

Living in Style

Students away from Mom and Dad search for ways to make their place more like home

By BROOKE HOLBERT
The Battalion

It is a refuge, a security zone, a place where one can find sanctuary from the daily pains of test-taking, dating and finding a parking place in Zachry lot. This place is more than a shelter — it is a corner of the world to call your own and recharge the batteries drained by daily college stresses.

There really is no place like home, as Dorothy said, and for many students, college marks the first time for establishing a separate home from Mom and Dad. In all the excitement of being away from home, decorating is often overlooked. After the thrill of being exempt from a curfew, the task of discovering one's own personal decorating style still lies ahead.

Color

Changing the color of a room is one of the most transforming decorating projects one can undertake. Painting is relatively inexpensive and has the power to change the entire feel of a room.

Leslie Seligman, a junior journalism major, opted not to paint an entire room, but strategically changed the color of a few walls in her apartment.

"We decided to paint accent walls in red, since the apartment was done in all black and gray and white. The first thing you see when you walk in is the red wall," Seligman said. "We wanted a real funky and modern look. Originally, I hadn't planned to do my own room, but I ended up painting that in purple. It adds a lot of color and zest without spending a lot of money."

There are important questions to ask when preparing to paint, as the change is more permanent than most other decorating changes.

•How big is the room? Light colors make space appear larger, while dark colors make it ap-

pear smaller.

- Will the rest of the furniture blend with the color?
- Will a canary yellow be uplifting or give everyone a headache?

Pictures

Everyone loves to look at pictures. They remind people of good times and provide an excellent opportunity to brag to others about past adventures. Showcase what would

normally go in a scrapbook around the apartment.

"We bought these cork board tiles, about a square foot in size, and nailed them up to cover an entire wall," said Kerri Brittain, a junior English major. "Then we painted the squares different colors and tacked pictures up all over. That way, there aren't a thousand holes in the wall."

Pictures can be displayed in other ways.

"We saw on 'Rosie O'Donnell' how to decoupage, and so we decoupage our shelves," Brittain said. "You can stick anything on the shelf and paint over it with a glue sealant from Hobby Lobby."

Life

Exercising a green thumb does not mean having to tend to a bed of gardenias. Nestling a few potted plants around the house can impart life and warmth to an otherwise dull living area. Living things have the power to rage against the generic blandness of standard residence halls and apartments.

Alice Lehtonen, a co-owner of a local apartment complex, has lived in her apartment for 12 years and finds that plants give a little life to the college environment.

"It is nice to get your hands dirty when you don't have a yard," Lehtonen said. "When I have a certain plant, like a hibiscus, I love going out each morning to my porch to see if it has bloomed. It is so beautiful."

There is some bargain shopping in the gardening department as well.

Every year the horticulture department has a sale where it

gets rid of all sorts of things their students have worked on, including Ivies, potted plants — all at a reduced rate.

Highway sales are also often a good deal, as the sellers are often eager to get rid of plants and flowers quickly.

Flaunt it

Hardwood floors, fireplaces, porches ... If the home has been given one of these charming features, showcase it proudly. Exhibit hardwood floors with sparse, simple furniture and a minimum of rugs. Spruce up a standard porch with white lights and a hammock.

"I had a lot of big glass jars and vases that didn't really go anywhere, so I put them in the fireplace," said Blake Harrigan, a sophomore journalism major. "Sometimes I put candles in there."

Even something as simple as a guitar can lean up in a corner to add some curvy shapes to a geometric room.

Deck the walls

Contrary to popular belief, wall art does not have to be expensive. Poster-size prints matted and framed professionally may be a luxury destined for the future, but in the meantime, there are other options. Cheap frames can be easily acquired. Finding the right subject, however, asks one to be resourceful. Pictures from past calendars can be great art prints. A small collection of framed greeting cards is also charming wall art. Look through magazines to get ideas, or better yet, create your own.

"I bought a poster-size canvas at Hobby Lobby and some cheap paints and painted my favorite poem onto it with a bright yellow background," Lehtonen said. "It is in the kitchen now, and I see it every day."

