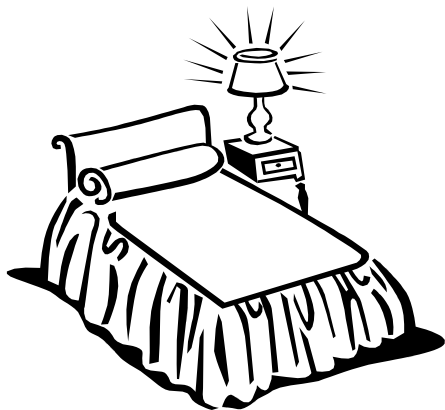


Just Fun
Decorating
for Tweens & Teens

Gloria Hander Lyons



Blue Sage Press

**Just Fun Decorating
for Tweens & Teens**

Copyright © 2007 by Gloria Hander Lyons

All Rights Reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including but not limited to photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system without the prior written permission of the author.

Inquires should be addressed to:
Blue Sage Press
48 Borondo Pines
La Marque, TX 77568
www.bluesagepress.com

ISBN-13: 978-0-9790618-3-7

ISBN-10: 0-9790618-3-0

Library of Congress Control Number: 2007902088

First Edition: April, 2007

The information in this book is true and complete to the best of our knowledge. All recommendations are made without guarantee on the part of the author or Blue Sage Press. The author and publisher disclaim any liability in connection with the use of this information.

Printed in the United States of America

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction..... | 1 |
| A Room Without a Cause | 3 |
| Make your room work for you | |
| What's the Point? | 7 |
| Choosing a focal point | |
| Decorative painting instructions | |
| Solving the Puzzle..... | 17 |
| Furniture arranging tips | |
| Slightly Off Kilter | 21 |
| Creating a sense of balance | |
| Getting in the Mood | 25 |
| Choosing a color scheme | |
| Floating Art & Other Mysteries | 31 |
| Accessorizing tips | |
| A Shade Shy and a Valance Short | 39 |
| Choosing window treatments | |
| Shedding a Little Light | 47 |
| Tips for lighting your room | |
| Ideas for customizing lamps and shades | |
| Conflict or Harmony | 55 |
| Creating harmony in your space | |

| | |
|--|----|
| Designer Tricks..... | 61 |
| Tips for camouflaging negative room features | |
| What's Your Style?..... | 71 |
| How to find your decorating style | |
| Fun Ideas for Theme Rooms..... | 77 |
| How to plan a theme design | |
| Quick Change Decorating..... | 81 |
| Tips for quick decorating changes | |
| Creative Ideas for Storage..... | 85 |
| Controlling the clutter | |



Introduction

Just Fun Decorating for Tweens and Teens

After years of teaching basic interior decorating classes, I realized my students were suffering from decorating anxiety over too many rules. So I tossed out all the rules and created a totally new teaching concept that I introduced in my book, *No Rules – Just Fun Decorating*.

I was amazed at how positively my students responded to this new approach, and received requests for another version for my younger students. So here it is! *Just Fun Decorating for Tweens and Teens*.

The ideas and suggestions in this book will show you how to make your room a comfortable and inviting retreat where you can escape from the hectic world outside.

It offers helpful hints, money saving tips and fun ideas for furniture layouts, color schemes, lighting, window treatments, theme rooms, designer tricks, accessorizing and more.

You'll learn creative tips for customizing your décor using fun do-it-yourself projects to help make your room more functional, as well as more beautiful—a place where you'll enjoy spending time.

If you aren't happy with the current state of your décor, or feel that your room isn't "working" for you, keep reading. You might just find the answers to your decorating dilemmas in the next few chapters.

The suggestions, tips and fun ideas presented in this book can help you design a more comfortable and inviting space.

Don't be afraid to express yourself when it comes to decorating. Create a space that makes you happy, based on your own personal style—not popular trends or someone else's opinions. Decorate your room using the items you love; things that will make you feel good every time see them.

Whether you plan to rearrange the furniture and accessories you already have or want to start over with all new stuff, you can give your room a whole new look using whatever budget you choose.

Forget about decorating rules—just have fun!

A Room Without a Cause



Many times a room isn't "working" for us because we simply haven't thought about how we need it to function; therefore, the room doesn't have the right furniture or lighting to meet our needs.

Do you want a comfortable chair with good lighting in your room for reading? Do you need more places for friends to sit? Where could you squeeze in a desk for homework?

Don't live with the frustration of doing without—fix the problem. Before starting any new decorating project, take the time to decide how you need your space to function.

This task isn't hard. Just take a few moments to decide what activities you'll be doing in your room. Of course you'll need a bed for sleeping, but would you also like to include an additional sleeping area for when you have a friend stay over? Do you need more storage for books or clothes?

Taking the time to think about how you need your room to function will help you decide what furniture pieces and lighting you'll need. Make a list of these items. Then, simply remove any pieces of furniture that don't meet your needs and replace them with ones that work.

