Get Set and Go...with Design : Extension Circular 11-11-77

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Get Set and Go... with design!
Dear 4-H'er:

We are glad that you have become a 4-H Club member. It is a wonderful experience to belong to a club where you can work with friends under the direction of a 4-H leader and the help of your parents. You are indeed lucky! You will be busy with some of these:

Things to Learn

What are the building blocks of design.
What makes good design in dishes, glassware.
How use affects the shapes of articles.
How and why we set the table as we do.
Mealtime manners.

Things to Do

Set a pretty table.
Practice mealtime courtesies.
Clear the table.
Plan a table for a party or achievement meeting.
Make something for table setting.
Apply a decorative design.

Things to Make

Flower arrangement for center piece.
Other centerpieces for various occasions.
Decorate a tray.
Make napkin holders or napkin rings.
Make papier-mâché bowl or tray.
Make dish mat - coaster.
Make bun or bread basket.
Make party tray.

Things to Select

Articles having good structural design.
Articles with good decorative design.
Useful tray.
Table coverings to go with different dinnerware.
Tableware for different occasions: birthday party, picnic, Thanksgiving.

Things to Show and Tell

How to set the table.
Centerpieces for special occasions.
How to arrange flowers in a low bowl.
What goes with what?
Plan with your leader, mother and club members what you will do in this project.
Ready? Get set and go!

What's It All About?

Design is making or arranging objects for a pleasing effect. The things that make a home or a table pretty are made with colors, textures, lines, shapes, and patterns. These elements are the building blocks of design.

Lines may be a part of something, or put on for decoration. Some lines are straight, others are curved, while some are zigzag. Some are fine and others are heavy.

What kind of lines do you find in the following:
Shapes or forms may be a part of an object or the object itself. Some kinds of shapes are round, oval, rectangle, square, and free form. What kind of shapes are there in the articles above?

Colors are found in wood, paint, cloth, and metal. They may be light or dark, bright or dull. Some colors seem warm and others seem cool.

Textures are found in materials that make things. Texture tells how an object looks and feels when touched. They may be smooth like metal, rough like bricks, coarse like burlap, or in-between. Some textures are soft while others are hard.

Have you ever been fooled by fake texture? It's disappointing to sniff a plastic flower.

Patterns are combinations of colors, texture, lines, and shape to make something more interesting. Tablecloths often have patterns on them.

FINDING DESIGN ELEMENTS IN TABLEWARE

Tableware includes:
Linens—tablecloths, napkins, placemats.
China—plates, cups, saucers, serving dishes.
Flatware—knives, forks, spoons.
Glassware—glasses, tumblers.
Decorative pieces.
Centerpieces, candle holders, and others.

See how many of the building blocks of design you can find at the dinner table. One 4-H’er noticed the heavy weaving in the tablecloth that gave a rough texture, while the flatware was smooth. There were several round shapes on the table from plates, saucers, and glasses. The platter was oval. The border design on the dishes added pattern. Color was found in the tablecloth, glasses, and the food. The fork tines suggested lines as did the celery sticks.

From a magazine or catalog, cut out a picture of a place setting of dishes and paste it below. See if you can show with arrows where these design elements are found.
THE SHAPE OF TABLEWARE

Did you ever think about how the cave man or other primitive people ate their food before there were any knives, forks, or spoons? He used his hands or perhaps a sharp stick to bring food to his mouth. He cupped his hands for a drink of water from a stream. A sea shell or a gourd may have been used as a spoon or dipper.

Today there are many different tools for eating and serving foods.

Material Affect Shapes

Gradually, as tools for eating were made, bone, wood, horn, stone, clay, and metal were shaped into useful pieces. Horn from an animal could be curved and bent for a spoon or dipper. Wood could be carved and shaped (bowl). Clay could be shaped when it was wet and dough-like. When fired, it would hold water. Reed and cane could be woven for baskets and mats. Glass, when liquid, could be blown or poured into shape.

Things made by early people were simple but many pieces look well even today. Materials were used honestly and were not made to look like something else.

Use Affects Shapes

Let's see how use helps determine shapes. The knife, fork, and spoon are hand tools and they should fit in the hand, work in the hand, feel good in the hand.

