Good Design Doesn't Have To Be Expensive

Mary Vandecar
Iowa State College

Follow this and additional works at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker

Part of the Home Economics Commons

Recommended Citation
Vandecar, Mary (1957) "Good Design Doesn't Have To Be Expensive," The Iowa Homemaker: Vol. 36 : No. 14 , Article 9.
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol36/iss14/9

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Good Design Doesn't HAVE To Be Expensive

by Mary Vandecar
Applied Art Senior

LIKE a wistful child pressing two handprints on the window of a doll shop, you say, “Household accessories in today’s shop windows are certainly lovely, but I could never afford such NICE things!” Don’t despair—you CAN have lovely things. It’s design that makes these pieces so smart. And you can find good design among the inexpensive as well as the elite-of-price today.

You can light your room in high fashion on an earth-bound budget through careful shopping. The modern pull-up-or-down, swing-from-side-to-side wall lamp is now available for $3.98. Sleekly fashioned in metal, with brass, aqua or pink finish, the $3.98 model has an 8 inch diameter shade.

The “Coolie” pull-up, a 13 inch lamp, is available for $9.95. A natural burlap-on-parchment shade is contrasted with black and brass fittings. A no-glare fiber glass diffuser gives restful, indirect light.

For a soft, modern lighting effect, the “five and dime” store is now offering a concentric circle lampshade. A small cylinder extends above and below the outer cylinder of this shade. The light is projected onto one ring, reflected to another ring and then indirectly reflected into the room. Available in white, aqua and pink polyplastex, this shade is stain, moisture and mildew resistant. An 8 inch diameter shade is priced at $2.29, the 12 inch at $2.59, the 14-inch at $2.98 and the 16 inch at $3.29. You may choose either a round or square shade.

Modern adaptations of Grandma’s spice chests and racks can be found for only $1.98. One particular chest is black lacquered wood and has niches for four china spice bottles. Four china measuring spoons hang from hooks beneath.

Stainless steel proclaims its versatility in eight gleaming spice containers available for $2.95. And the old pine spice chest has been revived as a “catch-all.” Its eight drawers speak for themselves: thread, snaps, buttons, needles, pins and utility. Elite shops offer similar styles for $7.98 and up.

Breadboards are now used as often for decorating a kitchen wall as for rolling a pie crust. An undecorated 6 by 12 inch board costs only 59 cents. Festive cocks decorate the back of a companion board costing $1.00. These are from Japan. The same design in a Swedish board is presented in “better shops” at $3.95.

Which are the “country cousins,” and which the “city...” The upper set comes to $2.10... the lower to $1.30.

Breadboards are now used as often for decorating a kitchen wall as for rolling a pie crust. An undecorated 6 by 12 inch board costs only 59 cents. Festive cocks decorate the back of a companion board costing $1.00. These are from Japan. The same design in a Swedish board is presented in “better shops” at $3.95.

Whether they house Christmas baubles, bath salts or spices, the old-fashioned apothecary jars will add a decorative touch to any room. They may be found at 49 cents on the same street as their $1.35 “better half.”

For the modern “textured-touch”, you can find straw accessories at tiny prices. One giant straw planter or wastebasket (approximately 16 by 14 inches) from Mexico costs only 88 cents.

Straw chairs from Hong Kong are available at $4.99. Smartly designed with continuous rounding arms and back, these pieces add just the right touch of texture to modern decor.

It’s good design, not the price tag that marks distinctive accessories. Just fortify your slim bank roll with good taste—you CAN have lovely things!