Are You Into It?

Have fun learning how to design your space while being kind to the environment. If you are interested in creating a new color scheme, selecting new accessories for a room, or choosing new floor and window covers, this is the project for you.

- Master the elements and principles of design to make your house a home
- Plan home living spaces in keeping with the needs of family members
- Develop your skill in caring for home furnishings and accessories
- Explore opportunities for environmentally friendly choices in your home

Here’s what you can do all year!

**Starting Out**
**Basic / Level 1**
- Learn the language of home improvement: design elements and principles
- Plan and design your own space with new techniques
- Uncover and compare costs to design and accessorize your space
- Practice choosing wall treatments, window coverings, and floors
- Discover how paint, wall treatments, flooring, and window coverings create different effects in a

**Learning More**
**Intermediate / Level 2**
- Get the 411 on furniture styles
- Plan your space using needs, wants, and timelines to make choices
- Create design boards to visualize living spaces
- Learn helpful strategies for developing shopping lists
- Coordinate fabrics and patterns
- Effectively reduce clutter and stash your stuff
- Take care of your furniture possessions
- Experiment with the arrangement of photos on a wall for different effects

**Expanding Horizons**
**Advanced / Level 3**
- Select fun accessories for the finishing touch
- Showcase favorite room accessories
- Install bright lighting ideas
- Create personality in a shared space
- Use natural resources effectively
- Be in the know with energy efficient products
- Examine environmentally friendly practices: reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink
- Investigate energy wasters in the home

Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

**Communication**
- Share with friends how to select a color scheme for their bedroom
- Develop a step-by-step checklist showing how to cover a headboard using padding and fabric
- Create a video showing how to be energy efficient in homes

**Citizenship**
- Assist an elderly person with painting their living room
- Share with family and friends how to keep living spaces safe
- Show local museum staff how to properly arrange, protect, and display historical items

**Leadership**
- Show siblings how a shared space can be divided using furniture placement
- Teach adults proper disposal methods of refinishing materials
- Work with a non-profit in creating a functional meeting space floor plan

*For more information or to obtain project materials contact your county ISU Extension Office or go to: www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/homeimprovement
Take Home Improvement further!

Here are other opportunities to explore Home Improvement:

- Contact your County Extension Office to participate in local home improvement camps and workshops
- Consider taking an exhibit, a piece of your project learning, to the county fair for judging and show friends and family what you learned throughout the year - you might get selected to attend the Iowa State Fair
- Explore online design career fields such as interior design, landscape architecture, professional organization, home staging, community and regional planning, marketing, publishing, and advertising
- Job shadow professionals concerned with home environmental issues: energy, lighting, landscape, recycling, and eco-friendly cleaning products
- Design, create, and market soft furnishing accessories to sell at local craft shows
- Gather a group of friends interested in interior design and volunteer to redesign and rearrange a room at your school to make the area more functional
- Start a wood salvage shop where old wood furnishings and wood scraps are available to the public for reusing and repurposing
- Interested in a college education in the area of design? Schedule a visit with Iowa State University’s College of Design to explore potential majors http://www.design.iastate.edu/

Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-H Resources*</th>
<th>Other Resources</th>
<th>Record Keeping</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iowa 4-H Home Improvement <a href="http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/homeimprovement.htm">www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/homeimprovement.htm</a></td>
<td>Design Decisions 4h.unl.edu/designdecisionshome</td>
<td>4-H Yearly Summary 4H0096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Decisions</td>
<td>Iowa State University Extension Home and Family <a href="http://www.extension.iastate.edu/homefamily/housing/">www.extension.iastate.edu/homefamily/housing/</a></td>
<td>Basic 4-H Project Record 4H0096A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulling it Together (4H 492)</td>
<td>Careers in Interior Design <a href="http://www.careersininteriordesign.com">www.careersininteriordesign.com</a></td>
<td>Experienced 4-H Project Record 4H0096B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design: Exploring the Elements and Principles (4H 634)</td>
<td>ArtsConnectEd <a href="http://artsconnected.org/toolkit">http://artsconnected.org/toolkit</a></td>
<td>Advanced 4-H Project Record 4H0096C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Coatings Assoc. <a href="http://www.paint.org">www.paint.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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