1939

Art with Practice

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Art

With Practice

A fraternity home is decorated in tune with Iowa State’s art principles, explains Adelaide Bruechert

WARM gray, soft green and coral are just a few of the colors used in the redecorating of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity house. Last spring the advanced course in interior decoration under the direction of Mrs. Helen R. Cassidy, instructor in the Applied Art Department, made a practical problem of decorating the interior of the Delta Sig house.

In January, members of the fraternity submitted drawings of the walls and floor plans for the first floor rooms. The only specifications which the men made were to keep the home-like atmosphere, refraining from the use of hard-surfaced finishes, and to use the grand piano and living room rug which had just been purchased.

With this information in mind, each woman in the class designed the four rooms, making water color sketches of her plans. Each designer had to remember that these rooms not only were to be artistic but also masculine.

Using the students’ plans, Mrs. Cassidy laid out the entire first floor arrangement as to textures, styles and colors to be used. The group took several trips to Des Moines to choose the furnishings, but the men approved the choice before the purchase was made.

The walls in the living room, hall and den were painted grayed yellow-green, and the ceilings ivory. In the living room there is a mulberry rug, and the floor in the hall and den are covered with blue-green broadloom carpeting. The Venetian blinds in the living room, hall and den are ivory with matching tapes.

Since the dining room is somewhat separate from the other rooms, the walls and ceiling are warm gray with gray Venetian blinds and Chinese red draperies. The woodwork in all of the rooms is painted the wall color, and indirect lighting is used throughout the house.

Furniture in the den is of fumed oak with a sofa and lounge chair of figured wool, particularly sturdy and masculine in appearance. One of the unusual pieces of living room furniture is a coral love seat, upholstered with a piled ribbed mohair. Equally attractive is the sofa of blue-green mohair with a flat diagonal stripe.

The grand piano is in one corner of the living room with a tan, circular-backed chair near, which fits into the curve of the piano. The indirect lighting fixture on the ceiling is of amber glass. In convenient spots are two bronze floor lamps with cream colored parchment shades, and two small twin lamps rest at each end of the love seat. Near the dining room door is a wing chair, upholstered with a patterned cloth having a neutral background and figures of coral and green. Twin gold chairs are placed on each side of the fireplace.

The love seat in the hall is of a grayed red, yellow and green Roman stripe. Several mahogany end tables are placed beside the love seats.

The 1939 Room

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