

# 4-H Interior Design Contest Packet

## 4-H Interior Design Things to Remember

### Helpful Hints

1. Do not cut paint samples with pinking shears.
2. All fabric samples are to be pinked or wrapped.
3. Make sure the scale and elevations are written on your floor plan.
4. Make sure the board is named.
5. Use correct name for items such as dust ruffle, comforter or bedspread, blinds, sofa or loveseat.
6. Stripes on fabric and wallpaper are mounted vertically.
7. Don't use lighting symbols unless you are sure they are correct.
8. Wallpapers are NOT pinked or wrapped but mounted flat on board.
9. Use guidelines for lettering.

### Your team should also consider:

Floor plan

Colors, patterns, textures and finishes for floor and wall coverings (paint, wallpaper, fabric, etc.)

Storage space

Adequate lighting

Stay within allotted budget (Remember to turn in a completed *"Keeping Track of Your Costs"* Report Form)

**Material taken from Mississippi State University, Cooperative Extension Service  
and Alabama Cooperative Extension System**

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### **Thinking about Interior Design:**

Design is “an orderly arrangement” or “a plan.” Design is described as the selection and arrangement of material with two aims—order and beauty. Interior design refers to the inside space of a room or building. It is the art that deals with the organization, selection, and arrangement of the elements of design.

### **The Elements of Design:**

**Lines:** Lines may be straight, curved, or a combination of both. When you enter a room, lines help to make it easier for you to look from one part of the room to another.

- Long horizontal lines can make a piece of furniture seem restful.
- Vertical lines seem to be more formal.
- Diagonal lines create action and restless movement.
- Objects in a room can be made to look taller or wider with the direction of lines. For example, vertical stripes at a tall window will make it look taller.

**Space:** Space is an essential element of any design. Your personal space is limited by walls, windows, fabrics, furniture, and other objects. The challenge is to use space effectively, especially in high traffic areas.

**Color:** Use color to an advantage in planning a scheme for your room according to one of these color schemes:

- Monochromatic: when one color is used in shades, tints, and tones.
- Complementary: using two colors opposite of each other on the color wheel, such as red and green.
- Adjacent: when adjoining or related colors are used, such as yellow and yellow-green.

### **Where do I start?**

There are many different ways to decide how you want to decorate your room. If you have a clear idea in mind, you might just start shopping for materials. If you like to use a computer, you might start playing with a design program like one of the following: [www.seemydesign.com](http://www.seemydesign.com)  
[www.homespacing.com](http://www.homespacing.com)

Or you might try the following approach and let your imagination flow. Look at interior design magazines like:

- Better Homes & Gardens
- House Beautiful
- Martha Stewart Living
- Pure Contemporary

You could watch some home makeover shows on television, like:

- Divine Design
- Design on a Dime
- Designer’s Challenge (this show, in particular, features design boards and presentations.)

Sometimes, inspiration comes through nature, or finding one piece of fabric that you could build a room around.

It is also a good idea to check your local library for books on homes and design. You could even check the yellow pages for a local interior designer or decorator.

Once you have something in mind, begin your board by finding your paint, fabric, and flooring samples. You can also cut pieces of furniture out of magazines that you would like to see in your room. Play with your floor plan and furniture arrangement to make sure that you will have enough room for your items. Once you have everything decided, begin putting your board together.

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## Checklist for Arranging Furniture

- ✓ Are traffic or circulation lanes neatly marked and left free?
- ✓ Where the outside door opens directly into the living room, has an entranceway been created that provides some privacy, particularly for the main conversation area?
- ✓ Has one well-chosen center of interest been made the important, yet not completely dominating, focal point in the room? Is this grouping comfortably and conveniently arranged, out of the line of traffic, yet open enough to be inviting?
- ✓ Are other areas of activity clearly defined, conveniently located, and artistically arranged with all necessary items?
- ✓ In dual-purpose living-dining rooms, is there a screen, a divider, or an effective furniture arrangement to provide some privacy or adequate division of space?

Consider the following when working with large furniture:

- ✓ Is each piece placed to take the best advantage of space and not pushed tightly into a corner?
- ✓ Is each piece placed parallel to the wall (with the possible exception of a lounge chair), unless the major seating arrangement is based on a diagonal plan?
- ✓ Does a large piece block a window?
- ✓ Where windows are near the floor, are large pieces placed out far enough to allow passage behind?
- ✓ Does the room have balance?
- ✓ Do opposite walls seem the same?
- ✓ Are high and low pieces pleasingly distributed?
- ✓ Are round and rectangular pieces pleasingly distributed?
- ✓ Are occasional chairs placed at convenient points for the purpose of moving easily into various groupings, as needed?
- ✓ Is lighting adequate and conveniently located? Are all electrical outlets indicated?
- ✓ Does each living room have a feeling of comfort and interest, with a variety of activity areas for music, reading, writing, and conversation, without being crowded or cluttered?
- ✓ Are dining areas arranged for convenience?
- ✓ Are bedrooms furnished to make the best use of space and is there room for nighttime walking?
- ✓ Is there a feeling of unity?

