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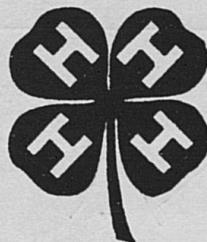
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Division

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THE 4-H ROOM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT— UNIT I

CIRCULAR NO. 268



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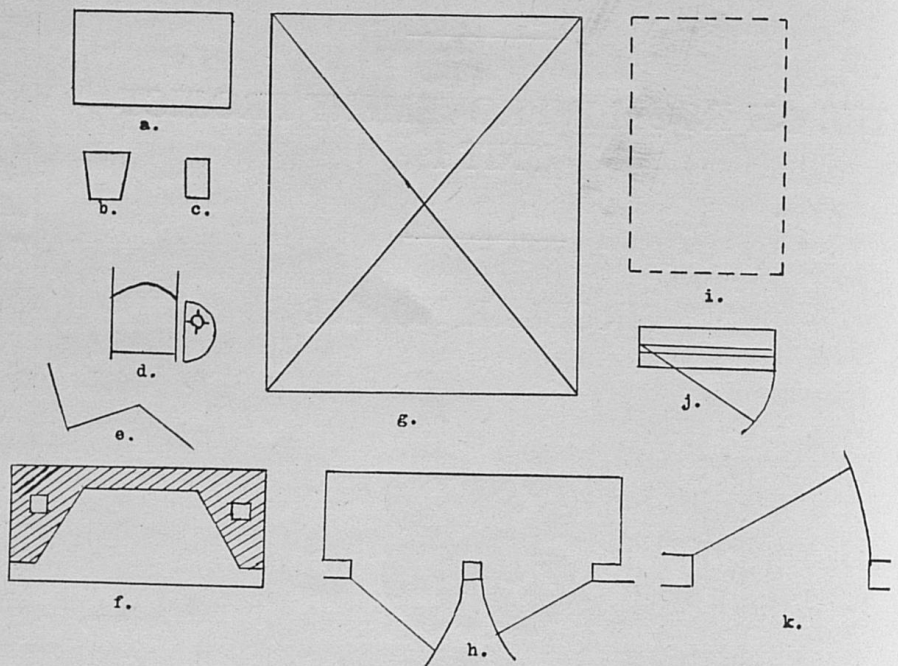


Fig. 1. ARCHITECTURAL AND FURNITURE SYMBOLS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. Dresser, dressing table, desk, chest or washstand. | g. Bed |
| b. Chair | h. Closet with double doors |
| c. Footstool | i. Rug |
| d. Rocking chair, end table and lamp. | j. Casement window (leave off the arc and radius for symbol of sash window) |
| e. Screen | k. Door |
| f. Fireplace | |

CIRCULAR NO. 268

The 4-H Room Improvement Project—Unit I

By ANITA BURNAM and EDITH LACY

The purpose of this project is to develop in girls appreciation of and pride in home and to help every girl to attain her desire of an attractive, comfortable room of her own. She can have such a room thru her own efforts. A club member who does not have a room of her own may improve one shared with another member of the family. Two sisters or brothers may work together on their rooms or a brother and sister may exchange work on their rooms, the girl doing the sewing or needlework for some service rendered by her brother.

ELIGIBILITY

A club girl who has had two clothing projects or the equivalent may enroll in the room improvement project. A club boy, fourteen years of age or older, who is interested in improving his room, may enroll in this project if he can procure the help of his mother, his sister, or a club girl who is doing a room improvement project.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

1. Assist the leader, home demonstration agent or club specialist in scoring the room selected for improvement, before and after work, using the score sheet, page 8.
2. Draw floor plans according to directions, page 10.
3. Rearrange the furniture for comfort, convenience and attractiveness.
4. Plan with mother the possible improvements in the room, the amount of money which may be spent and what is available that may be satisfactorily refinished, remodeled or renovated, and keep in mind a further improvement next year.

5. Plan a color scheme for the room.
6. Make **TEN** improvements as follows:
 - (a) **Four** major—These are all to be chosen from one group and are to include all the improvements in that group that are marked with a star(*). See pages 5 and 6.
 - (b) **Six** minor—Two from each of the other three groups.
7. Pass on to at least two others the ideas gained in room improvement.
8. Keep a record of work in booklet form. This should be an illustrated story, following the suggestions for booklet on page 9.
9. Exhibit one or more articles from the room, together with booklet.

CHOICE OF WORK

In selecting the major group the club member should choose the one which is most needed for improving her room and the one which she will be able to complete, considering the amount of time and money she has to spend. If the backgrounds of the room are in poor condition this group should be chosen as it is a basic one for future improvements. Select the group which will make the room most attractive and livable.