The fork and spoon are used in the mouth. They should fit in the mouth, feel good in the mouth, carry the right amount of food to the mouth.

Let's think of the jobs tableware must do. The spoon is used to scoop, cut, stir. The fork is used to stab, cut, shovel. The knife is used to cut, spread, push. How well can you use these tools? Show how to:
Kinds of Design

We speak of the shape or form that makes an object as its structural design. A drinking glass may have various structural designs.

Decorative design means any of the design elements that are added to make the piece prettier or more interesting. Sometimes decorative design makes a plain piece more beautiful. Sometimes decorative design clutters up a piece or distracts from its structural design.

Sometimes decorative designs on dinnerware are very interesting but don't seem suitable for dinnerware. A plate might have a bunch of flowers in the middle that look so real you feel strange putting food on them. Or it might have a scene that would make a great picture to look at but doesn't fit the shape of a round plate, where it might be "upside down."

COMPARE FORMS

Train your eyes to really see forms. Often the simple, uncluttered article is overlooked because of the attraction for highly decorated "dust catchers" or "shelf sitters."

Remember that the decoration should not seem unnatural or detract from the object. Caution: when in doubt, select the simple uncluttered form.

Which of these do you choose? Pairs of:
From a magazine or catalog, cut examples of any kind of dinnerware that has a structural design you like. Find a piece with a decorative design that goes with a structural design—uses similar lines or makes the material it's made from more beautiful.

Dinnerware with good decorative design.

Dinnerware with poor decorative design.

Write an explanation of why.
DESIGN SOMETHING FOR THE TABLE

For a special touch, why not make something for the table? This gives you a chance to put into practice what you have learned about using materials for good structural design. Then, if you wish, you may add a simple decoration.

Directions follow for using different materials for making table articles. You need not make them all but try working with a variety of materials. You may wish to make something besides those listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT COULD YOU MAKE FROM THESE MATERIALS?</th>
<th>ARTICLES</th>
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<td>Paper</td>
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<td>Plastic</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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Get the Feel of Clay

Clay is a fun material. Simple pinching and modeling with fingers is a good way to discover the texture and properties of clay. A potter’s wheel is not necessary. Slab pots, coiled pots, pinch pots, thumb pressed pots, pebble pots, and stick pots are simple to make.
Fiber

Indians and other early people made baskets from river cane, grass, splints of wood, or other natural materials that could be woven, wrapped, or twined.

You can make a useful article for the table using the same methods. How about a coaster or dishmat to protect the table? Or a bread basket?

To Get Set for Making a Coiled Coaster or Mat

You will need:

Something for the core: clothesline cord, soft rope, strips of cloth, slough grass.

Something to wrap and bind the core: raffia, yarn, damp corn husks, cattail, rush.

Large yarn needle with big eye and blunt end.

Scissors.

Go!

Cut the end of the core to a point.

Wrap the core beginning about 2 inches (5 cm) from the tapered end.

Wind tightly as you go from front to back to about 1/2 inch (1.3 cm) from tapered end.

Continue to wrap until the tapered end is fastened tightly to the core, forming a circle.

Wrap four or more times. Bring the needle from behind and over the core into the center. You are making the lazy squaw stitch.

Continue wrapping and binding to the size you wish.

Plan to finish the coil above the beginning point. Tape the core end.

Bring the needle with binding material under the wrapped core and cut.
Some Other Things to Try

The figure eight stitch is a stronger way to bind coils together and does not show if done in the same color.

Wrap the coil from front to back and pass the needle underneath the coil below. Bring the needle through and pass it between the coils. Continue to wrap core.

Use two or more colors. Carry the color not being used along the core until it is needed. Let it hang in the back until you are ready for it.

Shape the coils into square or rectangles by starting with the side rather than the center. A squeezed triangle will make a clover leaf shape.

Make baskets by placing a coil on top of the last base coil and continue wrapping and binding. When each row is placed directly on top of the preceding one, the basket sides will be straight. By changing the angle, the sides of the basket can flare in or out.

Woven Mat

To Get set to Weave a Mat on a Cardboard Loom

You will need:

- Stiff cardboard that won’t bend - about 9" x 12" (22.8 x 30.5 cm).
- Heavy shears.
- Rug yarn or carpet warp in earthy colors.
- Adhesive or masking tape.
- Straw, cattail leaves or pieces from a bamboo blind.