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### Checklist for Arranging Furniture...Continued

- ✓ Is each room's composition done with professional neatness?
- ✓ An attractive entrance is most important. Remember the saying "Your first impression is the greatest?"
- ✓ A beautiful table or console provides a convenient place for your purse, mail, and keys.
- ✓ Use a decorative mirror over the entrance table or console. It will give you a last minute glance before you open the door or as you leave the house. NEVER use a mirror if it reflects half of a door casing or something unattractive!
- ✓ If there is room in the entry, a bench is wonderful for catching packages or sitting while putting on boots.
- ✓ Place a sofa table behind a sofa for good lighting and an interesting place for piles of books or plants. This saves space at the ends of the sofa in a small room.
- ✓ Use glass-topped tables to make a space look larger and let an Oriental rug show.
- ✓ Allow at least 60 inches between a dining table and walls so that anyone serving food has enough room to walk around.
- ✓ When purchasing dining room furniture, be certain to allow for the room needed when the table is completely extended.
- ✓ A round or square table looks best in a square room. An oval or rectangular table looks best in a rectangular room. People sitting at a round table all feel equal and can see everyone.
- ✓ In the bedroom, position the bed first so that it does not divide the room visually. Don't be afraid to let the bed sit in the center of the room if the bed style looks okay. You can always put a folding screen behind the headboard. In a large room, central bed placement allows wonderful use of wall space.
- ✓ In an average or small bedroom, center the head of the bed against the longest wall. Leave at least 30 inches on each side of the bed for easier bed making.
- ✓ A single bed may be placed lengthwise against the wall to save space but be sure it has casters so the bed can swing out for changing sheets, etc.
- ✓ Compensate for a lack of storage by adding decorative double-duty pieces such as bookcases, etageres or chests.
- ✓ Use three drawer commode chests by bed for more surface and drawer space.
- ✓ Lamps for reading and seeing into drawers are essential.
- ✓ Table lamps should be tall enough to shed light on a book held in the lap or when lying down in bed. Translucent shades are best.

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## INTERIOR DESIGN CHECKLIST

- ✓ Decide on the room's focal point, and arrange furniture around it. Sometimes the focal point will be a glass wall, a fireplace, or a painting you admire. In large rooms you may want to group your furniture and have several "focal points."
- ✓ The general rule of thumb is "large furniture for large rooms, small furniture for small rooms." Compare the size of the room to the size of the furniture. Use fewer pieces if the furniture is large in scale and you have a small room.
- ✓ Place the largest pieces of furniture on the largest walls.
- ✓ Balance the distribution of furniture in the room. Do not place heavy items all in one end.
- ✓ Avoid using pieces that are "all legs." Use some pieces which go to the floor and some which are off the floor.
- ✓ Plan for easy access to all areas of the room with at least 30 inches for traffic, 36 inches at doorways to allow passing, and 36 inches or more in front of drawer units.
- ✓ To make a long room look shorter, do two things: paint the far end wall a bright color and place a large piece of furniture in front of the bright wall, facing the main entrance. Use as many multiple-use pieces of furniture as possible to gain storage and have flexibility.
- ✓ Divide large rooms with area rugs and furniture groupings.
- ✓ Avoid placing seating toward large windows that have light glare. Group chairs and sofas to encourage conversation by placing them no more than eight feet apart. People are more comfortable talking in a normal tone of voice. Place a coffee table 15 to 18 inches away from seating to allow knee room. Ideally, the table should be the same height as the seating.
- ✓ The television set is the hardest thing to place, often competing with a fireplace as the focal point in the same room! It should be easy to see but NOT the focal point. Depending on the size of the set, you may want to build it into a wall unit or place it on some decorative shelves.
- ✓ The next hardest thing to place is Father's recliner! Try to purchase recliners which are more attractive when not in use, such as wing chairs. Also try to purchase "Wall-away" type recliners which do not have to sit in the middle of the floor. All in all, viewer comfort should be more important than anything else.