In determining improvements from the other groups let the aim be to make the greatest number of worth-while changes with as little expense as possible. Use furniture already on hand and make it attractive by cleaning, repairing and refinishing. Use inexpensive materials for such accessories as curtains, pillows and dresser covers. Expensive changes are unnecessary. Rooms improved with little money after much thought and planning are often more attractive than those which are expensively furnished. Rooms with charm cannot be purchased with money alone; they can be achieved only by intelligent planning and work. Choose improvements from the four following groups:

THE BACKGROUND OF YOUR ROOM

- *A. WALLS—Removal of old calendars, pennants, pictures, etc. Cleaned, painted, papered or calcimined.
- B. PICTURES—Select, frame and hang a picture. Old frames may be done over and used. Pictures may be reframed and rehung.
- *C. FLOORS—Sanded, cracks filled, stained, waxed, varnished, shellacked or painted.
- D. RUG—Hooked, braided or woven rugs may be made or old rugs may be dyed or renovated.
- *E. WOODWORK—Cleaned, stained, varnished, waxed or painted.
- *F. FURNITURE—Rearranged for comfort and convenience.

ATTRACTIVE WINDOWS

- *A. WINDOW CURTAINS—Made of dotted swiss, scrim, voile, theatrical gauze or other inexpensive material.
- B. DRAPERY—Made of inexpensive print, broadcloth, percale, chintz, cretonne.
- *C. WINDOW SHADES—Bought, or made of glazed chintz, cretonne, or unbleached muslin.
- D. WINDOW SEAT—Box covered. A substantial material should be used and the top padded.
- E. PILLOWS—Patchwork, gingham or same material as that used in the padded seat.
- F. BOOK SHELVES—Made to fit along sides of the window.
- G. NEW WINDOW—Added if needed.
- H. WINDOW BOX—For flowers.
- I. FLOWERS—Planted to improve outlook from the window. Cared for by the club girl.

A PLACE FOR YOUR CLOTHES: YOUR CLOTHES IN THEIR PLACE

- A. PORTABLE CLOSET—May be made if there is not a closet built in the room.
- *B. CLOSET—Walls inside of the closet may be cleaned, papered or painted.

- *C. SHELVES FOR STORAGE—Finished with shelf edging and shelf paper.
- *D. Pole or rods may be provided.
- E. DRESS COVERS—For nice dresses, made or purchased.
- F. STORAGE BAGS—Made or purchased.
- *G. SHOE BAG, RACKS OR SHELVES—Made or purchased.
- H. Hat boxes covered with paper to carry out a color scheme, made or old boxes covered.
- I. HAT STANDS—Made or purchased.
- J. PARTITIONS FOR DRESSER DRAWERS—Made of pasteboard covered with wall paper.
- K. Boxes for the top dresser drawer, made or collected.

CLEANLINESS THE BASIS OF GOOD GROOMING

- *A. WASHSTAND—Painted or refinished.
- *B. TOILET SET—Provide a complete one.
- *C. SCREEN—For privacy and to conceal washstand—made or remade.
- *D. Scarf or oilcloth to protect wall and washstand.
- E. TOWELS—Made or purchased.
- F. SHOE SHINE Box—Equipped.
- G. FOOTSTOOL OR SLIPPER CHAIR—Refinished or improved.
- H. MEDICINE OR TOILET CABINET—Made and hung in convenient place. Equipped.
- I. Clothes rack or rods for wet garments or towels.

DESCRIPTION OF ROOM AT BEGINNING OF PROJECT

The room is on the.....side of the house
north, east, etc.

The walls are.....
papered, painted, unfinished, calcimined

The color is.....

The design is.....
large, small, stripes, flowers, birds

The woodwork is....., the color is.....
kind of wood

This floor is..... It is.....
kind of wood

.....
bare, covered with rug, small rugs, carpet, matting

The color of the covering is.....

Furniture. The dresser is.....
kind of wood finish

The chairs are.....
kind of wood finish

Other pieces of furniture in the room are.....

.....
The bed is.....
kind of wood, iron, finish color

The mattress is.....
felt, cotton, feathers, straw

The springs are.....
link, coil

The covers are.....
wool or cotton blankets, quilts, comforts

Accessories. At windows.....
kind of shades, curtains or draperies

On walls.....
number and kinds of pictures, calendars

Clothing is stored in.....

.....
closet, chest of drawers, wardrobe, hung on wall
In addition to the above mentioned, the following things are in
the room:

Describe briefly as to color, kind, etc.
.....

