1958

EC58-1135 A Space and Place for Leisure...Teenager's Room

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A SPACE and PLACE for leisure...
HOW TO DEVELOP A TEENAGER'S ROOM
FOR ENJOYING PRIVACY AND RELAXATION

All of us need a place of our own. Some corner where we can read, listen to our favorite records or just think. It really seems impossible to concentrate on even a fascinating novel with television fighting with the radio for our attention and Sis tugging at our chair.

One house has to provide space for each individual's activities, the activities of the whole family, and those of the family and friends. Sometimes we feel that no house is big enough. If we only had a refuge - a private spot for quiet things. We can find a place to call our own by analyzing the problem, planning the space, and building the storage units.

First, make a list of all the things each individual in your family likes to do. By now you realize that one room is being overworked and perhaps other parts of the house are idle many hours of the day.

Second, divide the list according to whether the pursuit can best be accomplished alone, whether it is social in nature, or whether it is active or noisy. Your list may look something like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quiet or Private</th>
<th>Social</th>
<th>Active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study</td>
<td>Guests for meals</td>
<td>Dancing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazines</td>
<td>Guests for snacks</td>
<td>Photography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>Guests for cards</td>
<td>Model cars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handwork</td>
<td>Guests for visiting</td>
<td>Painting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>Quiet games</td>
<td>Carpentry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model cars</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Television</td>
<td>Records</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Records</td>
<td>Records</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Magazines</td>
<td>Sewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Radio</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Books</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Handwork</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Third, create three distinct activity areas. Develop a bedroom now only used for sleeping into a private living room. Maybe a basement or back porch could become an active living area, and the present living area could be used for social activities.

Certain activities may fit into more than one group. Perhaps the equipment for these is portable and can be moved from one place to another as desired. Games might be enjoyed by the family in the living room. Certain members may play in the activity room while guests are being entertained in the living area. Perhaps provision for the activity should be made in more than one area to allow both adult and teenage groups to enjoy it without interfering with each other.
Certain other activities involving part of the family, but excluding others may be separated in time where separation in space is not practical. The piano may be in the same space as the table, since practicing and eating are not carried on at the same time.

Fourth, develop space within the three activity areas to allow for more than one use through:

a. The arrangement of furniture into groups according to use.

b. The construction of storage units according to need.

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**TEENAGER'S ROOM**

**SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"**

- **STORAGE UNIT** 12" x 78"
- **CORK PANEL**
- **CHAIR** 16" x 16"
- **DESK** 22" x 42"
- **CHAIR** 18" x 20"
- **TWIN BED** 38" x 78"
- **WASTE BASKET**
- **CHEST** 18" x 36" (mirror above)
- **CLOSET** 24" x 4"
As a result of a study, a room for a teenager has been developed. Your activities may vary from the ones included here, and the size and shape of your room may be different. The room selected is 10' x 11', has two door openings and two window openings. It is not intended to be an ideal room, but simply representative of rooms found in many houses.

The room has been arranged to accommodate dressing and grooming, sleeping, studying, and the quiet leisure activities popular with the teenagers in the study. By placing the desk at right angles to the wall, a division is created between dressing and study areas with free floor area in each. The window provides light to the left of the person sitting at the desk, and also provides natural light to the easy chair next to the desk. A good lamp on the desk serves both functions also.

The chair may be used for those operations of dressing that are most easily done sitting. It is handy to both the closet and the chest. Combined with the desk it can be used for grooming operations such as polishing nails, curling hair, cleaning shoes etc.

The chair provides a comfortable place for reading. During this activity, the desk may be used to advantage for books, or snacks. The chair with the bed creates a conversational group also. The twin bed has bolsters so it can be used for sitting as well as sleeping. It is on casters for easy making.

The storage unit serves both the resting area and the study-play area. Next to the bed it serves as a night table holding clock, radio, and such. It has a pull-out board next to the bed to increase size of the top surface when desired.

At the desk area, the storage unit has a cabinet with staggered shelves for easy access, and another pull-out board. This can be used independently for hobbies while not disturbing anything on the desk, or can be used with the desk as auxiliary surface space. The chair is a swivel, so either surface is equally convenient.

The windows are curtained only to the sill in order to utilize the space below. A cork panel next to the desk is for pin-up pictures and souvenirs.
STORAGE UNIT for TEENAGER'S ROOM

SCALE: 1" = 1'0"

SIDE DETAIL MAGAZINE STORAGE

WINDOW

TOE SPACE

1. PULL-OUT BOARD
2. RADIO SHELF
3. DRAWER FOR HANDWORK
   A TRAY 12" DEEP
4. SHELF FOR CLOCK, MISC.
5. SHELVES FOR BOOKS
6. DIVIDED DRAWER for
   TOOLS & SMALL ITEMS
7. SHELF for LARGE BOOK
   SUCH AS SCRAPBOOKS &
   PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS
8. CABINET for
   SUPPLIES:
   a. 6" Deep
   b. 9" Deep
9. MAGAZINE RACKS
10. SHELVES TO
    DISPLAY MODELS
    8" DEEP
The storage unit has been arranged to hold all of the equipment and supplies needed for the activities carried on in this part of the room. Nothing is stored above reach except models that are seldom moved. These are easily seen and admired on the adjustable shelves. The number and spacing of the shelves may be changed according to the number and size of the items to be displayed. Heavy things are stored in the lower unit.

Space is allowed in accordance with the recommendations of research at the University of Illinois. The magazine storage allows for storage, removal, and easy viewing of magazines of common sizes. Most books would fit into a 10" depth. The shelves here are 12" deep and will hold large albums, year books, and scrap books. Except for the tall shelf provided for these, the shelves are adjustable to insure maximum usage.
The handwork drawer has a shallow tray for small items such as needles. The tray is only one-half as deep as the drawer so the things in the bottom of the drawer can be reached easily.

The drawer for tools and small items connected with building has dividers to keep the things separated and accessible.

The upper shelf in the cabinet near the corner is not as deep as the lower shelf. From a standing or sitting position, the items on both shelves may be seen.

Use your list of activities which may best be carried on in private. Add to this list sleeping, dressing, and grooming. Using the plan and storage unit as a guide, plan your room to provide ample floor space and convenient storage for all your particular activities. Take time to plan and time to build. Your reward will be truly a place of your own.