The O'Bryan Touch

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ORIGINAL ideas, ingenuity and some good old-fashioned elbow grease can give a home a distinctive, personal touch that all the money in the world can never buy. Professor Edna O'Bryan, of the Department of Applied Art, has used all three of these and the result is not only pleasing and comfortable, but unusual and outstanding as well.

The blue front door of her gray five-room home opens into the middle of the living room extending across the entire front of the house. Originally this room had a door in the southwest corner too, and was divided into two smaller rooms. Too much light was lost by the door, and the rooms were too small for real use, so Miss O'Bryan had the door changed and the partition removed. At the same time, she had all the woodwork taken off, giving a modern appearance.

Besides designing and planning the interior decorations of her home, Miss O'Bryan has made much of the furniture and furnishings herself. Many items are made from common, seemingly unexciting things, but after the "O'Bryan" touch has been applied, they take on a new sparkle.

For instance, the cupboards in her living room started out as four unfinished upright shelves. She turned them over on their side, cut off the top shelf
on the end sections, and had doors put on two sections of the shelves. A coat of gray paint to match the three gray walls of the room, and the addition of large square door handles make it look as if the cupboards were specially built for the room.

Another interesting piece of furniture in this room is a round table, made by cutting the top off a large bottle or jug. The turned wooden base to which the open top of the bottle is attached was turned on a lathe and the circular glass top was cut commercially.

**Glass Table Top**

Miss O'Bryan remembered when she had painted her window sills, they stuck afterwards. So she made use of this usually troublesome principle in sticking the glass top to the bottle. She painted a circle the size of the bottom of the bottle using the same gray as the walls, on the glass top. Then she stuck the two together and she has no trouble keeping the glass in place.

The pillows on the davenport sport her initials "O" and "B" and give a definite personalized feeling to the room. Several wooden 4-inch boards fastened together in the form of a folding screen separate the living room from the kitchen. This idea is again used to separate the desk from the rest of the room in the bedroom thus giving a little more privacy.

Because her home is so small, Miss O'Bryan has carried the same color scheme throughout. Gray and yellow are the main colors used with the north walls of dark blue. One of the methods she has used to create unity is through her curtains. Although designs of the curtains in each room are different, they all have a yellow background.

Draperies in the living room are yellow with white rug yarn top stitched on in rows to create the design. Bedroom curtains are made of yellow sheets with large polka dots silk screened on. Bathroom curtains carry out the scheme since they are made of wide strips of gray and yellow chintz sewn together and the kitchen has yellow chintz curtains with a border of gray and yellow blocks.

In the bedroom the east wall is entirely made up of windows which look out over a garden and big backyard. When choosing the bedspread for this room, Miss O'Bryan found the color of the one she had bought was too weak and light for the rest of the room so she dyed it, making it more grayed and a little darker in value.

The small bathroom opens off the bedroom. Gray rubber tiling used on the floor makes it easy to keep clean. A dressing table built into the wall has drawers which swing out rather than pull open. This handy trick was done with an old piano hinge and makes the drawers much easier to get into.

Expert and careful planning in the kitchen have made it possible to have many conveniences usually limited to larger kitchens such as a small cleaning closet and an ironing board which folds up into the wall. The same type of cupboard is used here as in the living room, being painted the same gray and using a repeat of the large square door knobs. The inside of the cupboards is painted yellow, and dishes stored in them are a pinkish orange.

**Shag Rug Carpeting**

Stairs which lead up to the one bedroom upstairs are covered with several small shag rugs which Miss O'Bryan has stitched together to make carpeting. The landing has a bamboo trellis which is covered with a great variety of plants and flowers.

Although her home is small, Miss O'Bryan has planned carefully and well and has taken advantage of every inch of space. She gives proof positive that it doesn't take a large and expensive house to have an unusual and beautiful home.