Lauren Rice, a sophomore sports management major, found an old window frame in a junkyard and personalized it.

"I had mirrors cut for the back of it and painted it and now it is hanging in the living room."

The best dorm or apartment decor is that which reflects the inhabitants. Like people often feel about their cars or favorite blue jeans, a home is best when it is an extension of yourself.



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affordable outdoor programs . equipment sales and rental . located behind the Rec Center . across from Olsen Field . off of Olsen Drive

FEBRUARY IS A HEART HEALTHY MONTH!

- FREE Fitness Profiles—February 13, 4:00–7:00 p.m., room 134 Rec. Please wear workout clothing for your profile.
- Bring a FREE Guest to Aerobics—Bring any guest on Valentine's Day!
- FREE Healthy Living Lecture—Join us on Valentine's Day in room 281 Rec at 5:30 p.m. for a unique lecture: "Women are from Venus and Men are from Mars, Part III."
- FREE Personal Training Session—Receive a free session after you sign up for sessions with a partner.

TAMU OUTDOORS	EVENT DATE	REGISTRATION
Intro to Rock Climbing Clinic	February 17	Jan. 29–Feb. 14
Backpacking Trip	February 17–18	Jan. 29–Feb. 14
Bouldering Day Trip	February 17	Jan. 29–Feb. 14
Lead Climbing Clinic	February 27	Jan. 29–Feb. 26

•Pack Your Bags!—Join us for one of our Spring Break Trips and discover the splendor of the Texas landscape.

Climbing Hueco Tanks—This is one of the most beautiful and magnificent climbing locales in the country!

Horseback the Texas Frontier—Explore the grandeur of the Big Bend area, explore ghost towns, ancient Native American pictographs, mountain vistas and the beauty of West Texas sunsets.

•Very Popular! **Rec Rock Wall Climbing Clinics**—Be it a beginning or a skilled climber we have opportunities for you to reach your highest goals. We offer introduction and "lead" climb clinics year round. Pick up a flyer in the lobby, check the RecSports website or drop by TAMU Outdoors for more information.

For information call 845-7826 or visit our homepage recsports.tamu.edu

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Guests	\$17	\$20

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REC FITNESS & CLASSES

- Healthy Living Lectures—These free lectures are held in room 281 at 5:30 p.m. - there is no admittance after this time.
- Healthy Nutrition 2001—Portion Control**—This Wednesday, February, 7th, find out about weight management techniques such as recipe modification, packing lunches and vending machine choices to make your New Year's Resolution come true!
- Women are from Venus and Men are from Mars, Part III: What Happens When the Two Collide?**—Next Wednesday, February, 14, discover the differences between how men and women perceive relationships. Arrive early—this lecture is sure to be full!
- The Real Truth About Eating Disorders**—Wednesday, February, 21, learn how to recognize the signs and symptoms of eating disorders.
- Mountain Bike Workshop—Join the A&M Cycling Team and RecSports Saturday, February 25th at Lake Bryan for a \$35 improvement workshop. This is for all skill levels. Participants must provide their own bikes and safety equipment. Register at Member Services or contact Paula Opal at 845-3076 for info.

Check flyers located in the lobby for more details on all our programs.

INTRAMURALS

Get Active! Get Involved!

Activity	Registration Dates
Slow-Pitch Softball (M & W)	January 29–February 6
Wallyball	January 29–February 6
Table Tennis	January 29–February 6
Valentine's Day Fun Run	February 5–February 13
Team Bowling	February 5–February 13
Tennis (league play)	February 5–February 13
Kyle Field Ramp Romp	February 5–TBA
Badminton	February 12–February 20

Intramural sports registration closes at 6:00pm on closing date. For a complete listing of fall Intramurals, please visit our flyer kiosks & our website in addition to this ad weekly for upcoming registration dates.

AQUATICS

- Intro to Competitive Diving—This course introduces students to the techniques involved with forward, inward, reverse and back dives from both spring board and platform. Register now through February 16th. Classes will be held February 19th–March 1st, Mondays through Thursdays. Cost is \$25/\$30/\$35 depending on Rec affiliation.

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