



Family and Consumer Science

4-H Home Environment

North Dakota 4-H Project Sheet

Interested in designing your own space by creating a color scheme, selecting or creating new accessories for a room, or choosing new floor covering or window covers? If so, this project is for you.



You will master the elements and principles of design to make your space what you want it to be. You will plan living spaces that are functional for you and your family. You will develop skills in caring for your home furnishings and accessories. You will explore ways you can be more “environmentally friendly” when making choices for your decor.

Here’s what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic/Level 1	Learning More Intermediate/Level 2	Expanding Horizons Advanced/Level 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn the language of design decisions, including basics of design elements and principles. Plan and design your own space with new design techniques. Uncover and compare costs that will impact your ability to create your space. Practice choosing wall treatments, window coverings and floor coverings. Discover how paint, wall treatments, flooring and window coverings create different effects in a room. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get the “scoop” on furniture styles. Plan your space using your needs, wants and timeline to make choices. Create design boards to visualize living space changes and plans. Learn helpful strategies for developing shopping lists for your design project. Coordinate fabrics and patterns. Effectively reduce clutter and organize your “stuff.” Take care of your furniture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select accessories to add the finishing touch. Showcase your favorite room accessories. Install bright lighting elements. Create personality in a shared space. Use natural resources effectively. Be “in the know” about energy-efficient products. Think about and use environmentally friendly practices such as reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink.

Pass it on!

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

Communication

- Share ideas with friends on how to select a color scheme for their bedroom.
- Create a video showing how you made your home more energy efficient.

Citizenship

- Assist an elderly person with painting his/her living room.
- Share with friends and family ways to keep living spaces safe.
- Share with family and friends ways to make their homes more energy efficient.
- Host a design class for family and friends.

Leadership

- Teach adults proper ways to dispose of refinishing and painting materials.
- Work with a nonprofit organization in creating a functional meeting space floor plan.

Entrepreneurship

- Design, create and market soft furnishings and accessories to sell at local craft shows.
- Start a wood salvage shop in which old wood furnishings and wood scraps are available for the public to reuse or repurpose.

NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE
NDSU is an equal opportunity institution

Learn more at www.ndsu.edu/4h/ or contact your county NDSU Extension office.



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Here are other opportunities to explore the Home Environment Project:

- Contact your local county NDSU Extension office to participate in Design Decisions camps and workshops.
- Work with your county NDSU Extension agent to get the Design Decisions trunk to your county for a class.
- Consider taking an exhibit or piece of your project to the county fair for judging and show your family and friends what you learned throughout the year.
- Explore online design career fields such as interior design, landscape architecture, professional organizations, home staging, community and regional planning, marketing, publishing and advertising.
- Job shadow professionals involved in design decision topics and environmental issues.
- Research additional topics, including energy, lighting, landscape, recycling and eco-friendly cleaning products.
- 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.
- Work with local partners to establish a community day for the free disposal of paint and refinishing materials and solvents.
- Start a wood salvage shop in which old wood furnishings and wood scraps are available for the public to reuse or repurpose.
- Interested in a college education in the area of design? Schedule a visit at NDSU to explore potential majors (www.ndsu.edu).



Exhibit Ideas

- Take photos of home decoration that demonstrate the use of design elements and principles.
- Compare pros and cons of sponging, rag-rolling, stenciling and stamping walls.
- Refinish a family antique chair, table, stand or dresser.
- Illustrate how various wall coverings and flooring have different effects in living spaces.
- Create a poster that provides examples of elements of different furniture styles.
- Develop a design board showing how an existing floor plan can be transformed into a functional floor plan.
- Compare the effectiveness of different products in removing stains from hard and soft home furnishings.
- Illustrate the different effects of light quality based on bulb type, shade size, lamp height and wall color.
- Identify the pros and cons of starting an organizational business to help clients develop spaces for items they use and need.
- Use a model kit to build a solar home showing how the sun's energy can be used to heat a home.
- Showcase a home improvement item you created in your first, second and third year in the project, describing the new skills you learned, further developed and layered in the project area.

4-H Resources	Other Resources	Recordkeeping
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Decisions (CD109) (Grades 6-12) • Design My Place DVD (CD110) (Grades 3-5) <p><i>(Available from your local Extension Service office)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ArtsConnectEd http://artsconnected.org/toolkit • Google SketchUp http://sketchup.google.com/ • American Coatings Association www.paint.org 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for My Project Adventure (PA093) • ND 4-H Project Plan (PA095) • ND 4-H Plan of Action (PA096) • ND 4-H Participation for Ages 11- 19 (PA098)

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