

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

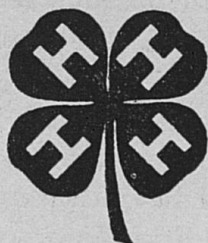
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Division

THOMAS P. COOPER, Dean and Director

THE 4-H ROOM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT— UNIT II

CIRCULAR NO. 269



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THE COUNTRY GIRL'S CREED

By JESSIE FIELD

I am glad that I live in the country. I love its beauty and its spirit. I rejoice in the things I can do as a country girl for my home and my neighborhood.

I believe I can share in the beauty around me; in the fragrance of the orchards in the spring, in the weight of the ripe wheat at harvest, in the morning song of birds, and in the glow of the sunset on the far horizon. I want to express this beauty in my own life as naturally and happily as the wild rose blooms by the roadside.

I believe I can have a part in the courageous spirit of the country. This spirit has entered into the brook in our pasture. The stones placed in its way call forth its strength and add to its strength a song. It dwells in the tender plants as they burst the seed cases that imprison them and push through the dark earth to light. It sounds in the nesting notes of the meadow lark. With this courageous spirit I, too, can face the hard things of life with gladness.

I believe there is much I can do in my country home. Through studying the best way to do my everyday work I can find joy in common tasks done well. Through loving comradeship I can help bring into my home the happiness and peace that are always so near us in God's out-of-door world. Through such a home I can help make real to all who pass that way, their highest ideal of country life.

I believe my love and loyalty for my country home should reach out in service to that larger home that we call our neighborhood. I would whole-heartedly give my best to further all that is being done for a better community. I would have all that I think and say and do, help to unite country people near and far in that great kingdom of love for neighbors which the Master came to establish—the Master who knew and cared for country ways and country folks.

CIRCULAR NO. 269

The 4-H Room Improvement Project—Unit II

By ANITA BURNAM and EDITH LACY

Every girl desires a beautiful room of her own. The attractiveness of her room is determined largely by her knowledge of the fundamental principles of beauty. Planning and study, rather than a great expenditure, are to be desired. The girl's bedroom is not merely a place to sleep but it is her retreat from the world; a place where she may lounge, read her favorite book or magazine; where she may solve her own problems; write her letters; keep her diary, and pursue her personal life with her own belongings around her. It offers the necessary privacy for daily good grooming and care of the body. These needs are just as essential to the mentally and physically healthy girl as a place to sleep.

Boys too are anxious to have neat, attractive rooms of their own. A boy's personality may be expressed similarly to a girl's in colors, furnishings and possessions. He too would enjoy a desk where he could write and have his books about him. He may decorate his walls with specimen collections and fishing tackle or he may keep these out of sight with other relics and curios, but at least in his own room he would like the privilege of arranging them to suit his needs. An appreciation of beauty is not alien to a boy's nature and his surroundings should be made as attractive as possible. He also needs suitable and convenient storage space for his clothing and personal property if he is to acquire the habits of neatness and good grooming. Whether we desire it or not our rooms express *us*, therefore we should try to express our best.

This project offers an opportunity for club members to supplement the work done in Unit I, Room Improvement. If the

backgrounds of the room have been improved the club member is now ready to select or renovate furniture, curtains and accessories. In other words, the work of Unit II is built on the foundation laid in Unit I. The interested boy or girl will welcome the help this project offers in reaching the goal—a convenient, attractive room that expresses the personality of its owner. This goal can be attained only by the desire for such a room, the knowledge of what to do and how to do it, and the willingness to work.

ELIGIBILITY

A club member who has completed Unit I Room Improvement may enroll in this project.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

The 4-H club member's room is to be scored by the home demonstration agent and leader before the improvements are started, and again at the end of the project.