Are you planning to do an interior re-design, where you'll be using the furniture and accessories you already own, or do you plan to purchase all new pieces or just a few new items?

If you're doing an interior re-design, you'll need to "shop" your entire house to find furniture and lighting that will help make your room more functional.

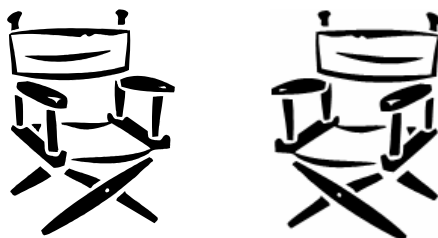
If you want to add new furniture, use the list you made earlier, so you'll know what pieces to buy.

Don't just "make do" with the way your room is set up now. Take the time to figure out how you need it to function and make it "work" for you!

Helpful Hints:

- If you want to add a new piece of furniture to your room, be sure to measure the space where you plan to place it to make sure it will fit. AND don't forget to measure the doors into your house and room to make sure you can get the piece inside. If you plan to purchase a tall piece of furniture, measure the ceiling height in your room, as well.
- If you want an extra bed in your room for friends to sleep over, add a pull-out trundle bed that is stored underneath your bed and rolls out when you need it. If you have space for an upholstered chair in your room, get one that folds out into a bed. A less expensive option is a self-inflatable air mattress that you can store underneath your bed until company arrives.

- If you need extra seating when you have friends over but don't have space in your room for regular chairs, purchase folding directors chairs that can be stored in the closet or underneath your bed until company arrives. They have fabric seats and backs which are fun to decorate using acrylic paints and stencils or rubber stamps to match your room's décor.



Money-Saving Tip:

- If you're crafty, scout garage sales, flea markets and second-hand stores for furniture and lighting that might meet your needs, then refinish, paint or recover the items to match your décor.

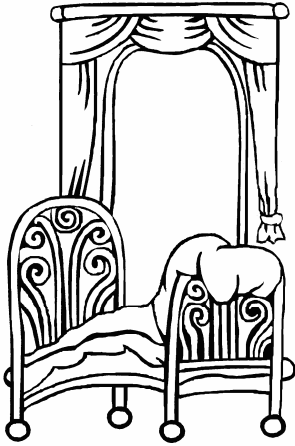
See the instructions on pages 52-54 for customizing lamps and shades and page 56 for painting furniture.

Fun Idea:

- Have a decorating party. Invite a couple of your friends over to help re-design your room. Whether they are helping you rearrange your furniture or painting the walls, it will make the work more fun.

Offer to help redecorate their rooms, as well, using the information you learn from this book. It could start you off in the direction of a whole new career.





What's the Point?

When planning the design for your room, think about what feature you could showcase as your focal point. Do you have an attractive arched window in your room that you might want to frame with curtain panels? Do you want your bed to be the center of attention? Do you want to display a collection of your favorite artwork over a seating area or desk?

Taking the time to create a special focal point in your room will make the time you spend there more enjoyable. That is, after all, what decorating is about—adding more beauty to our lives.

The focal point of any room should instantly draw your attention. When using a piece of furniture, like a sofa or desk as the base for your focal point, arrange a group of accessories, such as framed mirrors or prints, vases, lamps and other objects on, beside or above the piece to create a pleasing composition and make your focal point more attractive. Look at the example in Figure 1.

