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EC58-1134 A Space and Place for Leisure...Activity Room

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A SPACE and PLACE

for leisure...

ACTIVITY ROOM

part...2

EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATING
W.V. LAMBERT, DIRECTOR
HOW TO DEVELOP AN ACTIVITY ROOM
FOR ENJOYING HOBBIES AND FUN.

Mother is having club in the living room and your gang is trying that new record. Adult groups just don't appreciate being interrupted by teenagers, but where are you to go? If you were there, where would mother's friends go?

Last night Susie used the dining room table for sewing and Bud carried his racer around looking for a corner to use for painting. It seems everyone in your family has a hobby and no one really has a convenient spot for working on his particular project.

One living room just isn't sufficient for two age groups. One room can't accommodate all the activities of busy family members.

When you consider how active you are you can see that some rearranging is necessary to make the house meet the needs of all.

By doing a little careful analysis, good planning and some simple carpentry, you can create space and storage to satisfy each member of your family.

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>
<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.
STORAGE UNIT 2 - ACTIVITY AREA

I. POWER TOOLS
2. HANGING PEGS FOR SMALL TOOLS
3. 4" SHELF FOR JARS OF NAILS ETC.
4. WORK SURFACE
5. SHELVES FOR SLEEVEBOARD, BOXES, ETC.
6. DRAWERS FOR FABRIC
7. HANGING PEGS FOR SCISSORS, PIN CUSHION ETC.
8. PULL-OUT BOARD
9. DROP SPACE FOR MACHINE WHEN NOT IN USE
10. THREAD
11. THREAD
12. DIVIDED FOR SMALL EQUIPMENT
13. TRAY IN DRAWER FOR FINDINGS
14. PATTERN FILE
15. STEAM IRON, MISC.
16. ROD FOR INCOMPLETE GARMENTS SPACE FOR DRESS FORM
17. IRONING BOARD
The living-active area is divided into two distinct areas according to the nature of the activities involved. One part is a second living area allowing more than one social activity to be carried on by different family members without interfering with each other. A conversation group is created by the built-in sofa, the easy chair, and the small chairs around the table. The sofa and chair are also comfortable for reading or listening to records. The table provides a convenient place for playing games, painting, or working on models or films. Stacked tables next to the large chair take up little space but can be separated for use easily. By pushing the game table back against the wall, plenty of free floor area is made available for dancing.

The active area is close enough that family members in both sections can converse if they desire, but isolated enough that interference of activities would be slight. Activities here create noise and a certain amount of unavoidable mess. The storage unit acts as a sound barrier, and obstructs the view of this section from the living section.

Use your activity inventory list to decide what arrangement you need in a living-active area. This room was developed in a basement, but perhaps you have space available in some other part of the house.
The storage unit in the living section of the area includes a closet for guests' coats and for a viewing screen. Space is also arranged within the unit for storing all items necessary for the various activities. The pull-out board serves as a work surface for a family member to use when the table is being used by others.

Shelves above the base unit are supported by strips and adjustable clips. Shelves can be arranged to be decorative as well as hold books and hobby displays.

One wall is used for storage in the active section of the room. Doors may be closed over part or all of this unit when not in use. Work space and storage for sewing and carpentry projects are provided. The two centers are divided by a plywood wall, so neither would interfere with the other.

A closet is included in the sewing center to hold incompleted garments, a dress form, and ironing board. The sewing machine is mounted in the counter and drops below it when not in use. A full length mirror is attached to the inside of each of the doors in the sewing section.

What hobbies or interests do your family members have? Perhaps there are projects you would like if they could be undisturbed until completed without interfering with other activities. Use the floor plan as a guide to develop your activity room. Remember this area should be flexible and serve as a second social room as well as a hobby area. Take time to plan floor space and storage for your particular activities. Then build your storage unit carefully. Your efforts will be rewarded with a space and place for fun.
1. SCREEN
2. GUEST COATS
3. ALBUMS
4. PROJECTORS
5. PULL-OUT BOARD
6. FILM SLIDES
7. MISC. - PENCILS, PAD, ETC.
8. SMALL RECORDS
9. LARGE RECORDS
10. PLAYER
11. DIVIDED DRAWER for PAINT SUP.
12. DIVIDED DRAWER for MODEL SUP.
13. VERTICAL FILE for GAMES & BOARDS.
14. SHELVES for BOOKS, MAGAZINES & MODELS