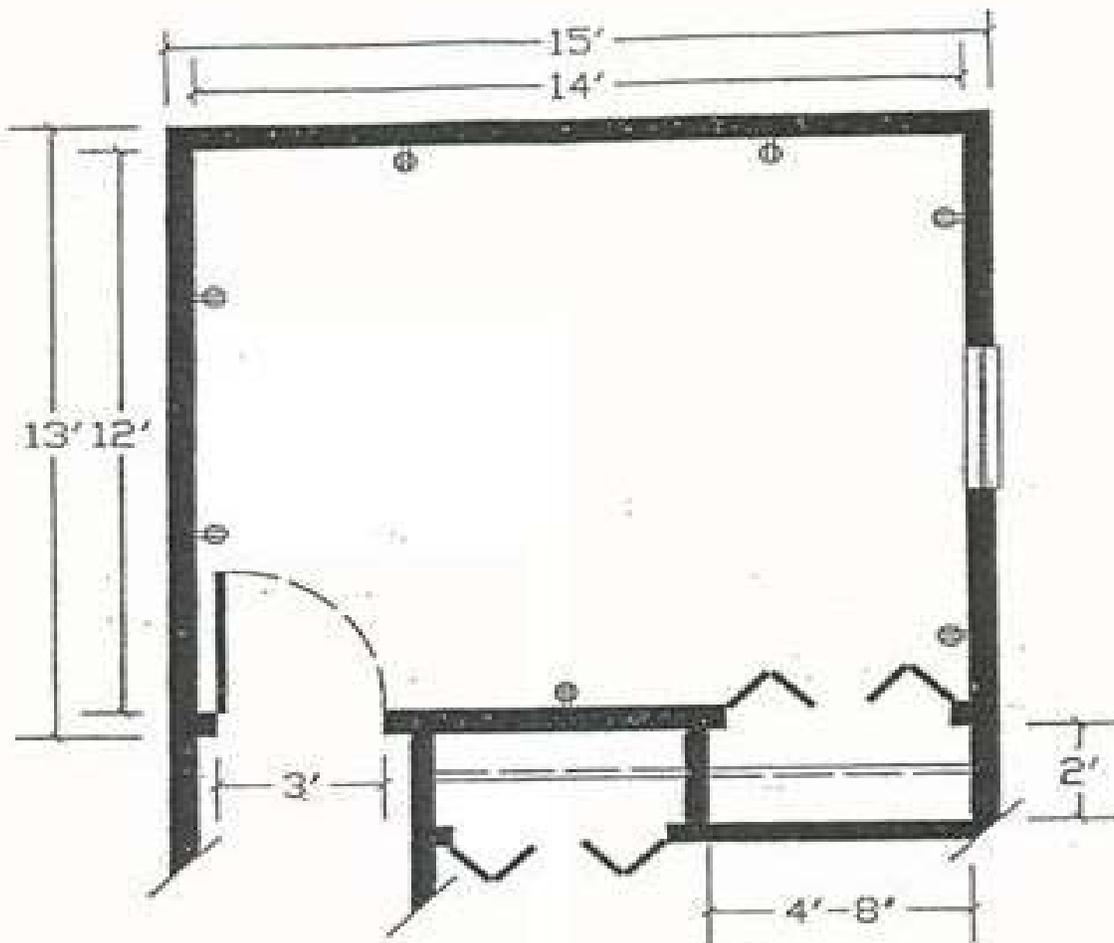


## Labels for Design Board

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Bedsread         | Chaise Lounge     |
| Pillow           | Chaise Lounge     |
| <b>Pillow</b>    | <b>Wing Chair</b> |
| Pillow           | Wing Chair        |
| Trim             | Wing Chair        |
| Cord             | Stool             |
| Paint            | Stool             |
| Ceiling          | Club Chair        |
| Flooring         | Club Chair        |
| Rug              | Club Chair        |
| Accessories      | Chair             |
| Dust Ruffle      | Chair             |
| Ottoman          | Chair             |
| Ottoman          | Windsor           |
| Windsor          | Furniture Color   |
| Chair            | Carpet            |
| Chair            | Piano             |
| Chair            | Sofa              |
| Vanity           | Sofa              |
| Coverlet         | Sofa              |
| Shams            | Valance           |
| Window Treatment | Valance           |
| Trim             | Table Cloth       |
| Chair            | Table Cloth       |
| Blind            | Trim              |
| Wall Color       | Window Treatment  |
| Trim             | Window Treatment  |
| Wood Floor       | Lamp              |

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# BEDROOM

SCALE:  $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'0''$



