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Create Beauty With Simplicity

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Careful planning of small details can do much to create the desired feeling in any room. Miss O'Bryan has made effective use of simple screens, a Japanese lantern and colored bottles.

Create Beauty With Both Inside . . .

by Jill Gaylord
Home Economics Sophomore

BE IT APARTMENT or house, the first home of the career person or young married couple is usually small. A limited budget often adds to the furnishing and decorating problem. Lack of space and financial resources is limiting, but also it can provide real incentive for the use of ingenuity and careful purchasing.

Positive proof of creativity in decorating comes from a visit to the home of Miss Edna O'Bryan, Department of Applied Art. In decorating her home her aim was to create something individual rather than expensive. Her home is one of inconspicuous and quiet good taste achieved through simple lines and quiet colors. These remain pleasing to the eye for much longer than do elaborate or startling effects, Miss O'Bryan explains.

Miss O'Bryan's first suggestion for decorating a small home is to use a unified color scheme throughout. A change in color or value creates a line, and lines break up a space, making it seem smaller than it actually is. In her home, Miss O'Bryan used a light gray wall with yellow and some greenish blue. The effect of spaciousness is achieved not only by the continuity of wall color, but also because it is light and neutral.

In furniture selection, Miss O'Bryan suggests you choose inexpensive pieces of good design. The first home is usually temporary, and you will want new furniture when you move to a larger home. The furniture for a small home should be small in scale. Large, heavy pieces will dominate the room and make it appear smaller. Well designed furniture may be found at low prices by the person who is willing to take time to shop around for pieces employing basic art principles.

Unusual draperies or curtains are relatively easy and inexpensive to sew. You can create an original effect with an unusual fabric or applied design. Miss O'Bryan's living room draperies employ a repeated design of a flat tassel of white yarn on a loosely woven yellow fabric. They are simple, yet striking.

The use of strategically placed screens, rather than an actual wall or door, blocks the view into a room or private area without cutting up the space too much. Miss O'Bryan uses two which are simply constructed of boards nailed together to form an accordion pleated structure and then painted - both clever and inexpensive. Another effect can be created by covering wooden frames with fabric or wallpaper and hinging several of these frames together.

These small details do much to give a room the desired mood or feeling. A comment on the two graceful, solid-colored Japanese lanterns suspended from the ceiling in her bedroom brought a suggestion that a white lantern can effectively replace the ordinary-looking glass bowl covering most ceiling lights.

Once you begin thinking, you can come up with unusual ideas of your own. Let your living quarters reflect your ingenuity and abilities, always remembering that simple good taste is your goal.
A little planning, a small area around the house, and some time in the summer added together can give you a delightful garden for the home you hope to have in the not-too-distant future.

The Ted Sands of Ames have one of those gardens that stops the passer-by for a second look. The Sands, who live on a corner lot of a regular city street, have one-half acre of unique and colorful flowers and plants throughout the growing season.

The Sands’ half acre was a field of tall grass when they moved there 20 years ago, but each year they have expanded their garden until now they have 10 flower beds and a host of interesting plants. Changes continue to be made, even if just a border expansion.

The Sands have color in their informal garden, which is a square developing into an “L,” from the time the first bulbous flower blooms in the spring until the last chrysanthemum withers away in the autumn winds. The beds are planted so that when one group of flowers dies another group carries on.

Above: The Ted Sands, 604 Agg, have created exterior beauty on their corner lot with careful planning and hard work.

Right: The Sands’ one-half acre is planted and arranged so that as one season passes to another the garden is always a colorful setting for backyard picnics and get-togethers.

by Jackie Andre
Home Economics Junior

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Brightly colored roses, daisies, and petunias catch the passer-by’s eye in the summer in the front area while chrysanthemums carry the color into the fall.

Around the square in the back yard are beds that have tulips, Japanese and Siberian iris, Oriental poppies, roses, and peonies in the spring followed by glads, zinnias and dahlias in the summer. The Sands again use chrysanthemums to achieve color in the fall.

Around the house are more flower varieties including madera, which has small white flowers, phlox, which has a light violet blossom, baby’s breath, which is a tiny light blue flower, and four o’clocks, which, like the name implies, have four red-purple petals which open late in the afternoon. For borders, violets, which resemble small pansies, ageratum, a light blue-violet flower, and chives, the edible onion-like plant are used.

A new addition to the garden is a patio, the scene of many summer barbecues. To complete this setting the Sands have added pink window geraniums and a grapefruit plant placed in a tub. The grapefruit plant grew from a small seed from one of the family member’s breakfast fruit.

Twenty years ago, in thinking of the future, one of the first things the Sands planted was trees—four apple, one cherry, a blue spruce, and a Douglas fir. Today these trees are quite stately and the fruit trees save on the grocery bill during the year. They have added other shrubs, a crab-apple tree, and black maple, which turns a deep yellow in the fall.

This picturesque garden doesn’t just “happen” each season. Although a lot of the planning comes from experience, the Sands also use various magazines, books, and college publications on gardening for new ideas. After the plans are formulated Mr. Sands orders seed from catalogues and buys the remaining plants from the local nursery.

The real work begins in the spring with the spade, the hoe, the spray can, and time handy. Mr. Sands spends about an hour each morning working in the garden, as well as, Saturday afternoons—but this is his hobby.

Perhaps you will want to investigate the possibilities that your future home’s grounds will offer and will want to make your home an outdoor living room of color and interest. It takes only a little planning and some Saturday afternoons.