Go:

Draw a line 1/2" (1.3 cm) from the ends on both sides. Mark off 1/4" (.63 cm) spaces on each line. Make sure these are directly across from each other.

Test to see if a cut or a notch will hold the yarn in place better. Then cut or notch the marks with shears. This makes a loom.

Leave an end of yarn that will reach the center of the cardboard. Tape this to the back.

Thread your loom by winding yarn back and forth across the front looping it around the cuts or notches. When threading is finished, carry the yarn to the back and tie to the beginning thread.
Many things can be made from paper. We do not expect these articles to last long, but they are fun for special occasions. Some ideas to try:

Weave plain strips of paper in a patterned wallpaper for placemats. Choose a paper that can be wiped clean.

When you come to the end, additional yarn twined or wound over the ends will keep the straw in place. Loop center of yarn around when beginning to avoid using a knot when twining. Cut or untie the yarn that was tied to the back of the cardboard loom. With a needle weave the two ends into the mat.

Make a party tray from the top of a hoisery or shoe box. Decorate it with paper cut-outs.

Cut the ends of straw evenly.
Slip loops off the notches.
Another way to use paper is to make papier-mache. There are several ways to do this. One is to shred and soak the paper and make a mash with glue or paste and use it like clay. Another way is to put paper over an object or frame to finish or cover it. Still another way is to use an object as a mold to form the shape. Would you like to try this?

**Papier-Mache Bowl**

A pretty bowl for fruit, nuts, or other dry things can be made using strips of paper over a bowl as the form. Choose a glass or plastic bowl that is shaped so it will lift out when the papier-mache is dry.

**Get Set**

You’ll need:
- Newspapers or other paper to be torn or cut in strips.
- White glue that dries clear such as Elmer’s, Duratite or vinyl wallpaper paste but not wheat paste.
- Low bowl to be used as a mold.
- Small paint brushes.
- Surface decorating materials: tempera, latex paint, gesso, sandpaper.
- Clear protective finish such as varnish, acrylic spray.

**Go**

Work on a newspaper to protect the table.

Apply a liquid detergent or petroleum jelly to bowl before starting to apply paper strips so the paper won’t stick.

Tear paper strips about 1 inch (2.5 cm) wide and dip into a thin glue mixture. Run the strips between your fingers to take off excess paste and lay them on the form.

For the first layer, apply paper strip evenly going in one direction. Apply the next layer evenly in a different direction. Smooth each strip in place with your fingers. Continue applying layers until you have at least five layers over the bowl. Let dry several days.

Use a sharp scissors to even up the top edges of the bowl.

Brush on gesso for a smoother surface.

Sandpaper and decorate.
Decorate the Bowl

Decorating the bowl is your chance to make up a design that makes the structural design more interesting. It might be fun to paint the inside a different color than the outside. Some kind of pattern or texture could be painted on. Maybe you can get a design idea from the tablecloth or dinnerware.

Here Are Some Ideas: Bright colored tissue paper could be glued on in overlapping pieces.

Heavy cord could be glued on before it is decorated.

Does your bowl suggest an Indian or Mexican design? It could be painted or glued on with yarn.

Do you want a patchwork bowl? Cut small squares of fabric and glue them on.

Most decorated bowls will need a coat of varnish or other protective finish.

Enjoy Your Bowl—What will you put in your bowl to make the meal more interesting? Some seashells from vacation? Or some little pine cones and berries from the woods? Or popcorn?

It seems that using various things in the bowl gives a neat place to put some simple beauty to share. It can be a real family game to find a surprise to put in the centerpiece bowl. What are some things you can find for your bowl? Just remember when they go on the table with food they need to be sparkling clean.

Another Idea to Try

Use a tray that meat comes on from the grocery store. Use strips to cover both sides. Finish and decorate.

How to Make Napkin Rings

Make napkin rings or napkin ring placecards from cardboard rolls from inside paper towels, foil, or toilet tissue.

These can be decorated with colored tissue, yarn or papier-mâché.

