

1945

## Spring Inspires Refreshing Touches in Decoration

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# SPRING INSPIRES

## Refreshing Touches in Decoration

*Rosalie Riglin prescribes imagination as a spring tonic for winter-weary college rooms*

**A**LONG with crisp, bright clothes for spring comes the desire to rejuvenate winter-weary rooms. A pinch of pennies, a pound of imagination, plus a dash of common sense are essential ingredients for refreshing rooms.

The most important item for a room-refreshing recipe seems to be color. Not limited to a can of paint and a brush, the magic may be achieved by accessories. Inexpensive pottery tea sets arranged on a dressing table top or tea table do double duty, for they are hospitable as a welcome mat, in addition to providing a gay note of color.

That huge carved picture frame collecting dust at home in the attic may be transformed into a charming home for the tea set with a little sandpapering, a coat of white paint and the insertion of a colorful flower print under the glass. Eighteen-inch blocks of wood from the lumber dealer screwed onto the frame make legs for the tea table. Pillows covered in a bright, washable chintz for tea-sippers to sit on Chinese style, add a cosmopolitan air.

The desire for lingerie touches of freshness is manifested in pert ruffling around the mirrors and bulletin boards. Due to the shortage of cotton material, the ruffles often are made of crepe paper which can be discarded when it collects dust, or the designer tires of the color scheme. Many servicemen would be surprised if they knew they were "framed" in a gay aqua blue ruffle.

Lamps blossom out with new spring skirts over their parchment shades. A circular paper pattern is cut as wide as the shade at the top, larger at the bottom. Ribbon binding at the top ties the new shade in place, letting it flair of its own accord below. Peeking out beneath the shade may be a petticoat edging of eyelet embroidery or an organdy ruffle.

As metal wastebaskets become scarce, pasteboard cartons have taken their place, often with a checked or flowered skirt to match that on the orange crate dressing table.

A heaping tablespoonful of whimsy and a teaspoon of poster paint turn a dull alarm clock into a more cheerful object with stylized flowers or clever sayings as "Time Waits For No One." A wooden or tin box painted to match the clock makes a catch-all for makeup.

A little ingenuity will solve the "Do Not Paint" problem. One effective way of cover-

ing a bare expanse of wall is with a large map mounted on cardboard. Miniature flags on pins indicate the locations of friends and follow the progress of the war. A dark corner may be brightened with the reflected light of a large, unframed mirror. The mirror magic serves a utilitarian purpose, too, when roommates want to make a last-minute check-up simultaneously.

Picture frames which aren't used as tea tables receive the same frosting of white paint, have the glass replaced with narrow shelves to make a shadow box for the wall. Barren corners attract interest and attention if they're filled with a whatnot. Unpainted shelves match the other furniture in the room when finished with wax, stain and varnish or paint, and hold extra books or the picture overflow from the desk.

To bring spring indoors attention is focused on windows. Sparkling glass shelves hung from the center sash hold potted plants or a treasured collection of china animals. Another window tonic is a frame of ivy-printed or candy-striped wallpaper. Scalloped strips of paper three inches wide, glued around the window sash border a view as a frame borders a picture.



*Springlike airiness pervades this study corner with its matched lightweight chairs, a sunshine-spreading mirror, balanced by two colorful Chinese figurines*