construction of wall finishes, window treatments, and floor finishes.

Areas to Consider

The walls, ceiling, woodwork, floors and sometimes windows form the background of a home. They are all so closely related that they must be planned together. They should create a pleasing background for people and furnishings. Their colors, textures, and design should be related to one another, to the furnishings, and to the personal taste and activities of individuals or the family.

Ask some questions about each of the parts of the background, such as:

If Working with Walls and Ceiling

- What is the size and shape of the room?
- On what side of the house is the room?
- What colors do you, or the people involved in the change, prefer?
- What colors are in rooms or hallways adjoining this room?
- What furniture will remain in the room? What

- color is it? Will you change the color? How?
- How are the walls and ceiling presently treated?
- What is the condition of the walls and ceiling?
- Will repair or structural changes be necessary?
- What will you use on the walls? Wallpaper? Paint? Wallboard? etc.
- What help will you have with the work?

If Working with Floors and Floor Coverings

- What finish is on the floors?
- Should structural changes be made? If so, what?
- What type of floor is most suitable for this room? Why? (Consider cost, installation, upkeep, etc.)
- What care and upkeep is needed for each floor you consider?
- What help will you have with the work?

If Working with Windows

- What kind of windows do you have?
- What are the measurements and locations?
- Would shades, blinds, curtains, or draperies be best?
- What treatment would best control light? Air? Privacy?
- What curtain or drapery fabric would be most satisfactory? Why?
- What tools and materials will you need?
- What help will you have with the work?

WALLS AND WALL FINISHES

Light Should be Considered

When choosing your wall colors, your *light* should be considered. Your choice of color can make the most of both natural and artificial light.

Glare coming in from large glass areas can be softened. Dark colors absorb light while light ones reflect it. The following chart shows the amount of light reflected by colors used for wall and wood finishes as given by the Illuminating Engineering Society.

Color	Light Reflected	Color	Light Reflected
White	85%	Dark	
Light		Gray	30%
Cream	75%	Red	13%
Gray	75%	Brown	10%
Yellow	75%	Blue	8%
Green	65%	Green	7%
Blue	55%	Wood Finish	
Medium		Maple	42%
Yellow	65%	Satinwood	34%
Gray	55%	English oak	17%
Green	52%	Walnut	16%
Blue	35%	Mahogany (dark)	12%

Wallpaper

Wallpaper can give pattern and interest to walls and help to set the theme of the room. Room irregularities can be camouflaged with carefully chosen designs. A scenic paper gives the illusion of a view and space to a small room, while an allover pattern can conceal odd angles, corners, and rough walls. Allover designs are easier to handle than those that need matching.

Wallpapers are generally classified as non-washable, or water sensitive, and washable, or water-resistant. There are plastic coated papers that are washable. Some papers are guaranteed to be sunfast.

Be sure to get samples large enough to give you a good idea how the paper will look on the walls. Most patterns will look bolder when wallpaper is applied to the wall.

Wallpapering a room takes a great deal of patience, but it's a job amateurs can do. Ask your wallpaper dealer how to apply. Once you get the "hang" of it, it goes faster than painting.

Paint

Paint beautifies and protects. Inside we use paints on walls, woodwork, built-ins, and some floors.

Many people do some or all of their interior painting. Some do it for enjoyment, some to save money. Others do it because you can't always get a professional painter when you need one. Whether you do it yourself, help your parents, or have painting done by contract, it is useful to know something about selecting and using interior paints.

1. Paint is a mixture of solid pigments (coloring agents) in a liquid vehicle. New paints appear on the markets frequently as manufacturers compete for your paint dollar.

2. The desirable characteristics of many of the new paints are that they are easily applied, dry quickly, hold their color well, and have no objectionable odor; and they can be washed.

3. Before you buy paint, read the label. Consider the different types and their special characteristics, the condition of surface to be painted, and how the rooms are used. Colors must also be considered if you want to create special effects.

How Paints Are Classified

Paints are classified according to degree of gloss they have.

1. *Gloss* paints or enamels are most resistant to wear and washing. They are preferred for kitchen and bathroom walls and for wood trim. Some are made especially for floors.

2. *Semi-gloss* paints or enamels are less shiny. They are sometimes used for walls, and they often are used on wood trim in rooms other than kitchens and baths.

3. *Flat* paints, without any gloss, are preferred for all walls except kitchens and baths.

