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Dreams of a Dorm Room

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Dreams of a Dorm Room

Now's your chance to make your college home attractive—inexpensively, too, says Ida Halpin

As you unlock your dormitory room this fall, opportunity doesn't wait "just around the corner"—it walks in with you. Here's your chance to start with four bare walls (unpainted, too), two beds, one chest of drawers, two desks and three chairs and really fix your room the way you want it—a little cooperation with the roommate is essential, however.

First, a few general hints. Some semblance of unity is always desirable. Tie the curtains, spread and dresser scarf together in some way—match them, harmonize them or contrast them. Little-girl dreams of ruffled spreads in pale pastels are quickly de-ruffled in a college atmosphere and the pastels deepen into gay reds, deep blues, bright yellows and sophisticated black and white.

Tailored spreads are "the thing." They may revel in checks, dots, stripes, gay patterns or be plain-colored with a contrasting piping. Gingham, monks cloth, corduroy, denim, wash goods of every description and candlewick all have their faithful followers.

In smaller rooms with dormer windows and not too much sunshine, white, off-white or yellow spreads enhance light and make your room seem larger. One girl brightened a dark room with white muslin curtains edged in red ball fringe and a white spread with red candlewicking.

An extra wastebasket makes a good magazine holder. Desk drawers lined with part of a colored blotter to match the one on top seem to stay clean much longer. White parchment shades may be decorated a multitude of ways to fit any room—it's quite the fad to have them covered with names and signatures of the girls on the corridor. A two-foot square of beaver board by the door makes a convenient bulletin board for leaving notes or reminders of tests and dates.

If you're sure you and your roommate cannot both "dress for your date without being late" in front of one dresser, you can make yourself an attractive and inexpensive dressing table from three orange crates. Dissect one and put the long boards from it across the other two upright boxes. This leaves a space in the middle for leg room. The rest of the third box may be used for extra shelves on either side and presto—more storage space—and who doesn't need storage space in a college dormitory? Gather a wide strip of your curtain material, tack it around the top with brass-headed or painted tacks, paint the top board or cover it with cloth and put a large sheet of glass over it. Hang a mirror above it and you have an attractive and useful addition to your room.

Let's look in some college rooms. Here's a typical one where every opportunity to be original has been taken. Big red bandanas have been used for curtains—three for each curtain—and two are sewed together for a dresser scarf. A soft black and white panda bear nestles on the navy and red bandana pillows piled high on the bed. Bright red blotters are on the desks. "Notre Dame—Vanderbilt—" college pennants hang from the molding and several large ones have been

Accessories Are Important

Millinery
Lingerie
Hosiery
Flowers
Purses
Scarfs
Belts

HAZEL BUCKNAM
at OSBORN'S

October, 1939
sewed together for a chair cover. Smaller pennants are sewed together—all points in—to make a round doily for the radio table. The familiar yellow map of Iowa State College dotted with significant “x’s” attracts attention to another wall. Drawings by Petty adorn another.

A cool sea breeze seems to emanate from the next room. Striped terry cloth makes the bedspread. The fish net curtains are pinned full of souvenirs and mementos. Little fat Walt Disney fish caper around the lamp shade. A goldfish bowl with its solitary occupant sits on the window sill. Petty bathing beauties above the molding add to the Waikikian effect. The mirror above the chest of drawers is enclosed in a ship’s wheel.

Down the hall and around the corner we find a bit of Old Mexico. The room is done in shades of cool green, dark brown and gay orange with now and then a splash of yellow. Mexican peons with their inevitable donkeys, water jars and cactus plants are stenciled on the green flounce of the brown spread. Sheer ecru curtains embellished with bright sombreros are at the windows. A fat, chubby china donkey nourishes a stubby little cactus on the window sill. On the dresser a Mexican girl figure on hides a bottle of perfume under her full skirts. Beside her a tiny tambourine serves as a pin tray.

Next door the travel-minded miss lets her imagination run riot. Maps of all the world fill the space above the molding. One lamp with a plain parchment shade has the familiar classroom “geography globe” for its base; while another with a plain base boasts a shade covered with baggage checks, cancelled train tickets and stickers “from Maine to California.” The curtains are made from scenic world fair handkerchiefs. A small steamer trunk embellished with hotel stickers serves as a bench and “catch-all” at the foot of the bed which has a spread made of a motley array of hotel towels representing brief residences from the “Ritz Plaza” to the “Hollywood Hotel.”