SCORE CARD—4-H CLUB GIRL'S ROOM

Name Address Age

County Name of Club

Date of First Scoring Date of Second Scoring

Scored by Scored by

	Perfect Score	Improvement	
		Before	After
Backgrounds	25		
1. Floor	8		
a. Condition			
b. Suitability of finish			
c. Condition and suitability of covering			
2. Walls	9		
a. Condition			
b. Suitability of covering			
3. Woodwork	8		
a. Condition			
b. Suitability of finish			
Furniture	20		
a. Condition	7		
b. Suitability	6		
c. Arrangement	7		
Windows	15		
a. Health requirements—light and fresh air	5		
b. Choice of curtains	3		
c. Method of hanging curtains	2		
d. Shades—Color and condition	3		
e. Outlook	2		
Storage	10		
a. Closet conveniences	4		
b. Arrangement of closet	3		
c. Drawer space	3		
Color Scheme	10		
a. Suitability to room and to girl	10		
Pictures	5		
a. Suitability	2		
b. Method of hanging	2		
c. Arrangement	1		
Other Accessories	5		
a. Choice	3		
b. Arrangement	2		
General Appearance	10		
TOTAL SCORE—	100		

THE BOOKLET

A booklet is to be prepared containing the record and story of the project. This can be made one of the most interesting parts of the work. It is the club girl's record and achievement story. It should accompany all exhibits. Choose a loose-leaf notebook. The cover should be $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12$ and the pages $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inches. Stiff cardboards covered with wall paper, cretonne, gingham or oilcloth make attractive covers. Such a booklet is for the purpose of keeping records and showing changes made in the room. It is also a good place to preserve information and illustrative material on room improvement. Include the following:

- (a) Detailed description of the room before beginning the work: its size, location, kind of furniture and its arrangement. Pictures and drawings help to tell this story.
- (b) The color scheme for the room: samples of wall paper, curtains or any materials used.
- (c) Kodak pictures or drawings of groups of furniture or units of the room BEFORE and AFTER improvement.
- (d) Two diagrams of floor plan, showing location of doors and windows, and arrangement of furniture; one before beginning work, the other after project is completed. These are to be drawn to scale. (Drawings of the walls showing furniture and picture arrangement would add interest.)
- (e) Record sheet giving itemized cost of improvements.
- (f) Score sheet showing score before and after improvements.
- (g) A story of your experience in making the improvements.

Be as original as you like in making this booklet. Do not feel restricted to the ideas suggested. It can be interesting, attractive and educational to the person who prepares it, and also to those who read it. Each room has a different story.

DIRECTIONS FOR DRAWING ROOM PLAN

1. Measure the room.
2. Make drawing of the floor plan to scale using $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to represent 1 foot. Draw this on a sheet of paper $8\frac{1}{2}$ by 11 inches.
3. Measure each piece of furniture in your room and record the dimensions in the following spaces:

	Length	Width	Height
Bed
Dresser
Washstand
Table
Chest
Chair
Chair
Desk
.....
.....

4. Show furniture on the floor plan by either of the following methods;
 - (a) A paper cut-out representing each piece of furniture may be pasted to the floor plan in its exact location.
 - (b) Furniture symbols may be drawn directly on the floor plan as they are in cuts 2 and 3.