The New Flat Paints

New flat paints are being developed. Watch for proper thinner to use. Learn how to apply and where they can be used.

Special Problems

1. On previously unpainted plaster, use a water-emulsion paint; or follow label directions on solvent-thinned paints with regard to using a primer.

2. Wood trim may be painted with wall paint, whether solvent-thinned or water-emulsion type; or use gloss or semi-gloss enamel in color to match or blend with walls.

3. Mixing colors must be done with care. Use formulas suggested by the manufacturer. Do not mix different types or brands of paint. Colors can be mixed by many dealers at little or no extra charge.

4. Dark stained wood, to be covered with light-colored paint, must first be sealed with a

recommended primer-sealer, with aluminum paint, or with shellac.

5. Paint radiators to match or use the wall paint; do not use metallic paint.

6. Texture paints can be used to give a rough, textured finish over poor plaster or unsightly dry-wall surfaces.

7. For masonry surfaces, use only water-emulsion paints, unless a top coat of an alkyd resin paint is added as a finish; or choose masonry cement paints. Follow directions, for some call for masonry to be wet.

Colors—Points to Remember

1. Rooms with northern or northwest exposure need warm, sunny colors (such as light peach, cream, beige, or yellow) to keep them light and cheerful in appearance.

2. For rooms with much sunlight, choose background colors for soft greens, grays, or blues.

3. Light pastel colors are easy on the eyes and make rooms seem larger. Dark or intense colors absorb light and make rooms appear smaller.

4. Small rooms seem larger when doors, windows and door frames, and other wood trim are painted to match the walls in color.

5. Ceilings painted white, off-white, or a very light tint of the selected wall color reflect artificial light most efficiently and pleasantly.

6. Paint colors should be selected to combine harmoniously with colors in furnishings.

Assembling Supplies and Equipment

1. Paint. Start with enough to complete the job.

2. Thinner—if needed. Use according to directions on label.

3. Other supplies and equipment. Suggested items: Brushes for wall, trim, sash; paint roller and tray; can opener; screw driver; wooden paddle; masking tape; paint guard or shield; putty knife; sanding block; sandpaper—several sizes; wax paper or aluminum foil; old newspaper; drop cloth; brush for dusting; paper or foil plate for paint can; putty or crack filler for wood; spackling compound for plaster; paint and varnish remover; protective gloves; stepladder; brush cleaner; old rags for cleaning up; two sawhorses and one or two heavy boards for reaching ceiling; and pins to hold cover on furniture.

Preparing Room for Painting

1. Remove as much furniture as possible.

2. Remove curtains and rods, shades or blinds, pictures, books, etc., from wall.

3. Cover remaining furniture with paper, old sheets, or plastic.

4. Cover floor with newspaper or drop cloths.

5. Loosen or remove fixtures not to be painted.

6. Use masking tape or a paint guard to protect window panes.

Preparing Yourself

1. Read paint labels and follow directions carefully.

2. Wear old clothes and shoes. Wear protective gloves or use protective hand cream.

Follow a Good Order of Work

1. Paint ceiling first, then windows, and interior walls last.

2. Start work at a corner.

3. Paint walls from ceiling down in 2-foot to 3-foot strips.

4. Paint ceiling or entire wall before stopping.

5. If walls are to be papered, paint woodwork first.

6. If same paint is used on woodwork and walls, paint as you go.

7. Paint windows in this order: sash, frame, and trim.

8. When painting baseboard, start in center and work out. (Paint guards help here.)

9. When painting panel doors, start at top, then paint molding, panels, and edge in order.

10. To avoid closing off a stair way, paint every other step, let dry, and paint the alternate steps.

Remember

1. Don't stand on top of a stepladder. Get a longer ladder.

2. Don't overload brush or roller.

3. Don't forget to clean or wrap brushes and roller in aluminum foil or wax paper during rest periods or overnight.

4. Don't forget to clean brushes and rollers thoroughly when job is completed. Paint-can labels will indicate cleaning solvent to use.

When oil-base paints are used, clean brushes and rollers with paint thinner and solvent. When

all paint is removed, wash with water and detergent.

When water-emulsion paints are used, use only water and detergent to clean brushes and rollers.