1. Carry out plans made in Unit I for color scheme, arrangement and other improvements.
2. Make a second volume of the booklet which shows all improvements and their costs. This should be an illustrated story, following the suggestions for booklet, page 7. Unit I drawings may be used to make a more complete story.
3. Make *twelve* improvements as follows:
 - (a) *Four*—all to be chosen from one group and to include all the improvements in that group that are marked with a star (*), if not already done.
 - (b) *Eight*—to be selected from the other three groups.
4. Assume entire care of the room.
5. Draw a floor plan, showing the arrangement of the room at the end of this project.
6. Exhibit the booklet and one improved unit from the room and have the room open to visitors during the club tour of 4-H rooms.
7. Pass on to at least two others the ideas gained in this work.

It is hoped that by the end of this project the girl's entire room, as the result of her own ingenuity and efforts, will be an attractive, comfortable place in which she can have her own things about her.

CHOICE OF WORK

In determining improvements let the aim be to make the greatest number of worth while changes with as little expense as possible. Use furniture already on hand and make it attractive by cleaning, repairing and refinishing. Use inexpensive materials for such room accessories as curtains, pillows and dresser covers. Rooms improved after a great deal of thought and planning, even tho little money is available, are usually more attractive and satisfying than those that have been expensively furnished. Rooms with charm cannot be purchased with money alone. They can be achieved by intelligent planning and work. Select improvements from the four following groups:

COMFORT AND LIGHT WHEN YOU STUDY OR WRITE

- *A. TABLE OR DESK—Made, purchased or refinished with paint, shellac, wax or varnish.
- *B. CHAIR—Repaired, refinished, painted or resealed. Cushion or chair cover made.
- C. WASTE BASKET—Made, purchased or decorated.
- *D. BOOKSHELVES—Made and finished. Bought finished, or unfinished, and then painted.
- E. RUG—Made or renovated.
- F. DESK SET—Made. This may include blotter, letter box, etc.

A COZY AND CONVENIENT CORNER FOR REST OR WORK

- *A. CHAIR—Repaired, refinished, resealed, upholstered, covered or cushioned.
- *B. SEWING CABINET OR STAND—Made from cheese box put on legs or from other boxes or scrap lumber.

- C. MAGAZINE STAND OR BASKET—Made from scrap lumber or purchased unfinished and painted.
- D. FOOTSTOOL—Made or refinished. Cover for top made of same material as chair cover, needlepoint or hooked.
- E. LAMP AND SHADE—Made or purchased.
- F. WORK BASKET—Made and equipped.

A DRESSING TABLE, A MIRROR AND YOU

- *A. DRESSING TABLE—Made, remade, painted or refinished. Boxes may be covered or an old article of furniture remade into a dressing table.
- B. VANITY BOX—For use on top of dressing table. Made, painted and equipped.
- *C. MIRROR—Placed so it does not reflect a direct light. An old mirror frame may be done over to suit the dressing table. If the mirror is poor, it may be resilvered or renewed.
- D. FOOTSTOOL—Made or refinished. Cover for top made of remade.
- E. PICTURES—Purchased or cut from magazines and framed at home.
- F. LAMP SHADE AND LAMP—Made or purchased.
- G. CANDLESTICKS AND CANDLES—Made, redecorated, or purchased.
- H. RUG—Oldfashioned hooked, crocheted, woven or braded.

PROPER REST MAKES YOUR DISPOSITION BEST

- *A. BED—Refinished, using shellac, wax or paint. Transfers may be applied to painted bed.
- *B. MATTRESS—Purchased or renovated.
- *C. SHEETS—Made, purchased or lengthened.
- *D. PILLOW CASES—Made or purchased.
- E. BED SPREAD—Made or purchased.
- F. QUILT—Made. Patchwork, applique or quilted.
- G. BEDSIDE TABLE—Refinished or painted.

