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Personalize Your College Home

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COLLEGE rooms are what you make them. With amazing ease they respond to individual personalities and no one would guess that they were all the same two-by-fours in the beginning.

A match-mated room, like your favorite sweater and skirt outfit will cheer you up when you return to it after a full day in your classrooms. Choose stripes, plaids, dots or floral prints in a serviceable material and make your own drapery and bedspread set. Original combinations will give your room an individual style which reflects your personality.

Clever was the person who thought of using large red bandanas, the kind you purchase at the dime store, for making a valance and ruffled jabot for a window. For a bit of added color more bandanas may be shirred onto a plain bedspread. The logical partner, denim, is a fabric made-to-order for the rough wear received in a college room.

If you and your roommate have a room with two windows and you’ve purchased only one set of long draperies, use one at each window and tie it back with heavy cotton cable cord.

If you’ve seen how the textile designs created by students in art courses brighten the rooms of their owners, you’ll like the idea of decorating a set of osnaburg draperies with stenciled figures.

For a room of a more frilly nature, use dotted swiss dresser scarfs. Tie a stiff bow of the same material and tack it on the top shelf of a low open bookcase.

Interesting arrangements result from making the mirror the center of attraction in your room. Browse around in the local second-hand stores for inexpensive mirrors and then give your ingenuity a free hand. A mirror with a wide wooden frame can blossom into an object of beauty if peasant flowers in bright tempera paints are applied all over the frame. One pair of clever roommates made pleated ruffles of their drapery fabric for small round mirrors.

From another campus comes the idea for a gay mirror frame of designs cut from wallpaper and pasted around the outer edge of the mirror. Wallpaper may be used in many ways to transform your room if paste is allowed on the walls. Have floral designs, for instance, lining the room just below the molding.

It’s fun to possess a collection of plants in your college room and you’ll soon become quite proud of your flowering geranium or African violet. Foliage plants, such as English ivy, offer an opportunity for the use of decorative containers. A glass bubble vase will add interest to a bare wall when it is hung from the molding. Keep a rose bowl on hand and float your corsages in it for several days following a big dance.

A sure-fire method of giving your room a new face is a change in furniture arrangement. Never let your first moving in the fall be final. Shifting furniture always makes your college home more interesting.

An invitation which is better than a welcome mat is comfortable furniture. If possible, have an easy chair, slip-covered with a fabric which matches the draperies. Stuff a pillow into the chair and have several more on the bed which are sturdy enough to be thrown on the floor and used as seats when your friends drop in for a week-end spread.

For a bit of luxury have a hassock to relax on when your work is finished and talking is in order.

Bulletin boards have become standard college room equipment but foundations other than a strip of burlap or a blotter can be used effectively. Get an attractive bamboo drop shade for the purpose or put a large piece of sheet cork on a light wooden frame.

Interesting as well as useful are decorated wooden butter kegs that will hold your knitting or anklets and silk hose. Every college girl learns, if she doesn’t already know, how to make orange crates into shelves that hold the excess miscellaneous articles which can’t be crammed into the furniture provided. The shape may be disguised with a piece of board or cardboard placed on top and covered with a colorful material which may match your draperies or complement them.

Part of a room’s personality lies in the fact that there is a place for everything. If you possess a typewriter, have a small table for it instead of shoving it into a corner where it will collect dust. It is also simple and effective to make a bright typewriter cover that matches the rest of the room.