To Get Set

You'll need:

5 yards (4.5 m) knitting yarn or a little less rug yarn.

Glue.

Narrow ribbon that will look nice with the yarn.

Go!

Slice off about 1 1/2" (about 3.8 cm) of the cardboard roll.

Wind yarn around cardboard ring from inside out covering entire surface. Glue yarn end on the inside.

Weave in and out of layered yarn every four rows. Tie bow with ends.

For the placecard ring, follow directions above then make name card and punch two holes in the top. Use yarn rather than the ribbon to weave in and out of yarn. Pull ends of yarn through holes of placecard and tie bow.

Other ideas: Cut plastic plumbing and paint for napkin rings.
Plastic

Plastic is a material of today. At first plastic was used to look like something else, such as wood. Do you think it is honest for plastic to imitate other things?

Today we like plastic for itself. Much of it is thrown away after it is used. Can you think of ways to re-cycle plastic bottles or margarine tubs? Other articles?

A detergent bottle can be used to make a holder for paper napkins.

Use scissors to remove sides from bottle and cut front and back using the pattern.

Punch holes into the plastic edge 1/4" (.63 cm) from edge and 1/4" apart (.63 cm).

Finish edge with one of these:

- CROSS STITCH
- BLANKET STITCH
- WHIP STITCH
- CHAIN STITCH (Crochet)

To Get Set

You'll need:

- Plastic detergent bottle.
- Tool to cut holes—a punch or hammer and nail.
- Crochet hook or yarn needle depending on edge finish.
- Five yards (4.5 m) plastic luster lace or knitting yarn.
- Stiff paper.

Go!

Lay the plastic bottle on a sheet of stiff paper and draw along the outside to make a pattern.

Measure about 4" (10 cm) up from the bottom and mark in the center.

Fold paper in half and cut an arc.
Wood and Reed

Trays and baskets made with woven reed are attractive and wear well. Round and oval trays are easier to make than square or oblong ones since there are no corners.

To Get Set for Making a Wood Bottom Tray

You'll need:

Tools—cutting pliers, awl.
No. 4 reed.
Plywood base—can be bought already prepared, or base cut with odd number of holes drilled 1/2” apart and 1/2” from edge (1.3 cm).
Fine sandpaper and sanding block.
Penetrating sealer or other finish.
Lint free cloth.

Go!

Sand both sides of the base and around the edge until smooth. Follow the grain of the wood so scratches will not show.

Sand any rough spots around holes. Put the penetrating sealer on with cloth and let dry.

Count the holes and cut the same number of pieces 8” (19.6 cm) long for spokes.

Check to see if reed can pass through hole without being forced. If it doesn’t, insert the awl and move the handle to widen holes.

Soak reed 10-15 minutes in warm water.

Insert the pieces of reed (the spokes) in each hole, allowing 3” (7.6 cm) for the bottom and 5” (12.7 cm) for the top.

On the bottom, weave a spoke (1) in front of its neighbor (2) and behind the next (3).

Continue around the bottom. Weave the last spoke underneath, and behind 2 to finish.

Soak the long strand of reed 10-15 minutes. On the top side begin weaving the strand behind a spoke and continue weaving in and out. The strand is started and ended on the inside of the tray.

Start a new strand lapping reed behind a spoke and continue until the right height (4 to 5 times around).

Finish the tray top as you did the bottom spokes by going in front of the neighbor and behind the next. You may have to soak the spokes before you finish. Trim off reed so all are even on the inside.
Other Ideas to Try

Use a 3" (7.6 cm) circle for the base and longer spokes to make a basket for flowers. A tin can can be placed inside to hold water. Finish the edge with a scallop border, weaving each spoke in front of its neighbor and down into the basket two spokes over. If it's too tight, push the awl down in back of the spoke. Use a bigger circle to make a bread basket.

Stop, Look and Check

Why not stop and take a good look at what you have made for the table. The following questions will help you decide how well you did.

Article

Materials used

1. How does it look? ______ Very Good
   ______ Good ______ Could be better.
   Are the lines, shape, color and texture attractive?
   Is the decorative design, if any, related to its shape?

2. Does it serve its purpose? ______ Very Well
   ______ Fairly Well ______ Could be better.
   Is the material used suited to its use?
   Does the form suit its use?
   Is it easy to clean?