H. TABLE COVER TO FIT THE TOP OF BEDSIDE TABLE—Made or remade.

I. LAMP SHADE AND LAMP—Purchased or made.

J. RUGS—Braided, hooked, crocheted or woven.

THE BOOKLET

This may be an addition to the Unit I Booklet or an entirely new one, but the size should be $9\frac{1}{2}$ " by 12" for the cover and $8\frac{1}{2}$ " by 11" for the pages, as in Unit I. The description of the room and its arrangement before improvements were started, also floor plan drawings and kodak pictures, should be transferred from Unit I Booklet. Use your originality in its arrangement but include the following:

- (a) Detailed description of the room at the beginning of this Unit.
- (b) The color scheme of the room; samples of wall paper; curtains or any materials used.
- (c) Kodak pictures or drawings of groups of furniture or units of the room *BEFORE* and *AFTER* improvements made in Unit II.
- (d) A third diagram of floor plan, showing improvements made in Unit II. This is to be drawn to scale. Drawings of the walls showing furniture and picture arrangement will add interest.
- (e) Record sheets giving itemized cost of improvements.
- (f) Score sheet showing score before and after improvements.
- (g) A story of your experience in making the improvements.

DIRECTIONS FOR DRAWING ROOM PLAN

1. Measure the room.
2. Make drawing of the floor plan to scale using $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to represent 1 foot. Draw this on a sheet of paper $8\frac{1}{2}$ by 11 inches.
3. Measure each piece of furniture in your room and record the dimensions in the following spaces:

	Length	Width	Height
Bed
Dresser
Washstand
Table
Chest
Chair
Chair
Desk
.....
.....

4. Show furniture on the floor plan by either of the following methods:
 - (a) A paper cut-out representing each piece of furniture according to the measurements may be pasted to the floor plan in its exact location.
 - (b) Furniture symbols may be drawn directly on the floor plan as they are in the illustrations, page 9.

ARRANGEMENT AND GROUPING OF FURNITURE

Arrange the furniture for comfort, convenience and attractiveness. Group the articles of furniture according to their uses; for example, bed, bed-side table and rug; study table, books, light and chair; dresser or dressing table, mirror and stool or chair. In locating the bed consider ventilation free from drafts. For the dressing table unit be sure that the mirror has plenty of light. If a room is to be easily cared for, eliminate unnecessary articles, and arrange the necessary furnishings for convenience in use and in cleaning. Consider attractiveness or beauty in the arrangement of furniture. There are certain rules for beautiful arrangement, as proportion, balance and harmony. Explanation of such rules will be found in the Room Improvement Manual and each will need careful study.

a.
b.
c.
d.
e.
f.

