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Furniture She Made

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FUTURE CAREER girls and brides can build furniture for their new homes while receiving two credits toward graduation. In Applied Art 445, Constructive and Decorative Design, both art majors and non-majors design and build furniture to fit in with their future furnishings. The prerequisites for the course are Basic Design 103, Constructive and Decorative Design 344 and Craft Design 345.

Took 50 hours

An August, 1955 bride, Ramona Sheldahl Freed, Applied Art Senior, is already using the coffee table and corner table she built in this class in her farm home near Kelley. Ramona said that making your own furniture is worthwhile if you value the quality and individuality of the furniture more than your time. Each of her projects took one quarter, or approximately 50 hours. Ramona said that more complicated projects may take two quarters.

SHE MADE:

1	corner table	\$10
1	coffee table	\$14

Fits into Home

Ramona has found that the chief advantage in making her own furniture is that "you can design and make things to fit into your home as you need them." The cost is also quite low. The coffee table cost approximately \$14 and the corner table \$10.

full-scale drawings

Ramona began the projects by making full scale drawings of the tables to serve as construction guides. She then chose her wood. Oak, mahogany and birch—either solid or plywood—are used for most furniture built in the applied art laboratory. Ramona selected korina plywood, a light wood resembling oak.

Since the laboratory in room 210 of the Home Economics Building doesn't have facilities for cutting large pieces of wood, Ramona's husband cut her wood on a power saw. Most of the girls take their lumber to a sawmill in Ames.

Next came the actual building; gluing boards together for table legs, attaching the legs to the table and plenty of sanding. Ramona used a blond finish on both tables.

"a part of me"

The tables, in addition to being individualistic, have a sentimental value which Ramona describes as "seeming a part of me because I created them." The tables will be moved to a new home next year when the Freed's move to Iowa City, where Ramona's husband will enter the State University of Iowa as a geology sophomore. Ramona hopes to carry on her interest in home furnishings by working in interior decoration following her graduation.

by Jan Anderson

Applied Art Sophomore