5. Dry brushes flat.
6. When dry, wrap or store brushes in can with bristles up.
7. Clean spilled paint immediately.

FLOORS

The floor is the foundation for the room and furniture. Because of this you will want it to be inconspicuous in color and design so that it seems to "stay down." Although dark floors give the best effect of stability, they are not practical for rooms that are used a great deal because dust and footprints show up more.

Floors may be left bare if they are of wood; or they may be covered by resilient (smooth) floor coverings or by area rugs or by wall-to-wall carpeting.

Wood Floors

Well-finished and properly maintained wood floors add much to the attractiveness of a room. Perhaps your floor would be easier to care for if given a new finish. Careful sanding and re-finishing is hard work, so you may want someone with experience to help. Machines, a sander, and an edger can be rented in many communities. The rental agent will give you detailed directions for doing the work. Inexperienced operators must take great care to prevent careless cutting.

A good floor finish should preserve the beauty of the wood, be durable, and be easy to keep. Possible floor finishes include penetrating seal, varnish, and paint.

Resilient Floor Coverings

Some resilient floor coverings such as inlaid linoleum, asphalt and rubber tile may last from 15-20 years while the light-gauge inlaid linoleum and printed enameled surface type will last about 4-5 years. The condition of the under floor and the care given the floor covering has a great deal to do with the lifetime of the floor covering.

Some materials are more difficult to lay than others and unless you are skillful the results may not be satisfactory. It is often better to employ a professional. Large pieces are hard to handle without damaging them, and the entire piece may

be ruined by a wrong cut in fitting. Asphalt tile is also difficult for an amateur to lay. Other tile forms are easier for the non-professional to install.

The manufacturer's instructions should be followed carefully in the preparation of the old surface, the adhesive used, and the method of laying.

Care is important to the life of all types of floor coverings. Do not wash any kind oftener than necessary and use very little water. Manufacturers say that more floor covering is scrubbed away than worn away.

Rugs and Carpets

Small Rugs

In bedrooms a smooth floor covering often is used with small rugs because they are easy to clean.

The term "scatter" rugs may be misleading. It does not mean to throw them around anywhere. Small rugs should be placed in relation to furniture with edges parallel to the wall.

Be sure that small rugs stay in place; otherwise, they may cause falls. You may need to anchor yours with a rubber underlay, or by sewing pieces of rubber underneath.

If new rugs are needed, they may be purchased or made at home. In selecting or planning a rug, these are some of the things to consider:

— It should be suited in color, size, and design to the place and furnishings where it will be used.

— The material used should be heavy and firm enough to lie flat. Color and design should give the appearance of flatness. Rugs are to be walked on, or choose colors that are not easily soiled.

— Rugs with long, shaggy pile are not easy to clean and dry slowly. Cotton shag rugs give better service if the pile is closely spaced and firmly anchored. Wool rugs show soil less than cotton ones.

— Rug-making takes considerable time, but it is a good way to get a rug exactly the size and color you want. The use of old materials makes an economical rug that can be as attractive as those made with new materials. If you have time, make your rugs. Ask your home economics Extension agent for *Hooked Rugs*, H. E. 83, and *Braided Rugs*, H. E. 84.

Carpets and Large-Area Rugs

If you are interested in carpeting, which goes from wall to wall, or in large-area rugs, ask your home economics Extension agent for a copy of *Selection of Rugs and Carpets*, H. E. 1.

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Windows are important for both functional and decorative purposes. Their treatment should allow the maximum use of each window—regulating light, providing privacy, and adding beauty to the room. They can conceal ugliness and poor proportions or serve as a center of interest.

Whether the window is large or small, whether it opens up or down or in and out, there are many ways it might be treated to become a decorative and harmonious background for other furnishings in the room.

Window treatments you may consider are: curtains, draperies, blinds, shades, shutters, or a combination of some of these and others.

Curtains and Draperies

There is a wide variety of fabrics, colors, patterns, and styles in both curtains and draperies. The cost depends largely on the type, the amount of fabric required, and whether they are custom-made, ready-made, or self-made.

There is a variety of fabrics available. Some of these include:

— *For glass curtains*—marquisette, scrim, organdy, net, dotted swiss, muslin, voile, gingham, percale. Marquisettes have yarns twisted around one another to help keep their shape.

— *For draperies and draw curtains*—chintz, casement cloth, denim, gingham, sheeting, ticking, sail cloth, muslin.

— *For a lining*—Sateen or muslin helps to protect draperies from dust and sun.