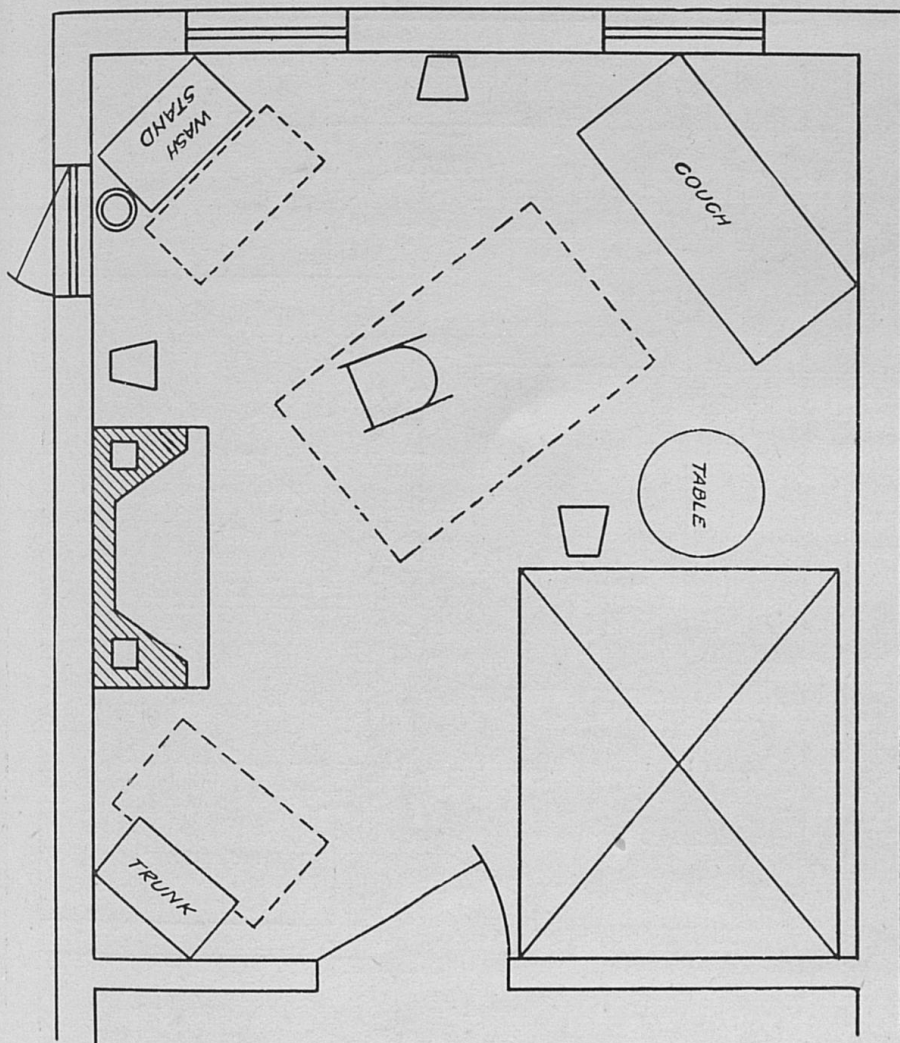


Fig 2. A bedroom before improvement, showing a poor and inconvenient arrangement of the furniture. No provision has been made for comfortable reading and writing. There are very poor facilities for storage of clothing and a lack of privacy. This room does not suggest a restful atmosphere.