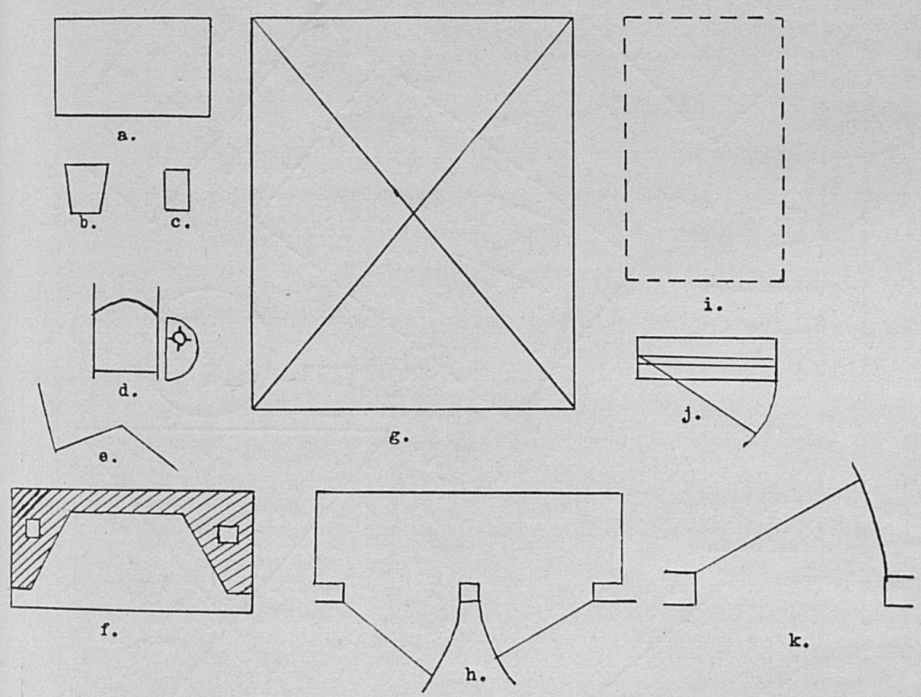


Fig. 1. ARCHITECTURAL AND FURNITURE SYMBOLS.

- | | |
|--|---|
| a. Dresser, dressing table, desk,
chest or washstand. | g. Bed |
| b. Chair | h. Closet with double doors |
| c. Footstool | i. Rug |
| d. Rocking chair, end table and
lamp. | j. Casement window (leave off
the arc and radius for symbol
of sash window) |
| e. Screen | k. Door |
| f. Fireplace | |

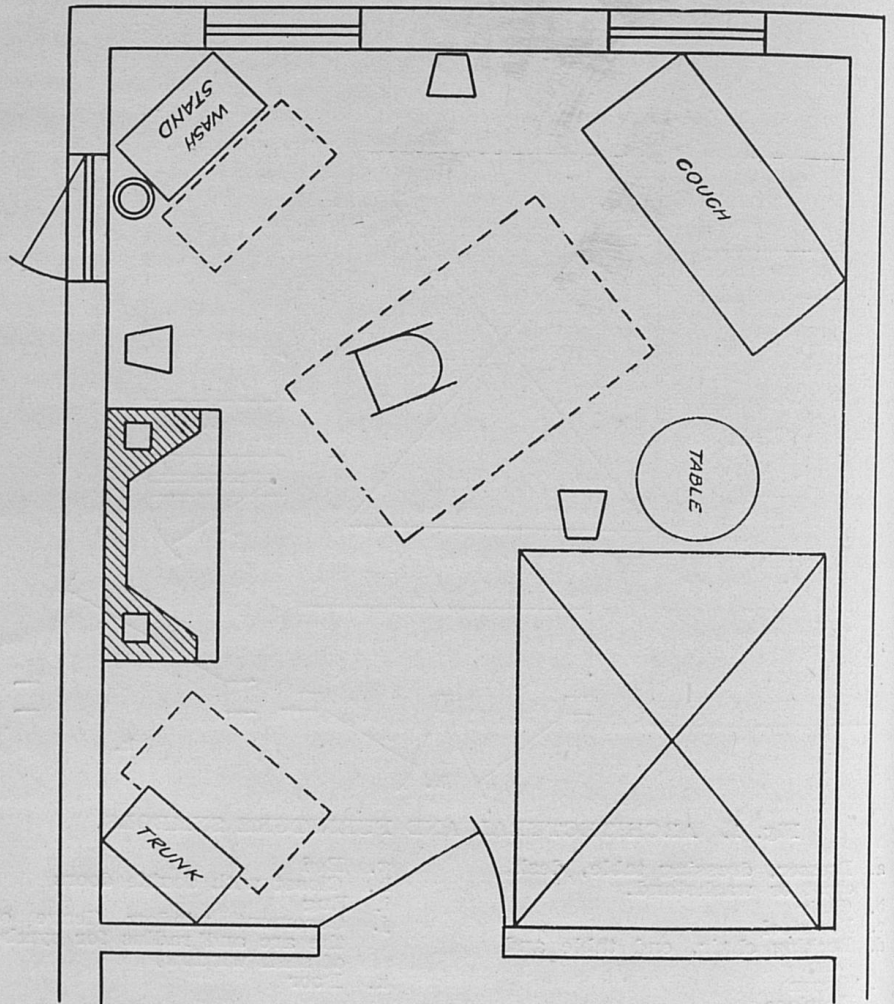


Fig 2. A bedroom before improvement, showing a poor and inconvenient arrangement of the furniture. No provision has been made for comfortable reading and writing. There are very poor facilities for storage of clothing and a lack of privacy. This room does not suggest a restful atmosphere.

