"I Like Black in My Dorm Room"

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An Erlenmeyer "coffee pot," a low hand-made table and dashing black bulletin boards highlight Tuck Barber's unusual dormitory room.

Paint it black and put it in Tuck's room," the friends of Oak Hall's Tuck Barber, architecture sophomore, are fond of saying. Any visitors to her room will quickly see why this statement originated.

Besides the predominant use of black in the room's color scheme, Tuck's room is unusual in that she has made almost all of the furniture herself.

The first thing that meets the eye when the door swings open is a large black screen. The screen is functional as well as decorative. It conceals the chest of drawers and desk furnished by the college which Tuck uses as additional storage.

Tuck made the wooden frame for the screen and covered it with burlap, which she painted black. The screen is hinged in the middle, so that she can swing it out when she wants to use her chest of drawers.

Hanging on the screen are various objects to add interest and color. Two red bedsprings and a hand-carved doorknob liven up one panel and theater posters "play their part" on the other panel.

A black slat table on the wall opposite the screen gets it share of attention. Tuck also made the table with an eye to versatility. It has two sets of metal legs, one set making the table coffee table height and the other set making it high enough so that she can put her drawing board on it and stand there to work.

A bookcase six feet long and three inches high, or as Tuck says, "one brick high," holds her collection of books. The bookcase is a board painted black and resting on three red bricks.

The bed juts out into the room from the alcove formed by the dormer window. It is covered with a black spread and full length red curtains hang at the window. The bright red color is repeated in the shag rugs on the floor.

Art work, much of it original, covers the walls of the room. There are two black bulletin boards on opposite walls, each of them eight feet long and two feet high. On one bulletin board are some of Tuck's drawings and paintings, and some of her favorite prints by well-known artists. Three watercolors painted by one of Tuck's friends adorn the other bulletin board along with an abstract painting by an unknown artist.

Another smaller bulletin board, hung vertically, serves as a frame for an original spatter painting done by another friend. All the bulletin boards are painted black.

Travel posters cover the walls from floor to ceiling in the corner of the room between the closet door and the hall door. Tuck got the posters from airline and shipline offices in Chicago.

A high-fi set, built by Tuck's brother, takes up one corner of the room. Tuck built the speaker for the set and then painted the whole set black and red.

"Objects d'art" are scattered here and there about the room. Above the vertical bulletin board is a "genuine powder horn" which Tuck made out of an old cow horn one year when she was at camp. A wine bottle with a candle in it sits on the slat table. A 6-liter Erlenmeyer flask sits on the floor next to the table. It was originally used for a goldfish bowl, but now, says Tuck, "It makes a good coffee pot."

A lamp which Tuck made gives light from its place on the small chest. The lamp is rectangular in shape, made of white frosted glass and covered with an "oriental flavor" black wooden frame.

Tuck's ashtrays are going incognito from their original purposes. One ashtray is a red lens from a railroad block signal. The others are pewter wine tasting cups.

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