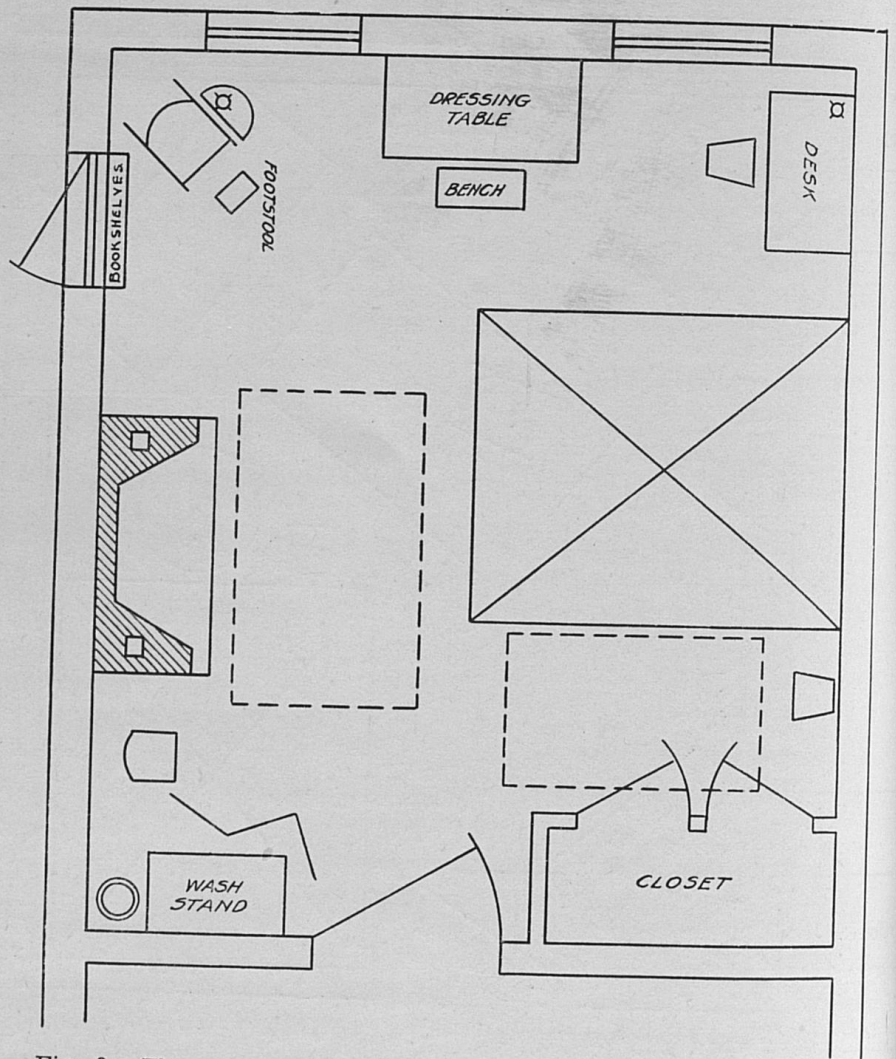


Fig. 3. The same room after improvement. The furniture conforms to the structural lines of the room. Book shelves have been built under the high casement window and a clothes closet has been added. The washstand now has a more secluded place and added privacy is obtained by means of a folding screen. The old couch and round table have been replaced by a desk with convenient lighting. The old rocker now wears a slip cover and the end table and footstool make a cozy corner for reading.

4-H Room Improvement Project—Unit I

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RECORD OF IMPROVEMENTS

Name..... Address..... Age.....

Club..... County.....

Date Work Started..... Date Completed.....

Articles made

Name	Nature of Work	Hours Spent	Material Purchased		
			Kind	Amount	Cost
					\$
				Total	\$

Articles Bought

Name	Description	Cost
		\$
		Total
		\$

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SUGGESTIONS FOR ROOM IMPROVEMENT MEETINGS

FIRST MEETING.

- Business: Election of officers.
- Discussion: How to draw the floor plan.
- Demonstration: Drawing a floor plan on graph paper to scale.
- Home Work: Drawing floor plan of room showing location of furniture.

SECOND MEETING. FLOOR PLANS AND ARRANGEMENT OF FURNITURE

- Discussion: Floor plans of the girls' rooms.
The arrangement of furniture.
- Demonstration: Arrangement of furniture.
- Work: Each girl uses cut-outs and shifts her furniture on floor plan until it is well arranged.
- Home Work: Girls arrange the furniture in their own rooms.

THIRD MEETING. COLOR SCHEMES.

- Discussion: Color schemes for different rooms, and different personalities.
- Work: Make color charts and plan color schemes.
- Home Work: Work on booklet. Mount color scheme.

FOURTH MEETING. Home demonstration agent visits the individual rooms.

- Checks color scheme for suitability to room and individual.
- Assists club member and mother in deciding what group of work should be the major.

FIFTH MEETING. BACKGROUNDS—WALLS.

- Discussion: How to select wall paper.
Woodwork and floors to harmonize with walls.
- Demonstration: How to clean walls. Calcimining.
- Home Work: Decide on work to be done and begin plans.

SIXTH MEETING. BACKGROUNDS—FLOORS AND WOODWORK.

- Discussion: Inexpensive treatments for old floors.

Purchased	
Amount	Cost
	\$

\$

- Demonstration: Refinishing a worn floor. Refinishing
woodwork.
- Home Work: Start work on backgrounds of the room.
- SEVENTH MEETING. PROPER CARE OF CLOTHING.
- Discussion: Closet arrangement. Shelves, rods, shoe
bags and shoe racks.
- Illustrated Talk: "A Well Arranged Closet."
- Work: Cut Pattern for Shoe Bag.
- Home Work: Plan closet arrangement and make a
sketch of it.
- EIGHTH MEETING. CARE OF CLOTHING (Continued).
- Discussion: Arrangement of Dresser.
- Demonstration: Making dresser boxes and cardboard
partitions.
- Work: Each girl makes boxes or partitions.
- Home Work: Complete boxes and partitions for the
dresser.
- Sketch windows to scale showing ex-
posure and location on walls.
- NINTH MEETING. ATTRACTIVE WINDOWS.
- Discussion: Designs for curtains. Relative costs.
- Demonstration: Arrangement of curtains.
- Work: Each girl designs curtains for her room.
- Home Work: Make curtains.
- TENTH MEETING. PERSONAL CLEANLINESS.
- Discussion: Cleanliness equipment for the club girl's
room.
- Demonstrations: A convenient washstand.
A well-equipped shoe-shine box.
Convenient arrangement of toilet arti-
cles in a cabinet.
- Work: Making a cleanliness accessory—foot-
stool, toilet article cabinet, shoe-shine
box, screen, towels, covers, etc.
- HOME WORK Complete cleanliness improvements and
other unfinished work, also booklet.
Arrange for tour.
- ELEVENTH MEETING. Tour of Rooms. Combine this with a
picnic.
- TWELFTH MEETING. Exhibit.