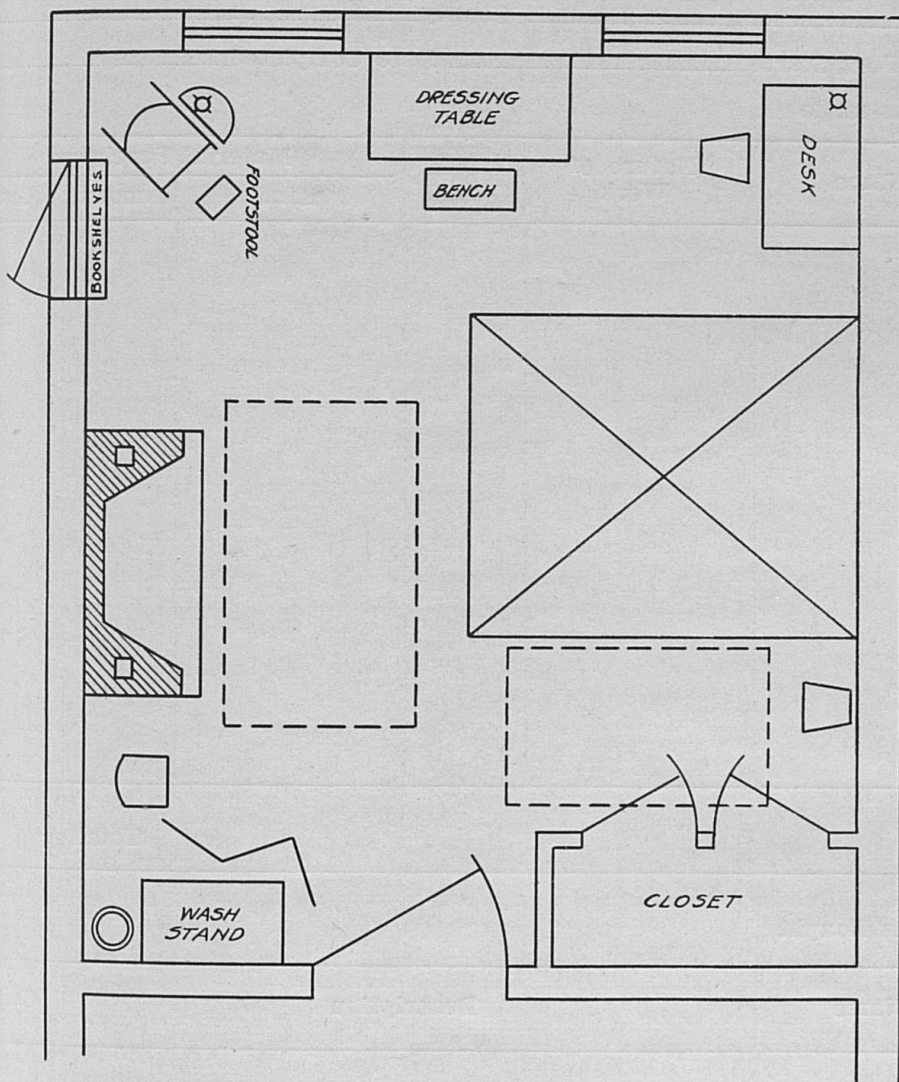


Fig. 3. The same room after improvement. The furniture conforms to the structural lines of the room. Book shelves have been built under the high casement window and a clothes closet has been added. The washstand now has a more secluded place and added privacy is obtained by means of a folding screen. The old couch and round table have been replaced by a desk with convenient lighting. The old rocker now wears a slip cover and the end table and footstool make a cozy corner for reading.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ROOM IMPROVEMENT MEETINGS

FIRST MEETING.