Curtains should be either sill, apron, or floor length. Anything in between will look skimpy. Narrow windows look wider when curtains are sill or apron length. Floor-length curtains help make a short, wide window look longer. If curtains are

hung inside the woodwork, sill length will look best.

The *hardware* can be hung on the wall to change window shape. Hang above window to make them appear narrower; extend over the wall to make them look wider.

Cornices and valances are top finishes for windows. They may be used to conceal fixtures, to connect two or more windows, or to change the apparent size of the windows.

A cornice is usually made of wood or metal. It may be purchased ready-made, custom-made at lumber yards, or you can make them yourself. A valance is of fabric which may be hung on a separate rod, or fastened to a valance board.

The color of the cornice or valance should harmonize with the window treatment and the walls and it should be in pleasing proportion to the rest of the window.

Shades, Blinds, and Shutters

Shades, blinds, or shutters make attractive window treatment with or without curtains or draperies. They must satisfy both the decorative and the functional needs for beauty, light control, privacy, and ease of care.

Roller shades come in a wide range of colors, textures, and patterns, which can be coordinated with the background furniture and finishes.

Venitian blinds are made of slatted material held together with plastic or fabric tapes and hung vertically or horizontally.

Bamboo blinds are made of bamboo or reed slats in a variety of colors.

Shutters are made of wood with adjustable wooden louvers fitted into each panel. They come in different sizes and colors (painted or stained).

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS AND RECORD

Include in your story at least four of the specific activities listed below, which you chose to do in your project:

- Painted walls in one room.
- Painted and wallpapered one room.
- Made window curtains (or draperies).
- Made window shades.
- Refinished floor.
- Selected floor covering (rug or carpet).
- Selected area rugs.
- Selected and helped install resilient floor covering.

Fill in and follow the *4-H Record* (4-H R-1-8) for a full report of your work. Give the record and story to your leader by the date requested.

PLACES TO VISIT

Drapery shops Paint and wallpaper stores Floor covering centers Rug and carpet centers

DEMONSTRATIONS TO GIVE

- How to Paint
- How to Select and Hang Wallpaper
- Types of Floor Covering and Their Advantages and Disadvantages
- Simple Curtains You Can Make
- How to Estimate Yardage for Your Windows
- How to Personalize Your Window Shades
- Fabrics for Window Treatments

REFERENCES

- Shelter magazines
- Ask your county home economics Extension agent for the following publications published by the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service. These may prove helpful to you.
- Begin With a Plan*, H. E. 75
 - Arranging Furniture*, H. E. 80
 - Braided Rugs*, H. E. 84
 - Hooked Rugs*, H. E. 83
 - Floor Finishes* (mimeographed)
 - Resilient Floor Coverings*, H. E. 5
 - Selection of Rugs and Carpets*, H. E. 1
 - Sources of Color Schemes*, H. E. 29
 - Your Guide for Window Treatments* (mimeographed)
 - Your Guide for Making Draperies* (mimeographed)
- Other publications available:
- The Elegant World of Window Shades* (Breneman Inc., 1133 Sycamore St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45210)
 - Guide to Window Beauty* (Kirsch Company, Sturgis, Michigan)
 - How to Select Window Treatment* (from Sears' Hidden Value Series)
 - 1001 Decorating Ideas, Book 9* (Consolidated Trimming Corporation, 27 West 23rd Street, New York, N. Y.)
 - Window Fashions Work Wonders* (Joanna Western Mills, 2141 South Jefferson St., Chicago, Ill. 60616)

3

Furnishings to Live With

Introduction

Houses and the individual rooms in them fill many human needs if the furniture and furnishings are satisfying to the individual. A well-designed room and house must be both functional and beautiful. It must meet your own and your family's needs and provide pleasure, not just impress friends and visitors.

Let's review. In the project Planning Your Room on Paper:

- Did you use a personal approach to meet your needs and desires?
- Did you use good design to form a sound basis for your decorating plan?
- Are your arrangements providing for convenience, comfort, and beauty?
- Did you set up a plan to acquire furniture and other furnishings?
- Did you consider the cost?

FURNITURE

Consider your bedroom for your project. Take a good look around your room and decide what furniture you need:

- What can you use as it is?
- What pieces need to be repaired, remodeled, or refinished?
- What needs to be slipcovered?
- What new pieces do you need?