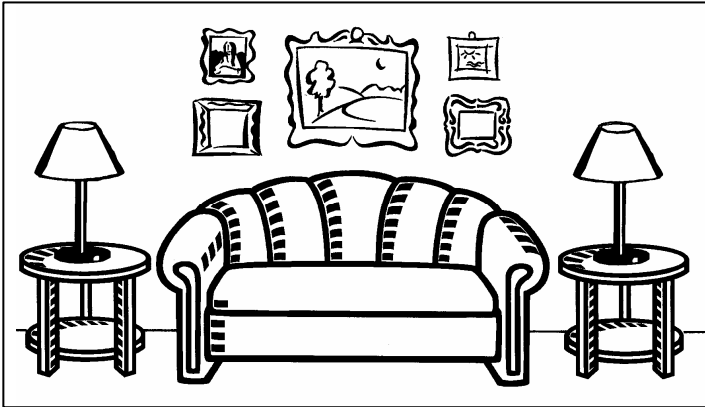


Figure 1

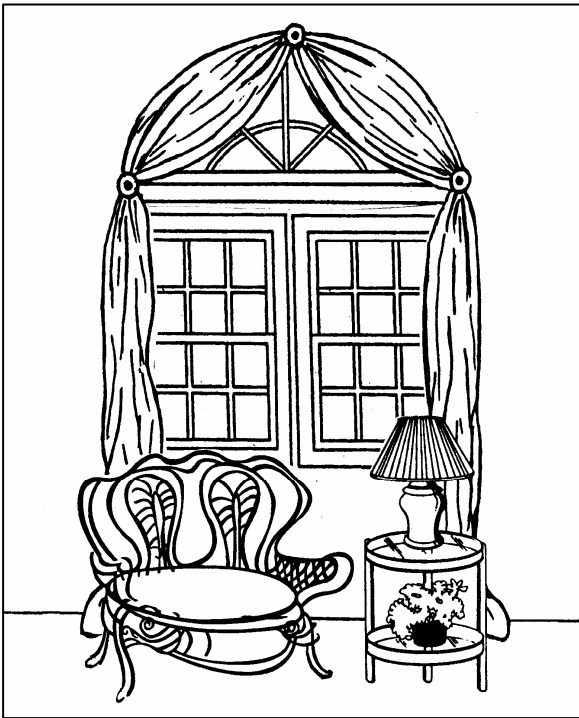
When creating a focal point using wall art above a piece of furniture, try to make the composition large enough in scale and extended high enough on the wall to establish its importance.

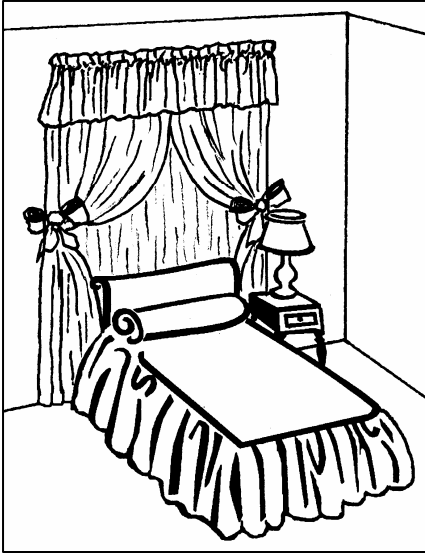
How do you know if your arrangement works? Just stand back and take a good look. Does the composition appear pleasing and fairly well balanced? Does it create enough of an impact to draw your attention? As long as you're happy with the results and you've taken the time to check the overall impact, then go with it!

Painting an accent wall in a darker or more vibrant color is another way to make your arrangement stand out. Placing any object in front of a sharply contrasting color makes it more visible. In the example above, if the room was painted a light beige color, and the sofa and artwork on the wall above it were also light in color, then painting the wall behind them in a darker shade of beige, or one of the accent colors in the room, such as medium blue, would make the furniture and artwork stand out. Your focal point would have more of an impact.

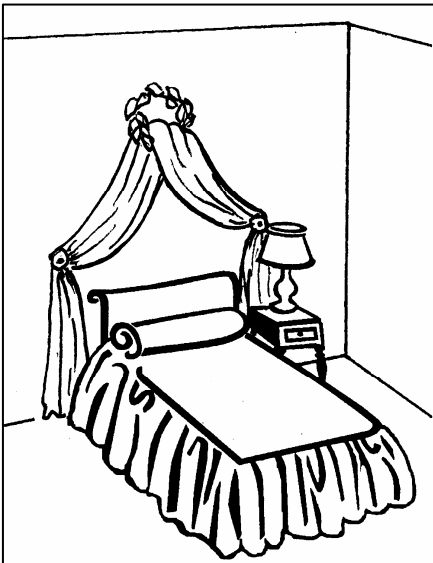
If you have a window with a beautiful view, make it the focal point of your room. Frame the window with drapery panels or fabric swags that will draw your eye towards it.

Add even more interest to your composition with a small seating area arranged in front of the window if you have enough space, or place a small bench underneath. Look at the example shown in the drawing below.





When using your bed as the focal point, you can hang curtain panels gathered onto a curtain rod behind the headboard of your bed to create more of an impact.

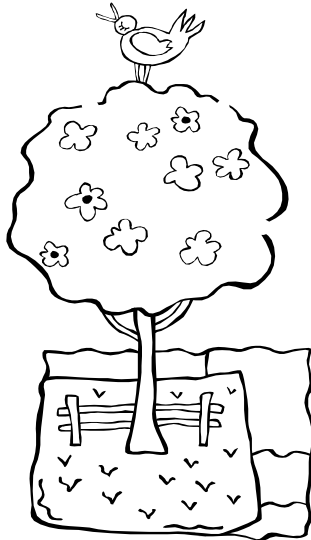


You can also hang a wreath on the wall above your headboard and drape a length of fabric through it that hangs down on each side of your bed.

A canopy bed with fabric panels draped over the top and down the sides can also create a beautiful focal point.

Painting a wall mural depicting a favorite scene or a design from your bedding is another way to create a focal point.

This is a fun and easy way to add your own unique style to your room. See the instructions on page 12 for painting decorative designs on walls, furniture, cabinets and more.



Choose a focal point for your room, whether it's your bed, a window with an attractive view, an arrangement of artwork over a piece of furniture, or a wall mural and create a beautiful composition to enjoy.