3. How well is it made? ______ Very Well
   ______ Good ______ Could be better.
   Is it sturdy and neat?

4. Was it worth making? ______ Yes ______ Perhaps ______ No.
   Did you learn something new?
   How much time did you spend?
   How much did it cost?
   Was it fun to make?
YOU THE DESIGNER

Do you know that you can be a designer as well as Mother's helper each time you set the table? A designer chooses and arranges things according to a plan for beauty and order. Anyone who chooses and arranges flowers, or puts cookies on a plate, or decides what to wear can be a designer. That means almost everyone, doesn't it?

Anyone can sling dishes on the table so it looks like disaster struck. Or the table can be set so it looks pretty with everything needed for the meal neatly placed.

A neat, clean, and attractive table setting makes any meal more enjoyable. Can you set such a table? Let's learn how.

Actually, there is more than one way to set a table. The most usual way to set a table is to put all the dishes, tableware, and food on the table before anyone sits down. Sometimes when there is company or for a special meal, then part of the food may be left in the kitchen and served later. The way you set your table depends upon the way the meal is to be served.

On Your Mark!

Wash your hands before handling any dishes.

Check with mother to see how many there will be for the meal and the kinds of dishes needed.

A tray may be helpful in bringing things to or clearing away things from the table.

Get Set!

The Table Cover

The table covering is the background for the food and other things placed on it. It protects the table and makes for less noise. Placemats or tablecloths may be used. Sometimes the table is left bare. Be sure that the covering or table is clean.

Choose a cover that looks good with the dishes. You may match or blend colors and textures in the dishes or use something quite different for contrast.

Place setting: Allow at least 20 inches (50.8 cm) for each person's dishes. This is called a "cover," and each cover is set exactly the same.

1. Put the plate in the center of the cover, about 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the edge of the table.

2. Place the knives and spoons on the right side, the forks on the left, about 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the plate and 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the edge of the table. Turn the cutting edge of the knife towards the plate. If there is more than one piece in each cover, such as one dinner fork and a salad fork or one teaspoon and a soup spoon, think of which one will be used first and place it outside the other one.

3. The napkins are usually folded into oblongs, and placed next to the forks. The fold of the oblong should be to the left so it opens like a book.

4. The beverage glass is placed about 1 inch (2.5 cm) above the tip of the knife.

5. If your parents drink coffee or tea, the cup is placed on the saucer and set to the right of the spoons, 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the edge of the table. Have the handle pointing to the right.

6. Salad or dessert bowls may be placed left of the forks and napkin or at the tip of the fork.

Serving pieces:

1. Place the main dish in front of the family head. If it is hot it will need a table protector or trivet underneath it.

2. Foods that are used together should be placed together, such as potatoes and gravy, bread and butter.

3. Serving spoons should be placed on the table beside the food bowls rather than in them until you begin the meal.
A Centerpiece for Your Table

A centerpiece on the table can make a simple meal seem like a special occasion. Your family will be delighted to see the dinner table gay with flowers. Dad may wonder “what the occasion is” but actually he will be pleased.

Flowers may be used in carrying out a color scheme for a special event. Most of the time you are concerned only with cutting flowers of colors to look well with your table setting. Cut some lighter ones with long stems. Cut a few darker and larger ones with shorter stems. As soon as you get in the house put your flowers in a deep juice-can or pail of warm water so that they can get a good drink. Leave them in the water for several hours before you arrange them.

Find a Low Bowl—A centerpiece should be low enough so that people can sit on each side of the table and talk without dodging the flowers. So a low bowl is best. Then, too, it is easier to arrange flowers in a low bowl. You do not want to use a fancy or bright colored one because you want the flowers to show up instead.

Make the Flowers Stand Up—A needlepoint holder is just the thing. It is nice to have two or three in different sizes. If you don’t have one, bend some chicken wire over and over for the bottom of the bowl. Make your needlepoint holder stay in place with some modeling clay, the kind you use in school. Turn the holder upside down. Roll some modeling clay into a small rope. Lay it around the bottom edge of the holder. Turn the holder over and press it flat against the bottom of the bowl. Give the holder a twist as you press down on the edges. Be careful that you don’t stick yourself. Now your holder will not topple over with the weight of the flowers and it will not come loose when you fill the bowl with water.