Needs and Wishes

You must have:

- a bed (spring and mattress on legs)
- a shelf above for books and lamps
- bedside table and lamp (table lamp or pin-up)

a chest for each person using the room
a straight chair

You would enjoy having:

- an upholstered or Windsor chair
- a bookshelf
- a pair of dressing table lamps
- a desk and chair
- a radio

You can cut costs on the bedroom. Use your imagination to have a comfortable room at little expense. Spend most of your money buying the springs, mattress, and chest of drawers. Don't buy heavy, ornate suites of furniture. If you do buy new pieces, see that they harmonize in size and design with those you already have. What you save on furniture can be spent for rugs, curtains, lamps, and pictures. Some styles of furniture are sold as open stock. You can buy a chest first and later the bedstead to go with the spring and mattress (now on legs). Then you can add the table and easy chair. This way you will achieve harmony without monotony.

Simple and Graceful Furniture

The best furniture is simple, graceful, and in keeping with the size of your room.

Wood

Cherry, walnut, pine, maple, and poplar fit in best with the way you live. Finished with a scratch- and stain-resistant finish, such as penetrating floor seal, these woods are attractive and easy to live with. If you like homespun bedspreads, flower prints, patchwork quilts, chintz, and ruffles, choose good reproductions in maple or pine with natural finish. Avoid red stained maple style and finish.

Ideas for Using What You Have

An Old Chest

Modernize the nondescript pieces of furniture by removing the legs and mirror. If the chest is too low when the legs are removed, build a base and add a shelf for books and treasures. Replace ornate metal pulls with wooden knobs to match the wood of the chest. Fill the holes with wooden dowels. If you want to use the chest as a dresser, remove any ornamental part of the frame, and hang the mirror flat on the wall. Put a screw-eye one-third of the way from the top on each side. Run picture wire through these screws three times and fasten securely. Hang on two 20-pound picture hooks over the chest.

Wooden Bedsteads

Tall, ornate wooden bedsteads can be made into bedsteads with simple and pleasing lines by cutting down the head and foot boards, removing all the ornamentation and refinishing the entire bed.

Iron Bedsteads

If you have an iron bed, have you thought of turning the foot to the head for a low headboard and sawing off the headboard to make a Hollywood-type bed? Paint the headboard to match the wall or cover with fabric. Choose or make a simple bedspread.

Frame with Metal Legs

You may prefer to store the bedstead that is too tall. Then you can use metal legs on a frame that you and the family can make at home. You

can get a set of metal legs at a department store or mail order house.

If you share the room, you may prefer twin beds on metal frames. Headboards can be made at home and attached to the frames. Double beds can be flanked by ready-to-paint chests.

An Old Chair

See how the old chair comes to life when the wood is refinished and the chair is slip covered or upholstered in a fabric to match other fabrics used in the room.

Furniture to Add

Built-Ins

Study and dressing areas, as well as storage areas, can be built to fit the space in the bedroom. These can be finished by painting or finishing natural.

Ready-to-Paint Furniture

Ready-to-paint furniture comes in many combinations. These, too, can be finished like your background or like the furniture in the room; or it can be antiques for a different effect.

Second-Hand Furniture

Second-hand or damaged furniture should be considered when income is limited. Refinish or antique this furniture.

New Furniture

New furniture should be selected with care for style (Early American, traditional, or contemporary) for finish, for material, and for construction. Study magazines, visit furniture stores and look around. There are many decisions and choices to be made.

BEDDING

Bed covering must be light, durable, and washable. Get your leader to take on a shopping tour to see what you can find. Read the labels on sheets, pillow cases, mattress pads, blankets, and bedspreads. Compare prices and quality. Some things you may look for:

Sheets—muslin or percale

- Which is the best to buy?
- Which will launder the easiest?
- Size — to tuck well, a sheet should be at least 81 inches x 108 inches for double bed.
- A better size is 90 inches x 108 inches. All others are too short.

Blankets

- Blanket sizes — single 60 inches x 80 inches; double 72 inches x 84 inches or 80 inches x 90 inches.

Bedspreads

- Bedspreads can be custom made to fit your special needs or purchased over the store counter. Make or select a bedspread that will cover the bed well. Choose an all-over pattern, a textured fabric, or a design you make yourself.
- Size: 90 inches or 114 inches will cover the double bed and hang down well on the sides.



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