- Business: Election of officers. Plans for the year.
 Discussion: Selection of the major work.
 Demonstration: How to make lamp shades. Colors for accent.
 Home Work: Scoring room. Making definite plans.

SECOND MEETING.

- Discussion: Care of the bedroom.
 Demonstration: Making of furniture polish and a dustless dust cloth.

THIRD MEETING.

- Discussion: The study corner.
 Why all Club Members Should Learn to Read.
 Books for Girls.
 Demonstration: Removal of old finishes. Applying paint to book shelves.
 Home Work: Paint an article of furniture that needs painting.

FOURTH MEETING.

- Discussion: The Well Equipped Desk.
 Demonstration: Making a desk set, writing pad, blotter and letter box.
 Home Work: Making a writing set.

FIFTH MEETING.

- Discussion: Refinishing Maple, Mahogany, Cherry or Walnut in the Natural.
 Repair of Chairs. Seating.
 Demonstration: Refinishing with oil and wax or shellac.
 How to seat a chair with rush, reed or cane.
 Home Work: Refinish a piece of furniture in the natural.

SIXTH MEETING.

- Business: Make plans for a party or hike.
 Discussion: The Convenient Mirror and Dresser.
 Demonstration: How to make and drape a dressing table. Box compartments for the dresser drawers.

Home Work: Cover boxes for dresser drawers. Make a dressing table, if needed.

SEVENTH MEETING.

Discussion: The comfortable, well-equipped bed.

Demonstration: How to make a bed.

Home Work: Make or repair sheets, pillow cases or needed equipment for the bed.

EIGHTH MEETING.

Discussion: The grouping around the bed.

Attractive bedspreads, coverlets and quilts.

Demonstration: Application of stencils and transfers on painted beds.

How to make a bedspread, quilt or coverlet.

Home Work: Arrange the bed group.

NINTH MEETING.

Discussion: Needed decorative touches for the room.

Demonstration: Painting and decorating a wastebasket or magazine basket.

Selecting and framing silhouettes and other pictures.

TENTH MEETING.

Business: Make plans for a tour. Preparations for a guest.

Discussion: Materials to use in making slip covers, draperies and cushions.

Demonstration: Making slip covers for chairs and couches.

Home Work: "Dress up" an old chair.

ELEVENTH MEETING. (This meeting may be shifted to fit season.)

Discussion: Improve your outlook with flowers.

Demonstration: Arrangement of flowers for the individual's room.

Home Work: Plant flowers in a bed or window-box. Complete booklet.

TWELFTH MEETING.

Tour of rooms. Exhibit of booklets. Picnic lunch.

SCORE CARD 4-H CLUB GIRL'S ROOM

Name..... Address..... Age.....

County..... Name of Club.....

Date of First Scoring..... Date of Second Scoring.....

Scored by..... Scored by.....

	Perfect Score	Improvement	
		Before	After
Backgrounds	25		
1. Floor	8		
a. Condition			
b. Suitability of finish			
c. Condition and suitability of covering			
2. Walls	9		
a. Condition			
b. Suitability of covering			
3. Woodwork	8		
a. Condition			
b. Suitability of finish			
Furniture	20		
a. Condition	7		
b. Suitability	6		
c. Arrangement	7		
Windows	15		
a. Health requirements—light and fresh air	5		
b. Choice of curtains	3		
c. Method of hanging curtains	2		
d. Shades—Color and condition	3		
e. Outlook	2		
Storage	10		
a. Closet conveniences	4		
b. Arrangement of closet	3		
c. Drawer space	3		
Color Scheme	10		
a. Suitability to room and to girl	10		
Pictures	5		
a. Suitability	2		
b. Method of hanging	2		
c. Arrangement	1		
Other Accessories	5		
a. Choice	3		
b. Arrangement	2		
General Appearance	10		
TOTAL SCORE—	100		