Arrange Flowers and Leaves on Holder—No two stems of flowers and leaves should be the same height. Buds, smaller blooms and lighter colored ones should be toward the top. The large and darkest color blossoms look heavier and belong at the bottom. Cut the stem of one of the lighter, smaller blooms or of a bud about 1 1/2 times the width of the bowl. Place it about center of the holder. Cut a second stem shorter than the first and stand it to the right of the center with it leaning somewhat to the right.

Cut a third stem a little longer than the second and place it to the left, leaning a little to the left. These three blooms make the outline of the arrangement.

Now add two more stems to the front of these last two, but a little closer together.

As you continue to add stems, turn the container constantly so that the arrangement will look well from all sides. Use the larger, heavier blooms toward the bottom. This means that they will have the shortest stems and be added last.

Are there empty-looking spots? Another flower or two may be added. But don’t crowd it. Every flower should show. Hide the holder with leaves at the base of the finished arrangement.
Guides for Tablesetting Artists

Balance—think about balancing the teeter totter and place the covers, food, and dishes about the table so no one spot is too bare or too crowded.

Proportion—think about the size of the table and the dinnerware. Tiny glasses that look well with breakfast bowls might look like midgets with dinner plates.

Harmony or Unity—means “working together” or oneness. By using dinnerware, glasses, and table covers that have similar shapes, colors, materials or designs, the table setting elements look like they belong together and make one pleasant table setting, rather than a bunch of dishes on a table.

Contrast—is the something different that keeps harmony from being dull. If the dinnerware is mostly shiny, nubby placemats might add just enough contrast. Or if the dinnerware is mostly white, a colored tablecloth might really set them off.
Center of interest—one of the fun parts of setting the table is thinking up a centerpiece and changing it often enough that every meal has its own character. Think of it as the jewelry of table setting.

Rhythm—helps the eye move easily around the set table to or from the center of interest. Placesettings follow the lines of the table. Shapes, colors, textures, and patterns are repeated.

Practice using these guidelines and demonstrate setting one "cover" at your 4-H meeting. Does your cover have balance, proportion, harmony or unity, contrast, and rhythm? What would you use for a center of interest?

Plan table coverings, centerpieces, and dishes for these occasions:

- Breakfast in winter—in summer.
- Picnic supper in the park.
- Birthday party for little brother.
- Sunday dinner.
- “Everyday” supper.

Let's Review

Match these with the words that are lettered below:

1. Place on the right of the plate.  a. knives and spoons
2. Should be low.  b. flatware
3. Knives, forks, spoons, and serving pieces.  c. cover
d. tableware
4. Placed at the left of the plate.  e. dinnerware
5. Linens, silverware, dinnerware, and glassware for each person.  f. forks and napkins
g. centerpiece
6. Plates, cups, saucers, and serving dishes.
7. China, glasses, silver, table linens, and table decorations.
MEALTIME MANNERS

Good table manners make meal time pleasant by showing thoughtfulness to others who eat with you, avoiding actions and conversation that would be unpleasant. If you practice good manners with your family and guests when they come to your home, you will have no problems when you eat out.

WRITE A SENTENCE IN EACH SPACE TELLING WHAT MANNERS ARE SHOWN IN EACH PICTURE.
Some Things to Do

Plan and give a skit showing good and poor table manners. Demonstrate how to eat these foods at a dinner table:

a. corn on the cob
b. large cookies
c. bread and butter
d. olives
e. soup
f. pizza
g. fried chicken
h. watermelon
i. hot dog in a bun
j. spaghetti

List topics suitable for mealtime. What topics would you avoid?

Discuss table manners for a picnic. In what ways are they the same for all meals? In what ways might they be different?

COMPANY'S COMING!

Wouldn't it be fun to invite people to come to your club's achievement meeting? This would be a good way to show them what you learned in this project. You could set a pretty table to show how the building blocks of design are used. Perhaps each club member would want to set and arrange a sample tablessetting showing the table cover, one place setting and their own centerpieces.

Talk over with your leader the jobs that committees could plan and carry out: